



Somerset 2020

Festival for The Freemasons' Grand Charity



Without your efforts, The Grand Charity could not continue to help the thousands of people it aims to support each year.

The President of The Grand Charity Richard Hone, QC

I thank the Provincial Grand Master and all the members of the Province of Somerset for their commitment to raising vital funds for The Freemasons' Grand Charity's 2020 Festival.

Together with the other central Masonic Charities, The Grand Charity represents the unrelenting kindness of Freemasons and their passion for helping vulnerable people.

Your generosity and support enables us, on your behalf, to give millions of pounds every year to Freemasons and their dependants in financial distress, and to hundreds of national charities that work for the benefit of the wider community.

This is all made possible by Freemasons enthusiastically taking part in the Festival system. That is why your dedication and commitment to raising funds for The Grand Charity here in Somerset, right now, is so important.

You have already demonstrated incredible generosity by raising over £1 million that we will be able to use to support the causes that we know matter to you the most.

This is the result of a tremendous amount of hard work that has already taken place, and which will continue for another six years.

The help and encouragement of your wives, partners, families and friends throughout the Festival is of enormous importance. I should like to extend my thanks to everyone in Somerset who has, and will, play a part in making this Festival a huge success.

While the causes that The Grand Charity supports are very serious in their nature, I sincerely hope that you, and your families and friends, have a terrific time fundraising through special events and other enjoyable activities.

Without your efforts, The Grand Charity could not continue to help the thousands of people it aims to support each year. I therefore express my heartfelt appreciation to all the members of the Province of Somerset.

Richard Hone, QC
President of the Grand Charity



I know that you and your families will support this Festival with your customary generosity and enthusiasm.

Provincial Grand Master for Somerset Stuart Hadler

Despite difficult economic times, Somerset Brethren are giving considerable support to the 2020 Festival in support of The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

Somerset has a strong record of helping those in need, demonstrated by considerable local giving as well as generous donations to the central Masonic Charities.

Rather than launch a Festival in the traditional way, I have built on the outstanding efforts of my predecessor RW Bro David Jenkins. By continuing to promote the benefit of Regular Giving as an efficient and relatively painless method of contributing, we have already raised over £1 million over the last three years. This is a tremendous start, which places us well on track to achieve the £2.8 million that I hope we will have raised by 2020.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is facing unprecedented demands on its resources, yet it continues to support not only our members and their dependants in need, but also a wide range of national and local charities.

My aim is that through this Festival, we put back into our Charities an equivalent to the help they give us.



I thank those who have already given generously, and I urge all Somerset Brethren to actively play their part, by contributing whole-hearted and generous support to achieving our goal for 2020.

"...the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart – charity... that blesses those who give as well as those who receive."

I know that you and your families will support this Festival with your customary generosity and enthusiasm.

Stuart Hadler
Provincial Grand Master



Festival aim – for each Brother to contribute what he can afford, taking his family's circumstances into account.



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2020 Festival plan for Somerset

We have nearly six years in which to demonstrate our practical support for The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

Festival aim

For each Brother to contribute what he can afford, taking his family's circumstances into account.

Festival Events Team

The Festival Team will be organising a range of social and fundraising events, so that we can enjoy ourselves with our families whilst supporting the 2020 Festival.

Some familiar, popular events will continue at intervals and some new ideas will be introduced. Your Lodge Charity Stewards welcome your interest and involvement to ensure the success of these events.

Guide to individual donors for charitable giving

The cost of one pint of beer a week is traditionally regarded as a guideline for a minimum weekly donation. Over the course of a year, donations at this level should exceed £200 to £300 including Gift Aid and interest.

All donations are valued; regular donations by banker's order (e.g. standing order, direct debit), are the simplest way to support the Festival.

Please speak to your Lodge Charity Steward for a Gift Aid form (for all types of donations) that

will enable you to make payments through your Lodge's Relief Chest. This is the most efficient way of donating.

A donation of **£300** will qualify for a **Steward's Jewel**.

Brethren who qualify are encouraged to wear the 2020 Festival Jewel (and bar when applicable) to show their support for the 2020 Festival and encourage others to see that they are supporting The Freemasons' Grand Charity.



Awards for Lodges and individuals

The **Ashlar Award System** recognises the amount contributed to the Festival by the Lodge.

2020 Festival - Target and Honorifics

The **Festival Target is £2.8 million**, which should be manageable if Brethren contribute on a regular basis, according to their means and in a tax-efficient manner under the Gift Aid scheme.

