

THE GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS' FUND OF BENEVOLENCE

England & Wales · Charity number 207610

Details

Other names	MBF NO 1 & 2
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1963-07-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Mark Masons Hall 86 St. James's Street London SW1A 1PL
Phone	02077471166
Email	g.newell@mmh.org.uk
Website	www.markmasonshall.org

Activities

Objects: 3.1 SUCH EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS MAY BE DETERMINED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE TRUSTEES, WHO IN REACHING THAT DETERMINATION SHALL SEEK AND CONSIDER THE VIEWS OF THE GRAND LODGE.3.2 THE RELIEF OF NEED, HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS AMONG MARK MASTER MASONS, THEIR FAMILIES OR OTHER DEPENDANT, AND/OR AMONGST RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE GRAND LODGE IN SUCH MANNER AS THEY SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: Grants to individuals and Charitable Organisation

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£2,237,300	£3,423,284	£19,914,343	0
2024-08-31	£1,877,346	£1,989,795	£20,841,846	0
2023-08-31	£1,778,012	£1,668,719	£19,566,677	0
2022-08-31	£2,049,178	£1,444,719	£21,151,524	0
2021-08-31	£1,730,133	£2,676,341	£23,500,678	0
2020-08-31	£1,953,310	£1,914,085	£20,912,240	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Armbrister		2025-06-10
David Richard Powell		2022-06-07
Dennis Hill		2024-06-11
Dr John Shervington		2024-06-11
Dr Nailesh Mehta		2025-06-10
Graeme Hutchinson		2024-06-11
Ian Clark		2020-06-09
Ian Wolstencroft		2025-06-10
Kevin Hicks		2020-06-09
RICHARD JOHN OLLIVER		2022-06-07
ROGER FRANCIS RICHARDSON		2022-06-07
William Arthur Divall		2022-06-07

Accounts

Charity Registration Number: 207610

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 AUGUST 2025

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The charity is The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence and is registered at the Charity Commission under registration number 207610. The charity operates as The Mark Benevolent Fund. The charity's address is 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees of The Mark Benevolent Fund who served during the year, and to the date of signing this report, were:

I N Clark
W A Divall
D J Hill
G Hutchinson
K Hicks
R J Olliver
D Powell
R F Richardson
Dr J Shervington
J Steggles (Retired 10 June 2025)
D Thomas (Retired 10 June 2025)
A I Torrance (Retired 10 June 2025)
A Armbrister (Appointed 10 June 2025)
Dr N Mehta (Appointed 10 June 2025)
I Wolstencroft (Appointed 10 June 2025)

Newly appointed Trustees receive a briefing from the President and Honorary Secretary, an induction pack from the Charities Manager and attend training days as necessary.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the management of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There are three sub-committees to the Board of Trustees:

- 1) The Petitions Committee provides relief to poor and distressed Mark Master Masons, their wives, widows and children. Individual grants of up to £15,000 may be made for help with general living expenses for a 12-month period, relief of debt if appropriate and one-off items such as roof repairs and heating system replacement. Committee members carefully consider each application circulated by email and independently report back to the Petitions Committee chairman who notifies the Committee's decision to the Charities Manager. The members of the Committee are G Hutchinson (Chairman), W A Divall, D Powell, Dr N Mehta and I Wolstencroft. The full Board of Trustees meets quarterly when all petitions for relief are noted.
- 2) The Worthy Causes Committee awards grants to other registered charities and worthy causes. Applications for assistance are received from registered charities and worthy causes, or from provinces on their behalf, by the Charities Manager. In cases where the charity is seeking less than £50,000, the application is circulated by email to members of the Worthy Causes Committee by the Charities Manager. They carefully consider the application and send their views to the Chairman of the Worthy Causes Committee who notifies the Committee's decision to the Charities Manager, so that the charity can be informed. The members of the Worthy Causes Committee are R Richardson (Chairman), D Hill, R Olliver, A Armbrister and Dr J Shervington. In cases where the charity is seeking £50,000 or more, the application is circulated by email to all members of the Board of Trustees for consideration. Each Trustee sends his views to the President of the Fund who notifies the decision to the Charities Manager. The full Board of Trustees meets quarterly when all applications are noted.
- 3) The Grand Master's Keystone Fund (GMKF - a designated fund), founded in 2023 for the purpose of awarding bursaries to encourage educational, vocational and sporting achievement, is named after our Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCMG, in gratitude for over 40 years of service to Mark Masonry. Applicants for a bursary may be the children, stepchildren, grandchildren, spouse, widow, or other dependent of a member or deceased member of an Order administered from Mark Masons' Hall, or may be a member themselves.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

An Awards Panel considers all bursary applications. The members of the Awards Panel are Dr J Shervington (Chair), D Hill, T Harvey (Deputy Chair), M Christmas, M Winch and L Finch. A volunteer Bursary Scheme Coordinator has been appointed to provide administrative support to the Awards Panel. The scheme opened for applications in July 2025.

PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

BANKERS

Clydesdale Bank plc (Trading as Virgin Money)
7 Gold Street
Northampton
NN1 1EN

FUND MANAGERS

J M Finn & Co Ltd
4 Coleman Street
London
EC2R 5TA

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP
55 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7JW

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by both statute (Charities Act) and the Constitutions and Regulations for the Government of the Order of Mark Master Masons dated 1955 and subsequent amendments. The objects of the charity are defined as follows.

The Trustees shall hold the Fund of Benevolence and its income upon trust to apply them subject to the provisions of the Regulations for:

- 1) such exclusively charitable purposes as may be determined from time to time by the Trustees, who in reaching that determination shall seek and consider the views of the Grand Lodge; and
- 2) the relief of need, hardship and distress among Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependant, and/or amongst retired employees of The Grand Lodge in such manner as they shall from time to time determine.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is supported by contributions from Brethren, their Ladies, Lodges, Provinces and Districts and these may take the form of donations, covenants, legacies or bequests.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACTIVITIES

The Trustees have continued to review all petitions for relief, all applications from registered charities and worthy causes and applications for bursaries. Grants were made from The Mark Benevolent Fund to Mark Master Masons, their families, or other dependants and for specific purposes to other registered charities and worthy causes. In September 2024, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent announced two major capital grants totalling approximately £2.5 million over two-to three years to Wheelchair Rugby Clubs and Great Britain National Wheelchair Rugby Team, and Blood Bikes – England & Wales.

The total grants made in the year under the trustees' grant-making policy (see page 3) amounted to £2,758,958 (2024: £1,386,233) of which £552,117 (2024: £nil) was paid to Wheelchair Rugby Clubs and Great Britain National Wheelchair Rugby Team, £646,960 (2024: £nil) was paid to Blood Bikes – England & Wales, £1,443,739 (2024: £1,372,013) was paid to 62 charities, £116,142 (2024: £14,220) was paid to Mark Master Masons and other dependants in need, and GMKF bursaries £nil (2024: £nil).

Subsequent to the year end, the Trustees have awarded the first bursaries under the GMKF.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

FUNDRAISING

The majority of the charity's income is from the members of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The Mark Benevolent Fund has not engaged with third parties to raise funds and any direct approach to members of the public for funding has been limited. No complaints were received in relation to the Mark Benevolent Fund's fundraising activities.

GRANT MAKING POLICY

Grants in response to petitions for relief are made to Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependents, and/or retired employees of the Grand Lodge, provided that such grants are for the relief of need or distress. All grants awarded take account of a petitioner's financial circumstances and require approval by the Petitions Committee.

Grants are also made for charitable purposes other than for the relief of need. All such grants awarded are subject to approval by the members of the Worthy Causes Committee or the full Board of Trustees, and are reported to Grand Lodge.

GMKF bursaries may be the children, stepchildren, grandchildren, spouse, widow, or other dependent of a member or deceased member of an Order administered from Mark Masons' Hall, or may be a member themselves. The purpose of awarding bursaries to encourage educational, vocational and sporting achievement. All bursaries awarded are subject to approval by the members of the Awards Panel, and are reported to the Trustees on a regular basis.

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves of the Fund amounted to £19.9 million (2024: £20.8 million), comprising the MBF General fund of £18.5m (2024: £19.7m), the GMKF (a designated fund within the General Fund) £0.5m (2024 £0.2m) and the property fund £1.0m (2024 £1.0m).

During the year ended 31 August 2025, the trustees reviewed the reserves policy and agreed to maintain the reserves at a level sufficient to generate adequate investment income to meet current funding requirements. This will be reviewed annually.

The majority of grants are paid to non masonic charities with the balance paid in the main to the elderly. These take the form of either ordinary grants, emergency grants or annuity grants which may have to be maintained for, on average, between 12 and 15 years. It is the policy of the Trustees to ensure that the fund has adequate reserves to pay these grants each year. Funds are also retained as it is the practice to make major capital grants from time to time; investments and income must therefore be maintained to further this policy.

GOING CONCERN

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by a board of twelve Trustees, which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the governance of the Fund. The Charities Manager role and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. Fundraising is mainly provided by Mark Master Masons who host, by rotation of each province in England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festivals. The Annual Festival Result reflects the total funds raised over the course of the festival period of around 10 years. It is expected that this approach will continue for the foreseeable future.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2025 to respond to any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

INVESTMENT POWERS

Investment powers are set out and operated within the provisions of the Trustee Act 2000 and the Trust Deed. The investments are overseen by the Investment Committee, with J M Finn & Co Limited appointed to manage the investments on a discretionary management basis.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The investment portfolio is managed by JM Finn & Co Ltd under their Discretionary Portfolio Management Service. Our Investment Objective is to seek a combined return from income and capital growth. A medium risk portfolio with no specified minimum of low risk investments has been selected. There are currently no investment restrictions/special instructions given to JM Finn & Co Ltd.

The aim in the Trust Deed is to quickly provide grants in relief of need or distress for Mark Master Masons and their dependants, to support other registered charities and worthy causes and from time to time to award major capital grants to worthy causes. The sources of income for the Fund include donations from members, funds raised from annual festivals, gifts left in wills/legacies and any investment income (including capital growth).

The Investment Committee of which the President (or other designated Trustee) of the Mark Benevolent Fund is a member meets quarterly to review investment portfolio funds.

RISK POLICY

The Trustees have reviewed their procedures to identify and examine the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces. The necessary systems are established to enable reports to be produced to ensure that action is taken to manage the effects of the identified risks. Below is a summary of the major risks faced and policies to mitigate these.

Risk	Steps to mitigate risk
Loss of Key Staff	Succession planning, document systems, agree notice periods and handovers
Disaster recovery	Agree IT recovery plan, implement data back-up, review insurance, create disaster recovery plan
Investment Policies	Review & agree policy, obtain advice & management, implement reserves policy, regular performance monitoring
Public Perception	Communicate with supporters & beneficiaries, good quality reporting of activities & financial situation, support for worthy causes
Regulatory reporting	Review & agree compliances procedures, allocation of staff responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) and applicable law.

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its net incoming/outgoing resources 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;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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, the Constitutions and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

the provisions of the charity's Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP has indicated its willingness to be reappointed as statutory auditor.

Approved by the Trustees on 10th February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Ian N Clark
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Mark Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations included General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing of recognition of income and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Management Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, sample testing of income, reviewing regulatory correspondence, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

London

Date: 20.04.2026

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	Restated 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:			
Donations and legacies		1,271,906	1,098,632
GMKF donations		376,830	230,136
Investments:			
Investment income		583,314	527,988
Interest receivable		5,250	20,590
Total		2,237,300	1,877,346
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds			
Investment management fees		89,632	88,806
MBF jewels and collarettes costs		54,493	57,309
GMKF jewels costs		81,252	64,551
Charitable activities			
Support costs	3	438,949	392,896
Grants	4	2,758,958	1,386,233
Total		3,423,284	1,989,795
OPERATING (DEFICIT)		(1,185,984)	(112,449)
Net gains on investment assets	7	258,481	1,387,618
NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME		(927,503)	1,275,169
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(927,503)	1,275,169
FUND BALANCES			
As at 1 September 2024		20,841,846	19,566,677
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 AUGUST 2025		19,914,343	20,841,846

All of the above are represented by continuing operations.
There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	987,200	995,600
Investments	7	18,562,369	19,393,520
		<u>19,549,569</u>	<u>20,389,120</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	494,455	450,156
Cash at bank		167,369	307,617
		<u>661,824</u>	<u>757,773</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	9	297,050	305,047
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>364,774</u>	<u>452,726</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>19,914,343</u>	<u>20,841,846</u>
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
Designated fixed assets fund		987,200	995,600
General fund	12	18,927,143	19,846,246
		<u>19,914,343</u>	<u>20,841,846</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 10th February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Ian N Clark
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	2025	2024
Notes	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash used by operating activities	(1,813,194)	(807,376)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment income	583,314	527,988
Proceeds from sale of investments	5,536,151	2,882,843
Purchase of investments	(4,446,519)	(3,277,905)
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>1,672,946</u>	<u>132,926</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(140,248)	(674,450)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	<u>307,617</u>	<u>982,067</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>167,369</u>	<u>307,617</u>
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(927,503)	1,275,169
Adjustment for:		
Investment income	(583,314)	(527,988)
Net (gain) on investments	(258,481)	(1,387,618)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	8,400	8,400
(Increase) in debtors	(44,299)	(188,160)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>(7,997)</u>	<u>12,821</u>
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(1,813,194)</u>	<u>(807,376)</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand	<u>167,369</u>	<u>307,617</u>

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity registered as an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales (registration no. 207610) and operates from its registered office Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view.

