

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick



Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Charity number: 214824

www.bsosp.org

www.justgiving.com/bssp-1783



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
Secretary	Registered address 50-52 Camden Square London NW1 9XB

Trustees and Members of the Grand Committee

The Lord Aylmer
The Hon Christopher Bellew (resigned 16 July 2025)
The Earl of Clanwilliam
Edward Cholmondeley-Clarke
Judge Patrick Clyne
Major-General Arthur Denaro
Lord Gillford
Viscount Jocelyn (co-opted 8 August 2025)
Dr. Peadar O'Mórdha
Conor J Quinn
Dr Martina Reichert
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 2024 - 2025

Statement on the Society's Environmental, Social and Governance Policies

recent changes in the social environment

Current world events have created uncertainty and the economy continues to suffer from large increases in the cost of living.

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". Many of our beneficiaries feel even further isolated 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. We are very grateful to them.

committee and administration of the Society

The Committee meets three times a year. For each meeting our service providers provide financial and distribution reports on their activities.

the work of our service providers

Over the past years the President has developed contacts with the Southwark Irish Pensioners' Project (SIPP), and this has progressed 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.

Safeguarding

The beneficiaries of the Society's grants are by their very nature people in economic, emotional and isolated circumstances. For these reasons they are vulnerable. Our service providers have in place policies and training to ensure that their staff can look after them with understanding and kindness.

impact on the Financial Statements and future income prospects

Recent events have affected the stock market and caused variability in the market value of the Society's investments. 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

There have been no changes in the composition of the Committee during the course of the year. Each Committee member contributes a valuable skill to the running and future of the Society.

Since the year end 31 March 2025, The Hon Christopher Bellew resigned on 16 July 2025 and Viscount Jocelyn was co-opted to the Grand Committee on 8 August 2025.

Report of the Grand Committee 2024-25

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 2025.

The current financial year 2024-25 had seen a small decrease in donations relative to the previous year. However, there was a larger number of requests now that applicants are able to visit or contact

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Report of the Grand Committee 2024 - 2025

the agencies and there were increasing calls on further funding that were not called on until later in the year.

The Grand Committee met three times during the year. Financial Reports were circulated to the Committee in March, August, and November 2024 and March and July 2025. 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.

We are grateful to committee member Dr. Peadar O'Mórdha for creating a 'Just giving' account for the Society. Also to committee member Conor Quinn for creating a website for the Society. Links to these websites are now on the cover page of this report.

Additions to Investments

Thanks to a substantial donation from Mr Niall Molloy during the financial year to 31 March 2022, 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 2025. This has been renewed for the term to 30 June 2026 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, and many individuals who wish to remain anonymous. We are very grateful to all of them.

Fund raising events

Every year the Society presents an annual talk of Irish interest. These events are held at the Brompton Oratory. In 2023 Professor Roy Foster spoke about the poetry of W.B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney. We are grateful to Edwin Doran for providing wine for this event from Doran Family Vineyards. In November 2024 Professor Richard Kirkland gave an illustrated talk on the subject of 'The Lost Worlds of Irish London'. On 20 November 2025 Robert O'Byrne, former Vice-President of the Irish Georgian Society, will present a talk on 'The Irish Country House: A New Vision'. We are very grateful to all of our speakers.

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

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Report of the Grand Committee 2024 - 2025

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.

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.

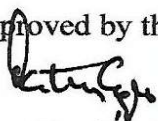
Administration of Grants

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 were sorry to see Bernie Dolan leave as Head of Information and Advice at LIC. We welcome her successor Mr Andrew Hansard. 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.

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 20 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Judge Patrick Clyne, President

The Benevolent Society of St Patrick

Report of the Grand Committee 2024 - 2025

Case Studies submitted by our agencies:

Client A

The recipient was an expectant parent who had to leave her last address because of domestic violence. The Local Authority secured accommodation but it was completely unfurnished. She is second generation Irish and has no family who could support her. She has no money and no one to turn to. She was given an emergency food voucher, connected her with support services, helped her claim the right benefits, and awarded her a grant for furniture and baby items.

She said, "I wanted to thank you for all you have done to support me and my little one. When you have no family support, you can truly appreciate how much you are doing for me. Thank you".

Client B

The recipient is second generation Irish from Dublin. He lives with his wife and two children aged 3 and 5 in privately rented accommodation in Westminster. He had become unemployed through no fault of his own. His rent wasn't being covered fully by unemployment benefits because of the benefit cap. He was worried his family would become homeless. He came to the London Irish Centre asking for help to obtain a taxi licence. He had a car and knew he could work enough hours to keep his family housed. The cost of the Licence application fee was awarded through a grant.

He said, "I have been helped more than I could imagine and I will be forever grateful".

Client C

The recipient was found penniless wandering the streets of Camden. She had no ID and no recollection of how she got there. She was given temp accommodation and a Social Worker. She was asked about her background and finally it was possible to work out her hometown. She had no funds, bank account or access to benefits. A grant was approved to cover the costs of obtaining ID. The agency acted as professional referee and a further grant paid the official fee for a citizen card, which once received could be used to apply for a passport. But she did not fully meet the criteria for an Irish passport. The agency and Council provided detailed letters of support to add to the application. The complex and delicate nature of her situation was explained to a senior member of staff at the DFA and the official DFA fee paid. The DFA took into consideration the agency letters of support. The application was approved and the passport was later gratefully received.

She said, "I can't express how much this has helped me. I was street homeless and had no idea who I was or where I was from. You have helped me find myself".

