

Provincial Grand Charity Stewards Report 2023

Firstly I would like to thank all the lodge Charity Stewards for their continuing support which can only be described as challenging times, with prices and costs of everything going up I appreciate how difficult your job has become.

However with your unwavering generosity and support the Province of Essex has kept abreast with meeting commitments in supporting our long term charities, and assisting those Mark Masons in need. None of this would be possible without the work you put in collecting and making donations.

I am sure you are now all aware about raising funds for the Essex MBF 2030 Festival and by supporting the events run through the year is one way of raising funds and having fun at the same time. These are family days and to be enjoyed by all. 2030 may seem an awful long time off but believe me time passes so quickly it will soon be upon us before we know it.

It is your donations that allow the mark benevolent fund to financially support charities and other good causes around the country, Essex has certainly benefited from these and although there are those amongst us will not be here in 2030 it is a legacy to leave behind.

As you will observe from the account sheet the charity fund remains financially sound. Only made possible by your generosity.

One sure way of raising funds is by committing to the regular giving covenant this not only boosts the amount of money available for the MBF to distribute but counts towards both the 2030 Festival and personal honorifics.

It also has the added advantage of claiming gift aid through HMRC which adds 25 pence in every pound donated, for those that pay tax.

The trustees are always eager to make donations from either the Essex Mark Benevolent Fund or the Essex Mark Welfare Fund to worthy causes within the local community. So if you are aware of any organisations or indeed individuals that might be looking for financial assistance then please submit an application together with any supporting evidence either myself or the provincial grand secretary whereupon your request will be reviewed.

One of the pleasing things to see is that all of the Essex Mark lodges have now gained their Mark Benevolent Fund Grand Patron Gold Award. Qualifying the Province for the same. Which in itself is quite an achievement. The next level for Lodges will be Diamond Patron this is a big ask, but I'm confident in the coming years this goal can be met.

I have continued to acknowledge donations from lodges by email to respective charity stewards and secretaries. I trust those letters of thanks have been read out at your lodge meeting to demonstrate how we as a Province are grateful for your generosity. I have also update the Lodge EMBF honorifics when donations have been received.

I would like to remind all the brethren that I can always be contacted either by phone or email, these details are shown on the Essex Mark website and I will do my utmost to answer any queries you may have.

Finally due to the humanitarian turmoil in Turkey caused by a severe earthquake, the MBF made a immediate donation of £50,000 for humatarian relief, making us once again proud to be members of a the mark degree.

W. Bro Pete Maloney