(b) Donations

Donations received for a specific year and deposited with The Mark Benevolent Fund are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of receipt.

Other donations, where the resolution to make a gift to The Mark Benevolent Fund is uncertain, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receipts basis.

(c) Gifts

Gifts received in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their market value on the date received.

(d) Amortisation of Leasehold Property

In accordance with the terms agreed with the Charity Commissioners, The Mark Benevolent Fund invested £1,200,000 in the acquisition and conversion of 86 St. James's Street, London SW1. The original lease was for 99 years from 5 January 1979. This has been subsequently renegotiated and a new 125 year lease from April 2018 agreed. This has resulted in an increase in the charge for the amortisation of the lease from £4,200 per annum to £8,400 with effect from September 2019. This will continue to be borne by the General Fund of The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The residual economic life of leasehold property is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have determined the position with regard to property depreciation as stated above. The Trustees are also of the view that the carrying value of this asset is not impaired having assessed the service delivery and will undertake future reviews in accordance with FRS 102.

(e) Investments

Fixed asset investments are revalued to market value at the balance sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation represents unrealised gains or losses.

The differences between the carrying value (or cost if acquired in the year) and the proceeds of investments disposed of represent realised investment gains or losses.

Net realised and unrealised gains or losses are shown as a combined figure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for under the accruals concept. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates. Staff are employed by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and relevant staff costs are recharged to The Mark Benevolent Fund as part of the administration fee.

(g) Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(h) Governance Costs

Governance costs relate to the statutory running of the charity and are borne by the MBF General fund

(i) Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank and in hand, together with trade debtors, accrued interest and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise grants payable and accruals.

Investments, including bonds held as part of an investment portfolio are held at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

(j) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Going concern

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by a board of twelve Trustees, which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the Fund. The Charities Manager role and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. Fundraising is mainly provided by Mark Master Masons who host, by rotation of each province in England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festivals. The Annual Festival Result reflects the total funds raised over the course of the festival period of around ten years. It is expected that this approach will continue for the foreseeable future.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2025 to respond to any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

3. SUPPORT COSTS	2025	<i>Restated</i> 2024
	£	£
Administration fee (note 11)	200,000	<i>200,000</i>
General expenses	43,121	<i>34,289</i>
Rent paid (note 11)	172,000	<i>135,000</i>
Bank charges and insurance costs	344	<i>257</i>
Governance costs (note 5)	23,484	<i>23,350</i>
	438,949	<i>392,896</i>

All support costs are applicable to grant making which is the charity's only charitable activity. The fixed asset depreciation which relates to the designated property fund.

4. GRANTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants to other charities	1,443,739	<i>1,372,013</i>
Major capital grant to support Wheelchair Rugby Clubs and Great Britain National Wheelchair Rugby Team	552,117	-
Major capital grant to support Blood Bikes – England & Wales	646,960	-
Grants to individuals	116,142	<i>14,220</i>
Bursaries awarded under GMKF	-	-
	2,758,958	<i>1,386,233</i>

The grants to other charities in the year were:

North Kelsey Community Shop Ltd	7,594
Bridgewater School Association	49,287
Lakelands Hospice	44,583
Herefordshire Riding for Disabled	21,810
No.176 Hove Squadron ATC	5,422
1st Nanpantan Scouts Group	21,007
Children's Heart Unit Fund	103,035

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

PCREFURB	15,150
Minstead Trust	10,000
Ego Performance Company Ltd	63,180
Green Synergy	6,124
Flood Relief - Mark District of Spain	25,000
Great North Air Ambulance Service	63,326
The Booth Centre	35,376
Ilkley Community Transport	30,000
Stable Family Home Trust	36,750
Incredible Design Company	15,000
The Furzedown Project	35,000
Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity	24,984
Friends of Five Acre Wood and Grow 19	37,602
Nice - Centre for Movement Disorders	13,198
Haven Domestic Abuse Service	37,552
Lincoln & Lindsey Blind Society	11,604
Rowans Hospice	7,250
Derby Phoenix Swimming Club	4,903
The Special Lioness	23,996
Wyeplay	5,000
Parents & Friends of Moreton Day Service	51,006
Scarborough & Ryedale Mountain Rescue	63,550
Get Set Girls	4,443
The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital	35,828
Young & Inspired	4,425
South Warwickshire NHS Found	22,234
PCC of St James Fletchamstead	5,550
Good Vibrations Music Ltd	5,105
1st Albrighton Scout Group	12,360
Teen Action	9,075
Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club	58,209
Beeston Community Resource	923
Maryport & Soloway Unit 541 of the Sea Cadet Corps	24,000
Gympanzees	16,623
National Coastwatch Institute	1,457
Oak Tree Farm Rural Projects	9,970
St Austell Rugby Football Club	30,500
Essex Voluntary Blood Service	23,045
Building Self Belief CIO	11,295
Cotswold Friends	25,000

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Tamworth Table Tennis Club	4,102	
Dorset Search & Rescue	1,614	
Wings for Warriors	1,097	
Squadron 60 (Leek) Air Training Corps	20,000	
1032 Yeovil Squadron Air Force Cadets	25,000	
Hanningfield Sailability Project	17,500	
Bright Horizons Foundation for Children (UK)	5,129	
The Cavalier Centre	10,000	
The Garwood Foundation	25,000	
Scarborough Sea Cadets	25,000	
Yelverton Community Projects	22,961	
Wargrave Bowling Club	11,471	
Irene Taylor Trust	7,522	
Abbotts Bromley Sports Association	23,012	
Association Priority for Humanity (Romania)	76,000	
	1,443,739	1,372,013

The Major Capital Grant of £552,117 was distributed during the year to twenty-six clubs to help support The Wheelchair Rugby Clubs and Great Britain National Wheelchair Rugby Team during the year. The grants help in improving access to the sport and preparing athletes for the 2028 Paralympics. Funding can be used for facility improvements, vehicles and kit.

The Major Capital Grant of £646,960 was distributed to twenty-nine groups to help support the Blood Bikes in England & Wales during the year. The grants can be used for capital expenditure such as motorbikes, other vehicles, equipment and facility improvements.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	<u>23,484</u>	<u>23,350</u>

No Trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the current or previous year.

6. FIXED ASSETS	Leasehold property £ 2025
Cost	2025
At 31 August 2025 and 1 September 2024	<u>1,200,000</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2024	204,400
Charge for the year	<u>8,400</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>212,800</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 August 2025	<u>987,200</u>
<i>At 31 August 2024</i>	<u><i>995,600</i></u>

7. INVESTMENTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2024	19,393,520	17,610,840
Less : Disposal proceeds	(5,536,151)	(2,882,843)
Add : Acquisitions at cost	4,446,519	3,277,905
Net realised and unrealised gains	<u>258,481</u>	<u>1,387,618</u>
Market value at 31 August 2025	<u>18,562,369</u>	<u>19,393,520</u>
Historic cost	<u>14,233,712</u>	<u>14,991,088</u>

All investments, other than cash) are listed on a recognised stock exchange and managed in the UK by J M Finn & Co Limited. The investments at the year-end comprised:

Fixed interest	2,311,286	2,643,279
Equities	16,138,154	16,749,228
Other (deposit account balance)	112,929	1,013
	<u>18,562,369</u>	<u>19,393,520</u>

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8. DEBTORS	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	231,937	182,221
Other debtors	168,409	195,085
GLMMM (note 11)	94,109	72,850
	494,455	450,156

9. CREDITORS	2025	2024
	£	£
Income in advance	253,493	249,010
Other creditors and accruals	43,557	56,037
	297,050	305,047

10. TAXATION

The Mark Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and is able to take advantage of the exemptions from tax for charities on its income and investment gains.

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Fund is administered by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons (GLMMM). The Fund paid a management fee of £200,000 in the year (2024: £200,000) to GLMMM to cover staff and administration costs and charged rent of £nil (2024: £nil) to GLMMM. Due to changes in the terms of the Lease, GLMMM now pays the rent direct to Crown Properties. Included in Donations and Legacies is an amount of £172,000 (2024: £135,000) in respect of the rent paid directly on behalf of the Fund. A corresponding expense is included within support costs. GLMMM also bears the amortisation of the Leasehold Property.

At the yearend GLMMM owed MBF £94,109 (2024: GLMMM owed MBF £72,850) in respect of these transactions.

12. GENERAL FUND

The General Fund includes cumulative donations, net of costs, to the Grand Master's Keystone Fund amounting to £472,723 (2024: £177,145).

Summary of fund movements:

Fund name	Balance at 1 September 2024	Income	Expenditure	Gains & losses	Balance at 31 August 2025
General Fund	19,669,101	1,860,470	3,333,632	258,481	18,454,420
GMKF	177,145	376,830	81,252	-	472,723
Total funds	19,846,246	2,237,300	3,414,884	258,481	18,927,143

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains & losses	Balance at 31 August 2024
General Fund	18,551,117	1,647,210	1,916,844	1,387,618	19,669,101
GMKF	11,560	230,136	64,551	-	177,145
Total funds	18,562,677	1,877,346	1,981,395	1,387,618	19,846,246

Summary of assets/liabilities by fund

	31 August 2025			31 August 2024		
	General Fund	GMKF	Total	General Fund	GMKF	Total
Investments	18,262,369	300,000	18,562,369	19,393,520	-	19,393,520
Debtors	450,025	44,430	494,455	450,156	-	450,156
Cash at bank	39,076	128,293	167,369	130,472	177,145	307,617
Creditors	297,050	-	297,050	305,047	-	305,047
Total net assets	18,454,420	472,723	18,927,143	19,669,101	177,145	19,846,246

Accounts

Charity Registration Number: 207610

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 AUGUST 2024

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The charity is The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence and is registered at the Charity Commission under registration number 207610. The charity operates as The Mark Benevolent Fund. The charity's address is 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees of The Mark Benevolent Fund who served during the year, and to the date of signing this report, were:

I N Clark
W A Divall
D J Hill (Appointed 11/6/24)
G Hutchinson (Appointed 11/6/24)
K Hicks
A S McLaren (Retired 11/6/24)
R J Olliver
T C Pakrashi (Retired 11/6/24)
D Powell
R F Richardson
Dr J Shervington (Appointed 11/6/24)
J Steggle
D Thomas
A I Torrance
M J L Whelan, JP (Deceased 28/1/24)

Newly appointed Trustees receive a briefing from the President and Honorary Secretary, an induction pack from the Charities Manager and attend training days as necessary.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the management of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There are three sub-committees to the Board of Trustees:

- 1) The Petitions Committee provides relief to poor and distressed Mark Master Masons, their wives, widows and children. Individual grants of up to £15,000 may be made for help with general living expenses for a 12-month period, relief of debt if appropriate and one-off items such as roof repairs and heating system replacement. Committee members carefully consider each application circulated by email and independently report back to the Petitions Committee chairman who notifies the Committee's decision to the Charities Manager. The members of the Committee are J Steggle (Chairman), W A Divall, G Hutchinson, D Powell and D Thomas. The full Board of Trustees meets quarterly when all petitions for relief are noted.
- 2) The Worthy Causes Committee awards grants to other registered charities and worthy causes. Applications for assistance are received from registered charities and worthy causes, or from provinces on their behalf, by the Charities Manager. In cases where the charity is seeking less than £50,000, the application is circulated by email to members of the Worthy Causes Committee by the Charities Manager. They carefully consider the application and send their views to the Chairman of the Worthy Causes Committee who notifies the Committee's decision to the Charities Manager, so that the charity can be informed. The members of the Worthy Causes Committee are K Hicks (Chairman), D Hill, R Olliver, R Richardson and J Shervington. In cases where the charity is seeking £50,000 or more, the application is circulated by email to all members of the Board of Trustees for consideration. Each Trustee sends his views to the President of the Fund who notifies the decision to the Charities Manager. The full Board of Trustees meets quarterly when all applications are noted.
- 3) The Grand Master's Keystone Fund Steering Group and Awards Panel (new fund), founded for the purpose of awarding bursaries to encourage educational and vocational achievement, is named after our Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO, in gratitude for over 40 years of service to Mark Masonry. Applicants for a bursary may be the children, stepchildren, grandchildren, spouse, widow, or other dependent of a member or deceased member of an Order administered from Mark Masons' Hall, or may be

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

a member themselves. The Steering Group, chaired by Archie Torrance (President), is overseeing development of the bursary scheme and meets monthly. An Awards Panel will be established to consider all bursary applications. It will be chaired by Ian Clark (Deputy President) assisted by panel members yet to be appointed. A Bursary Scheme Coordinator will be appointed to provide administrative support to the Awards Panel. It is anticipated that the first bursaries will be awarded in 2025.

PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

BANKERS

Clydesdale Bank plc (Trading as Virgin Money)
7 Gold Street
Northampton
NN1 1EN

FUND MANAGERS

J M Finn & Co Ltd
4 Coleman Street
London
EC2R 5TA

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP
55 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7JW

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by both statute (Charities Act) and the Constitutions and Regulations for the Government of the Order of Mark Master Masons dated 1955 and subsequent amendments. The objects of the charity are defined as follows.

