

# **The Benevolent Society of St Patrick**



## **Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020**

**Charity number: 214824**

## **The Benevolent Society of St Patrick**

### **Legal and Administrative Information**

Patron	The Duke of Abercorn KG
President	Judge Patrick Clyne (from 6 November 2019) The Lord Aylmer (to 6 November 2019)
Honorary Treasurer	Edward Cholmondeley-Clarke
Independent Examiner	Harry Draycott MA FCCA
Bankers	Bank of Ireland PO Box 2124, Belfast BT1 9RS
Secretary	London Irish Centre 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 The Viscount Gough Mrs Nicky Sansom Dr. Peadar O'Mórdha (since 31 July 2019)
Registered Office	c/o London Irish Centre 50-52 Camden Square London NW1 9XB

## **Statement on the implications of COVID 19 and related control measures**

Since the last Grand Committee report to the Annual General Meeting on the 6 November 2019 the emergence of the Covid19 pandemic initially prompted a precautionary distancing approach which was followed in March 2020 by Government imposed control measures in both Britain and Ireland. Despite some relaxations the majority of these control measures are still in force and likely to remain so in varying degrees for at least six months.

### *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 eighteen months 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 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 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 caused a dramatic fall in the stock market. This adversely affected the value of our investments in M&G units and is reported in the Financial Statements as at 31 March 2020. A supplementary note reports the recovery values six months later at 30 September. So far 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.

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## **Changes to the Grand Committee**

The Lord Aylmer stood down from his long tenure as President of the Society on 6 November 2019. He had overseen progressive growth in the affairs of the Society and we are very grateful for his stable guidance. He is succeeded as President by Judge Patrick Clyne who has been on the Committee for a number of years and who has been instrumental in widening the scope of the activities of the Society.

In July 2019 we welcomed Dr. Peadar O'Mórdha to the Committee. He brings with him a wealth of fund-raising and technical knowledge.



## **Report of the Grand Committee 2019-20**

In the light of this the Grand Committee presents its report to the Annual General Meeting on 4 November 2020, to be read in conjunction with its accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

The Grand Committee has been unable to meet since our last report, on 6 November 2019. Financial Reports were circulated to the Committee in March 2020 and August 2020. 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.

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 Fieldrose Charitable Trust, The London Borough of Southwark, The Masonic Relief Chest Scheme, Cyril and Lorna Woods of Slane, 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. Last year Thomas Bell and Mary Kenny held a lively conversation about Kathmandu, capital of the Kingdom of Nepal, where Thomas and his family live. The talk planned for this year has been deferred in consequence of the Covid19 restrictions. We hope it will be possible to hold the event in March 2021. 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 application 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 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.

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This report was approved by the Trustees on ~~NOVEMBER~~ 4th 2020 and signed on their behalf by



Judge Patrick Clyne, President

## **Case Studies**

### **Client A**

72-year-old female attends the LIC day centre and is also supported by one of the outreach workers. She has severe and enduring mental health needs and had been in unsuitable accommodation for years. After months of advocacy, she was offered a new flat which was on the ground floor and felt a lot safer for her. The outreach worker helped her to move into the new flat and applied for a grant of £312 for the removal costs. She would not have been able to afford this herself and would have had to borrow the money. She is now settled into her new flat and there has been a noticeable improvement in her mental health and wellbeing. The grant awarded meant that this quite stressful process was made much easier and also prevented her getting into debt.

### **Client B**

58-year-old male was placed in a flat after years of homelessness. He had very few belongings and the council did not provide any furniture or any funding to get any furniture. The outreach worker used the BSOSP grant to get him a bed so that he would have somewhere to sleep. If he did not get this bed, he would have ended up sleeping on the floor. He is now settled into his flat and is slowly making the place more homely.

### **Client C**

The recipient was a 'young' pensioner who had lived in rented rooms all his life as he followed work around the country. Due to his failing health, he needed to move into more suitable housing. We had applied for sheltered housing for him early in the year and a flat became available at the beginning of April. He brought with him 5 carrier bags and his TV. Thanks to your grant, we bought some essentials (bed, bedclothes, and a fridge) and a local charity provided a microwave and other essentials. We were very fortunate to acquire a sofa, armchair, rug, coffee table and soft furnishings from a friend of the project who was moving out of his flat, around the same time. When the commotion of moving in was over, he sat in his 'new' armchair with a mug of tea in hand, and a big smile appeared on his face and he said he felt like a king.



