

Registered Charity No: 213476

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
31 August 2020

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

31 August 2020

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Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Reference and Administrative Information

The Trust is registered with the Charity Commissioners No. 213476 on 6 December 1962.

The main address for contacts is:

20 Henley Crescent
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 2JB

The Trustees at 31 August 2020 were:

J S Wright
C F Stiles
N E A Watkin
J D Evans
M D Saxon
R N Clemson
P Wills
N J Bridges
A R Armbrister
P F Mason
P Hayward
G Hughes

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trustees are recruited and appointed in two ways as Ex Officio Trustees, by means of The Provincial Office they hold and elected Trustees nominated, as such by the Provincial Grand Master and Trustees but voted upon by the members at the Annual Meeting.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objects are to provide a relief fund for and support to other Masonic avenues of financial relief for the beneficiaries and to make donations from the fund to Masonic and non-Masonic charities.

Whilst undertaking the above mentioned activities the Trustees had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit issues.

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020 (Continued)

Achievements and Performance

During the year ended 31 August 2020 the fund made grants and donations of £16,614 (2019 - £35,103) to Freemasons, their dependents and non-Masonic charities. Masonic meetings were suspended at the beginning of March 2020 so members were not able to make regular periodic charitable donations to the fund for six months of this financial year. Accordingly the voluntary donations from members show in the reduced figure of £17,329 compared to £21,577 in the previous year.

Financial Review

During the year ended 31 August 2020 the Charity received donations, investment income and tax refunds amounting to £33,768 (2019 - £41,675) of which £20,082 (2019 - £38,557) was spent in pursuit of the Charity's objectives. At 31 August 2020 £426 (2019 - £28,304) was held as Unrestricted Funds and £425,879 (2019 - £428,294) was held as Restricted Funds.

Reserves Policy

The reserves are carefully regulated by the Board of Trustees to ensure that adequate financial resources are available to support the Benevolent Fund's short-term and longer-term commitments. Reserves are held in both cash (bank account balances, balances held by the fund's stockbrokers, and balances held within the Masonic Relief Chest Scheme designated as being held to the Order of The Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund) and in stocks and shares and other investments managed on the fund's behalf by Redmayne Bentley LLP (stockbrokers).

Trustees' Responsibilities

The law applicable to Charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Accounts and Reports Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 August 2020
(Continued)**

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website.

Approved by the Trustees on 26 February 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
J S Wright
Chairman

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020 which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr S E W Tranter
Chartered Accountant

Brook House
Moss Grove
Kingswinford
West Midlands
DY6 9HS

26 February 2021

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary income					
Donations		17,329	-	17,329	21,577
Gift Aid Tax Refunds		2,490	-	2,490	1,832
Dividends and interest on investments	2	8,014	5,935	13,949	18,266
Total Incoming Resources		27,833	5,935	33,768	41,675
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Resources Expended					
Charitable payments					
Grants and assistance	4	16,614	-	16,614	35,103
Administration		2,003	1,465	3,468	3,454
Total Resources Expended		18,617	1,465	20,082	38,557
Net incoming resources before transfers		9,216	4,470	13,686	3,118
Unrealised gains/(losses)		(14,542)	(23,973)	(38,515)	(2,222)
Realised gains/(losses)	5	(2,552)	(2,912)	(5,464)	(8,549)
Transfers between funds		(20,000)	20,000	-	-
Net movements in funds for the year		(27,878)	(2,415)	(30,293)	(7,653)
Total funds brought forward		28,304	428,294	456,598	464,251
Total funds carried forward		426	425,879	426,305	456,598
		=====	=====	=====	=====

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Balance Sheet - 31 August 2020

	Notes	£	2020	£	£	2019	£
Fixed Assets							
Investments	5			352,586			420,233
Current Assets							
Cash at bank and in hand			73,719			36,365	
			<u>73,719</u>			<u>36,365</u>	
Liabilities: (amounts falling due within one year)			-			-	
			<u>-</u>			<u>-</u>	
Net current assets				73,719			36,365
				<u>73,719</u>			<u>36,365</u>
Net Assets				426,305			456,598
				<u>426,305</u>			<u>456,598</u>
Funds of the Charity:							
Unrestricted Funds				426			28,304
Restricted Funds	6			425,879			428,294
				<u>425,879</u>			<u>428,294</u>
Total Funds				426,305			456,598
				<u>426,305</u>			<u>456,598</u>

The financial statements on pages 1 to 11 were approved by the Trustees on 26 February 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
J S Wright
Chairman

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2020****1 Accounting Policies**

- (a) The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards and follow the recommendations in Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019 (FRS 102)) and comply with these Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulation 2005 issued under the Charities Act 2011.
- (b) Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts to the Charity is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.
- (c) Listed investments are stated at market value less any provision for a permanent diminution in value since the balance sheet date.
- (d) Realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and the values transferred in on purchase date if later. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the end of the period and the transferred in value or purchase date if later.
- (e) Charitable grants are accounted for in the year in which they are paid. All other expenses are accounted for under the accruals basis. Support costs represent the cost of the general administration functions of the Charity. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the Charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered, which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
- (f) Unrestricted Funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects of the Charity. The Restricted Funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the Charity, principally investments. Income arising from the Restricted Funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the Charity and is included in unrestricted fund income. Capital gains and losses arising on the investments form part of the Restricted Fund.
- (g) Income from investments is accounted for in the year in which it is receivable. Interest on bank and stockbroker deposits is accounted for in the year which it is received.
- (h) As a Registered Charity, no liability to taxation arises.