Client D

The recipient had been known to the agency for four years and was actively engaged with the survivor team as a victim of abuse at a boy's Industrial school in Ireland. Now in his eighties his health had declined and he was no longer able to climb the stairs to his home. The advice team worked with him and secured a move to a ground floor property. However it did not have any flooring, only bare concrete floors, which had a significant impact on his mental health and sleep. The grant paid for £550 of carpet and flooring inlay which has made his bedroom and living feel more like a home.

He said, "huge thank you for the carpet, I'm so much warmer and can sleep in my bed again! You don't know how much this means to me!"

Client E

The recipient was referred by an NHS Foundation Hospital. He had severe mental health diagnosis, was just out of prison and homeless. The NHS were unable to release him as he had no ID whatsoever and could not access housing or welfare. The Agency worked with him to acquire a birth certificate, Citizen ID card, and then his Irish passport. This has since enabled him to access housing and welfare benefits.

The NHS said, "We are truly indebted to the agency for their help and the amazing work undertaken in such a short space of time".

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 2025, 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 NOVEMBER 2025*

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025 Total £	2024 Total £
	Notes	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
Income and Expenditure			
Incoming Resources			
Donations	2	28,661	25,302
Government Grants	3	6,000	5,500
Income from Fund Raising Event	4	4,051	3,207
Income from Investments	5	18,960	17,429
Total Incoming Resources		<u>57,672</u>	<u>51,438</u>
Resources Expended			
Grants Payable	6	60,000	59,000
Expense of Fund Raising Event	7	250	250
Management and Administration	8	3,364	3,076
Total Resources Expended		<u>63,614</u>	<u>62,326</u>
Net (deficit) / surplus for the year		(5,942)	(10,888)
Other recognised gains (losses)			
Unrealised gains on investments	10	7,457	3,080
Net Movement in Funds		<u>1,515</u>	<u>(7,808)</u>
Total Funds brought forward		388,367	396,175
Total Funds carried forward		<u>£ 389,882</u>	<u>£ 388,367</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 2025

			2025 Total £	2024 Total £
	Notes		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
Fixed Assets				
Investments	10		358,067	350,610
Current Assets				
Debtors	11	7,187		2,015
Bank Balance	12	42,628		38,742
Grant authorised but not yet paid		(15,000)		-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		<u>(3,000)</u>		<u>(3,000)</u>
Net Current Assets			31,815	37,757
Net Assets			<u>£ 389,882</u>	<u>£ 388,367</u>
Funds				
General Reserve	13		216,501	222,443
Revaluation Reserve	13		173,381	165,924
Total Funds			<u>£ 389,882</u>	<u>£ 388,367</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 20th November 2025

Edward Cholmondeley-Clake FCA

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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	2025 £	2024 £
General Donations	27,805	23,696
Covenanted - Gift Aid	685	1,285
Tax credit on Gift Aid	171	321
	<u>£ 28,661</u>	<u>£ 25,302</u>

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

3	Government Grants	2025 £	2024 £
	Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme	£ 6,000	£ 5,500
	<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.</p> <p>The Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme Grant is for the period July 2024 to the end of June 2025 . In accordance with Accounting Policies the Grant is recognized in full on receipt.</p> <p>As at 31 March £3,900 had been expended and in the remaining three months of the Grant period a further £1,600 had been spent.</p>		
4	Income from Fund Raising Event	2025 £	2024 £
	Annual Lecture	£ 4,051	£ 3,207
5	Investment Income	2025 £	2024 £
	17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	16,225	15,418
	22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	1,162	894
	7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	261	152
	18,848.01 COIF Charities Global Equity Income	1,312	965
		£ 18,960	£ 17,429
6	Grants Payable	2025 £	2024 £
	Net Grants disbursed	£ 60,000	£ 59,000
7	Expense of Fund Raising Event	2025 £	2024 £
	Annual Lecture costs	£ 250	£ 250
8	Management and Administration	2025 £	2024 £
	Administration fees	3,000	3,000
	Other costs	364	76
		£ 3,364	£ 3,076

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

9 Trustee's emoluments

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

10 Fixed Asset Investments	2025	2024
Investments		
Opening Market Value	350,610	347,530
Additions / (Sales)	-	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	7,457	3,080
Closing Market Value	<u>£ 358,067</u>	<u>£ 350,610</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	50,000
	<u>£ 196,562</u>	<u>£ 196,562</u>
Market Values		
17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	272,204	261,049
22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	24,128	24,673
7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	9,338	9,102
18,848.01 COIF Charities Global Equity Income	52,397	55,786
	<u>£ 358,067</u>	<u>£ 350,610</u>
11 Debtors	2025	2024
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Tax credit on Gift Aid	2,187	2,015
Deferred grant receipt	5,000	-
	<u>£ 7,187</u>	<u>£ 2,015</u>

12 Bank Balance

In addition to the balance held in the Society's bank account at 31 March 2025 the London Irish Centre held £11,098 in funds awaiting distribution (2024 £23,962), and Southwark Irish Pensioners held £19,381 (2024 £16,546).

The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

13 Funds - Unrestricted

	Balance 31 March 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains / (Losses)	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General Reserve	222,443	57,672	(63,614)	-	216,501
Revaluation Reserve	165,924	-	-	7,457	173,381
	<u>£ 388,367</u>	<u>£ 57,672</u>	<u>£ (63,614)</u>	<u>£ 7,457</u>	<u>£ 389,882</u>

14 Post Balance Sheet events

Subsequent to the year-end the holding of 22,340 M&G Charibond Fixed Interest Fund Income Units were re-purchased by M&G and the sum of £24,215 was realised.

This has crystallised a loss of £3,420 which is fully provided for at 31 March 2025 as an unrealised loss.