The target equates to the total value of support that will be received by Somerset Brethren and their dependants in the 13-year period since we last hosted a Festival in 2007. By ensuring that we at least 'put back into the Masonic Charities' a sum equal to the support we receive from them, we will play our part in enabling them to meet the increasing demands they face.

Festival Honorifics

The Festival contribution period is from **1st April 2011 to 31st March 2020**.

Lodge Honorifics take the form of Ashlars, which are awarded once a Lodge's contribution level equates to the following sums per member, including tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme and interest payments.

	1st Ashlar	2nd Ashlar	3rd Ashlar	4th Ashlar	5th Ashlar
Amount per Member	£200	£300	£400	£500	£700

The Honorifics for individuals are as follows. Tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme counts towards an individual's donation.

	Brother	Lady
Steward	£ 300	£ 150
Vice Patron	£ 500	£ 250
Patron	£1,000	£ 500
Grand Patron	£2,000	£1,000

Brethren qualifying as a Festival Steward will be able to obtain a Festival Jewel from the Provincial Grand Charity Steward. 'Bars' for jewels will be awarded to Patrons and Grand Patrons.



The assistance provided by the Charity can go a long way to improving the quality of a person's life.



© Riding for the Disabled Association



© British Red Cross

Providing support for Freemasons and their families

The Freemasons' Grand Charity provides assistance for Freemasons and their dependants who are experiencing financial hardship or need.

Grants are made towards:

- **Essential daily living costs** (e.g. utility bills and food)
- **Unexpected needs** (e.g. hardship faced following an accident, bereavement, redundancy, or other personal crisis)

The Grand Charity is focused on providing help and support to Freemasons and their dependants who are facing financial difficulties.

The Charity seeks to improve the quality of life of those who find themselves in financial need due to circumstances outside of their control.

During 2013, hundreds of individuals and families were helped to a total of **£3.7 million**.

Whilst the majority of those assisted are above retirement age and find it difficult to cope on a low income, in recent years there has been an increase in the number of younger applicants. Many have lost their jobs or businesses due to the economic downturn and are struggling financially.

The Grand Charity can also assist individuals who suffer from health issues that have left them unable to support themselves financially.

Each and every application for assistance is different, as each of our applicants' circumstances are unique.

Whatever the situation, the support provided by the Charity can go a long way to improving the quality of a person's life by removing financial concerns during difficult times.

Supporting the community

The Freemasons' Grand Charity also provides financial grants each year to support hundreds of non-Masonic charities. In recent years, disbursements in this category have been in the region of **£2.5 million per annum**.

Funding breakthroughs in Medical Research

Since 1981, The Grand Charity has played a part in finding effective treatments for a number of illnesses including, most recently, multiple sclerosis. A £1 million donation to Ovarian Cancer Action in 2008 funded vital scientific research as well as helping to raise awareness of the symptoms of the disease, encouraging more women to see their GPs as soon as possible.

Youth Opportunities

The Grand Charity donates to projects that provide opportunities for young people, helping them to realise their potential. A £500,000 donation to the Scout Association in recent years has enabled 7,300 young people to join Scouting.

Support for Vulnerable People

The Grand Charity aims to help people in a variety of difficult situations; serious illness, disability, homelessness, poverty and deprivation. For example, in 2013 the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) received

£75,000 to fund its volunteer and recruitment training programme. With nearly 20,000 dedicated volunteers, the RDA provides life-changing therapies to around 28,000 disabled children and adults every year.

Hospices

Each year, The Grand Charity funds over 230 hospice services. The money goes directly into caring as no contributions are made to capital appeals. A total of more than £10.5 million has been donated since 1984.

Air Ambulances

Since 2007, The Grand Charity has supported Air Ambulance charities in the delivery of their life-saving emergency services to a total of over £1.5 million.

Worldwide Disaster Relief

The Grand Charity seeks to respond quickly when natural disasters such as earthquakes and flooding occur throughout the world. Since 1981, nearly £2.4 million has been donated in emergency situations.



The Grand Charity in Somerset

The Grand Charity supports causes close to all of our hearts, none more so than those that help people in our own community.

Supporting Somerset Freemasons and their families

Over the last five years, The Grand Charity has assisted Freemasons and their dependants in Somerset, with 47 individuals receiving 59 Masonic Relief Grants totalling nearly £180,000.

