



East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Registered Company Number 00869974 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity Number 247160

Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS REPORT

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|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Registered Charity No.  | 247160  |
| Registered Company No.  | 00869974 registered in England  |
| Registered Office:      | Barlow House<br>Canons Close<br>Harpers Lane<br>Bolton. BL 1 6HS  |
| Auditors:               | P B Syddall & Co<br>Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors<br>Grafton House<br>81 Chorley Old Road<br>Bolton BL1 3AJ |
| Bankers:                | Santander PLC<br>Customer Service Centre<br>Bootle<br>Merseyside<br>L30 4GB   |
| Investment Advisors:    | Charles Stanley & Co Ltd<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Sunlight House<br>Quay Street<br>Manchester M3 3JZ                        |
| Property Valuers:       | Eckersleys<br>Chartered Surveyors<br>Starkie Court<br>13 Starkie Street<br>Preston PR1 3LU                                  |
| Residential Housing at: | Canon's Close<br>Harpers Lane<br>Bolton BL1 6HS<br><br>Priors Close<br>Preston New Road<br>Blackburn.<br>BB2 7BB            |

## TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS REPORT

The trustees who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 are pleased to present their Annual Report and financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 and the Auditors' report thereon.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). (effective 1 January 2019)

### Administrative Details

The East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund is a Registered Charity constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is the principal charity for Mark Master Masons in the Masonic Province of East Lancashire.

### Directors/Committee of Management

The following acted as directors during the year

Howard Stephen Nuttall (Chairman)  
Jeffrey Alan Huddart (Treasurer)  
Malcolm Ronald McCarthy (Secretary)

Roger Fielding appointed 21 September 2021  
David J Rainsbury appointed 21 September 2021  
Gerald N H Young appointed 21 September 2021

Graham Mangham appointed 21 September 2021 Chairman Priors Close Committee  
Joseph John Tiler Chairman Canons Close Committee

Keith W Clayton retired 21 September 2021  
John Crawford resigned 25 April 2021  
John H Smith retired 21 September 2021  
David Rainford retired 21 September 2021  
Barry Heal retired 21 September 2021  
Gordon Fletcher retired 21 September 2021  
Raymond George Wilkinson retired 21 September 2021

## Objectives and Activities of the Charity.

East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund Ltd primary objective is to provide relief to those in need among Mark Masons, their widows and dependants in the Province of East Lancashire

The Charity owns and manages 44 properties consisting of self-contained bungalows, flats and apartments, within tranquil and peaceful surroundings, for elderly Freemasons, their wives and other dependants, who are in need of such accommodation. The properties are situated in separate complexes in Blackburn and Bolton. Additionally the Charity helps other organizations who benefit the public by providing services which encompass outdoor activities, rescue services, medical healthcare and children's welfare.

Our income is derived from rents charged to tenants, voluntary donations, investment income and the holding of social events which are open to the general public.

In May 2018, The Charity asked the Graham Fulford Charity to offer blood tests for prostate cancer to the Mark Brethren of East Lancashire. During the Covid pandemic, these tests were cancelled. However, the Charity was able to resume testing in October 2021 and will continue to offer testing for the foreseeable future.

The Directors consider that during the year under review and within the constraints created by the Covid pandemic they have successfully achieved the objectives of providing relief for those in need and have given due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Provincial Grand lodge of Mark Master Masons within the Province of East Lancashire established the charity, East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund Ltd, by the execution of a trust deed dated the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1966.

The Charity is governed by its Articles of Association, is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Its aims and objectives are established within the Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.00. New Articles of association were adopted by the Charity on 21 September 2021

The Directors form a Committee of Management to manage the Charities affairs. They are assisted by a sub committee for each of the residential properties owned by the company. The chairman of each sub committee is an ex officio member of the Board.

The main executive committee members are elected for a period of four years. The Charity does not have any employees, services being provided on a voluntary basis.

The Committee of Management deal with all matters relating to the Charity's finances, including accounts, investments, insurance, audit and charitable grants. It assesses major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those relating to finances and investments. The company does not raise funds from the general public.

The Committee of Management also considers all applications from organizations recognised by the Charity Commission. These may include Masonic charities, and other Charities which provide assistance for worthy causes.

