

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick



**Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

Charity number: 214824

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Legal and Administrative Information

Patron	The Duke of Abercorn KG
President	Judge Patrick Clyne
Honorary Treasurer	Edward Cholmondeley-Clarke FCA
Independent Examiner	Harry Draycott MA FCCA
Bankers	Bank of Ireland PO Box 2124, Belfast BT1 9RS
Secretary	Registered address 50-52 Camden Square London NW1 9XB
Trustees and Members of the Grand Committee	The Lord Aylmer The Hon Christopher Bellew The Earl of Clanwilliam Judge Patrick Clyne Edward Cholmondeley-Clarke Lord Gillford (since 25 March 2021) The Viscount Gough Dr. Peadar O'Mórdha Mrs Nicky Sansom
Registered Office	c/o London Irish Centre 50-52 Camden Square London NW1 9XB

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Statement on the implications of COVID 19 and related control measures

The emergence of the Covid19 pandemic prompted, from March 2020, Government imposed control measures in both Britain and Ireland. The majority of these control measures were still in force at 31 March 2021 and although all but travel restrictions have since been relaxed it is still possible for elements of the control measures to be re-introduced in varying degrees.

effect on beneficiaries

This has had a terrible impact on those whom the Society seeks to help. In the words of one of our service providers "It has caused confusion and hardship for many, especially amongst the elderly". Travel restrictions to and from Ireland have isolated many of our beneficiaries from their family lifelines: the younger generation also face the prospect of unemployment. Both of our service providers have continued to identify and support all age groups in the face of increased demand and by operating distanced home working. We are very grateful to them.

the work of our service providers

Over the past three years the President has developed contacts with the Southwark Irish Pensioners' Project (SIPP), and this is progressing into a fruitful partnership. Initial funding was provided to SIPP just before the strict March 2020 lock-down was introduced in England. Our long-standing relationship with the London Irish Centre has continued in strength and they have worked hard to adapt and overcome the new difficulties.

committee and administration of the Society

The Committee has been unable to meet since November 2019. Committee meetings have been held via video-link and by means of electronic reports and minutes. Funding approvals have been agreed and our service providers continue to provide reports on their activities.

impact on the Financial Statements and future income prospects

The introduction of lock-down in Britain in March 2020 caused a dramatic fall in the stock market. This adversely affected the value of our investments in M&G units as reported in last year's Financial Statements. Despite continuing restrictions the investments have substantially recovered their values. The investment income has not been affected; however this source of income only provides a small part of the funding requirements and the Society is reliant on the generosity of organisations, charities and individual donors.

Report of The Grand Committee 2020 - 2021

Changes to the Grand Committee

In March 2021 we welcomed Lord Gillford to the Committee. As the son of a longstanding committee member he comes with a family interest. He will also bring to the Committee a more youthful view-point and up-to-date social media and communication knowledge.

Introduction

In the light of this the Grand Committee presents its report to the Annual General Meeting, to be read in conjunction with its accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

The previous financial year 2019-20 saw the Society benefit from an increase in one-time donations received. Part of this income was put to charitable purpose when, just prior to the

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Report of The Grand Committee 2020- 2021 (continued)

end of the last financial year, and in anticipation of a lockdown, the Committee authorised the distribution of additional funds to our agencies in expectation of increasing applications for assistance. In the event there was a lower number of requests, due to applicants being unable to visit or contact the agencies and further funding was not called on until later in the year 2020-21. After the lockdowns and in the current financial year applications for assistance have now increased.

The Grand Committee has been unable to meet since November 2019. Financial Reports were circulated to the Committee in March, August, and November 2020 and March and July 2021. The Society continued to receive reports from the London Irish Centre (LIC) and Southwark Irish Pensioners' Project (SIPP) on grants made. The Committee was therefore able to review policies and investments, and to make payments to cover forthcoming grants.

An appreciation of the generosity and interest of our supporters

The Society's application for funding under the Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme was approved for the term of 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and is disclosed separately in the Financial Statements.

The Annual report provides the Grand Committee with the opportunity to thank all our subscribers and donors for their support during the year, and also to emphasise the need for ongoing support and fund raising. We would like to acknowledge in particular receipt of substantial sums from St Joseph's Charity in Dublin who have for many years been stalwart supporters of the Society. We would also like to acknowledge generous support from The London Borough of Southwark, The Drapers' Charitable Fund, and many individuals who wish to remain anonymous. We are very grateful to all of them.

Fund raising events

Thanks in large part to the initiative of Christopher Bellew we have initiated an annual Benevolent Society lecture. The talk planned for 2020 had to be cancelled in consequence of the Covid19 restrictions. We hope it will be possible to hold the event in March 2022. The aim is to use these talks to raise both funds and the profile of the Benevolent Society. We are most grateful to Edwin Doran for providing wine for each event from Doran Family Vineyards.

