



Quarterly Report from the Somerset Masonic Charities - October 2014

At a recent meeting of the Management Committee of the Somerset Masonic Charities thirteen applications for grants were considered. Ten grants, totalling £10,500 were awarded to the following organisations which provide a wide range of support to disadvantaged people in Somerset.

1st Nailsea Scout Group

Established in 1959, the group provides weekly activity to over 230 young people – 3 Beaver colonies, 3 Cub packs, 2 Scout troops + 1 explorer Unit. The group is in need of a trailer to facilitate its external activities and help them move equipment during their much needed re-location and refurbishment of their 'hut'.

A Grant of £250 From the Provincial Benevolent Fund was awarded to assist with this.

Above & Beyond - at the Bristol Royal Infirmary RI

Is dedicated to the raising of funds that will make a real difference to patient care in Bristol Hospitals. That charity touches the lives of more than 500,000 patients cared for in Bristol's nine city-centre hospitals each year as well as the millions of friends and family who visit them, as well as the 8,000 dedicated NHS staff who care for them.

A Grant of £5,000 will be used to fund two family rooms at the Intensive Care Units at the BRI, this will give family members a chance to have some privacy and dignity whilst their loved ones are going through the unit.

The grant was made on behalf of a donor who bequeathed a legacy recently received by the Province.

Autism Wessex

A Regional Charity established in 1968 – to support those affected by Autism – Their specific request is to fund an existing 'Drop in Group for Somerset Adults with Asperger's Syndrome, in Yeovil. Which aims to make a difference to the way this disability was being treated by Education and Medical Professionals. The Committee were pleased to award a grant to provide resources and equipment.

A Grant of £500 from the Provincial Benevolent Fund

Escape Support & Somerset Sight

Escape Support is a charity established to extend opportunities and Support for families in Somerset with children that require special needs.

Its aim is bring the whole family unit together in relaxed surroundings. Boost morale, increase confidence and improve social skills etc.

Somerset Sight – A Taunton based Charity, which provide services, training and leisure activities that will help maintain the independence and quality of life for anyone who is affected by sight loss

A joint grant of £1000 – Under the Lodge Match Funding Scheme, under the direction of the Lodge of Unanimity & Sincerity No 261 to enable them to present a sum of £1000 to each of the respective causes

Go Commando

The organisation is a major fund raising body for the Royal Marines Charitable Trust. In this case it is supporting the families of Norton Camp, Taunton with the provision of a crèche. Also open to the general community.

A Grant £650 Under the Lodge Match Funding Scheme, made with the direction of Queens College Lodge Taunton No 6988 – Grant of £650 to enable them to present a sum of £1300 to their chosen good cause.

Little Acorns Pre-School North Curry

A Local Charity – Established: 1993 to provide Early Years Foundation Stage Education to children aged 2-4. The intake to this school, comes from all sectors of the community including many that have been affected by the recent floods. The centre as the use of a multi-purpose building but would like to take advantage of an outside area, which will be reserved for the play-groups exclusive use. That area is intended, through the provision of equipment to foster imaginative play and expression. To make this facility viable, the Committee were pleased to make a grant that would enable a safe weather-proof Wetpour Rubber Surface floor to be installed.

A Grant of £1000 was made to them from the Grassroots fund.

Frome & District Phab

One of a network of clubs, that offer a diverse programme of activities – arts and crafts, quizzes, games, sports, discos etc. which promote and encourage self-confidence and independence in people of all abilities, that have a mobility impairment as a result of stroke, brain haemorrhage, MS and other degenerative diseases.

This application was made to assist the club, obtain general viability to their organisation and the Committee considered be worthy of support.

A grant of £600 made to them from the Grassroots fund

Mendip Disability Forum – Butleigh & Surrounding District

Established 2007 it has recently met many difficulties in carrying out its aim.

Mendip Disability Forum is independent organisation, whose clients tend to be over the age of 50 with an average of 25-30 attending each meeting. Many of their members come from outlying villages and are dependent on the minibus provided by Mendip Community Transport to enable them to attend. In consequence the group services as a singular point of social contact.

A grant of £500 made to them from the Grassroots fund

Somerset Waterways Development Trust

Offers free boating experiences for the disabled and disadvantaged young people of Somerset. With 60 volunteers involved on the project, 45 of whom are between the ages of 60 and 84. (The younger volunteers are mostly people who are long term unemployed due to mental ill health).

They have recently acquired a new boat (The Wooden Spoon of Somerset) which was launched in May this year, and although income has been good, there is a need to pay back the loans and equip it for the new season. The Wooden Spoon is so called because it was donated by the Somerset Branch of the Wooden Spoon charity. The boat operates on the River Tone. Its work is well known in the area

A grant of £1000 made to them from the Grassroots fund

David Maddern

Provincial Grand Charity Steward