All members of the Committee of Management and its two sub committees are Mark Masons and therefore fully conversant with the aims and objectives of the Company. They are also chosen for their specific skills and abilities in helping the company fulfill its objectives. New members are encouraged to join the company from the Mark Province of East Lancashire and are given introductory meetings with existing Committee members to help familiarize themselves with company activities. All work is performed on a voluntary basis

### **Financial Review**

There has been an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £36,966 (2021 £30,558). Our total income has increased by £20,757 due mainly to brethren and lodges recommencing their donations to the Fund following the return to normal Masonic activities and the end of the successful 2021 Festival. Our rental and investment income has shown a modest increase. The increased income and reduced donations to the 2021 Festival has enabled the Fund to spend £31,932 more this year compared with last year on its residential properties in Blackburn and Bolton. They will continue to be maintained to the highest standards with projects in hand for re-roofing property at Bolton, providing extra car parking at Blackburn and generally upgrading heating, kitchen and bathroom facilities at both properties.

The Fund decided to modernise its Articles of Association (our governing document) and these were adopted on 21 September 2021 at our Annual General Meeting. Our thanks go to the retiring directors for all their hard work during their period of office and a welcome is extended to the newly appointed directors.

The balance sheet of the Fund reflects its financial strength in so far as the properties are debt free, the value of our investments continues to grow (an increase of £39,222 this year) and cash flow is positive.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Directors are mindful of the need to purchase additional land and buildings and have been offered the opportunity to buy land next to the Bolton complex. In today's uncertain economic climate, it is necessary to build funds to generate income to meet its planned refurbishment of property, its day to day running costs and charitable giving. The demands on company funds occasioned by the refurbishment programme and the need to generate income are such that reserves need to be maintained at current levels.

### **Risk Management**

The directors have conducted a review of the major risks to which the Company is exposed. Procedures are in place to control the implementation and authorisation of all transactions and projects, to comply with health and safety regulations regarding residents and visitors, building regulations relating to company premises. These procedures are monitored regularly and reviewed each year.



### Statement of Responsibilities of the Directors/Committee of Management

The Directors are responsible for preparing their annual report and the financial statements for each financial period, in accordance with applicable law and UK accounting standards, which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund Ltd. In preparing these financial statements, they are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- \* observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP.
- \* make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent.
- \* state whether UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- \* prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund will continue in operation.

The Directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate financial systems and controls. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity which enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Fund and for their proper application as required by charity law, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Statement as to Disclosures of Information to the Auditors

So far as the directors are aware at the time of approving this report:-

- \* There is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the Auditors in connection with the preparation of their report, which the Company's Auditor is unaware and
- \* All steps have been taken that ought to have been taken as Directors in order to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Auditors are aware of that information

The report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006

By order of the Trustees/Directors dated

*28th June 2022*

Howard S Nuttall – Chairman

*Howard S Nuttall*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

|  | Note | Unrestricted<br>funds | Restricted<br>funds | 2022<br>Total    | 2021<br>Total    |
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  |      | £                     | £                   | £                | £                |
| <b>Income</b>                          |      |                       |                     |                  |                  |
| Income from Donations and Events       | 4    | 16,803                | 500                 | 17,303           | 3,416            |
| Income from Charitable Activities      | 4    | 165,886               | -                   | 165,886          | 160,436          |
| Investment Income                      | 4    | 15,403                | -                   | 15,403           | 13,983           |
| <b>Total Income</b>                    |      | <u>198,092</u>        | <u>500</u>          | <u>198,592</u>   | <u>177,835</u>   |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                     |      |                       |                     |                  |                  |
| Charitable activities                  | 5    | 143,856               | 1,995               | 145,851          | 133,921          |
| Governance Costs                       | 5    | 17,270                | -                   | 17,270           | 13,356           |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>               |      | <u>161,126</u>        | <u>1,995</u>        | <u>163,121</u>   | <u>147,277</u>   |
| <b>Net Income for the year</b>         |      | <u>36,966</u>         | <u>-</u>            | <u>35,471</u>    | <u>30,558</u>    |
| Unrealised Gain on investments         |      | 33,934                | -                   | 33,934           | 131,520          |
| Realised Gain/(Loss) on investments    |      | 6,098                 | -                   | 6,098            | (75)             |
| <b>Net Movement of Funds</b>           |      | <u>76,998</u>         | <u>(1,495)</u>      | <u>75,503</u>    | <u>162,003</u>   |
| Balances b/fwd at 31 March 2021        |      | 1,165,419             | 3,930               | 1,169,349        | 1,007,346        |
| <b>Balances c/fwd at 31 March 2022</b> |      | <u>1,242,417</u>      | <u>2,435</u>        | <u>1,244,852</u> | <u>1,169,349</u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 9 -14 form part of these accounts.