Charitable Objectives and Administration

The Society helps people in need and their dependents in the following circumstances: they must live in Greater London and must either have been born in Ireland, or one or more of their parents or grandparents should have been born there. Grants are usually in the region of £200 (although some are for much smaller sums), and whilst grants are quite often made of higher sums (generally no more than £500), the Society does not wish that to be the norm. These grants are usually to meet some emergency need, e.g. for necessary household equipment. Without this support the applicant would have to do without, or perhaps become prey to moneylenders. It is encouraging to hear that these grants are often most gratefully received by the recipients. Not infrequently it enables them to face the future with confidence and to turn their lives around.

In the interests of keeping administrative expenses to a minimum, applications are accepted only from established welfare organisations, advice agencies, charities and statutory authorities. They are not accepted directly from the prospective beneficiary.

Staff of those organisations making applications on behalf of their clients are thanked for their helpful cooperation in the grant-making process.

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Report of The Grand Committee 2020- 2021 (continued)

Ongoing economic difficulties in Ireland and the UK do not help to alleviate problems of poverty, poor housing and unemployment among the Irish community in London. With the resumption of emigration from Ireland, there is a greater need for support amongst younger people than has been the case in recent years, although the large Irish community of older people, many of whom are lonely and isolated and in poor physical and mental health continues to need support. Several individuals remain concerned about the impact of Brexit on Irish people living in the UK. LIC's team had been working hard to provide information and reassure people, particularly older and vulnerable individuals who may have been frightened by media scare stories.

Examples are given below of the people the Society has been able to support during the year.

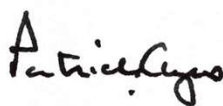
Administration of Grants

Grant applications are received by the LIC and SIPP, who administer the grant application process. Each application is assessed using standard criteria, and grants are reviewed and monitored by their Directors of Welfare. Grants are only given for assistance which is not available from the relevant local authorities. Care is taken that grants are well directed, with the chances of misuse minimised. For instance applicants in need of food are given vouchers which can only be exchanged for food. In some cases an applicant would receive benefits if a suitable medical report was produced. In rare cases where such a report is needed but the doctor requires payment which the applicant cannot afford, a grant may be given to enable such a report to be produced. On occasion payment for identity documents such as a birth certificate can unlock access to other benefits or employment opportunities (thus hopefully avoiding future welfare dependence). There are other cases where the best course of action is to enable the applicant to return to Ireland.

We would like to thank the staff of the London Irish Centre for their unfailing courtesy and expertise. We are sorry to note the departure from LIC of Gemma Kingston, who endeared herself to the Grand Committee with her cheerfulness and helpfulness. In addition, this year we made a grant to the Southwark Irish Pensioners' Project and to the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas (where the focus is on enabling prisoners to maintain contact with their families, particularly in Ireland). In each case care was taken (and assurances given) that the recipients would fall within the categories described above.

Our Financial Statements have been examined by Mr Harry Draycott MA FCCA, on a no-fee basis. We are very grateful to him for his work, and for providing his own Independent Examiner's Report for inclusion in the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements, which will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

This report was approved by the Trustees on *3rd November*, 2021 and signed on their behalf by



Judge Patrick Clyne, President

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Case Studies submitted by our agencies

Client A

The recipient was left a single parent to six children when his wife passed away. The whole family were in mourning. One of the children has special educational needs and attends a school suitable for his needs. In the past he has experienced taunting due to his Traveller background. The father was very anxious that his son is well presented at school, as he feels this will reduce the chance of bullying. The Local Authority does not provide assistance with the cost of school uniforms. We provided a grant to help with the cost of the uniform.

Client B

The recipient and his partner have been known to the Centre for a few years. Along with their four children they had been living in very overcrowded conditions for several years. Last year they were finally moved and were delighted. He has numerous health conditions. They were not in a financial position to purchase all the items that they needed so they took everything that they could with them. One of those items was a fridge-freezer with a door that was barely hanging on by the hinges. Thanks to the BSoSP, we were able to purchase the much-needed fridge-freezer for them. This has made a huge difference to their daily lives and they were very grateful for it.

Client C

43- year-old female, had been in London for couple of weeks before she approached our service via email. She was sleeping rough in Dublin due to fleeing domestic abuse and then decided to come to London as she felt she would be safer here. We contacted the local Street Link team, which is a homeless support organisation, however they said they could not see her for 3/4 days. As it was during the peak of the Covid19 lockdown, no hostels were taking new bookings so we arranged for her to stay in a hotel for a few nights until she could link in with the street team. We also used BSoSP to pay for breakfast and a main meal for her while she was in the hotel, so we knew she was getting food without having to go out and attend food banks/homeless food kitchens. She said she had not had a proper meal in weeks and this meant the world to her.

Client D

The recipient moved into his own flat after seventeen years in prison. With the help of the Irish Chaplaincy his daughter had been able to visit him in prison and she now helped him to settle into his new flat which had been secured for him by the London Irish Centre and furnished through the BSoSP.

Client E

The recipient is in her 70's and lives alone in council accommodation, her only income is pension credit. She suffers from arthritis and urinary incontinence and as a result of the latter she has to do an excessive amount of washing of bedclothes and other laundry. Her washing machine recently broke down and being unable to obtain a repair she had been doing her washing by hand, which was aggravating her arthritis. We were able to provide a grant for her to purchase a new washing machine and arrange for it to be delivered to her home.

