

Lord Roborough Lodge No. 5789 Helping In The Community



W. Bro. John Pritchard, almoner of the Lord Roborough Lodge No. 5789, Plymouth, in the Province of Devon, made an application to the Masonic Samaritan Fund, in two parts.

Firstly, on behalf of Richard Penelrick, to seek financial assistance to purchase a special wheelchair with a power-pack for his needs and secondly, to apply for respite care for Margaret his mother / carer. John would like to thank the Masonic Samaritan Fund for their professionalism and efficiency in responding to his application. Within four weeks both issues were discussed, approved and actioned by the fund. Richard (aged 32 years) has a diagnosis of Ataxia - Teleangiectasia (AT) which is a neurodegenerative condition, symptoms of which include he is unable to walk and moves around on his bottom with some difficulty, vision, hearing and speech difficulties. He is absolutely delighted with his new wheelchair which now allows him playtime and much fun in and around one of his favourite places, the grounds of Saltrum House, Plymouth. Margaret Penelrick is now receiving assistance to her individual needs and physical capabilities balanced with her own and Richard's quality of life via the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution Care Advice Team in consultation with the NHS local authority.

Devonshire and Widow Fund continued...

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The main object of the Charity is to provide annuities or grants to distressed Freemasons and former Freemasons who are or were subscribing members of a Lodge in the Province of Devonshire and their wives or widows. The Charity is also authorised by its governing document to make grants to other Masonic Charities.

FUNDING

Income is derived from donations by individuals, dividends on investments, bank interest and income tax recovered on Gift Aid or deeds of covenant. Any shortfall between income from these sources and grants to beneficiaries is met by the Province of Devonshire Benevolent Fund.

INVESTMENTS, BANKERS AND EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

There are no restrictions on the Charity's funds, but the Executive Committee have a policy to maintain invested capital to the point where income derived from dividends, interest, donations and reclaimed income tax is sufficient to meet expenditure, without having to call on the Province of Devonshire Benevolent Fund. To this end, legacies and proceeds from the sale or maturity of investments are re-invested. Investments are dealt with through Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd, 5 Giltspur Street, London. EC1A 9BD. The Charity's bankers are Lloyds TSB. W. Bro. C. Nightingale, FCA, PPrGReg and W. Bro. J.E.F. Mills PPrGReg are the independent examiners of the accounts of the Charity for the financial year ended 30th September 2009.

APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS

Applications for assistance are considered from Freemasons and former Freemasons or the Wife or Widow of a Freemason or former Freemason who is or was a subscribing member of a Craft Lodge in the Province of Devonshire and whose capital or income does not exceed certain specified limits which are set annually by the Executive Committee at its November meeting. Applications are to be made on forms obtainable from the Secretary of the Charity. Petitions are considered by the Executive Committee at its meetings in February and November and all existing grants are reviewed annually at the November meeting of the Committee. The governing document also authorises the Chairman to approve payments of grants to new applicants in cases of emergency.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED - 30th SEPTEMBER 2009

Meetings of the Executive Committee were held on 28th November 2008 and on 30th March 2009 at the Manadon Masonic Hall, Crownhill, Plymouth, the latter meeting having been due to be held 5th February 2009 but was postponed due to inclement weather. The 113th Annual General Meeting was held on 30th March 2009 at Manadon Masonic Hall, Crownhill, Plymouth, and was attended by representatives from 26 Lodges.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee in November 2008 it was decided that the limits for capital and income above which an applicant is disqualified from receiving assistance should remain at £16,000 capital and £140 per week income. The maximum grant paid to a beneficiary should remain at £5,000. The Charity commenced the year with 4 beneficiaries sponsored by 4 Lodges receiving grants of up to £1,040. The year ended with the Fund having supported 7 beneficiaries from 7 Lodges. The total amount disbursed for the year amounted to £21,080 including grants to other Charities as laid down in By-Law 1. Investment income amounted to £18,013, bank interest of £2,763 and donations 341, making a total income of £21,117. There was also a profit on the sale of investments of £14,827. Total expenditure was £23,769 made up of £21,080 in grants, administration, meetings and Sundry expenses were £165, and Bank's Nominee and valuation charges were £2,524. The year ended with the Fund having £110,912 in cash at bank and on deposit. The market value of the investments as at 30th September 2009 was £569,699.

At the Executive Committee Meeting held on 30th March 2009 a Notice of Motion was given that the by laws of the Fund be amended to allow grants to be made to non Masonic individuals, organisations and charities who had similar objects to the fund. This was to widen the scope in the area of Public Benefit. This will be considered at the next Executive Committee Meeting and would then be put to the next AGM.

The Executive Committee is most grateful to those who made donations to the Charity and is also very appreciative of the work of Lodge Almoners, Charity Stewards and others who help by identifying need and distributing grants to Brethren, wives and widows of deceased Brethren.

C.C. Gale. PGStB, PrAGReg
Hon. Secretary

On behalf of the Executive Committee