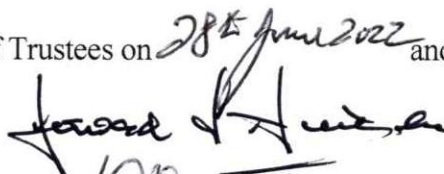
## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

|   | Notes | £       | 2022<br>£        | £                | 2021<br>£        |
|---|-------|---------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                                   |       |         |                  |                  |                  |
| Tangible Assets                                       | 6     |         | 2,033,794        |                  | 2,033,794        |
| Investments   | 7     |         | 672,483          |                  | 633,261          |
|   |       |         | <u>2,706,277</u> |                  | <u>2,667,055</u> |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                                 |       |         |                  |                  |                  |
| Debtors   | 8     | 4,766   |                  | 4,969            |                  |
| Cash at bank and in hand                              |       | 95,365  |                  | 55,256           |                  |
|   |       |         | <u>100,131</u>   | <u>60,225</u>    |                  |
| <b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year | 9     | (6,823) |                  | (3,198)          |                  |
| <b>Net Current Assets</b>                             |       |         | <u>93,308</u>    | <u>57,027</u>    |                  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                                     |       |         | <u>2,799,585</u> | <u>2,724,082</u> |                  |
| <b>Funds</b>  | 10    |         |                  |                  |                  |
| General Fund  |       |         | 1,242,417        |                  | 1,165,419        |
| Revaluation Fund – Freehold land and buildings        |       |         | 1,554,733        |                  | 1,554,733        |
|   |       |         | <u>2,797,150</u> | <u>2,720,152</u> |                  |
| Restricted Fund                                       |       |         | 2,435            |                  | 3,930            |
|   |       |         | <u>2,799,585</u> | <u>2,724,082</u> |                  |

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to Charitable Companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and signed on its behalf by

Howard Stephen Nuttall



Chairman

Jeffrey Alan Huddart



Treasurer

The notes on pages 9 - 14 form part of the financial statements

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

## 1 General Information and basis of preparation

The Benevolent Fund is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the registered office of the company is given in the information on page 2 of these financial statements. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling.

## 2 Accounting Policies

## a. Basis of Preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention with the exception of Freehold Land & Buildings and investments which are included at their market value and in accordance with the provision of the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)

## b. Tangible Fixed Assets

Freehold Land & Buildings are stated at their revalued amount. No depreciation is provided on Freehold Land and Buildings because in the opinion of the directors they are included in the financial statements at their current fair value. Silverware (T H Markland) is stated at cost. No depreciation is provided.

## c. Investments

Investments are made on a discretionary basis by our advisors with a medium low risk in non equity securities and in certain instances a medium risk in equities. Overall the objective is to produce a balance between capital growth and income.

Investments are included in the financial statements at their market valuation at the balance sheet date as prepared by our investment advisors. Gains or losses arising from these valuations and from disposals during the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities

## d. Fund Accounting.

Unrestricted general funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity. Restricted funds can only be used for particular purposes, as identified by the Trustees within the objects of the Charity.

## e. Income

All income is recognised in the financial statements once the Charity is entitled to the income and is accounted for on a cash received basis with the exception of Gift Aid Tax which is accounted for on an accruals basis.

## f. Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure.

Expenditure is accounted for on the accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs to the specific heading of expenditure..

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

## g. Taxation

The Company being a registered charity is not liable for taxation on its activities

## h. Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts the Trustees had a reasonable expectation that the Charity had adequate resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

## i. Financial Instruments

These are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the Instrument Financial Assets which include debtors and bank balances are measured at their transaction price and related costs and are not amortised.