The Trustees shall hold the Fund of Benevolence and its income upon trust to apply them subject to the provisions of the Regulations for:

- 1) such exclusively charitable purposes as may be determined from time to time by the Trustees, who in reaching that determination shall seek and consider the views of the Grand Lodge; and
- 2) the relief of need, hardship and distress among Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependant, and/or amongst retired employees of The Grand Lodge in such manner as they shall from time to time determine.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is supported by contributions from Brethren, their Ladies, Lodges, Provinces and Districts and these may take the form of donations, covenants, legacies or bequests.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACTIVITIES

The total grants made in the year under the trustees' grant-making policy (see page 3) amounted to £1,372,013 (2023: £1,092,427) was paid to 53 charities, and £14,220 (2023: £45,070) was paid to Mark Master Masons and other dependants in need. Following the year end the trustees assigned two major capital grants totalling approximately £2.5 million to Blood Bikes – England & Wales, Wheelchair Rugby Clubs and Great Britain National Wheelchair Rugby Team.

The Trustees have continued to review all petitions for relief and all applications from registered charities and worthy causes. Grants were made from The Mark Benevolent Fund to Mark Master Masons, their families, or other dependants and for specific purposes to other registered charities and worthy causes.

FUNDRAISING

The majority of the charity's income is from the members of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The Mark Benevolent Fund has not engaged with third parties to raise funds and any direct approach to members of the

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

public for funding has been limited. No complaints were received in relation to the Mark Benevolent Fund's fundraising activities.

GRANT MAKING POLICY

Grants in response to petitions for relief are made to Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependents, and/or retired employees of the Grand Lodge, provided that such grants are for the relief of need or distress. All grants awarded take account of a petitioner's financial circumstances and require approval by the Petitions Committee.

Grants are also made for charitable purposes other than for the relief of need. All such grants awarded are subject to approval by the members of the Worthy Causes Committee or the full Board of Trustees, and are reported to Grand Lodge.

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves of the Fund amounted to £20.8 million (2023: £19.6 million), comprising unrestricted reserves of £19.8 million (2023: £18.6 million) and designated funds of £1.0 million (2023: £1.0 million). The free reserves of the Fund total £19.8 million at the year-end (2023: £18.6 million).

The majority of grants are paid to non masonic charities with the balance paid in the main to the elderly. These take the form of either ordinary grants, emergency grants or annuity grants which may have to be maintained for, on average, between 12 and 15 years. It is the policy of the Trustees to ensure that the fund has adequate reserves to pay these grants each year. Funds are also retained as it is the practice to make major capital grants from time to time; investments and income must therefore be maintained to further this policy.

GOING CONCERN

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by a board of twelve Trustees, which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the governance of the Fund. The Charities Manager role and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. Fundraising is mainly provided by Mark Master Masons who host, by rotation of each province in England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festivals. The Annual Festival Result reflects the total funds raised over the course of the festival period of around 10 years. It is expected that this approach will continue for the foreseeable future.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2024 to respond to any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

INVESTMENT POWERS

Investment powers are set out and operated within the provisions of the Trustee Act 2000 and the Trust Deed. The investments are overseen by the Investment Committee, with J M Finn & Co Limited appointed to manage the investments on a discretionary management basis.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The investment portfolio is managed by JM Finn & Co Ltd under their Discretionary Portfolio Management Service. Our Investment Objective is to seek a combined return from income and capital growth. A medium risk portfolio with no specified minimum of low risk investments has been selected. There are currently no investment restrictions/special instructions given to JM Finn & Co Ltd.

The aim in the Trust Deed is to quickly provide grants in relief of need or distress for Mark Master Masons and their dependants, to support other registered charities and worthy causes and from time to time to award major capital grants to worthy causes. The sources of income for the Fund include donations from members, funds raised from annual festivals, gifts left in wills/legacies and any investment income (including capital growth).

The Investment Committee of which the President of the Mark Benevolent Fund is a member meets quarterly to review investment portfolio funds.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

RISK POLICY

The Trustees have reviewed their procedures to identify and examine the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces. The necessary systems are established to enable reports to be produced to ensure that action is taken to manage the effects of the identified risks. Below is a summary of the major risks faced and policies to mitigate these.

Risk	Steps to mitigate risk
Loss of Key Staff	Succession planning, document systems, agree notice periods and handovers
Disaster recovery	Agree IT recovery plan, implement data back-up, review insurance, create disaster recovery plan
Investment Policies	Review & agree policy, obtain advice & management, implement reserves policy, regular performance monitoring
Public Perception	Communicate with supporters & beneficiaries, good quality reporting of activities & financial situation, support for worthy causes
Regulatory reporting	Review & agree compliances procedures, allocation of staff responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) and applicable law.

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its net incoming/outgoing resources 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;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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, the Constitutions and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the provisions of the charity's Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP has indicated its willingness to be reappointed as statutory auditor.

Approved by the Trustees on 4th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Archibald I. Torrance
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Mark Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations included General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing of recognition of income and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Management Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, sample testing of income, reviewing regulatory correspondence, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

London

Date: 21.03.2025

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:			
Donations and legacies		1,328,768	1,215,746
Investments:			
Investment income		527,988	549,532
Interest receivable		20,590	12,734
Total		1,877,346	1,778,012
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds			
Investment management fees		88,806	87,767
Charitable activities			
Support costs	3	514,756	443,455
Grants	4	1,386,233	1,137,497
Total		1,989,795	1,668,719
OPERATING (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS		(112,449)	109,293
Net gains / (losses) on investment assets	7	1,387,618	(1,694,140)
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		1,275,169	(1,584,847)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		1,275,169	(1,584,847)
FUND BALANCES			
As at 1 September 2023		19,566,677	21,151,524
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 AUGUST 2024		20,841,846	19,566,677

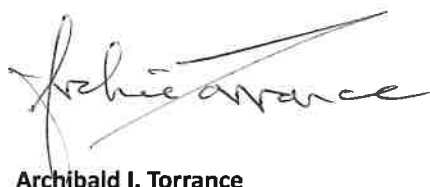
All of the above are represented by continuing operations.
There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	995,600	1,004,000
Investments	7	<u>19,393,520</u>	<u>17,610,840</u>
		20,389,120	18,614,840
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	450,156	261,996
Cash at bank		<u>307,617</u>	<u>982,067</u>
		757,773	1,244,063
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	9	<u>305,047</u>	<u>292,226</u>
		305,047	292,226
NET CURRENT ASSETS		452,726	951,837
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>20,841,846</u>	<u>19,566,677</u>
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
Designated fixed assets fund		995,600	1,004,000
General fund	12	<u>19,846,246</u>	<u>18,562,677</u>
		<u>20,841,846</u>	<u>19,566,677</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 4th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Archibald I. Torrance
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	2024	2023
Notes	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash used by operating activities	(807,376)	(412,667)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment income	527,988	549,532
Proceeds from sale of investments	2,882,843	2,992,695
Purchase of investments	(3,277,905)	(2,900,315)
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>132,926</u>	<u>641,912</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(674,450)	229,245
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	<u>982,067</u>	<u>752,822</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>307,617</u>	<u>982,067</u>
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities	2024	2023
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	1,275,169	(1,584,847)
Adjustment for:		
Investment income	(527,988)	(549,532)
(Gain)/loss on investments	(1,387,618)	1,694,140
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	8,400	8,400
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(188,160)	(49,909)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>12,821</u>	<u>69,081</u>
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(807,376)</u>	<u>(412,667)</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash in hand	307,617	982,067
Total	<u>307,617</u>	<u>982,067</u>

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity registered as an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales (registration no. 207610) and operates from its registered office Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view.

(b) Donations

Donations received for a specific year and deposited with The Mark Benevolent Fund are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of receipt.

Other donations, where the resolution to make a gift to The Mark Benevolent Fund is uncertain, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receipts basis.

(c) Gifts

Gifts received in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their market value on the date received.

(d) Amortisation of Leasehold Property

In accordance with the terms agreed with the Charity Commissioners, The Mark Benevolent Fund invested £1,200,000 in the acquisition and conversion of 86 St. James's Street, London SW1. The original lease was for 99 years from 5 January 1979. This has been subsequently renegotiated and a new 125 year lease from April 2018 agreed. This has resulted in an increase in the charge for the amortisation of the lease from £4,200 per annum to £8,400 with effect from September 2019. This will continue to be borne by the General Fund of The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The residual economic life of leasehold property is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have determined the position with regard to property depreciation as stated above. The Trustees are also of the view that the carrying value of this asset is not impaired having assessed the service delivery and will undertake future reviews in accordance with FRS 102.

(e) Investments

Fixed asset investments are revalued to market value at the balance sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation represents unrealised gains or losses.

The differences between the carrying value (or cost if acquired in the year) and the proceeds of investments disposed of represent realised investment gains or losses.

Net realised and unrealised gains or losses are shown as a combined figure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for under the accruals concept. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates. Staff are employed by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and relevant staff costs are recharged to The Mark Benevolent Fund as part of the administration fee.

(g) Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(h) Governance Costs

Governance costs relate to the statutory running of the charity.

(i) Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank and in hand, together with trade debtors, accrued interest and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise grants payable and accruals.

Investments, including bonds held as part of an investment portfolio are held at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

(j) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Going concern

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by a board of twelve Trustees, which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the Fund. The Charities Manager role and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. Fundraising is mainly provided by Mark Master Masons who host, by rotation of each province in England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festivals. The Annual Festival Result reflects the total funds raised over the course of the festival period of around ten years. It is expected that this approach will continue for the foreseeable future.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2024 to respond to any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

3. SUPPORT COSTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Administration fee (note 11)	200,000	200,000
General expenses	34,289	22,210
Rent paid (note 11)	135,000	135,000
Bank charges and insurance costs	257	223
Governance costs (note 5)	23,350	21,470
Cost of jewels	121,860	64,552
	514,756	443,455

All support costs are applicable to grant making which is the charity's only charitable activity.

4. GRANTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants to other charities	1,372,013	1,092,427
Grants to individuals	14,220	45,070
	1,386,233	1,137,497

The grants to other charities in the year were:

Leicestershire County Scout Council	4,862
The Meath Epilepsy Charity	5,146
Sailship Training & Learning	20,000
The Brainwave Centre Ltd	13,026
Foreland Field Charity	5,000
Villa Real School Association	57,029
Southmead Hospital Charity	18,654
Haswell And District Mencap	26,215
Whitehaven Theatre of Youth	10,000

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Lovey Foundation (UK)	2,900	
Children's Heart Federation	11,581	
Community Equality Disability Action (CEDA)	6,771	
Kidney Cancer UK Ltd - In Memory Of R.W.Bro J Howitt	5,000	
Diabetes UK - In Memory Of R.W.Bro J Howitt	5,000	
Chadsgrove Educational Trust	10,000	
Holistic Cancer Centre	16,984	
Raw Material Music and Media	20,078	
Grand Appeal - Wallace & Gromit's Child Foundation	100,805	
Douglas Macmillan Hospice	7,184	
Shelterbox Trust - Gaza	50,000	
London Air Ambulance Charity	100,000	
Parents Supporting Down Syndrome	81,000	
Irene Taylor Trust	500	
1349 Squadron (Woking) RAF Cadets	8,800	
St Lukes Home of Healing South Africa	7,797	
Lighthouse Community Hub	30,000	
The North Northumberland Hospice	27,300	
St Davids Hospice Care	1,493	
Sense	6,010	
Children's Sailing Trust	12,159	
London Search & Rescue	57,000	
Mayfield School	4,270	
Princess Alice Hospice	28,480	
Minestead Trust	7,057	
Exmoor Search & Rescue Team	16,000	
Side By Side	4,700	
Wildgoose Rural Training	68,285	
Ahead of the Game Foundation	34,404	
Lincoln Ms Therapy	2,770	
North West Air Ambulance	52,573	
Aspire Oxfordshire	38,709	
Helen Bamber Foundation	45,180	
All Saints Church - Hessle	13,685	
Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care	69,962	
4th Workington St Michael Scout Group	7,660	
Farringdon Detached Youth & Comm Club	68,490	
Alzheimer Cafe - IOW	36,544	
Harriet Davis Trust for Disabled Children	6,659	
Heads Up Somerset Ltd	8,463	
Special Olympics West Mid Ski	14,982	
Marion Centre The Bishop of Llandaff High School	31,346	
Inspectorate of Romania – Ukraine Refugee Appeal	50,000	
Association Priority for Humanity (Romania)	33,500	
	1,372,013	1,092,427

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	<u>23,350</u>	<u>21,470</u>

No Trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the current or previous year.

6. FIXED ASSETS	Leasehold property
	£
Cost	2024
At 31 August 2024 and 1 September 2023	<u>1,200,000</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2023	196,000
Charge for the year	<u>8,400</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>204,400</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 August 2024	<u>995,600</u>
<i>At 31 August 2023</i>	<u><i>1,004,000</i></u>

7. INVESTMENTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2023	17,610,840	19,397,360
Less : Disposal proceeds	(2,882,843)	(2,992,695)
Add : Acquisitions at cost	3,277,905	2,900,315
Net realised and unrealised gains	<u>1,387,618</u>	<u>(1,694,140)</u>
Market value at 31 August 2024	<u>19,393,520</u>	<u>17,610,840</u>
Historic cost	<u>14,991,088</u>	<u>13,885,284</u>

All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange and managed in the UK by J M Finn & Co Limited. The investments at the year-end comprised:

Fixed interest	2,643,279	1,752,713
Equities	16,749,228	15,868,144
Other (deposit account balance)	1,013	(10,017)
	<u>19,393,520</u>	<u>17,610,840</u>

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8. DEBTORS	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	182,221	163,417
Other debtors	195,085	42,102
GLMMM (note 11)	72,850	56,477
	<u>450,156</u>	<u>261,996</u>

9. CREDITORS	2024	2023
	£	£
Income in advance	249,010	250,545
Other creditors and accruals	56,037	41,681
	<u>305,047</u>	<u>292,226</u>

10. TAXATION

The Mark Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and is able to take advantage of the exemptions from tax for charities on its income and investment gains.