The help that the Charity gives is only possible due to the dedication and hard work of Provincial Grand Almoners and Lodge Almoners, each of whom provides guidance and pastoral support in often challenging circumstances. It is through this partnership that they are able to ensure the wellbeing of their fellow Brethren and families.

Supporting the wider Somerset community

The following **local hospices** have received a total of over £280,000 from The Grand Charity since 1984: Children's Hospice South West (Charlton Farm), Dorothy House Hospice, St Margaret's Somerset Hospice, St Margaret's Yeovil, St Peter's Hospice and Weston Hospicecare.

Somerset air ambulance charities have received a total of £61,000 from The Grand Charity since 2007, helping this important life-saving service to operate.

- Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance £29,000
- Great Western Air Ambulance £32,000

Grants for charities in Somerset

Several national charities based in Somerset have received grants totalling £149,634 as part of The Grand Charity's major grants programme and national projects. Here are some examples.

Designability

In 2014, Designability received £25,000 to fund the manufacture of six powered wheelchairs called *Wizzybugs*. Through the charity's loan scheme, the Wizzybugs will transform the lives of at least 18 disabled pre-school children by helping them to get around with their peers and to learn spatial awareness.

Parkinson's UK

In 2011, a total of £250,000 was donated to Parkinson's UK. Each Provincial Grand Lodge and the Metropolitan Grand Lodge was given £5,000 to donate to a local Parkinson's UK branch.

The grant supported local branches, allowing them to decide how they spend their money to help improve the lives of people affected by Parkinson's.

British Institute for Brain Injured Children (bibic)

A major grant of £30,000 was given to bibic in 2007 to fund an IT equipment upgrade. Its mission is to help children aged from six months to 18 years, with conditions affecting their social, communication and learning abilities, to achieve their potential for a happier and more fulfilled life.



More grants for charities in Somerset

Shelter

In 2008, a major grant of £25,000 was donated to support Shelter's children's service, specifically homeless children, in South-West England. Shelter campaigns and provides services to ensure better housing for all.

Scout Association

Between 2008 and 2013, £500,000 was donated to the Scout Association, enabling over 7,000 young people to join the Scouting movement in recent years.

In Somerset, 18 grants enabled seven new sections to open, spanning the age groups from Beavers to Explorer Scouts. These sections involved 109 young people supported by 31 adults to join Scouting.

National Blind Children's Society

£25,000 was donated to the National Blind Children's Society in 2006 to provide IT equipment for 125 children to use at home, enabling blind and partially sighted children and young adults to achieve their educational and recreational goals.

Remedi

In 2001, a major grant of £15,934 was awarded to Remedi. The charity supports medical research projects in the UK, which will result in new rehabilitation procedures, improved medical equipment, services and facilities that dramatically improve the quality of life for babies, children and adults making the journey from illness or disability back to a normal life a reality.

Minor grants for charities in Somerset

In addition to The Grand Charity's major grants, minor grants are awarded to help smaller nationwide charities whose annual income does not exceed £1 million.

Minor grants in Somerset

Minor grants are given to smaller, nationwide charities. Grants range from £500 to £5,000 and can be used for general running and/or overhead costs of the charity (core funding).

Charities based in Somerset received support totalling £29,452. Here are a few of them:

- Anorexia and Bulimia Care £2,000
- Worldwide Volunteering for Young People £2,500
- Adventure Service Challenge £2,500

- Designability £9,500
- The Research Institute for the Care of the Elderly £2,952
- Wells Cathedral £10,000

In 2008 and 2011, The Grand Charity also donated a total of £10,000 to a variety of Somerset based charities through Matched-Funding grants. As the name suggests, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset and local Lodges also donated £10,000 to the charities.



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Emergency flood relief in Somerset during 2014

The wettest January since records began brought further misery to the thousands of people in Somerset already affected by flooding over the Christmas period. Supported by The Grand Charity, Freemasons in Somerset led the way in raising money for critically needed disaster relief and recovery efforts.

Disaster relief

The Grand Charity's emergency relief grants are given to assist communities in desperate need of help due to natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons.

Devastating flooding due to extreme weather systems regularly causes widespread destruction and chaos. This is exactly what happened in Somerset last winter when an estimated 5,000 properties were flooded, and thousands of acres of farmland and many houses were under water for up to six weeks.

Appeal response

In response to an appeal from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset, the President of the Grand Charity authorised an emergency grant of £25,000 to be donated to the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) to support relief efforts in the badly affected communities of the Somerset Levels.