Financial liabilities including creditors are recognised at their transaction price and are not amortised. Such liabilities are classified as current liabilities if payable within one year.

## 3. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In applying the Charity's accounting policies the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revision to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

For the current and previous year there were no estimates and assumptions which had a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Funds | 2022<br>Total  | 2021<br>Total  |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | £                     | £                   | £              | £              |
| <b>4. Income from Donations and Events</b>  |                       |                     |                |                |
| Lodge Donations                             | 8,452                 | -                   | 8,452          | 2,933          |
| Brethren                                    | 1,252                 | 500                 | 1,752          | 483            |
| Regalia                                     | 4,151                 | -                   | 4,151          | -              |
| Annual Meeting donations                    | 1,272                 | -                   | 1,272          | -              |
| Charity Steward Events                      | 1,060                 | -                   | 1,060          | -              |
| Gift Aid Tax                                | 616                   | -                   | 616            | -              |
|   | <u>16,803</u>         | <u>500</u>          | <u>17,303</u>  | <u>3,416</u>   |
| <b>4. Income from Charitable Activities</b> |                       |                     |                |                |
| Rents – Canons Close Bolton                 | 104,306               | -                   | 104,306        | 98,487         |
| Priors Close Blackburn                      | 61,580                | -                   | 61,580         | 61,949         |
|   | <u>165,886</u>        | <u>-</u>            | <u>165,886</u> | <u>160,436</u> |
| <b>4. Income from Investments</b>           |                       |                     |                |                |
| Bank & other interest                       | 5                     | -                   | 5              | 41             |
| Dividends                                   | 15,398                | -                   | 15,398         | 13,006         |
| Sale of land covenant                       | -                     | -                   | -              | 936            |
|   | <u>15,403</u>         | <u>-</u>            | <u>15,403</u>  | <u>13,983</u>  |
| <b>Total Income</b>                         | <u>198,092</u>        | <u>500</u>          | <u>198,592</u> | <u>177,835</u> |

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

|  | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>£ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>5. Expenditure</b>                  |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>Charitable activities:-</b>         |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Grants and donations –                 |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Cannons Close Pastoral Fund            | -                          | -                        | -                  | 300                |
| Priors Close Pastoral Fund             | 800                        | -                        | 800                | -                  |
| Provincial Almoners Fund               | 5,000                      | -                        | 5,000              | 2,500              |
| 2021 Mark Festival                     | -                          | -                        | -                  | 30,000             |
| Provincial Mark Festival – Surrey      | 3,500                      | -                        | 3,500              | -                  |
| Graham Fulford Trust                   | -                          | 1,995                    | 1,995              | -                  |
| Happy Days Childrens Charity           | 1,503                      | -                        | 1,503              | -                  |
|  | <u>10,803</u>              | <u>1,995</u>             | <u>12,798</u>      | <u>32,800</u>      |
| <b>Property Management/Maintenance</b> |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Canons Close Bolton                    | 60,962                     | -                        | 60,962             | 42,909             |
| Priors Close Blackburn                 | 72,091                     | -                        | 72,091             | 58,212             |
|  | <u>133,053</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>133,053</u>     | <u>101,121</u>     |
| <b>5. Governance Costs</b>             |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Audit Fee                              | 1,920                      | -                        | 1,920              | 1,680              |
| Administration                         | 500                        | -                        | 500                | 454                |
| Insurance                              | 6,312                      | -                        | 6,312              | 6,130              |
| Investment Fees                        | 5,987                      | -                        | 5,987              | 5,092              |
| Legal Fees                             | 2,551                      | -                        | 2,551              | -                  |
|  | <u>17,270</u>              | <u>-</u>                 | <u>17,270</u>      | <u>13,356</u>      |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>               | <u>161,126</u>             | <u>1,995</u>             | <u>163,121</u>     | <u>147,277</u>     |

There are no employees of the Charity. No remuneration or expenses are paid to the Trustees/Directors other than for the re-imbursement of costs incurred by the Secretary of behalf of the Charity.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

|  | Freehold<br>Land &<br>Buildings<br>£ | T H<br>Markland<br>Silverware<br>£ | Total<br>£ |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>6. Tangible Fixed Assets</b>                                    |                                      |                                    |            |
| Cost or valuation 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 and<br>31 March 2021 | 2,030,000                            | 3,794                              | 2,033,794  |

Freehold Land & Buildings were valued by Eckersleys, an independent firm of Chartered Surveyors and Valuers, on an open market value basis with the benefit of vacant possession subject to tenancies or with full vacant possession on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Had they not been revalued they would have been included at their historic cost of £475,267. Depreciation is not provided because in the opinion of the directors the above reflects current fair values.

