

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick



Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

Charity number: 214824



The Medal worn by Lord MacNaghten as President of The Society

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
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Secretary	Registered address 50-52 Camden Square London NW1 9XB
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Trustees and Members of the Grand Committee

The Lord Aylmer
The Hon Christopher Bellew
The Earl of Clanwilliam
Edward Cholmondeley-Clarke
Judge Patrick Clyne
Lord Gillford
The Viscount Gough
Dr. Peadar O'Mórdha
Conor J Quinn (since 23 November 2022)
Mrs Nicky Sansom

Registered Office	c/o London Irish Centre 50-52 Camden Square London NW1 9XB
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The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Report of the Grand Committee

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 The majority of these control measures have now been rescinded however it is still possible for elements of the control measures to be re-introduced in varying degrees.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. 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 able to meet since November 2021. Previous Committee meetings had 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. At the time this adversely affected the value of our investments in M&G. The investments have now 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.

Changes to the Grand Committee

In November 2022 we welcomed Conor Quinn to the Committee. Conor is a barrister currently holding a senior position in Financial Services at HM Treasury.

Report of the Grand Committee 2021-22

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 2022.

The previous financial year 2020-21 had seen a decrease in donations relative to the previous year. In parallel 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 that year.

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Report of the Grand Committee

The Grand Committee has been able to meet since November 2021, previous meetings during the 2020 lock-down and subsequent restrictions having been held by video-link. Financial Reports were circulated to the Committee in March, August, and November 2021 and March and July 2022. 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.

Additions to Investments

Thanks to a substantial donation from Mr Niall Molloy, the funds available for distribution temporarily exceeded the capacity of our assessment agencies to distribute all the funds. The Committee therefore decided to place the funds into COIF Charities Global Equity Income Units with the intent of: firstly providing a more secure future income stream and: secondly of protecting the initial capital sum. This investment is free of restriction and can be accessed for distribution as future needs arise.

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 to 30 June 2021. This has been renewed for the term to 30 June 2022 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 Community Foundation, Mr Niall Molloy, 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. The talk planned for March 2022 was deferred and the event was held in September 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.

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Report of the Grand Committee

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.

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.

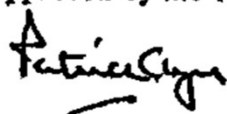
Administration of Grants

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 Trusted Assessors. 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. The committee are pleased to welcome Bernie Dolan as Head of Information and Advice at LIC. At SIPP, Rita Andrews, Manager, continues as the Society's lead contact. Further grants were made to LIC and SIPP. In all cases care was taken (and assurances given) that the recipients would fall within the categories described above. In all cases 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 18th January 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Judge Patrick Clyne, President

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Report of the Grand Committee

Case Studies submitted by our agencies

Client A

The recipient was a young girl of 24, 6 months pregnant. She left Ireland at 16 and came to England looking for her parents – she had been in a care home from the age of 11. She managed to get by doing shop/bar work and cleaning. She met a lad and became pregnant, but he became violent. She found refuge in a women's hostel and was recently rehoused. Unfortunately, no white goods or furniture came with it. The grant provided a bed and fridge to get her started. She has since been helped with a house move and provided with a microwave and other kitchen paraphernalia. She was enormously grateful for the help she was given at a time when things were looking so dire and is determined to make a good life for herself and her baby.

Client B

The recipient was a frail lady in her 80's. She suffers multiple chronic health and was referred to us due to isolation, self-neglect and malnutrition. A 'good neighbour' was helping her with food and but used her credit card to buy lunch for himself and his girlfriend. In between these meals, she survived on cup-a-soup, dry bread and black tea. Her cooker had broken and we found only jugs of water in the fridge and little more in the freezer. The cupboards were bare. Her bank account was much reduced although she couldn't understand why. We made space for a microwave and showed her how to use it. We set her up with a frozen meals service and she now pops into the local shop to pick up her bread and milk. Her general demeanour has improved greatly. She is more lucid and is talking about going shopping for herself when her mobility improves – she is already going for short walks along the balcony to her flat.

