

**EAST LANCASHIRE**  
**MARK BENEVOLENT FUND LIMITED**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**



I have pleasure in presenting the Fortieth Annual Report of the Benevolent Fund for the year ended 5th April 2007.

The Brethren of the Province have given magnificent support to the Fund during the last Financial year. There has been a considerable increase in the number of

Covenanted and Gift Aided Donations which has resulted in £7,004 being donated, an increase of £1,525 compared to last year. These Covenanted and Gift Aided donations have enabled us to claim £1,820 back from H.M. Revenue & Customs, an increase of £493 over last year.

Mark and RAM Lodges have donated £11,737, a decrease £748 on the previous year.

We have received £1,820 in Donations from Brethren, which included £1,459 from the Charity Night held under the banner of Friendship Mark Lodge.

We have received a further £4,740 additional and final payment to the Bequest of last year.

The total of all Donations was £27,262. Bank Interest and Dividends totalled £18,521 compared with £17,936 the previous year.

The rental income from the Bolton and Blackburn properties was £71,512 compared to £66,235 last year, reflecting not just an increase in rents but also a higher occupancy rate. Expenditure on Maintenance and Insurance was £63,020 compared to £56,540 the previous year. During the year all the central heating boilers in the Blackburn properties were replaced with modern units.

During the year Grants totalling £38,550 were made to:-

	£
Macmillan Nurses Cancer Relief	10,000
Cancer Research – Prostate Cancer	10,000
Staffs and Shropshire 2007 Mark Festival	6,000
St. John's, Gt. Manchester, Foundation Stone	500
Provincial Almoners Fund	7,500
Springhill Hospice	1,000
Attention Deficit Disorder in Children	1,000
East Lancashire Masonic Charity	1,000
East Manchester Community Boat Project	250
Smithills School Brass Band	500
Other Grants	800

Income for the year exceeded expenditure by £15,416.

This report should contain a brief outline of our spending intentions for the immediate future. It is intended to make the Fourth instalments (each of £10,000) of our £50,000 Grants, spread over 5 years, to Macmillan Nurses East Lancashire Appeal and to Christie Hospital Prostrate Cancer Appeal. We will again support the annual Mark Festival with a Grant of £6000, which next year will be held in Leicestershire and Rutland. The East Manchester Community Boat Project will receive a further £250 grant following our agreement to support them for a period of 5 years. Relief will be given, via the Provincial Almoner, to deserving cases, as required.

The Committee of Management are most grateful to the Lodge Almoners, Charity Stewards and all Donors for their generous support during the past year and look forward to this continuing in the future.

J Crawford  
Treasurer