The T H Markland Silver was valued at £5,450 on a replacement basis in September 2011. Because of the uniqueness of the silverware no current valuation has been obtained and it is therefore stated at cost.

**7. Investments**

|                         | 2022<br>£ | 2021<br>£ |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Market Value b/fwd      | 633,261   | 424,793   |
| Additions at cost       | 54,000    | 101,858   |
| Disposals at cost       | (54,810)  | (24,835)  |
| Unrealised Gains        | 33,934    | 131,520   |
| Realised Gains/(Losses) | 6,098     | (75)      |
| Market Value c/fwd      | 672,483   | 633,261   |

The historic cost of investments at 31 March 2022 was £566,751 (2021 £561,463)

**8. Debtors**

|                | 2022<br>£ | 2021<br>£ |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Prepayments    | 4,150     | 4,969     |
| Gift Aid Claim | 616       | -         |
|                | 4,766     | 4,969     |



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

|   | £                         | £         |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|
| <b>9. Creditors</b> — amounts falling due within one year |                           |           |
| Accruals  | 6,823                     | 3,198     |
|   | <hr/>                     | <hr/>     |
| <b>10. Funds</b>  |                           |           |
|   | Unrestricted General Fund |           |
|   | 2022                      | 2021      |
|   | £                         | £         |
| Balance b/fwd   | 1,165,419                 | 1,003,416 |
| Income  | 198,092                   | 177,835   |
| Expenditure   | (161,126)                 | (147,277) |
| Gain on Investments                                       | 40,032                    | 131,445   |
|   | <hr/>                     | <hr/>     |
| Balance c/fwd   | 1,242,417                 | 1,165,419 |
|   | Restricted Fund           |           |
|   | 2022                      | 2021      |
|   | £                         | £         |
| Balance b/fwd   | 3,930                     | 3,930     |
| Income  | 500                       | -         |
| Expenditure   | (1,995)                   | -         |
|   | <hr/>                     | <hr/>     |
| Balance c/fwd   | 2,435                     | 3,930     |
|   | <hr/>                     | <hr/>     |

The amount of £2,435 is allocated to the Graham Fulford Charity for Prostate Cancer and is included in the Cash at Bank figure of £95,365

11. The Fund is a charity limited by guarantee and therefore does not have any share capital. In the event of winding up the charity, members may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 per member.

12. There are no related parties and therefore there are no transactions to disclose.

## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST LANCASHIRE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND LTD**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund Ltd (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
EAST LANCASHIRE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND LTD**

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST LANCASHIRE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND LTD**

### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, including how fraud may occur by enquiring of management of its own consideration of fraud. In particular, we looked at where management made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. We also considered potential financial or other pressures, opportunity and motivations for fraud. As part of this discussion we identified the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations and how management monitor these processes. Appropriate procedures included the review and testing of manual journals and key estimates and judgements made by management

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and the industry in which it operates, drawing on our broad sector experience, and considered the risk of acts by the charity that were contrary to these laws and regulations, including fraud.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements.

We made enquiries of management with regards to compliance with laws and regulations and corroborated any necessary evidence to relevant information.

We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls including testing journals and evaluation whether there was evidence of bias by the director trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

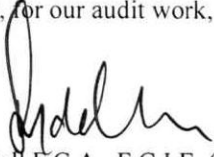
Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
EAST LANCASHIRE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND LTD**

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



P B Syddall F.C.A., F.C.I.E. (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of P B Syddall & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
& Statutory Auditors  
Grafton House  
81 Chorley Old Road  
Bolton  
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Date: 25 July 2022