

EAST LANCASHIRE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND LIMITED

FINANCIAL REPORT

I have pleasure to present the Forty First Annual Report of the Benevolent Fund for the year ended 5th April 2008.

Covenanted and Gift Aided Donations are slightly reduced from £7,004 last year to £6,757 this year a reduction of £247. These Covenanted and Gift Aided donations have enabled us to claim £1,901 back from HM Revenue & Customs.

Mark and RAM Lodges have donated £12,481, an increase £744 on the previous year.

We have received £200 in Donations from Brethren, which is a reduction of £1620 compared to last year this being mainly due to the absence of a Charity night during this financial year. In addition we received £1,500 from the Allied Masonic District with the request that we add this amount to our next Grant to Cancer Research.

We received a total of £ 675 in Bequests and in memoriam. (£4,740 last year).

The total of all Donations was £23,514 (£27,262 last year)

Bank Interest and Dividends totalled £23,157 compared with £18,521 the previous year.

The rental income from the Bolton and Blackburn properties was £74,357 compared to £71,512 last year, reflecting not just an increase in rents but also a high occupancy rate. Expenditure on Maintenance and Insurance was £65,721 compared to £63,020 the previous year. During the year major roofing repairs were carried out on part of the Priors Close property.

During the year Grants totalling £35,900 were made to the following recipients:-

	£
Macmillan Nurses Cancer Relief	10,000
Cancer Research – Prostate Cancer	10,100 *
Leicester & Rutland 2008 Mark Festival	6,000
Provincial Almoners Fund	5,000
Bolton Mountain Rescue	2,000
East Manchester Community Boat Project	1,000
Smithills School Brass Band	500
Colne First Aid Services	500
Other Grants	800

* Includes £100 donation from Donald Maitland Davies RC Chapter No.1086.

Income for the year exceeded expenditure by £16,491.

Spending intentions for the immediate future include making the fifth & final instalments (each of £10,000) of our £50,000 Grants, spread over 5 years, to Macmillan Nurses East Lancashire Appeal and to Christie Hospital Prostate Cancer Appeal. We will support the annual Mark Festival with a Grant of £10,000, which next year will be held in Cumberland and Westmoreland. The East Manchester Community Boat Project will receive a further £1000 grant following our 5 year agreement to sponsor a seat on their canal boat and assist with their waterways licence fee. Relief will be given, through 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.

John Crawford
Treasurer