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Fund is administered by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons (GLMMM). The Fund paid a management fee of £200,000 in the year (2023: £200,000) to GLMMM to cover staff and administration costs and charged rent of £nil (2023: £nil) to GLMMM. Due to changes in the terms of the Lease, GLMMM now pays the rent direct to Crown Properties. Included in Donations and Legacies is an amount of £135,000 (2023: £135,000) in respect of the rent paid directly on behalf of the Fund. A corresponding expense is included within support costs.

At the yearend GLMMM owed MBF £72,850 (2023: GLMMM owed MBF £56,477) in respect of these transactions.

12. GENERAL FUND

The General Fund includes cumulative donations to the Grand Master's Keystone Fund amounting to £179,325 (2023: £11,560).

Accounts

Charity Registration Number: 207610

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 AUGUST 2023

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The charity is The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence and is registered at the Charity Commission under registration number 207610. The charity operates as The Mark Benevolent Fund. The charity's address is 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees of The Mark Benevolent Fund who served during the year, and to the date of signing this report, were:

D F Ashbolt (Retired 13/6/23)
J Bell (Retired 13/6/23)
I N Clark
W A Divall
K Hicks
A S McLaren
R J Olliver
T C Pakrashi
D Powell
R F Richardson
J Steggles
D Thomas (Appointed 13/6/23)
A I Torrance (Appointed 13/6/23)
M J L Whelan, JP

Newly appointed Trustees receive a briefing from the President and Honorary Secretary, an induction pack from the Charities Manager and attend training days as necessary.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the management of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There are two sub-committees to the Board of Trustees:

- 1) The Petitions Committee provides relief to poor and distressed Freemasons, their wives, widows and children. Individual grants of up to £15,000 may be made for help with general living expenses for a 12-month period, relief of debt if appropriate and one-off items such as roof repairs and heating system replacement. Committee members carefully consider each application circulated by email and independently report back to the Petitions Committee chairman who notifies the Committee's decision to the Charities Manager. The members of the Committee are J Steggles (Chairman), B Divall, K Hicks, D Powell and D Thomas.

The full Board of Trustees meets quarterly when all petitions for relief are ratified.

- 2) The Worthy Causes Committee makes grants to other registered charities. Applications for assistance are received from charities, and from provinces on behalf of charities, by the Charities Manager. In cases where the charity is seeking less than £50,000, the application is circulated by email to members of the Worthy Causes Committee by the Charities Manager. They carefully consider the application and send their views to the Chairman of the Worthy Causes Committee who notifies the Committee's decision to the Charities Manager, so that the charity can be informed. The members of the Worthy Causes Committee are I Clark (Chairman), A McLaren, R Oliver, T Pakrashi and R Richardson.

In cases where the charity is seeking £50,000 or more, the application is circulated by email to all members of the Board of Trustees for consideration. Each Trustee then sends his views to the President of the Fund who notifies the decision to the Charities Manager.

The full Board of Trustees meets quarterly when all applications are ratified.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

BANKERS

Clydesdale Bank plc (Trading as Virgin Money)
7 Gold Street
Northampton
NN1 1EN

FUND MANAGERS

J M Finn & Co Ltd
4 Coleman Street
London
EC2R 5TA

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP
55 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7JW

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by both statute (Charities Act) and the Constitutions and Regulations for the Government of the Order of Mark Master Masons dated 1955 and subsequent amendments. The objects of the charity are defined as follows.

The Trustees shall hold the Fund of Benevolence and its income upon trust to apply them subject to the provisions of the Regulations for:

- 1) such exclusively charitable purposes as may be determined from time to time by the Trustees, who in reaching that determination shall seek and consider the views of the Grand Lodge; and
- 2) the relief of need, hardship and distress among Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependant, and/or amongst retired employees of The Grand Lodge in such manner as they shall from time to time determine.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is supported by contributions from Brethren, their Ladies, Lodges and Provinces and these may take the form of donations, covenants, legacies or bequests.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACTIVITIES

The total grants made in the year under the trustees' grant-making policy (see page 3) amounted to £1,137,497 (2022: £906,369) of which £nil was paid to hospices (2022: £3,000), £1,092,427 (2022: £876,731) was paid to 34 charities, and £45,070 was paid to Mark Master Masons and other dependants in need.

The Trustees have continued to review all petitions for relief and all applications from registered charities. Grants were made from The Mark Benevolent Fund to Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependants and for specific purposes to other registered charities.

FUNDRAISING

The majority of the charity's income is from the members of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The Mark Benevolent Fund has not engaged with third parties to raise funds and any direct approach to members of the public for funding has been limited. No complaints were received in relation to the Mark Benevolent Fund's fundraising activities.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

GRANT MAKING POLICY

Grants in response to petitions for relief are made to Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependents, and/or retired employees of the Grand Lodge, provided that such grants are for the relief of need. All grants awarded are subject to financial means testing and approval by the Petitions Committee.

Grants are also made for charitable purposes other than for the relief of need. All such grants awarded are subject to approval by the members of the Worthy Causes Committee or the full Board of Trustees, and are reported to Grand Lodge.

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves of the Fund amounted to £19.60 million (2022: £21.20 million), comprising unrestricted reserves of £18.56 million (2022: £20.14 million) and designated funds of £1.00 million (2022: £1.01 million). The free reserves of the Fund total £18.56 million at the year-end (2022: £20.14 million).

The majority of grants are paid to non masonic charities with the balance paid in the main to the elderly, these take the form of either emergency grants or annuity grants which may have to be maintained for, on average, between 12 and 15 years. It is the policy of the Trustees to ensure that the fund has adequate reserves to pay these grants each year. Funds are also retained as it is the practice to make major capital grants from time to time; investments and income must therefore be maintained to further this policy.

GOING CONCERN

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by a board of twelve Trustees, which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the Fund. The Charities Manager role and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. Fundraising is mainly provided by Mark Master Masons who host, by rotation of each province in England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festivals. The Annual Festival Result reflects the total funds raised over the course of the festival period of around ten years. It is expected that this approach will continue for the foreseeable future.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2023 to respond to any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

INVESTMENT POWERS

Investment powers are set out and operated within the provisions of the Trustee Act 2000. The investments are managed by the Investment Committee, appointed by the Trustees, which is advised by J M Finn & Co Limited.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The investment portfolio is managed by JM Finn & Co Ltd under their Discretionary Portfolio Management Service. Our Investment Objective is to seek a combined return from income and capital growth. A medium risk portfolio with no specified minimum of low risk investments has been selected. There are currently no investment restrictions/special instructions given to JM Finn & Co Ltd.

The aim in the trust deed is to quickly provide grants in relief of need for Mark Master Masons and their dependants, to support other registered charities and from time to time to make major capital grants to worthy causes. The sources of income for the Fund include donations from members, funds raised from annual festivals, gifts left in wills/legacies and any investment income (including capital growth).

The Investment Committee, appointed by the Trustees, reviews investment portfolio funds on a regular basis.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

RISK POLICY

The Trustees have reviewed their procedures to identify and examine the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces. The necessary systems are established to enable reports to be produced to ensure that action is taken to manage the effects of the identified risks. Below a summary of the major risks faced and policies to mitigate these.

Risk	Steps to mitigate risk
Loss of Key Staff	Succession planning, document systems, agree notice periods and handovers
Disaster recovery	Agree IT recovery plan, implement data back-up, review insurance, create disaster recovery plan
Investment Policies	Review & agree policy, obtain advice & management, implement reserves policy, regular performance monitoring
Public Perception	Communicate with supporters & beneficiaries, good quality reporting of activities & financial situation, support for worthy causes
Regulatory reporting	Review & agree compliances procedures, allocation of staff responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) and applicable law.

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its net incoming/outgoing resources 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;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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, the Constitutions and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the provisions of the charity's trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP has indicated its willingness to be reappointed as statutory auditor.

Approved by the Trustees on 6th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Archibald I. Torrance
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Mark Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity and group operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's and the group's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity and the group for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations included General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing of recognition of income and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Management Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, sample testing of income, reviewing regulatory correspondence, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

London

Date: 28.03.2024

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:			
Donations and legacies		1,215,746	1,511,581
Investments:			
Investment income		549,532	537,541
Interest receivable		12,734	56
Other:			
Rent receivable, 86 St. James's Street, London SW1	9		
Total		1,778,012	2,049,178
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds			
Investment management fees		87,767	99,813
Charitable activities			
Grants & Support Costs	4	1,516,400	1,284,561
Benevolent jewels distribution		64,552	60,345
Total		1,668,719	1,444,719
OPERATING (LOSS) / SURPLUS		109,293	604,459
Net gains / (losses) on investment assets	7	(1,694,140)	(2,953,613)
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		(1,584,847)	(2,349,154)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(1,584,847)	(2,349,154)
FUND BALANCES			
As at 1 September 2022		21,151,524	23,500,678
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		19,566,677	21,151,524

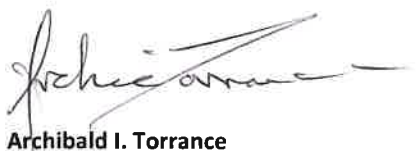
All of the above are represented by continuing operations.
There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	1,004,000	1,012,400
Investments	7	17,610,840	19,397,360
		<u>18,614,840</u>	<u>20,409,760</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors		261,996	212,087
Cash at bank		982,067	752,822
		<u>1,244,063</u>	<u>964,909</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		292,226	223,145
		<u>292,226</u>	<u>223,145</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>951,837</u>	<u>741,764</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>19,566,677</u>	<u>21,151,524</u>
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
Designated fixed assets fund		1,004,000	1,012,400
General fund		18,562,677	20,139,124
		<u>19,566,677</u>	<u>21,151,524</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 6th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Archibald I. Torrance
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	2023	2022
Notes	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash used by operating activities	(412,667)	97,785
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment income	549,532	537,597
Proceed from sale of investments	2,992,695	1,879,049
Purchase of investments	(2,900,315)	(2,079,236)
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>641,912</u>	<u>337,410</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	229,245	435,195
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	<u>752,822</u>	<u>317,627</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>982,067</u>	<u>752,822</u>
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities	2023	2022
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	(1,584,847)	(2,349,154)
Adjustment for:		
Investment income	(549,532)	(537,597)
Loss/(gain) on investments	1,694,140	2,953,613
Depreciation of tangibles fixed assets	8,400	8,400
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(49,909)	(59,837)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>69,081</u>	<u>82,360</u>
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(412,667)</u>	<u>97,785</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand	982,067	752,822
Total	<u>982,067</u>	<u>752,822</u>

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity registered as an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales (registration no. 207610) and operates from its registered office Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

(b) Donations

Donations received for a specific year and deposited with The Mark Benevolent Fund are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of receipt.

Other donations, where the resolution to make a gift to The Mark Benevolent Fund is uncertain, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receipts basis.

(c) Gifts

Gifts received in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their market value on the date received.

(d) Amortisation of Leasehold Property

In accordance with the terms agreed with the Charity Commissioners, The Mark Benevolent Fund invested £1,200,000 in the acquisition and conversion of 86 St. James's Street, London SW1. The original lease was for 99 years from 5 January 1979. This has been subsequently renegotiated and a new 125 year lease from April 2018 agreed. This has resulted in an increase in the charge for the amortisation of the lease from £4,200 per annum to £8,400 with effect from September 2019. This will continue to be borne by the General Fund of The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The residual economic life of leasehold property is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have determined the position with regard to property depreciation as stated above. The Trustees are also of the view that the carrying value of this asset is not impaired having assessed the service delivery and will undertake future reviews in accordance with FRS 102.

(e) Investments

Fixed asset investments are revalued to market value at the balance sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation represents unrealised gains or losses.

The differences between the carrying value (or cost if acquired in the year) and the proceeds of investments disposed of represent realised investment gains or losses.

Net realised and unrealised gains or losses are shown as a combined figure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for under the accruals concept. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates. Staff are employed by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and relevant staff costs are recharged to The Mark Benevolent Fund as part of the administration fee.

(g) Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(h) Governance Costs

Governance costs relate to the statutory running of the charity.

(i) Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank and in hand, together with trade debtors, accrued interest and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise grants payable and accruals.

