

**Registered Charity No: 213476**

**Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**  
**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements**  
**31 August 2025**

# **Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**

**31 August 2025**

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## **Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2025**

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

#### **Reference and Administrative Information**

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

The main address for contacts is:

20 Henley Crescent  
Solihull  
Warwickshire  
B91 2JD

The Trustees at 31 August 2025 were:

J S Wright  
D P Fair  
N E A Watkin  
J D Evans  
C F Stiles  
R N Clemson  
J R Freakley  
A R Armbrister  
P F Mason  
H L Smith  
I D Belsham  
A W Crees

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

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

#### **Objectives and Activities**

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

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

## Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2025

(Continued)

#### Achievements and Performance

During the year ended 31 August 2025 the fund made grants and donations of £ 77,561 (2024 - £ 31,518) to Freemasons, their dependents, and non-Masonic charities. The voluntary donations from members show a reduced figure £ 16,263 compared to £ 23,954 the previous year.

#### Financial Review

During the year ended 31 August 2025 the Charity received donations, investment income and tax refunds amounting to £32,111 (2024 - £ 40,322) of which £81,406 (2024 - £35,270) was spent in pursuit of the Charity's objectives.

As at 31 August 2025 £ 236,730 (2024 - £ 288,015) was held as Unrestricted Funds, and £199,447 (2024 - £191,083) was held as Restricted Funds.

#### Reserves Policy

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

#### Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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



**Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund****Trustees' Annual Report  
for the year ended 31 August 2025  
(Continued)**

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

Approved by the Trustees on 15th November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
**J S Wright**  
**Chairman**



.....  
**R N Clemson**  
**Secretary**

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

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

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

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

Mr F Hayward

Hayward Accountants  
11a Bow Court  
Fletchworth Gate  
Coventry  
CV5 6SP

Date .....

30/4/2026

## Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Statement of Financial Activities  
For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Voluntary income					
Donations		11,614	-	11,614	17,653
Gift Aid Tax Refunds		4,649	-	4,649	6,301
Dividends and interest on investments	2	9,305	6,543	15,848	16,368
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		25,568 =====	6,543 =====	32,111 =====	40,322 =====
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable payments					
Grants and assistance	4	77,561	-	77,561	31,518
Administration		2,115	1,730	3,845	3,752
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		79,676 =====	1,730 =====	81,406 =====	35,270 =====
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>		(54,108)	4,813	(49,295)	5,052
Unrealised gains/(losses)		2,952	7,551	10,503	28,662
Realised gains/(losses)		(4,942)	(2,187)	(7,129)	943
Investment Provision		-	-	-	(4,598)
-					
Sundry Creditor			-	-	(250)
Transfers between funds		4,813	(4,813)	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net movements in funds for the year</b>		(51,285)	5,364	(45,921)	29,809
Total funds brought forward		288,015	191,083	479,098	442,289
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		236,730 =====	196,447 =====	433,177 =====	479,098 =====

## Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund

## Balance Sheet - 31 August 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Investments	5		393,141		432,318
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		39,958		47,930	
		<u>39,958</u>		<u>47,930</u>	
Debtors/Liabilities: (amounts falling due within one year)		78		1,150	
		<u>78</u>		<u>1,150</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			40,036		46,780
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>433,177</u>		<u>479,098</u>
			=====		=====
<b>Funds of the Charity:</b>					
Unrestricted Funds			236,730		288,015
Restricted Funds	6		196,447		191,083
			<u>196,447</u>		<u>191,083</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<u>433,177</u>		<u>479,098</u>
			=====		=====

The financial statements on pages 1 to 10 were approved by the Trustees on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
J S Wright  
Chairman

**Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund****Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2025****1 Accounting Policies**

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

**Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**  
**Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2025**

**2 Investment Income**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Dividends and fixed interest receipts	14,888	14,707
Interest received	960	1,661
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15,848	16,368
	=====	=====

**3 Trustees**

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

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

**4 Grants**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Grants paid during the year:		
Hospices and other charities funded by WMBF	77,561	31,518
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	77,561	31,518
	=====	=====

**Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**  
**Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2025**

**5 Investments**

	<b>2025</b> £	<b>2024</b> £
Market value as at 31 August 2024	432,318	372,820
Additions	100,985	62,376
Disposals	(143,536)	(27,885)
Realised gains/(loss) on disposal	( 7,129)	942
Unrealised gains/(loss) on disposals	10,503	24,065
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value at 31 August 2025	393,141	432,318
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Book value at 31 August 2025	347,167 =====	415,185 =====
<b>Investments at Market Value comprised:</b>		
UK equities, unit trusts & foreign bonds	393,141 =====	432,318 =====

**6 Restricted Funds**

	<b>Warwickshire</b> <b>2027</b> £	<b>Endowm't</b> <b>Res.Fund</b> £	<b>Total</b> £
At 31 August 2024	288,015	191,083	479,098
Income from Mary Jones Fund	4,813	-	4,813
Deficit For Year	(54,108)	-	(54,108)
Investment Provision	-	-	-
Realised gain/(loss) on investment	(4,942)	( 2,187)	( 7,129)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investment	2,952	7,551	10,503
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
As At 31 August 2025	236,730 =====	196,447 =====	433,177 =====

## **Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund**

### **Notes to the Accounts - 31 August 2025**

#### **6 Restricted Funds (Continued)**

##### **Warwickshire Festival 2027 Fund**

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

##### **The WMBF Endowment Reserve Fund (formerly The Mary Jones Fund)**

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

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

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

#### **7 Related Party Transactions**

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

#### **8 Control**

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