A summary of the support provided over one three month period by one of our agencies

- 26 people on a low income were provided with the funds to purchase essential household items such as beds, fridge-freezers, cooker, washing machines and sofa.
 - We provided 4 people with the means to purchase clothing, 2 of which were for children's school uniforms.
 - 4 people were provided with essential ID documents, 1 was homeless and needed their ID to secure their place in permanent accommodation.
 - 1 person was given emergency accommodation to prevent homelessness whilst 2 others were supported with travel to Ireland, 1 was an emergency repatriation and another to attend their twin sister's funeral.
 - We agreed to provide funds for a moving van to help a person in treatment for cancer move to sheltered accommodation to receive much needed care.
 - 27 people we supported had mental health conditions, many of which were chronic.
 - 20 had physical health needs including COVID, cancer, and HIV.
 - We helped 2 people fleeing domestic abuse and 2 others with substance misuse issues.
- The impact of the grants given to people who present to us in crisis cannot be underestimated and can be life-changing for the individuals and families involved.**

In conclusion: A comment from one of our agencies:

"The positive impact of the support experienced through the BSOSP grant for people who present to us in crisis cannot be overestimated and can sometimes be life-changing for the individuals and families involved. We continue to witness an increase in the numbers of people in crisis both financially and emotionally. The complexity of their situations worsening and mental health needs more present as evidenced above and as a predicted impact of COVID-19. This is only set to increase further due to the cost-of-living crisis and particularly with additional fuel increases expected again in the later part of the year."

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

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 2022, 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 18TH JANUARY 2023

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

		2022 Total £	2021 Total £
	Notes	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
Income and Expenditure			
Incoming Resources			
Donations	2	77,935	20,244
Government Grants	3	5,000	5,000
Income from Fund Raising Event	4	-	-
Income from Investments	5	14,237	12,563
Total Incoming Resources		<u>97,172</u>	<u>37,807</u>
Resources Expended			
Grants Payable	6	45,000	24,000
Expense of Fund Raising Event	7	-	-
Management and Administration	8	3,000	3,000
Total Resources Expended		<u>48,000</u>	<u>27,000</u>
Net surplus for the year		49,172	10,807
Other recognised gains (losses)			
Unrealised gains (losses) on investments	10	17,303	49,583
Net Movement in Funds		<u>66,475</u>	<u>60,390</u>
Total Funds brought forward		345,296	284,906
Total Funds carried forward		<u>£ 411,771</u>	<u>£ 345,296</u>
		-	-

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 2022

		2022 Total £	2021 Total £
	Notes	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
Fixed Assets			
Investments	10	368,822	301,519
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	6,375	1,054
Bank Balance	12	39,574	45,723
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
Net Current Assets		42,949	43,777
Net Assets		<u>£ 411,771</u>	<u>£ 345,296</u>
Funds			
General Reserve	13	227,635	178,463
Revaluation Reserve	13	184,136	166,833
Total Funds		<u>£ 411,771</u>	<u>£ 345,296</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 18th January 2023

Edward Cholmondeley, Clarke FCA

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

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	2022 £	2021 £
General Donations	76,329	18,638
Covenanted - Gift Aid	1,285	1,285
Tax credit on Gift Aid	321	321
	<u>£ 77,935</u>	<u>£ 20,244</u>

The Benevolent Society of St.Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

3	Government Grants	2022 £	2021 £
	Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme	<u>£ 5,000</u>	<u>£ 5,000</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	2022 £	2021 £
	Annual Lecture	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>
5	Investment Income	2022 £	2021 £
	17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	13,446	11,564
	22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	525	670
	7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	266	329
		<u>£ 14,237</u>	<u>£ 12,563</u>
6	Grants Payable	2022 £	2021 £
	Net Grants disbursed	<u>£ 45,000</u>	<u>£ 24,000</u>
7	Expense of Fund Raising Event	2022 £	2021 £
	Annual Lecture costs	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>
8	Management and Administration	2022 £	2021 £
	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 2022

9 Trustee's emoluments

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

10 Fixed Asset Investments	2022	2021
Investments		
Opening Market Value	301,519	251,936
Additions / Sales	50,000	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	17,303	49,583
Closing Market Value	<u>£ 368,822</u>	<u>£ 301,519</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
18,848.01 COIF Charities Global Equity Income	50,000	-
	<u>£ 196,562</u>	<u>£ 146,562</u>
Market Values		
17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	283,214	263,977
22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	26,362	27,595
7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	9,246	9,947
18,848.01 COIF Charities Global Equity Income	50,000	-
	<u>£ 368,822</u>	<u>£ 301,519</u>
11 Debtors	2022	2021
	£	£
Tax credit on Gift Aid	1,375	1,054
Deferred grant receipt	5,000	-
	<u>£ 6,375</u>	<u>£ 1,054</u>

12 Bank Balance

In addition to the balance held in the Society's bank account at 31 March 2022 the London Irish Centre held £13,995 in funds awaiting distribution (2021 £13,521), and Southwark Irish Pensioners held £14,828 (2021 £6,536).

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

13 Funds - Unrestricted

	Balance 31 March 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains / (Losses)	Balance 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Reserve	178,463	97,172	(48,000)	-	227,635
Revaluation Reserve	166,833	-	-	17,303	184,136
	<u>£ 345,296</u>	<u>£ 97,172</u>	<u>£ (48,000)</u>	<u>£ 17,303</u>	<u>£ 411,771</u>