Investments, including bonds held as part of an investment portfolio are held at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

(j) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Going concern

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by a board of twelve Trustees, which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the Fund. The Charities Manager role and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. Fundraising is mainly provided by Mark Master Masons who host, by rotation of each province in England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festivals. The Annual Festival Result reflects the total funds raised over the course of the festival period of around ten years. It is expected that this approach will continue for the foreseeable future.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2023 to respond to any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

3. SUPPORT COSTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Administration fee	200,000	200,000
General expenses	22,210	22,121
Rent paid	135,000	135,000
Bank charges and insurance costs	223	131
Governance costs (note 5)	21,470	20,940
	378,903	378,192

All support costs are applicable to grant making which is the charity's only charitable activity and are included with the grant making costs on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4. GRANTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants to other charities	1,092,427	876,731
Major capital grant to support hospices in England & Wales	0	3,000
Grants to individuals	45,070	26,638
	1,137,497	906,369
Support costs (note 3)	378,903	378,192
	1,516,400	1,284,561
The grants to other charities in the year were:		
District of Romania - Ukraine Refugee Appeal	25,000	
Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade	55,751	
St Peter & St James Hospice	16,102	
Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby	33,400	
Lennox Children's Cancer Charity	25,000	
The Rock Youth Project	87,528	
Autism Bedfordshire	30,000	
Haverigg Inshore Rescue Team	11,573	
Disability Challengers	40,167	
Stape Silver Band	1,916	
Inspectorate of Romania - Ukraine Refugee Appeal	25,000	
North of Tyne Mountain Rescue Team	37,500	
Inspectorate of Romania - Ukraine Refugee Appeal	25,000	
Channel Islands Jersey Funds	10,000	
The Bike Experience	24,794	
Sebastian's Action Trust	2,920	
East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme (EMICS)	11,005	
Inspectorate of Romania - Ukraine Refugee Appeal	25,000	
Sweetpea Smallholdings	1,871	
Shelterbox - Turkey/Syria Earthquake	50,000	
The Meniere's Society	2,387	
Children with Cancer Fund (Polegate)	36,807	
Inspectorate of Romania - Ukraine Refugee Appeal	25,000	
Inspectorate of Romania - Ukraine Refugee Appeal	25,000	
Newcastle Wheelchair Rugby Club	35,799	
Incredible Design Company (formerly CHEC)	12,950	
Mid Surrey Community Fridges	42,702	
Inspectorate of Romania - Ukraine Refugee Appeal	20,000	
1st North Wallington Scouts	39,636	
Normady Community Therapy Garden	1,363	
Nottingham Mencap	30,120	
Canterbury Umbrella Centre	45,582	
St John Ambulance	8,000	
Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets	80,276	
Tees River Rescue	57,000	
Style Acre	36,000	
London Wheelchair Rugby Club	30,967	
British Liver Trust	15,811	
Arrow Riding Centre for the Disabled	7,500	
	1,092,427	876,731

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	21,470	20,940

No Trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the current or previous year.

6. FIXED ASSETS	Leasehold property
	£
Cost	2023
At 31 August 2023 and 1 September 2022	1,200,000
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2022	187,600
Charge for the year	8,400
At 31 August 2023	196,000
Net Book Value	
At 31 August 2023	1,004,000
<i>At 31 August 2022</i>	<i>1,012,400</i>

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7. INVESTMENTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2022	19,397,360	22,150,786
Less : Disposal proceeds	(2,992,695)	(1,879,049)
Add : Acquisitions at cost	2,900,315	2,079,236
Net realised and unrealised gains	(1,694,140)	(2,953,613)
Market value at 31 August 2023	17,610,840	19,397,360
Historic cost	13,885,284	13,553,587
All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange and managed in the UK by J M Finn & Co Limited. The investments at the year-end comprised:		
Fixed interest	1,752,713	1,149,148
Equities	15,868,144	18,219,864
Other (Property, Alternative Assets & Emerging Economies)	(10,017)	28,348
	17,610,840	19,397,360

Unrealised gains/(losses) amounting to £31,500 (2022: £2,149,717) are based on a valuation at the year-end which is unlikely to equate to the actual gains and losses which will arise on the subsequent realisation of those investments.

8. TAXATION

The Mark Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and is able to take advantage of the exemptions from tax for charities on its income and investment gains.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Fund is administered by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons (GLMMM). The Fund paid a management fee of £200,000 in the year (2022: £200,000) to GLMMM to cover staff and administration costs and charged rent of £nil (2022: £nil) to GLMMM. Due to changes in the terms of the Lease, GLMMM now pays the rent direct to Crown Properties. Included in Donations and Legacies is an amount of £135,000 (2022: £135,000) in respect of the rent paid directly on behalf of the Fund. A corresponding expense is included within support costs.

At the yearend GLMMM owed MBF £56,477 (2022: GLMMM owed MBF £45,065) in respect of these transactions.

Accounts

Charity Registration Number: 207610

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 AUGUST 2022

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The charity is The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence and is registered at the Charity Commission under registration number 207610. The charity operates as The Mark Benevolent Fund.

The charity's address is 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees of The Mark Benevolent Fund who served during the year, and to the date of signing this report, were:

D F Ashbolt	J Steggles (Appointed 7/6/22)
J Bell	A I Torrance (Retired 7/6/22)
I N Clark	M J L Whelan, JP
W A Divall (Appointed 7/6/22)	
H K Emmerson (Retired 7/6/22)	
P Hawken (Retired 7/6/22)	
K Hicks	
C E Lord, OBE, JP (Retired 7/6/22)	
A S McLaren	
A Morris (Retired 7/6/22)	
R J Oliver (Appointed 7/6/22)	
T C Pakrashi	
D Powell (Appointed 7/6/22)	
R F Richardson (Appointed 7/6/22)	

Newly appointed Trustees receive an induction from the President and Grand Treasurer and attend training courses as necessary.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the management of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There are two sub-committees to the Board of Trustees:

- 1) The Worthy Causes Committee provides assistance to other registered charities. It meets two to three times a year to examine applications looking for financial support or from Mark Provinces and Districts wishing to support suitable charities. The appropriateness of the allocation of the charity's funds is at the forefront as applications are considered. Following a Worthy Causes Committee meeting, all members are sent copies of the approved applications. If no queries are raised within ten days, these grants will be paid. All of the Trustees of the charity are members of the Committee.

The Worthy Causes Committee also has a subcommittee that administers grants up to £50,000 to enable them to be dealt with swiftly. The members of this committee are D Ashbolt (Chairman), K Hicks, A McLaren, R Oliver, T C Pakrashi, R Richardson.

- 2) The Petitions Committee provides relief to poor and distressed Freemasons, their wives, widows and children. Individual grants of up to £15,000 may be made for help with general living expenses for a 12-month period, relief of debt if appropriate and one-off items such as roof repairs and heating system replacement. The Committee meets generally every six to eight weeks depending on the level of applications. The members of the Committee are M Whelan (Chairman), I Clark, D Ashbolt, B Divall, J Steggles and D Powell.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

BANKERS

Clydesdale Bank plc
154-158 Kensington High Street
London
W8 7RL

FUND MANAGERS

J M Finn & Co Ltd
4 Coleman Street
London
EC2R 5TA

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP
55 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7JW

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by both statute (Charities Act) and the Constitutions and Regulations dated 1955 and subsequent amendments. The objects of the charity are:

- 1) the application of the charity's funds to any other exclusively charitable purposes as may be determined from time to time by the trustees. In reaching that determination, the trustees seek and consider the views of the Grand Lodge and
- 2) the relief of need, hardship and distress among Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependant and/or amongst retired employees of The Grand Lodge in such manner as the trustees shall from time to time determine.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is supported by contributions from Brethren, Ladies, Lodges and Provinces and these may take the form of either donations, covenants, legacies or bequests.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACTIVITIES

The total grants in the year paid out under the trustees' grant making policy (see page 3) amounted to £906,369 (2021: £2,166,327) of which £3,000 was paid to hospices (2021: £1,286,000), £876,731 was paid to 33 charities, and £26,638 was paid to Mark Master Masons and other dependants in need.

The Trustees have continued to review all applications for grants and grants were made from The Mark Benevolent Fund to Mark Master Masons or their wives, widows, sisters etc. and for specific purposes to other Registered Charities.

FUNDRAISING

The majority of the charity's income is from the members of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The Mark Benevolent Fund has not engaged with third parties to raise funds and any direct approach to members of the public for funding has been limited. No complaints were received in relation to the Mark Benevolent Fund's fundraising activities.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

GRANT MAKING POLICY

Grants are made to Mark Master Masons or their wives, widows, sisters or other dependents or children, or employees of the Grand Lodge who have retired, provided that such grants are for the relief of need. All grants awarded are subject to financial means testing and approval by the Petitions Committee.

Grants are also made for charitable purposes other than for the relief of need (which are reported to Grand Lodge). All grants awarded are subject to review and approval by the members of the Worthy Causes Committee.

In April 2021, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund announced a Major Capital Grant to hospices to commemorate the significant contribution made to the Crown and the nation by H R H The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (see note 4, page 14).

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves of the Fund amounted to £21.20 million (2021: £23.50 million), comprising unrestricted reserves of £20.14 million (2021: £22.48 million) and designated funds of £1.01 million (2021: £1.02 million). The free reserves of the Fund total £20.14 million at the year-end (2021: £22.48 million).

The majority of grants are paid to Non Masonic Charities with the balance paid in the main to the elderly, these take the form of either emergency grants or annuity grants which may have to be maintained for, on average, between 12 and 15 years. It is the policy of the Trustees to ensure that the fund has adequate reserves to pay these grants each year. Funds are also retained as it is the practice to make substantial donations from time to time and investments and income therefore must be maintained to further this policy.

GOING CONCERN

The Mark Benevolent Fund is managed by the Board of Trustees which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the fund. The Charities Manager and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. The fund raising is mainly provided by Mark Masons who have, by rotation of each province in the England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Festivals which are usually the result of special events over the previous five to seven years. It is expected that this will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition the donation policy of the trustees is that the annual payments to Worthy Causes do not normally exceed the dividend income from the investments.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2022 to manage any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

INVESTMENT POWERS

Investment powers are set out and operated within the provisions of the Trustee Act 2000. The investments are managed by the Investment Committee, appointed by the Trustees, which is advised by J M Finn & Co Limited.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The policy of the trust deed is to quickly provide grants in relief of need for Mark Masons and their dependents and from time to time to make substantial grants to worthy causes likely to benefit Mark Masons and so far as funds permit to make similar grants to non-Masons. The sources of income for the fund are donations from the members with additional receipts from the annual festivals, the amount of which depends on the number of Lodges in the province supporting the festival, and any investment income (including capital gains).

Changes are made to investments held on the basis of seeking to maintain the existing funds and to increase them so far as possible. In accordance with these aims, the funds are managed by J M Finn & Co Limited. The Investment Committee, appointed by the Trustees, reviews the funds on a regular basis.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

RISK POLICY

The Trustees have reviewed their procedures to identify and examine the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces. The necessary systems are established to enable reports to be produced to ensure that action is taken to manage the effects of the identified risks. Below a summary of the major risks faced and policies to mitigate these.

Risk	Steps to mitigate risk
Loss of Key Staff	Succession planning, document systems, agree notice periods and handovers
Disaster recovery	Agree IT recovery plan, implement data back-up, review insurance, create disaster recovery plan
Investment Policies	Review & agree policy, obtain advice & management, implement reserves policy, regular performance monitoring
Public Perception	Communicate with supporters & beneficiaries, good quality reporting of activities & financial situation, implement public relations training/procedures
Regulatory reporting	Review & agree compliances procedures and allocation of staff responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) and applicable law.

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its net incoming/outgoing resources 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;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 charity's constitution. 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.

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP has indicated its willingness to be reappointed as statutory auditor.

Approved by the Trustees on 30th January 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

D F Ashbolt
Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Mark Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity and group operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's and the group's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity and the group for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations included General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing of recognition of income and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Management Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, sample testing of income, reviewing regulatory correspondence, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

London

Date: 23 February 2023

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:			
Donations and legacies		1,511,581	1,224,870
Investments:			
Investment income		537,541	503,998
Interest receivable		56	1,265
Other:			
Rent receivable, 86 St. James's Street, London SW1	9		
Total		2,049,178	1,730,133
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds			
Investment management fees		99,813	98,516
Charitable activities			
Grants & Support Costs	4	1,284,561	2,532,970
Benevolent jewels distribution		60,345	44,855
Total		1,444,719	2,676,341
OPERATING (LOSS) / SURPLUS		604,459	(946,208)
Net gains / (losses) on investment assets	7	(2,953,613)	3,534,646
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		(2,349,154)	2,588,438
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(2,349,154)	2,588,438
FUND BALANCES			
As at 1 September 2021		23,500,678	20,912,240
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		21,151,524	23,500,678

All of the above are represented by continuing operations.
There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	1,012,400	1,020,800
Investments	7	19,397,360	22,150,786
		<u>20,409,760</u>	<u>23,171,586</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors		212,087	152,250
Cash at bank		752,822	317,627
		<u>964,909</u>	<u>469,877</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		223,145	140,785
		<u>223,145</u>	<u>140,785</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>741,764</u>	<u>329,092</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>21,151,524</u>	<u>23,500,678</u>
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
Designated fixed assets fund		1,012,400	1,020,800
General fund		20,139,124	22,479,878
		<u>21,151,524</u>	<u>23,500,678</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 30th January 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



J Bell
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	2022	2021
Notes	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash used by operating activities	97,785	(1,440,607)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment income	537,597	505,263
Proceed from sale of investments	1,879,049	2,622,412
Purchase of investments	(2,079,236)	(2,423,895)
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>337,410</u>	<u>703,780</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	435,195	(736,827)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	<u>317,627</u>	<u>1,054,454</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>752,822</u>	<u>317,627</u>
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities	2022	2021
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	(2,349,154)	2,588,438
Adjustment for:		
Investment income	(537,597)	(505,263)
Loss/(gain) on investments	2,953,613	(3,534,646)
Depreciation of tangibles fixed assets	8,400	8,400
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(59,837)	(72,832)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>82,360</u>	<u>75,296</u>
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>97,785</u>	<u>(1,440,607)</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash in hand	752,822	317,627
Total	<u>752,822</u>	<u>317,627</u>

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity registered as an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales (registration no. 207610) and operates from its registered office Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

(b) Donations

Donations received for a specific year and deposited with The Mark Benevolent Fund are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of receipt.