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2020

2 Investment Income

	2020 £	2019 £
Dividends and fixed interest receipts	13,854	18,180
Interest received	95	86
	13,949	18,266
	=====	=====

3 Trustees

None of the Trustees were reimbursed for expenses throughout the current and previous year.

No remuneration was paid or payable in respect of the year out of the funds of the Trust either directly or indirectly to any Trustee or to any person known to be connected with them.

4 Grants

	2020 £	2019 £
Grants paid during the year:		
Hospices and other charities funded by WMBF	13,614	32,103
PGL Kent	1,000	1,000
PGL Surrey	1,000	-
PGL East Lancashire	1,000	1,000
PGL Sussex	-	1,000
	16,614	35,103
	=====	=====

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2020

5 Investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Market value at 31 August 2019	420,233	409,943
Additions	-	58,094
Disposals	(29,132)	(45,583)
Realised (loss) on disposals	(5,464)	(8,549)
Unrealised (loss)/gains	(33,051)	6,328
Market value at 31 August 2020	352,586	420,233
Book value at 31 August 2020	354,307	383,439
	=====	=====
Investments at Market Value comprised:		
UK equities, unit trusts & foreign bonds	352,586	420,233
	=====	=====

6 Restricted Funds

	Warwickshire Festival Fund 2027 £	Mary Jones Fund £	Total £
At 31 August 2019	240,023	188,271	428,294
Income from Mary Jones Fund	4,470	-	4,470
Transfer from unrestricted funds	20,000	-	20,000
Realised (loss) on investment	(1,451)	(1,461)	(2,912)
Unrealised (loss) on investment	(10,610)	(13,363)	(23,973)
At 31 August 2020	252,432	173,447	425,879
	=====	=====	=====

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2020

6 Restricted Funds (Continued)

Warwickshire Festival 2027 Fund

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Mason set-up the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) in 1886 as a grant making body to support indigent Mark Masons. Over the years the MBF has expanded its scope enormously and is well endowed. The MBF is funded by charitable contributions from Mark Master Masons and these are largely collected using the fund-raising vehicle of an Annual Festival. These Annual Festivals are dealt with on a rotation basis. These Annual Festivals are dealt with on a rotation basis. A Festival will come round once every 45 years for each Province. Although this system seems, on the face of it, to not be unduly demanding financially in Warwickshire it has been felt that to ameliorate the impact of recurring Festivals on the pockets of our members funds would, on an annual basis, be put aside into a restricted reserve to meet some part of the financial commitment to the Festival in the year it falls due. These restricted funds are invested by the stockbroker in low/medium risk stock and shares on the basis that during the four or five year period leading up to 2027 the investments would be liquidated at appropriate moments to mitigate any financial risk to the funds that have been put aside. These risks are supervised by a sub-committee of trustees in conjunction with the stockbroker and a report is submitted to the board of trustees for their approval. Funds may be transferred to this reserve either from annual income or by transfers from the General Reserve if the trustees feel that there are more than sufficient balances held.

The Mary Jones Fund

This substantial restricted reserve arose as a result of a very generous legacy from Mrs Mary Jones, widow of one of the Province's senior members and a long-term Lodge Almoner. Mary Jones approached the Chairman to discuss part of her revised Will and it was suggested to her that she could leave money as an 'endowment fund' with the Trustees of the WMBF having discretion as to the charitable use to which the income could be used. Mary Jones subsequently asked her solicitor to advise her and draw-up her new Will.

Income from the fund is currently being used to support the WMBF's commitment to the 2027 Festival. From 2027 onwards income will be used to support the general objects of the fund of which grants to local charities will be a large part.

Members of the WMBF are quietly asked to consider legacies to the WMBF. As and when further legacies are received the name of this reserve may be changed to 'Endowment Reserve' in order that the accounts do not become too encumbered with multiple reserves serving identical purposes.

7 Allocation of Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £	2019 Total Funds £
Investments	-	352,586	352,586	420,233
Cash at bank and in hand	426	73,293	73,719	36,365
Total assets	426	425,879	426,305	456,598
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2020****8 Related Party Transactions**

There were no related party transactions throughout the current and previous year.

9 Control

The Charity was under the control of the Trustees throughout the current and previous year.