This was in addition to £5,000 that was donated to the SCF and the Burnham-on-Sea Rescue Boat at the start of the crisis, bringing the total support for the flooded Somerset communities to £30,000.

Further support for flood victims in Somerset and beyond

While flooding affected many parts of England and Wales, Somerset was particularly devastated; entire villages were cut-off and hundreds of people were forced to abandon their homes and businesses.

National Support

In February 2014, the President of The Grand Charity authorised a second emergency grant of £20,000 for the British Red Cross, to help fund their relief efforts across Somerset and in other badly affected areas in England and Wales, where they provided desperately needed emergency shelters, food, first aid, advice and emotional support.

Thousands of people whose homes were flooded had their lives turned upside down. Many still face the financial and emotional hardship caused by losing so much of what they held close to their hearts. They have also had to spend months living in temporary

accommodation while trying to rebuild their lives and homes.

Rallying together

Understanding their desperate situation, many Freemasons across the country rallied together and generously contributed to fundraising efforts in the Provinces of Essex and Somerset, whose appeals raised more than £220,000 as of August 2014.

We should not forget how damaging the floods have been to peoples' lives, and why it is so important that we help with disaster relief efforts at home and abroad.



Donating to the Festival

It is now easier than ever to make donations to the Festival through Lodge Relief Chests.

Payments into your Lodge Relief Chest are simple, easy and tax efficient, and can be credited to the donor and his Lodge. They may be made using one or more of the following methods:

Regular donations

Ideally, all members in Somerset will support the Festival by making regular donations (e.g. monthly), contributing as much as they can afford taking into account their family's circumstances.

- **Post** - by sending a completed Direct Debit donation form to the Relief Chest Scheme office.
- **Online** - by completing an online Direct Debit donation form on The Grand Charity's website www.grandcharity.org

Single 'one-off' donations

- **Post** - by sending a cheque made payable to *The Freemasons' Grand Charity* together with a completed donation form to the Relief Chest Scheme office.
- **Telephone** - by contacting the Relief Chest on **020 7395 9349** using a Debit or Credit card.
- **Mobile phone** - from November 2014 the Festival Relief Chest will be able to receive single donations by text message.

Gift Aid envelopes

These are used for one-off donations and are ideal for Alms and other collections for the Festival. For example, money raised through social events and other fundraising events can be paid into a Lodge Relief Chest using Gift Aid envelopes.

Gift Aid tax relief

The Relief Chest Scheme is able to reclaim Gift Aid tax relief on all eligible donations, so donors can be reassured that they are maximising their giving.

Under the government's Gift Aid scheme, HMRC gives an extra 25p for every pound donated to The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

For further information on Gift Aid, please visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/gift-aid.htm

Transferring funds

Lodges can regularly transfer their donations and other monies raised into The Grand Charity's general fund via the Provincial Festival Relief Chest.

Once received by The Grand Charity, all Festival donations will be credited with a rate of interest at 1.75% p.a. above the current bank base rate, which is a higher rate than that earned by funds left in Lodge Relief Chests.



It is easy to donate and fundraise with the Relief Chest Scheme.



Fundraising online is easy with the Relief Chest

The Relief Chest Scheme has recently introduced a free online Fundraising Platform enabling you to donate online directly to the **Festival Relief Chest E0038**.

The facility is accessible through The Grand Charity's website www.grandcharity.org and allows donors to make a one-off donation or to sponsor individual fundraisers online.

Fundraising online

- Individual fundraisers can set up their own fundraising pages for challenge events, fun runs, walks, golf days, community fundraising and more.
- Fundraisers can receive donations through their page.
- Team pages can be introduced – e.g. Lodge members can join a 'fundraising team'.
- Fundraisers can update their page with news and photos.

- Fundraisers can share their page through social networks.

Donating online

- Donations can be made anywhere, anytime on a computer or smart device.
- The full value of donations will be credited to the Festival Relief Chest– no additional charges will be made.
- Gift Aid tax relief on eligible donations will be claimed.

If you have any questions about donating to the Festival please contact the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, the Assistant Provincial Grand Charity Stewards (listed on the back of this booklet) or the Relief Chest Scheme office.

To contact the Relief Chest office:

A: The Grand Charity, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ

T: 020 7395 9246

E: reliefchest@the-grand-charity.org

W: www.grandcharity.org





Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset

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