Other donations, where the resolution to make a gift to The Mark Benevolent Fund is uncertain, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receipts basis.

(c) Gifts

Gifts received in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their market value on the date received.

(d) Amortisation of Leasehold Property

In accordance with the terms agreed with the Charity Commissioners, The Mark Benevolent Fund invested £1,200,000 in the acquisition and conversion of 86 St. James's Street, London SW1. The original lease was for 99 years from 5 January 1979. This has been subsequently renegotiated and a new 125 year lease from April 2018 agreed. This has resulted in an increase in the charge for the amortisation of the lease from £4,200 per annum to £8,400 with effect from September 2019. This will continue to be borne by the General Fund of The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The residual economic life of leasehold property is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have determined the position with regard to property depreciation as stated above. The Trustees are also of the view that the carrying value of this asset is not impaired having assessed the service delivery and will undertake future reviews in accordance with FRS 102.

(e) Investments

Fixed asset investments are revalued to market value at the balance sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation represents unrealised gains or losses.

The differences between the carrying value (or cost if acquired in the year) and the proceeds of investments disposed of represent realised investment gains or losses.

Net realised and unrealised gains or losses are shown as a combined figure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for under the accruals concept. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates. Staff are employed by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and relevant staff costs are recharged to The Mark Benevolent Fund as part of the administration fee.

(g) Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(h) Governance Costs

Governance costs relate to the statutory running of the charity.

(i) Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank and in hand, together with trade debtors, accrued interest and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise grants payable and accruals.

Investments, including bonds held as part of an investment portfolio are held at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

(j) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Going concern

The Mark Benevolent Fund is managed by the Board of Trustees which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the fund. The Charities Manager and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate including the Covid-19 pandemic, and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. The fund raising is mainly provided by Mark Masons who have, by rotation of each province in the England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Festivals which are usually the result of special events over the previous five to seven years. It is expected that this will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition the donation policy of the trustees is that the annual payments to Worthy Causes do not normally exceed the dividend income from the investments.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2022 to manage any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

3. SUPPORT COSTS	2022	2021
	£	£
Administration fee	200,000	<i>200,000</i>
Printing and stationery		
General expenses	22,121	<i>11,825</i>
Rent paid	135,000	<i>135,000</i>
Bank charges and insurance costs	131	<i>18</i>
Governance costs (note 5)	20,940	<i>19,800</i>
	378,192	<i>366,643</i>

All support costs are applicable to grant making which is the charity's only charitable activity and are included with the grant making costs on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

4. GRANTS	2022	2021
	£	£
Grants to other charities	876,731	832,958
Major capital grant to support hospices in England & Wales	3,000	1,286,000
Grants to individuals	26,638	47,369
	<u>906,369</u>	<u>2,166,327</u>
Support costs (note 3)	378,192	366,643
	<u>1,284,561</u>	<u>2,532,970</u>
The grants to other charities in the year were:		
Maidstone East District Scout Council	13,860	
Sunbury & Walton Sea Cadets	31,000	
The Freedom Centre	54,762	
Kingfisher Medway Trust	28,199	
Kingfisher Medway Trust	27,437	
RNLI Northumberland	45,000	
Whirlow Hall Farm Trust	20,000	
East & North Herts Hospitals Trust	2,527	
Stageright	12,300	
350 Squadron ATC	18,500	
Spitalfields Crypt Trust	9,970	
Sutton Women's Centre	4,327	
Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust	100,000	
Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team	24,561	
Derian Hospice Children's Hospice	28,075	
Bee Unique	26,669	
Inspectorate of Romania (Ukraine)	25,000	
The Christie Charity	28,795	
Inspectorate of Romania (Ukraine)	25,000	
Strongbones Children's Charitable Trust	5,750	
Ambulance Aid (Cheshire)	10,000	
Cornwall Scouts	9,460	
Inspectorate of Romania (Ukraine)	25,000	
Inspectorate of Romania (Ukraine)	25,000	
City of Goodness Orphanage Appeal (Cheshire)	10,000	
Youth Adventure Trust	5,450	
Inspectorate of Romania (Ukraine)	25,000	
Merlin MS Centre	7,080	
Birmingham Women's & Children's Hospital	100,000	
Inspectorate of Romania (Ukraine)	25,000	
Millom Network Centre	46,090	
East Yorkshire Foodbank	38,118	
Blood Bikes Manchester	18,801	
	<u>876,731</u>	832,958

The Major Capital Grant of £3,000 (2021: £1,286,000) was distributed through Mark Lodges in England & Wales who each nominated a local hospice to receive a £1,000 donation wholly funded by the Mark Benevolent Fund.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS	2022	2021
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	20,940	19,800

No Trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the current or previous year.

6. FIXED ASSETS	Leasehold property £
Cost	2022
At 31 August 2022 and 1 September 2021	1,200,000
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2021	179,200
Charge for the year	8,400
At 31 August 2022	187,600
Net Book Value	
At 31 August 2022	1,012,400
<i>At 31 August 2021</i>	<i>1,020,800</i>

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

7. INVESTMENTS	2022	2021
	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2021	22,150,786	18,814,657
Less : Disposal proceeds	(1,879,049)	(2,622,412)
Add : Acquisitions at cost	2,079,236	2,423,895
Net realised and unrealised gains	(2,953,613)	3,534,646
Market value at 31 August 2022	19,397,360	22,150,786
Historic cost	13,553,587	13,716,021

All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange and managed in the UK by J M Finn & Co Limited. The investments at the year-end comprised:

Fixed interest	1,149,148	2,176,366
Equities	18,219,864	15,553,816
Other (Property, Alternative Assets & Emerging Economies)	28,348	4,420,604
	19,397,360	22,150,786

Unrealised gains/(losses) amounting to £2,149,717 (2021: £4,740,709) are based on a valuation at the year-end which is unlikely to equate to the actual gains and losses which will arise on the subsequent realisation of those investments.

8. TAXATION

The Mark Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and is able to take advantage of the exemptions from tax for charities on its income and investment gains.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Fund is administered by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons (GLMMM). The Fund paid a management fee of £200,000 in the year (2021: £200,000) to GLMMM to cover staff and administration costs and charged rent of £nil (2020: £nil) to GLMMM. Due to changes in the terms of the Lease, GLMMM now pays the rent direct to Crown Properties. Included in Donations and Legacies is an amount of £135,000 (2021: £135,000) in respect of the rent paid directly on behalf of the Fund. A corresponding expense is included within support costs.

At the yearend GLMMM owed MBF £45,065 (2021: GLMMM owed MBF £29,310) in respect of these transactions.

Accounts

Charity Registration Number: 207610

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 AUGUST 2021

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The charity is The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence and is registered at the Charity Commission under registration number 207610. The charity operates as The Mark Benevolent Fund.

The charity's address is 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees of The Mark Benevolent Fund who served during the year, and to the date of signing this report, were:

D F Ashbolt
J Bell
I N Clark
H K Emmerson
P Hawken
K Hicks
C E Lord, OBE, JP
A S McLaren
A Morris
T C Pakrashi
A I Torrance
M J L Whelan, JP

Newly appointed Trustees receive an induction from the President and Grand Treasurer and attend training courses as necessary.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the management of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There are two sub-committees to the Board of Trustees:

- 1) The Worthy Causes Committee provides assistance to other registered charities. It meets two to three times a year to examine applications looking for financial support or from Mark Provinces and Districts wishing to support suitable charities. The appropriateness of the allocation of the charity's funds is at the forefront as applications are considered. Following a Worthy Causes Committee meeting, all members are sent copies of the approved applications. If no queries are raised within ten days, these grants will be paid. All of the Trustees of the charity are members of the Committee.

The Worthy Causes Committee also has a subcommittee that administers grants up to £50,000 to enable them to be dealt with swiftly. The members of this committee are D Ashbolt (Chairman), P Hawken, K Hicks, A McLaren, A Morris, C E Lord, T C Pakrashi.

- 2) The Petitions Committee provides relief to poor and distressed Freemasons, their wives, widows and children. Individual grants of up to £15,000 may be made for help with general living expenses for a 12-month period, relief of debt if appropriate and one-off items such as roof repairs and heating system replacement. The Committee meets generally every six to eight weeks depending on the level of applications. The members of the Committee are H K Emmerson (Chairman), I Clark, D Ashbolt, M Whelan and A Torrance.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

BANKERS

Clydesdale Bank plc
154-158 Kensington High Street
London
W8 7RL

FUND MANAGERS

J M Finn & Co Ltd
4 Coleman Street
London
EC2R 5TA

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP
55 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7JW

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by both statute (Charities Act) and the Constitutions and Regulations dated 1955 and subsequent amendments. The objects of the charity are:

- 1) the application of the charity's funds to any other exclusively charitable purposes as may be determined from time to time by the trustees. In reaching that determination, the trustees seek and consider the views of the Grand Lodge and
- 2) the relief of need, hardship and distress among Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependant and/or amongst retired employees of The Grand Lodge in such manner as the trustees shall from time to time determine.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is supported by contributions from Brethren, Ladies, Lodges and Provinces and these may take the form of either donations, covenants, legacies or bequests.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACTIVITIES

The total grants in the year paid out under the trustees' grant making policy (see page 3) amounted to £2,166,327 (2020: £1,422,744) of which £1,286,000 was paid to hospices, £832,958 was paid to 42 charities, and £47,369 was paid to Mark Master Masons and other dependants in need.

The Trustees have continued to review all applications for grants and grants were made from The Mark Benevolent Fund to Mark Master Masons or their wives, widows, sisters etc. and for specific purposes to other Registered Charities.

FUNDRAISING

The majority of the charity's income is from the members of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The Mark Benevolent Fund has not engaged with third parties to raise funds and any direct approach to members of the public for funding has been limited. No complaints were received in relation to the Mark Benevolent Fund's fundraising activities.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

GRANT MAKING POLICY

Grants are made to Mark Master Masons or their wives, widows, sisters or other dependents or children, or employees of the Grand Lodge who have retired, provided that such grants are for the relief of need. All grants awarded are subject to financial means testing and approval by the Petitions Committee.

Grants are also made for charitable purposes other than for the relief of need (which are reported to Grand Lodge). All grants awarded are subject to review and approval by the members of the Worthy Causes Committee.

In April 2021, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund announced a Major Capital Grant to hospices to commemorate the significant contribution made to the Crown and the nation by H R H The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (see note 4, page 13).

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves of the Fund amounted to £23.50 million (2020: £20.91 million), comprising unrestricted reserves of £22.48 million (2020: £19.88 million) and designated funds of £1.02 million (2020: £1.03 million). The free reserves of the Fund total £22.48 million at the year-end (2020: £19.88 million).

The majority of grants are paid to Non Masonic Charities with the balance paid in the main to the elderly, these take the form of either emergency grants or annuity grants which may have to be maintained for, on average, between 12 and 15 years. It is the policy of the Trustees to ensure that the fund has adequate reserves to pay these grants each year. Funds are also retained as it is the practice to make substantial donations from time to time and investments and income therefore must be maintained to further this policy.

GOING CONCERN

The Mark Benevolent Fund is managed by the Board of Trustees which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the fund. The Charities Manager and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate, including the Covid-19 pandemic, and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. The fund raising is mainly provided by Mark Masons who have, by rotation of each province in the England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Festivals which are usually the result of special events over the previous five to seven years. It is expected that this will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition the donation policy of the trustees is that the annual payments to Worthy Causes do not normally exceed the dividend income from the investments.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2021 to manage any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

INVESTMENT POWERS

Investment powers are set out and operated within the provisions of the Trustee Act 2000. The investments are managed by the Investment Committee, appointed by the Trustees, which is advised by J M Finn & Co Limited.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The policy of the trust deed is to quickly provide grants in relief of need for Mark Masons and their dependents and from time to time to make substantial grants to worthy causes likely to benefit Mark Masons and so far as funds permit to make similar grants to non-Masons. The sources of income for the fund are donations from the members with additional receipts from the annual festivals, the amount of which depends on the number of Lodges in the province supporting the festival, and any investment income (including capital gains).

Changes are made to investments held on the basis of seeking to maintain the existing funds and to increase them so far as possible. In accordance with these aims, the funds are managed by J M Finn & Co Limited. The Investment Committee, appointed by the Trustees, reviews the funds on a regular basis.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

RISK POLICY

The Trustees have reviewed their procedures to identify and examine the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces. The necessary systems are established to enable reports to be produced to ensure that action is taken to manage the effects of the identified risks. Below a summary of the major risks faced and policies to mitigate these.

Risk	Steps to mitigate risk
Loss of Key Staff	Succession planning, document systems, agree notice periods and handovers
Disaster recovery	Agree IT recovery plan, implement data back-up, review insurance, create disaster recovery plan
Investment Policies	Review & agree policy, obtain advice & management, implement reserves policy, regular performance monitoring
Public Perception	Communicate with supporters & beneficiaries, good quality reporting of activities & financial situation, implement public relations training/procedures
Regulatory reporting	Review & agree compliances procedures and allocation of staff responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) and applicable law.

