

Registered Charity No. 210165

The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund

Report and Accounts

31 December 2023

The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund

TRUSTEE

Adrian Marsh

ADDRESS

Freemasons' Hall
60 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5AZ

INVESTMENT MANAGERS AND FUND CUSTODIANS

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

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
1 Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW

Albert E Light

Report of the Trustee

The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund, is a registered charity constituted by the Will of Robert Arthur Card dated 29 January 1948. In accordance with the Will, part of the investment is to be held in endowment with the income available for charitable use by the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England at his discretion. The remaining part is to be held in an unrestricted income fund for charitable use by the Grand Secretary at his discretion.

The sole Trustee and the professional advisers who acted during the year are shown on page 2.

Aims and Objects of the Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund

The United Grand Lodge of England Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund provides minor and emergency grants and donations, not necessarily to those with a direct Masonic connection. Grants and donations are made at the discretion of the Grand Secretary for such charitable purposes as he might consider proper for the public benefit.

Investments

The portfolio has as its Investment Objective a balanced return from income and capital growth and the risk profile is 100% of the portfolio geared towards medium risk investment. The only investment restriction is ideally a maximum of 5% of the portfolio held in cash.

Reserves

The Trustee reviews opportunities for charitable expenditure as they become available for consideration. It is the intention of the Grand Secretary to actively seek suitable charitable causes to ensure the unrestricted funds are put to good use.

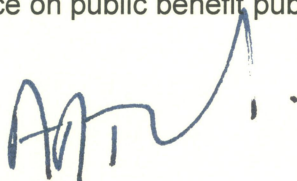
Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Income/Donations for the year ended 31 December 2023 is £31,738 (2022 £89,171). Investment gains amounted to £54,836 (2022 losses £228,654) made up of unrealised gains of £49,442 (2022 losses £238,341) and realised gains of £5,394 (2022 £9,687). The total net assets of the fund as at 31 December 2023 is £1,696,667 (2022 £1,686,015) an increase of £10,652 is result of stock market better performance in 2023, following its worst year in 2022 since the financial crisis.

Charitable Activities

The Trustee reviews opportunities for charitable expenditure from correspondence, personal contact and educational activities. In exercising my powers I, as Trustee, have taken due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.



Adrian Marsh
Grand Secretary

The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustee is responsible for preparing accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund and of the income and expenditure for the year. In preparing these accounts, the Trustee is responsible for:

- selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently;
- making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- preparing the accounts in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose the financial transactions and the assets and liabilities with reasonable accuracy. He is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund and henceforth taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustee has had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising his powers or duties.

The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the period ending 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	52,015
Investments		31,738	-	31,738	37,156
Total		<u>31,738</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,738</u>	<u>89,171</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		9,851	-	9,851	9,805
Charitable activities	3	66,071	-	66,071	23,825
Total		<u>75,922</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,922</u>	<u>33,630</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	4	37,836	17,000	54,836	(228,654)
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(6,348)</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>10,652</u>	<u>(173,113)</u>
Net movements of funds		<u>(6,348)</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>10,652</u>	<u>(173,113)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		1,196,190	489,825	1,686,015	1,859,128
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,189,842</u>	<u>506,825</u>	<u>1,696,667</u>	<u>1,686,015</u>

The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund

BALANCE SHEET

for the period ending 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets:			
Investments	4	<u>1,673,542</u>	<u>1,543,208</u>
Current assets:			
Debtors		1,389	5,850
Cash at bank		<u>21,736</u>	<u>141,957</u>
Total current assets		23,125	147,807
Liabilities:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>-</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>
Total net assets		<u>1,696,667</u>	<u>1,686,015</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment Fund	5	506,825	489,825
Unrestricted Fund	5	<u>1,189,842</u>	<u>1,196,190</u>
Total charity funds		<u>1,696,667</u>	<u>1,686,015</u>



A Marsh
Grand Secretary

The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the period ending 31 December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The trustee continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

b) Charity Information

The Charity is a trust which is a public benefit entity registered as a charity in England and Wales (charity no. 210165). It operates from Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ.

d) Investment income

Dividends are accounted for based on income notified by the investment managers. Interest on bank deposits is accounted for on an accruals basis.

e) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any irrecoverable VAT

f) Income tax recoverable

Income tax recoverable is accounted for on an accruals basis.

g) Financial instruments

Grand Secretary Discretionary Fund has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

(i) Listed investments, including fixed interest securities and cash held for investment, are measured at fair value through income and expenditure accounts and are reported at their market values at the balance sheet date.

(ii) Other financial instruments, which comprise bank and cash, debtors, other creditors and accruals are initially recognised at transaction value and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

h) Taxation

No taxation is payable by the Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund as it is able to make use of the tax exemptions on income and capital gains available to charities.

2 ADMINISTRATION COSTS

All costs of administration, with the exception of sundry bank charges, are borne by the United Grand Lodge of England.

3 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Resources expended on charitable activities represents grants to organisations and individuals as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants to Charities	46,000	10,000
Disbursements to District Grand Lodges	20,000	13,825
	<u>66,000</u>	<u>23,825</u>

The Grand Secretary's Discretionary Fund

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the period ending 31 December 2023

4 INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market Value at 1 January 2023	1,543,208	1,744,511
Net investment into portfolio	75,498	27,351
Net gains/(losses) on investments	54,836	(228,654)
Market Value at 31 December 2023	<u>1,673,542</u>	<u>1,543,208</u>
Investments at market value comprise:		
Bonds Fund	323,706	245,881
Equities and Alternatives	1,303,474	1,268,389
Cash	46,362	28,938
Market Value at 31 December 2023	<u>1,673,542</u>	<u>1,543,208</u>
Historical cost at 31 December 2023	<u>1,454,354</u>	<u>1,373,462</u>

5 FUNDS

Endowment Capital Fund - This represents the assets that must be permanently retained by the charity. Income on these investments is unrestricted and is available for the payment of charitable grants.

Unrestricted Income Fund - This represents accumulated income available to the trustee for grants in accordance with the objects of the charity.

6 ANALYSIS OF ASSETS BY FUND

The endowment capital fund is all held as investments. The total investments are held as an investment pool and the investment gains and losses are allocated based on the investment proportion attributable to the endowment and unrestricted funds.

7 INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW

I report to the charity trustee on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022. Having satisfied myself that the accounts are eligible for independent examination I have carried out my examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission and the Association of Charity Independent Examiners. I have completed my examination.

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with the Act
- the accounts do not accord with such records
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

A E LIGHT

09 September 2024