

To District Grand Masters, Secretaries and Almoners, Grand Superintendents, and Masters, Secretaries and Almoners of daughter Lodges under the direct supervision of Grand Lodge.

**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
October 2024

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

Right Worshipful Master & Brethren all,

As I write my fifth Grand Almoner's Appeal the summer recess in the northern hemisphere is fast becoming a memory and most of our lodges have returned to normal masonic activity. The installation of the Office-bearers in any Lodge is a time to look to the future and reflect on our successes.

Last year the Grand Master Mason decided that Lodges, Superintendencies and District Grand Lodges should be able to pursue their support for their own chosen external charities and local communities. Everyone at Grand Lodge has been impressed by the way that Brethren throughout the world have risen to that challenge and the wide range of charities who have benefited from your support. Well done everyone.

In Scotland our work with the Prostate Scotland legacy project has been ongoing –the Prostate Champions initiative now has over sixty brethren raising awareness of prostate disease throughout Scotland, speaking to both masonic and community groups. We can all be proud of the difference we have already made and will continue to make in this field of men's health. Documents have been issued to assist in setting up similar projects overseas where there is not a pre-existing men's health initiative. Some District Grand Lodges are already well advanced and doing excellent work in this field. Prostate Cancer is a particular challenge to our brethren in many areas and awareness will help to save lives.

The theme of community involvement has been constantly to the fore throughout the year and, whilst we are working to develop initiatives here in Scotland, I recognise and applaud the first-class work being undertaken by our brethren abroad in their communities. I would encourage the Districts and Superintendencies to share their community successes with Grand Lodge and the brethren worldwide.

Grand Lodge acts on behalf of all Scottish Freemasons and has ongoing long-term commitments to the beneficiaries of support grants and, where appropriate, needs to be able to react to emergencies at home and abroad on your behalf.

Donations to the Benevolent Fund over the past two decades have dropped substantially but the level of need continues to rise with inflation. Funding benevolence comes from the membership, collections uplifted at annual installations and special anniversary lodge ceremonials.

At this installation, I ask you to think of the north-east corner, ponder the night you first stood there and give as generously as you can to ensure the benevolent work carried out by Grand Lodge on your behalf can continue. Thank you for your consideration and support.

**Tom Davidson
Grand Almoner**