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its net incoming/outgoing resources 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;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 charity's constitution. 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.

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP has indicated its willingness to be reappointed as statutory auditor.

Approved by the Trustees on 24th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

D F Ashbolt
Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund



Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Mark Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

1. Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity and group operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity and the group for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations included General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing of recognition of income and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Management Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, sample testing of income, reviewing regulatory correspondence, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

London

7 March 2022

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:			
Donations and legacies		1,224,870	1,360,908
Investments:			
Investment income		503,998	592,166
Interest receivable		1,265	236
Other:			
Rent receivable, 86 St. James's Street, London SW1	9		
Total		1,730,133	1,953,310
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds			
Investment management fees		98,516	89,705
Charitable activities			
Grants & Support Costs	4	2,532,970	1,781,523
Benevolent jewels distribution		44,855	42,857
Total		2,676,341	1,914,085
OPERATING (LOSS) / SURPLUS		(946,208)	39,225
Net gains / (losses) on investment assets	7	3,534,646	(58,360)
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		2,588,438	(19,135)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,588,438	(19,135)
FUND BALANCES			
As at 1 September 2020		20,912,240	20,931,375
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		23,500,678	20,912,240

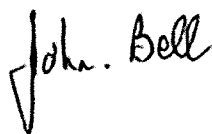
All of the above are represented by continuing operations.
There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	1,020,800	1,029,200
Investments	7	22,150,786	18,814,657
		23,171,586	19,843,857
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors		152,250	79,418
Cash at bank		317,627	1,054,454
		469,877	1,133,872
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		140,785	65,489
		140,785	65,489
NET CURRENT ASSETS		329,092	1,068,383
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		23,500,678	20,912,240
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
Designated fixed assets fund		1,020,800	1,029,200
General fund		22,479,878	19,883,040
		23,500,678	20,912,240

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 24th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



J Bell
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	2021	2020
Notes	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash used by operating activities	(1,440,607)	(530,935)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment income	505,263	592,402
Proceed from sale of investments	2,622,412	2,487,870
Purchase of investments	(2,423,895)	(2,398,165)
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>703,780</u>	<u>682,107</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(736,827)	151,172
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	<u>1,054,454</u>	<u>903,282</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>317,627</u>	<u>1,054,454</u>
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities	2021	2020
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	2,588,438	(19,135)
Adjustment for:		
Investment income	(505,263)	(592,402)
Loss/(gain) on investments	(3,534,646)	58,360
Depreciation of tangibles fixed assets	8,400	8,400
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(72,832)	383
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>75,296</u>	<u>13,459</u>
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(1,440,607)</u>	<u>(530,935)</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash in hand	317,627	1,054,454
Total	<u>317,627</u>	<u>1,054,454</u>

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity registered as an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales (registration no. 207610) and operates from its registered office Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

(b) Donations

Donations received for a specific year and deposited with The Mark Benevolent Fund are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of receipt.

Other donations, where the resolution to make a gift to The Mark Benevolent Fund is uncertain, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receipts basis.

(c) Gifts

Gifts received in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their market value on the date received.

(d) Amortisation of Leasehold Property

In accordance with the terms agreed with the Charity Commissioners, The Mark Benevolent Fund invested £1,200,000 in the acquisition and conversion of 86 St. James's Street, London SW1. The original lease was for 99 years from 5 January 1979. This has been subsequently renegotiated and a new 125 year lease from April 2018 agreed. This has resulted in an increase in the charge for the amortisation of the lease from £4,200 per annum to £8,400 with effect from September 2019. This will continue to be borne by the General Fund of The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The residual economic life of leasehold property is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have determined the position with regard to property depreciation as stated above. The Trustees are also of the view that the carrying value of this asset is not impaired having assessed the service delivery and will undertake future reviews in accordance with FRS 102.

(e) Investments

Fixed asset investments are revalued to market value at the balance sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation represents unrealised gains or losses.

The differences between the carrying value (or cost if acquired in the year) and the proceeds of investments disposed of represent realised investment gains or losses.

Net realised and unrealised gains or losses are shown as a combined figure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for under the accruals concept. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates. Staff are employed by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and relevant staff costs are recharged to The Mark Benevolent Fund as part of the administration fee.

(g) Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(h) Governance Costs

Governance costs relate to the statutory running of the charity.

(i) Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank and in hand, together with trade debtors, accrued interest and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise grants payable and accruals.

Investments, including bonds held as part of an investment portfolio are held at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

(j) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Going concern

The Mark Benevolent Fund is managed by the Board of Trustees which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the fund. The Charities Manager and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate including the Covid-19 pandemic, and its ongoing impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. The fund raising is mainly provided by Mark Masons who have, by rotation of each province in the England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Festivals which are usually the result of special events over the previous five to seven years. It is expected that this will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition the donation policy of the trustees is that the annual payments to Worthy Causes do not normally exceed the dividend income from the investments.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2021 to manage any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

3. SUPPORT COSTS	2021	2020
	£	£
Administration fee	200,000	<i>200,000</i>
Printing and stationery		
General expenses	11,825	<i>4,227</i>
Rent paid	135,000	<i>135,000</i>
Bank charges and insurance costs	18	<i>52</i>
Governance costs (note 5)	19,800	<i>19,500</i>
	366,643	<i>358,779</i>

All support costs are applicable to grant making which is the charity's only charitable activity and are included with the grant making costs on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

4. GRANTS	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants to other charities	832,958	1,304,326
Major capital grant to support hospices in England & Wales	1,286,000	0
Grants to individuals	47,369	118,418
	2,166,327	1,422,744
Support costs (note 3)	366,643	358,779
	2,532,970	1,781,523
The grants to other charities in the year were:		
Carers Support Centre	2,883	
Leicestershire & Rutland Festive Keystone Boxes	4,000	
Stafford & District Carers Trust	3,581	
The Martha Trust	13,288	
United Response Cheriton Community Network	3,980	
Hope4 Centre in Rugby	6,154	
West Yorkshire Scouts	74,500	
Tree of Hope	4,000	
Transform CPR	29,512	
West London Masonic Centre	7,000	
Kingfisher Medway Trust	32,739	
Age Concern Manchester	15,897	
Isight Cornwall	10,700	
Miskin Scout Village	20,000	
C'Land & Westmorland Laptops Project	25,000	
Clowns in the Sky	29,600	
SERV OBN – Blood Bike Group	5,000	
Basingstoke & Alton Cardiac Rehab Charity	6,678	
Blooming Blossoms	5,000	
Maryport Inshore Rescue Boat Charity	62,890	
1 st Burstow Scouts Group	5,192	
Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled	18,506	
Disabled Sailors Association	27,590	
Colney Heath Scout Group	15,000	
1 st Warlingham Scout Group	6,880	
Abbey Lane JFC – Sheffield	13,375	
Kingfisher Medway Trust	29,712	
Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat	56,394	
Reigate & Banstead Women's Aid	5,430	
Forget Me Not Children's Hospice	10,000	
George Elliot Hospital – Serenity Garden Project	2,608	
St John Ambulance – Southwick	24,000	
Beep Fund Ltd	83,500	
Kingfisher Medway Trust	24,605	
Kent Association for the Blind	8,440	
Cheltham's School of Music	2,500	
Peter Le Marchant	25,000	
Hertfordshire Scouts	17,345	
Emergency Cyprus Appeal	25,000	

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

4. GRANTS (continued)

Age Concern – Elderly Merstham Redhill & Reigate	1,850	
Kingfisher Medway Trust	33,120	
Imperial Health Charity	34,509	
	<u>832,958</u>	<i>1,304,326</i>

The Major Capital Grant of £1,286,000 was distributed through Mark Lodges in England & Wales who each nominated a local hospice to receive a £1,000 donation wholly funded by the Mark Benevolent Fund. Of our 1,286 lodges of Mark Master Masons, 230 different charities were chosen which in turn manage the running of 273 hospices.

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021	<i>2020</i>
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	<u>19,800</u>	<u><i>19,500</i></u>

No Trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the current or previous year.

6. FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold property £
Cost	2021
At 31 August 2021 and 1 September 2020	<u>1,200,000</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2020	<i>170,800</i>
Charge for the year	<u><i>8,400</i></u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>179,200</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 August 2021	<u>1,020,800</u>
<i>At 31 August 2020</i>	<u><i>1,029,200</i></u>

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7. INVESTMENTS	2021	2020
	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2020	18,814,657	<i>18,962,722</i>
Less : Disposal proceeds	(2,622,412)	<i>(2,487,870)</i>
Add : Acquisitions at cost	2,423,895	<i>2,398,165</i>
Net realised and unrealised gains	3,534,646	<i>(58,360)</i>
Market value at 31 August 2021	22,150,786	<i>18,814,657</i>
Historic cost	13,716,021	<i>13,295,396</i>

All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange and managed in the UK by J M Finn & Co Limited. The investments at the year-end comprised:

Fixed interest	2,176,366	<i>2,381,115</i>
Equities	15,553,816	<i>12,520,763</i>
Other (Property, Alternative Assets & Emerging Economies)	4,420,604	<i>3,912,779</i>
	22,150,786	<i>18,814,657</i>

Unrealised gains/(losses) amounting to £4,740,709 (2020: £1,825,205) are based on a valuation at the year-end which is unlikely to equate to the actual gains and losses which will arise on the subsequent realisation of those investments.

8. TAXATION

The Mark Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and is able to take advantage of the exemptions from tax for charities on its income and investment gains.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Fund is administered by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons (GLMMM). The Fund paid a management fee of £200,000 in the year (2020: £200,000) to GLMMM to cover staff and administration costs and charged rent of £nil (2020: £nil) to GLMMM. Due to changes in the terms of the Lease, GLMMM now pays the rent direct to Crown Properties. Included in Donations and Legacies is an amount of £135,000 (2020: £135,000) in respect of the rent paid directly on behalf of the Fund. A corresponding expense is included within support costs.

At the yearend GLMMM owed MBF £29,310 (2020: MBF owed GLMMM £14,284) in respect of these transactions.

Accounts

Charity Registration Number: 207610

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 AUGUST 2020

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The charity is The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence and is registered at the Charity Commission under registration number 207610. The charity operates as The Mark Benevolent Fund.

The charity's address is 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees of The Mark Benevolent Fund who served during the year, and to the date of signing this report, were:

D F Ashbolt
J Bell
I N Clark (Appointed 9 June 2020)
H K Emmerson
P Hawken
K Hicks (Appointed 9 June 2020)
C E Lord, OBE, JP
A S McLaren
A Morris
T C Pakrashi
C D Radmore (Retired 9 June 2020)
A I Torrance
M J L Whelan, JP
Dr J L W Wright (Retired 9 June 2020)

Newly appointed Trustees receive an induction from the President and Grand Treasurer and attend training courses as necessary.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the management of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There are two sub-committees to the Board of Trustees:

- 1) The Worthy Causes Committee provides assistance to other registered charities. It meets two to three times a year to examine applications looking for financial support or from Mark Provinces and Districts wishing to support suitable charities. The appropriateness of the allocation of the charity's funds is at the forefront as applications are considered. Following a Worthy Causes Committee meeting, all members are sent copies of the approved applications. If no queries are raised within ten days, these grants will be paid. All of the Trustees of the charity are members of the Committee.
- 2) The Petitions Committee provides relief to poor and distressed Freemasons, their wives, widows and children. Individual grants of up to £15,000 may be made for help with general living expenses for a 12-month period, relief of debt if appropriate and one-off items such as roof repairs and heating system replacement. The Committee meets generally every six to eight weeks depending on the level of applications. The members of the Committee are H K Emmerson (Chairman), I Clark, D Ashbolt, M Whelan and A Torrance.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

BANKERS

Clydesdale Bank plc
146-158 Kensington High Street
London
W8 7RL

FUND MANAGERS

J M Finn & Co Ltd
4 Coleman Street
London
EC2R 5TA

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP
55 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7JW

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

The Mark Benevolent Fund is governed by both statute (Charities Act) and the Constitutions and Regulations dated 1955 and subsequent amendments. The objects of the charity are:

- 1) the application of the charity's funds to any other exclusively charitable purposes as may be determined from time to time by the trustees. In reaching that determination, the trustees seek and consider the views of the Grand Lodge and
- 2) the relief of need, hardship and distress among Mark Master Masons, their families or other dependant and/or amongst retired employees of The Grand Lodge in such manner as the trustees shall from time to time determine.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is supported by contributions from Brethren, Ladies, Lodges and Provinces and these may take the form of either donations, covenants, legacies or bequests.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACTIVITIES

The total grants in the year paid out under the trustees' grant making policy (see page 3) amounted to £1,422,744 (2019: £1,719,562) of which £1,304,326 was paid to 53 charities and £118,418 was paid to Mark Master Masons and other dependants in need.

The Trustees have continued to review all applications for grants and grants were made from The Mark Benevolent Fund to Mark Master Masons or their wives, widows, sisters etc. and for specific purposes to other Registered Charities.

