

To Provincial Grand Masters, Secretaries and Almoners and to Lodge Masters, Secretaries and Almoners.

Grand Lodge of Scotland
COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS IN TERMS OF LAWS 101 AND 138

Freemasons' Hall
96 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 3DH
September 2023

Dear Sir and Brother,

The Right Worshipful Grand Almoner, Brother Thomas Davidson, has asked me to issue the following letter for your consideration.

Yours faithfully and fraternally



William M.S. Semple
Grand Secretary

“Brethren,

We have returned to normal masonic activity after some difficult years, with the number of visitors to our lodges steadily increasing. The installation of the Office-bearers in any Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge is a time to look forward to the future, it is also a time to take a moment to reflect on our successes.

Following the success of the MAKE IT A MILLION campaign on behalf of Prostate Scotland where the amount raised reached £1.125M, the Grand Master Mason decided that Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodges should be able to pursue their support for their own chosen external charities and local communities. Brethren throughout the country have again risen to these challenges with their usual ingenuity and generosity. We have however continued the relationship with Prostate Scotland on a number of legacy projects – Prospacks to support men undergoing prostate operations – Prostate Champions to continue raising awareness of prostate disease – research into “Living with BPH”. My thanks go to the brethren, and their supporters, who organised and took part in the MASONS4MUNROS activities which funded the Prospacks for this year.

The Masonic Homes have continued caring for the residents and complying with all the post pandemic regulations, safeguards and procedures required. The care home sector in general, and smaller homes in particular, are encountering severe challenges in recruitment and bridging the funding shortfalls that we hear about regularly on the news. My thanks go to Mrs. Dawn Oliff and her staff for their exceptional commitment to the homes.

Grand Lodge and all of us as Scottish Freemasons have ongoing long-term commitments to the beneficiaries and recipients of training grants as well as needing to react to emergencies at home and abroad on your behalf.

In the past twenty years the average of donations to the Benevolent Fund over the period was £260k annually, however in the past five years the average of these donations dropped to £201k whilst outgoings are increasing. We are all experiencing more difficult economic times however the benevolent work of Grand Lodge needs to continue, funding this work comes from the collections uplifted at installations and special anniversary lodge ceremonials carried out for Lodges by Grand Lodge deputations.

At this installation, I ask you to think of these figures and give as generously as you can to ensure the benevolent work of Grand Lodge can continue. Thank you for your consideration and support”.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Davidson
Grand Almoner