

## Quarterly Report – July 2015

At the recent meeting of the Management Committee of the Somerset Masonic Charities twenty applications were considered. With immediate Grants totalling £9,000 made to seven of those applicants. Further grants totalling £1000 were proposed from the Grassroots Fund of the Somerset Community Foundation, those applications are being deferred for further consideration with other applications.

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### **Age UK Charity No 1110455**

A charity serving the people in the Bath & North Somerset area, providing assistance and advice to older people. They crucially provide a 'Drop In' service which benefits over 3000 people across the area and provides general advice to all.



The current application is to set up a new 'Advocacy service', which extends the extant 'Information & Advice Service' currently in existence. Up to now this tends to fall short when some legal issues are present. It is intended that the new service will fix those shortcomings, to give individuals a stronger voice where 'hard to tackle' issues arise – The grant made will assist in developing partnerships with other organisations, allow home visits to the infirm, but in particular will help older people including brother masons, to resolve conflicts and ensure their rights are upheld.

A **Grant of £5,000** was approved from the Royston House Fund

### **Dulverton & District Young Peoples Project Charity No. 113445**

DDYPP's primary aim is to advance the education and development of children and young people aged 6 – 19 years living in the Dulverton and southern Exmoor area. By providing an open youth service. Where children and young people will be given the opportunity to develop and have access to the appropriate support structures to enable them to become responsible members of society and help improve their overall conditions of life.



The application is to ensure the continuation of DYPP's Junior's Club which serves around 80 young people in the 6-11 age range and 10 senior members from the 16-18 age range. By providing a programme of positive leisure time activities for children twice a week and the older young people are trained volunteer helpers

A **Grant of £500** was made from the Grassroots fund.

### **Genesis Trust Charity No. 1154253**

The Trust was established in 1995, particularly to bring help to the Homeless & Vulnerably Housed, including children, living in the Bath & North East Somerset Area (B&NES). It is a community based organisation which works on the basis of



leading people in assisting others and its activities include the provision of meals, household items (furniture), advice and signposting life skills and work placements. By this methodology the basic needs of some 600 people each month are either fully or partially catered for. In terms of food, sleep, clothing, shelter etc.

The Trust has made an application to assist in its Life skills educational project and programme. Having identified a need to provide essential, basic outdoor survival skills, chief of which is what is labelled the Foraging and Growing course. Here in addition to finding shelter the aim is to teach the clients how to find food by foraging in forest and woodland and to grow their own.

The Life Skills project of which this course is now part, has been running for over 5 years to provide free activity and training courses to those who struggle to fit in with mainstream employment models. 80% of clients having mild mental health issues, predominantly depression and with poor conception of self worth, all are unemployed and a third homeless.

A **Grant of £500** was approved from the Benevolent Fund

### **Golden Oldies Charity No 1121600**

This charity was established in 2008 to bring a positive change to marginalised people through structured daytime social activities that revolve around the therapy of singing to encourage participation and functional exercises. In particular the charity promotes and sustains independence in the increasing older population. Through such social activities which improve mental and physical health, through activities that break down many social barriers. The planned activities are open to everyone with the vast majority of participants being older "distressed" people. Many of these live in social isolation.



The events are also attended by adults with learning difficulties and disabilities and their carers. Clients who benefit suffer from Alzheimer's and Dementia. Thus the "Goldies" sessions give people a reason and more importantly the transport to get out, make friends and take active interest.

Last year the Golden Oldies hosted a Christmas BIG SING and such was the post event enthusiasm, that it is hoped they can afford to repeat that success again this year where it is anticipated that some 220 people would like to attend. The key to which is affordable transport. By awarding this grant the SMC has ensured that event will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at the Conygre Hall in Timsbury

A **Grant of £1200** was approved from the Royston House Fund

### **Mendip YMCA Charity No 1074660**

Provide a wide range of activities and support for young people and the community. With a focus on housing and homelessness and youth work to enabling all to belong, contribute and thrive



YMCA MENDIP

This application was placed before the SMC committee by the Kenneth Kinnersly Lodge No 9218 for consideration under the Lodge Match Funding Scheme. The incumbent master having selected it as his charity which resulted in a magnificent sum of £1,771 being raised. The committee were pleased to support the application.

A **Grant of £1000** From the Legacy Match Funding Scheme was awarded – So that a total of £2,771 might be awarded to the Association.

### **St Margaret's Hospice Charity No. 279473**

The work of this charity needs no introduction here. It is the chosen recipient of Richard Huish Lodge No 8518 who have themselves raised £500



St. Margaret's  
HOSPICE

A **Grant of £500** From the Legacy Match Funding Scheme was awarded to the application – Thereby contributing a total of £1000

### **Somerton Scout Group Charity No. 306101**

The Cub section of the group is attending *Cubjam*, a week long camp, at the home of scouting, Gilwell Park in London. Cubjam, celebrates 100 years of Cub Scouts as such this is an important socially connected activity, for young people. The group aims to take all those able to attend, but they have one child who comes from a particularly disadvantaged family, who will not be able to join in these activities unless the group can raise a bursary to directly cover the immediate costs of such intervention.



This child was placed with the scouting group 18 months ago by the Parent and Family support advisor based at his school; in order to deal and help with confidence and trust issues that will give him space to act as a child ought. The success of this intervention, is likely to be eroded should the child not be able to attend the 'cubfest' with the other members of the group. Whilst the his non-attendance would also be detrimental to the group as a whole.

A **Grant of £300** was approved and from the Grassroots Fund.

**David Maddern**  
Provincial Grand Charity Steward