FUNDRAISING

The majority of the charity's income is from the members of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The Mark Benevolent Fund has not engaged with third parties to raise funds and any direct approach to members of the public for funding has been limited. No complaints were received in relation to the Mark Benevolent Fund's fundraising activities.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

GRANT MAKING POLICY

Grants are made to Mark Master Masons or their wives, widows, sisters or other dependents or children, or employees of the Grand Lodge who have retired, provided that such grants are for the relief of need. All grants awarded are subject to financial means testing and approval by the Petitions Committee.

Grants are also made for charitable purposes other than for the relief of need (which are reported to Grand Lodge). All grants awarded are subject to review and approval by the members of the Worthy Causes Committee.

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves of the Fund amounted to £20.91 million (2019: £20.93 million), comprising unrestricted reserves of £19.87 million (2019: £19.89 million) and designed funds of £1.03 million (2019: £1.04 million). The free reserves of the Fund total £19.87 million at the year-end (2019: £19.89 million).

The majority of grants are paid to Non Masonic Charities with the balance paid in the main to the elderly, these take the form of either emergency grants or annuity grants which may have to be maintained for, on average, between 12 and 15 years. It is the policy of the Trustees to ensure that the fund has adequate reserves to pay these grants each year. Funds are also retained as it is the practice to make substantial donations from time to time and investments and income therefore must be maintained to further this policy.

GOING CONCERN

The Mark Benevolent Fund is managed by the Board of Trustees which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the fund. The Charities Manager and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate, the Covid-19 pandemic, and its potential impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. The fund raising is mainly provided by Mark Masons who have, by rotation of each province in the England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Festivals which are usually the result of special events over the previous five to seven years. It is expected that this will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition the donation policy of the trustees is that the annual payments to Worthy Causes do not normally exceed the dividend income from the investments.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2020 to manage any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

INVESTMENT POWERS

Investment powers are set out and operated within the provisions of the Trustee Act 2000. The investments are managed by the Investment Committee, appointed by the Trustees, which is advised by J M Finn & Co Limited.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The policy of the trust deed is to quickly provide grants in relief of need for Mark Masons and their dependents and from time to time to make substantial grants to worthy causes likely to benefit Mark Masons and so far as funds permit to make similar grants to non-Masons. The sources of income for the fund are donations from the members with additional receipts from the annual festivals, the amount of which depends on the number of Lodges in the province supporting the festival, and any investment income (including capital gains).

Changes are made to investments held on the basis of seeking to maintain the existing funds and to increase them so far as possible. In accordance with these aims, the funds are managed by J M Finn & Co Limited. The Investment Committee, appointed by the Trustees, reviews the funds on a regular basis.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

RISK POLICY

The Trustees have reviewed their procedures to identify and examine the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces. The necessary systems are established to enable reports to be produced to ensure that action is taken to manage the effects of the identified risks. Below a summary of the major risks faced and policies to mitigate these.

Risk	Steps to mitigate risk
Loss of Key Staff	Succession planning, document systems, agree notice periods and handovers
Disaster recovery	Agree IT recovery plan, implement data back-up, review insurance , create disaster recovery plan
Investment Policies	Review & agree policy, obtain advice & management, implement reserves policy, regular performance monitoring
Public Perception	Communicate with supporters & beneficiaries, good quality reporting of activities & financial situation, implement public relations training/procedures
Regulatory reporting	Review & agree compliances procedures and allocation of staff responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) and applicable law.

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its net incoming/outgoing resources 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;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 charity's constitution. 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.

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP has indicated its willingness to be reappointed as statutory auditor.

Approved by the Trustees on 4th February 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



D F Ashbolt
Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Mark Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you, where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor
London

Date: 23 February 2021

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:			
Donations and legacies		1,360,908	1,437,859
Investments:			
Investment income		592,166	613,210
Interest receivable		236	4,149
Other:			
Rent receivable, 86 St. James's Street, London SW1	9		
Total		1,953,310	2,055,218
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds			
Investment management fees		89,705	87,591
Charitable activities			
Grants & Support Costs	4	1,781,523	2,113,927
Benevolent jewels distribution		42,857	52,686
Total		1,914,085	2,254,204
OPERATING SURPLUS / (LOSS)		39,225	(198,986)
Gains on Investment Assets			
Realised and unrealised gains	7	(58,360)	517,656
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		(19,135)	318,670
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(19,135)	318,670
FUND BALANCES			
As at 1 September 2019		20,931,375	20,612,705
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		20,912,240	20,931,375

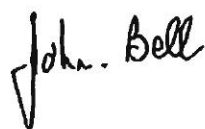
All of the above are represented by continuing operations.
There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	1,029,200	1,037,600
Investments	7	18,814,657	18,962,722
		<u>19,843,857</u>	<u>20,000,322</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors		79,418	79,801
Cash at bank		1,054,454	903,282
		<u>1,133,872</u>	<u>983,083</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		65,489	52,030
		<u>65,489</u>	<u>52,030</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,068,383</u>	<u>931,053</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>20,912,240</u>	<u>20,931,375</u>
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
Designated fixed assets fund		1,029,200	1,037,600
General fund		19,883,040	19,893,775
		<u>20,912,240</u>	<u>20,931,375</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 4th February 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



J Bell
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used by operating activities		(530,935)	(829,151)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income		592,402	617,359
Proceed from sale of investments		2,487,870	1,569,071
Purchase of investments		(2,398,165)	(1,458,929)
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>682,107</u>	<u>727,501</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		151,172	(101,650)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>903,282</u>	<u>1,004,932</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>1,054,454</u>	<u>903,282</u>
Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities		2020	2019
		£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)		(19,135)	318,670
Adjustment for:			
Investment income		(592,402)	(617,359)
Loss/(gain) on investments		58,360	(517,656)
Depreciation of tangibles fixed assets		8,400	4,200
Increase in debtors		383	14,431
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		13,459	(31,437)
Net cash used by operating activities		<u>(530,935)</u>	<u>(829,151)</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		2020	2019
		£	£
Cash in hand		1,054,454	903,282
Total		<u>1,054,454</u>	<u>903,282</u>

**THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity registered as an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales (registration no. 207610) and operates from its registered office Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity transitioned from previously extant UK GAAP to FRS 102 as at 1 September 2014. No adjustments arose from the transition to FRS 102.

(b) Donations

Donations received for a specific year and deposited with The Mark Benevolent Fund are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of receipt.

Other donations, where the resolution to make a gift to The Mark Benevolent Fund is uncertain, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receipts basis.

(c) Gifts

Gifts received in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their market value on the date received.

(d) Amortisation of Leasehold Property

In accordance with the terms agreed with the Charity Commissioners, The Mark Benevolent Fund invested £1,200,000 in the acquisition and conversion of 86 St. James's Street, London SW1. The original lease was for 99 years from 5 January 1979. This has been subsequently renegotiated and a new 125 year lease from April 2018 agreed. This has resulted in an increase in the charge for the amortisation of the lease from £4,200 per annum to £8,400 with effect from September 2019. This will continue to be borne by the General Fund of The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The residual economic life of leasehold property is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have determined the position with regard to property depreciation as stated above. The Trustees are also of the view that the carrying value of this asset is not impaired having assessed the service delivery and will undertake future reviews in accordance with FRS 102.

(e) Investments

Fixed asset investments are revalued to market value at the balance sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation represents unrealised gains or losses.

The differences between the carrying value (or cost if acquired in the year) and the proceeds of investments disposed of represent realised investment gains or losses.

Net realised and unrealised gains or losses are shown as a combined figure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for under the accruals concept. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates. Staff are employed by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and relevant staff costs are recharged to The Mark Benevolent Fund as part of the administration fee.

(g) Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(h) Governance Costs

Governance costs relate to the statutory running of the charity.

(i) Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank and in hand, together with trade debtors, accrued interest and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise grants payable and accruals.

Investments, including bonds held as part of an investment portfolio are held at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

(j) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Going concern

The Mark Benevolent Fund is managed by the Board of Trustees which are all honorary positions therefore there are no direct financial costs in the management of the fund. The Charities Manager and the financial control administration duties are provided by employees of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Our planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate, the Covid-19 pandemic, and its potential impact on the various sources of income and planned donations. The fund raising is mainly provided by Mark Masons who have, by rotation of each province in the England and Wales, Mark Benevolent Festivals which are usually the result of special events over the previous five to seven years. It is expected that this will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition the donation policy of the trustees is that the annual payments to Worthy Causes do not normally exceed the dividend income from the investments.

Trustees consider that there are sufficient reserves held at 31 August 2020 to manage any foreseeable downturn in the UK economy. The Trustees consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, for this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

3. SUPPORT COSTS	2020	2019
	£	£
Administration fee	200,000	<i>200,000</i>
Printing and stationery		
General expenses	4,227	<i>40,012</i>
Rent paid	135,000	<i>135,000</i>
Bank charges and insurance costs	52	<i>153</i>
Governance costs (note 5)	19,500	<i>19,200</i>
	358,779	<i>394,365</i>

All support costs are applicable to grant making which is the charity's only charitable activity and are included with the grant making costs on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4. GRANTS	2020	2019
	£	£
Grants to other charities	1,304,326	1,618,595
Grants to individuals	118,418	100,967
	1,422,744	1,719,562
Support costs (note 3)	358,779	394,365
	1,781,523	2,113,927
The grants to other charities in the year were:		
Kirkwood Hospice Ltd	23,400	
Cherry Trees Respite Care Home	8,453	
Martin House Hospice	39,957	
Lake District Mountain Search & Rescue Association	71,765	
Havens Hospice	92,548	
Talbot House Trust North East	98,198	
Progressability.org Charity	20,456	
St David's Hospice	16,739	
Paul Sartori Hospice at Home	3,900	
Maidstone Hospital Charity	13,479	
17 th Tonbridge Scout and Guides Band	5,329	
Great Marlow School Boat Club	88,830	
Safe Anchor Trust Ltd	48,235	
South Yorkshire Community Foundation – Distribution	20,000	
Sussex Community Development Association	17,108	
Crisis UK	5,000	
Elizabeth Jane Jones Charity	23,000	
Haverhill Squadron Air Training Corps Welfare	6,462	
Get Set Girls	5,171	
Friends of Collett	14,365	
Young and Inspired	2,629	
Great Western Ambulance	56,213	
Hope House Children Hospices	45,000	
Communigrow	5,662	
The Docbike Project	42,050	
Ruby's Friend	48,488	
Hope for Tomorrow – MCCU Norfolk	182,000	
Peter Le Marchant Trust	35,250	
Ocean Youth Connexions	3,680	
Somerset Province (Support of Somerset Food Banks)	5,750	
Essex Province – Meals on Wheels	23,750	
Northumbria Blood Bikes	23,541	
Amersham Band	7,950	
Leic & Rutland Provincial Keystone Boxes Initiative	10,800	
Abbeyfield House	4,378	
Teignmouth Meals	11,000	
SERV Kent	5,127	
Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis	8,800	
Forget Me Not Children's Hospice	16,585	
Derbyshire Province	10,000	
Severn Freewheeler	10,542	
Northumberland Meals on Wheels	14,240	

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4. GRANTS (continued)

Bath Masonic Square Meals Project	8,500	
St Peter's Hospice	5,000	
Essex Province – Meals on Wheels	3,000	
Children's Hospice South West	1,088	
The Door Foundation Romania – Humanitarian Aid Project	2,500	
Richard House Hospice	6,875	
University of Southampton	37,000	
Bristol Ensemble Preludes Project	4,500	
Hope for Tomorrow	25,000	
District of Cyprus – Lebanon Explosion Appeal	5,000	
Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes	10,033	
	<u>1,304,326</u>	1,618,595

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	<u>19,500</u>	<u>19,200</u>

No Trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the current or previous year.

6. FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold property £
Cost	2020
At 31 August 2020 and 1 September 2019	<u>1,200,000</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2019	162,400
Charge for the year	<u>8,400</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>170,800</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 August 2020	<u>1,029,200</u>
At 31 August 2019	<u>1,037,600</u>

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

7. INVESTMENTS	2020	2019
	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2019	18,962,722	18,555,208
Less : Disposal proceeds	(2,487,870)	(1,569,071)
Add : Acquisitions at cost	2,398,165	1,458,929
Net realised and unrealised gains	(58,360)	517,656
	18,814,657	18,962,722
Market value at 31 August 2020	18,814,657	18,962,722
Historic cost	13,295,396	13,109,789
All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange and managed in the UK by J M Finn & Co Limited. The investments at the year-end comprised:		
Fixed interest	2,381,115	2,372,967
Equities	12,520,763	12,621,812
Other (Property, Alternative Assets & Emerging Economies)	3,912,779	3,967,943
	18,814,657	18,962,722

Unrealised gains/(losses) amounting to £1,825,205 (2019: £2,158,877) are based on a valuation at the year-end which is unlikely to equate to the actual gains and losses which will arise on the subsequent realisation of those investments.

8. TAXATION

The Mark Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and is able to take advantage of the exemptions from tax for charities on its income and investment gains.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Fund is administered by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons (GLMMM). The Fund paid a management fee of £200,000 in the year (2019: £200,000) to GLMMM to cover staff and administration costs and charged rent of £nil (2019: £nil) to GLMMM. Due to changes in the terms of the Lease, GLMMM now pays the rent direct to Crown Properties. Included in Donations and Legacies is an amount of £135,000 (2019: £135,000) in respect of the rent paid directly on behalf of the Fund. A corresponding expense is included within support costs.

At the yearend MBF owed GLMMM £14,284 (2019: GLMM owed MBF £320) in respect of these transactions.