# **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 2020, which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

### **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**

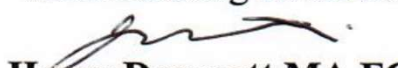
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **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 03/11/2020

# The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2020

		2020 Total £	2019 Total £
	Notes	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			
<b>Incoming Resources</b>			
Donations	2	35,064	18,125
Income from Fund Raising Event	3	2,100	2,085
Income from Investments	4	15,925	15,298
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<u>53,089</u>	<u>35,508</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>			
Grants Payable	5	44,000	27,000
Expense of Fund Raising Event	6	135	135
Management and Administration	7	3,000	3,000
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<u>47,135</u>	<u>30,135</u>
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>		5,954	5,373
<b>Other recognised gains (losses)</b>			
Unrealised gains (losses) on investments	9	(61,601)	2,066
Net Movement in Funds		<u>(55,647)</u>	<u>7,439</u>
Total Funds brought forward		340,553	333,114
Total Funds carried forward		<u>£ 284,906</u>	<u>£ 340,553</u>

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The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these financial statements



# The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

			2020 Total £	2019 Total £
	Notes		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Investments	9		251,936	313,537
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	10	733		411
Bank Balance	11	35,237		29,605
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		<u>(3,000)</u>		<u>(3,000)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			32,970	27,016
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>£ 284,906</u>	<u>£ 340,553</u>
<b>Funds</b>				
General Reserve	12		167,656	161,702
Revaluation Reserve	12		117,250	178,851
<b>Total Funds</b>			<u>£ 284,906</u>	<u>£ 340,553</u>
			-	-

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these financial statements



The Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees on 4th November 2020

# The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Accounting Convention

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and follow the recommendations in 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' issued in January 2015.

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

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	2020 £	2019 £
	General Donations	33,458	16,069
	Covenanted - Gift Aid	1,285	1,645
	Tax credit on Gift Aid	321	411
		<u>£ 35,064</u>	<u>£ 18,125</u>
3	Income from Fund Raising Event	2020 £	2019 £
	Annual Lecture	<u>£ 2,100</u>	<u>£ 2,085</u>
4	Investment Income	2020 £	2019 £
	17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	14,970	14,343
	22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	626	626
	7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	329	329
		<u>£ 15,925</u>	<u>£ 15,298</u>



# The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

<b>5</b>	<b>Grants Payable</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Net Grants disbursed	<u>£ 44,000</u>	<u>£ 27,000</u>
<b>6</b>	<b>Expense of Fund Raising Event</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Annual Lecture costs	<u>£ 135</u>	<u>£ 135</u>
<b>7</b>	<b>Management and Administration</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Administration fees	3,000	3,000
	Other costs	-	-
		<u>£ 3,000</u>	<u>£ 3,000</u>
<b>8</b>	<b>Trustee's emoluments</b>		
	There were no emoluments paid during the year and in the previous year.		
<b>9</b>	<b>Fixed Asset Investments</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Investments</b>		
	Opening Market Value	313,537	311,471
	Additions / Sales	-	-
	Unrealised gains / (losses)	(61,601)	2,066
	Closing Market Value	<u>£ 251,936</u>	<u>£ 313,537</u>
	<b>Cost</b>		
	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>
	<b>Market Values</b>		
	17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	214,326	275,915
	22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	27,521	27,552
	7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	10,089	10,070
		<u>£ 251,936</u>	<u>£ 313,537</u>

# The Benevolent Society of St. Patrick

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

10 Debtors	2020 £	2019 £
	<u>£ 733</u>	<u>£ 411</u>
Tax credit on Gift Aid	<u>£ 733</u>	<u>£ 411</u>

## 11 Bank Balance

In addition to the balance held in the Society's bank account at 31 March 2020 the London Irish Centre held £6,799 in funds awaiting distribution. (2019 £604) and Southwark Irish Pensioners held £5,000.

## 12 Funds - Unrestricted

	Balance 31 March 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains / (Losses) £	Balance 31 March 2020 £
General Reserve	161,702	53,089	(47,135)	-	167,656
Revaluation Reserve	178,851	-	-	(61,601)	117,250
	<u>£ 340,553</u>	<u>£ 53,089</u>	<u>£ (47,135)</u>	<u>£ (61,601)</u>	<u>£ 284,906</u>

## 13 Post Balance Sheet events

In the week before the financial year ended the population of the United Kingdom was placed in lock-down as a protection against the virus Covid-19. In consequence the stock market suffered a substantial diminution in value. The effect on the Society's holdings at 31 March is reported in note 9.

There has been a subsequent small gain on the holdings which is reported here. The income from these holdings has not, for the moment, been adversely affected. The Society's ability to care for the now greater needs of persons of Irish descent has not been impaired.

	31 March 2020	30 September 2020	Change in value
<b>Market Values</b>			
17,928 M&G Charifund Income Units	214,326	215,807	1,481
22,340 M&G Charibond Income Units	27,521	27,925	404
7,402 COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund Units	10,089	10,412	323
	<u>£ 251,936</u>	<u>£ 254,144</u>	<u>£ 2,208</u>