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Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 145(1) of the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the responsibility of the Examiner:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

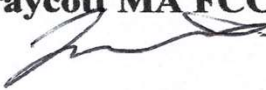
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Harry Draycott MA FCCA, Summertyme, Spring Lane, West Bergholt, CO6 3HJ

Date


12TH OCTOBER 2021

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

		2021 Total £	2020 Total £
	Notes	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
Income and Expenditure			
Incoming Resources			
Donations	2	20,244	35,064
Government Grants	3	5,000	-
Income from Fund Raising Event	4	-	2,100
Income from Investments	5	12,563	15,925
Total Incoming Resources		<u>37,807</u>	<u>53,089</u>
Resources Expended			
Grants Payable	6	24,000	44,000
Expense of Fund Raising Event	7	-	135
Management and Administration	8	3,000	3,000
Total Resources Expended		<u>27,000</u>	<u>47,135</u>
Net surplus for the year		10,807	5,954
Other recognised gains (losses)			
Unrealised gains (losses) on investments	10	49,583	(61,601)
Net Movement in Funds		<u>60,390</u>	<u>(55,647)</u>
Total Funds brought forward		284,906	340,553
Total Funds carried forward		<u>£ 345,296</u>	<u>£ 284,906</u>

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The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

		2021 Total £	2020 Total £
	Notes	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
Fixed Assets			
Investments	10	301,519	251,936
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	1,054	733
Bank Balance	12	45,723	35,237
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
Net Current Assets		43,777	32,970
Net Assets		<u>£ 345,296</u>	<u>£ 284,906</u>
Funds			
General Reserve	13	178,463	167,656
Revaluation Reserve	13	166,833	117,250
Total Funds		<u>£ 345,296</u>	<u>£ 284,906</u>
		-	-

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees on *3 November* 2021

Edward Cholmondeley-Blake FCA

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.2 Incoming Resources

Grant income, being expendable upon receipt, is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.3 Resources Expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis.

1.4 Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the Balance Sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is taken to the statement of Financial Activities.

2 Donations

	2021	2020
	£	£
General Donations	18,638	33,458
Covenanted - Gift Aid	1,285	1,285
Tax credit on Gift Aid	321	321
	<u>£ 20,244</u>	<u>£ 35,064</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

3	Government Grants	2021 £	2020 £
	Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme	<u>£ 5,000</u>	<u>£ -</u>
	<p>The Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme is being administered in aid of the Irish and those of Irish descent by our partners in Southwark Irish Pensioners. The Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme Grant is for the period July 2020 to the end of June 2021. In accordance with Accounting Policies the Grant is recognized in full on receipt.</p> <p>As at 31 March £3,464 had been expended and in the remaining three months of the Grant period a further £1,973 had been spent.</p>		
4	Income from Fund Raising Event	2021 £	2020 £
	Annual Lecture	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 2,100</u>
5	Investment Income	2021 £	2020 £
	17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	11,564	14,970
	22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	670	626
	7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	329	329
		<u>£ 12,563</u>	<u>£ 15,925</u>
6	Grants Payable	2021 £	2020 £
	Net Grants disbursed	<u>£ 24,000</u>	<u>£ 44,000</u>
7	Expense of Fund Raising Event	2021 £	2020 £
	Annual Lecture costs	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 135</u>
8	Management and Administration	2021 £	2020 £
	Administration fees	3,000	3,000
	Other costs	-	-
		<u>£ 3,000</u>	<u>£ 3,000</u>

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

9 Trustee's emoluments

There were no emoluments paid during the year, nor any in the previous year.

10 Fixed Asset Investments	2021	2020
Investments		
Opening Market Value	251,936	313,537
Additions / Sales	-	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	49,583	(61,601)
Closing Market Value	<u>£ 301,519</u>	<u>£ 251,936</u>
Cost		
17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	108,927	108,927
22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	27,635	27,635
7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	10,000	10,000
	<u>£ 146,562</u>	<u>£ 146,562</u>
Market Values		
17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	263,977	214,326
22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	27,595	27,521
7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	9,947	10,089
	<u>£ 301,519</u>	<u>£ 251,936</u>
11 Debtors	2021	2020
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Tax credit on Gift Aid	<u>£ 1,054</u>	<u>£ 733</u>
12 Bank Balance		
In addition to the balance held in the Society's bank account at 31 March 2021 the London Irish Centre held £13,521 in funds awaiting distribution (2020 £6,799), and Southwark Irish Pensioners held £6,536 (2020 £5,000).		

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

13 Funds - Unrestricted

	Balance 31 March 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains / (Losses) £	Balance 31 March 2021 £
General Reserve	167,656	37,807	(27,000)	-	178,463
Revaluation Reserve	117,250	-	-	49,583	166,833
	<u>£ 284,906</u>	<u>£ 37,807</u>	<u>£ (27,000)</u>	<u>£ 49,583</u>	<u>£ 345,296</u>