



## **DOWN MASONIC WIDOWS' FUND**

(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)

**Reports and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31st January 2024**

# **Down Masonic Widows' Fund**

(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)

---

## **Contents of the Reports and Financial Statements**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Legal and Administrative information	3
Report of the Trustees	4
Report of the Independent Examiner	5
Subscriptions/Donations and Annuities Account	6
Revenue Account	7
Balance Sheet	8

# Down Masonic Widows' Fund

(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)

---

**Charity Name:** Down Masonic Widows' Fund

**Charity Registration Number:** NIC 100079

**Patrons:** The Most Worshipful The Grand Master of Ireland  
The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Down  
The Most Excellent District Grand King of Down

**President:** R.W. Bro. D. H. Smyth

**Chairman:** R.W. Bro. W. G. I. Ritchie

**Trustees:** R.W. Bro. D. H. Smyth  
R.W. Bro. W. G. I. Ritchie  
R.W. Bro. N. W. Sufferin  
R.W. Bro. E. J. Williamson  
R.W. Bro. D. R. Woodrow  
R.W. Bro. I. A. Kirkpatrick  
R.W. Bro. S. Snodden  
W. Bro. G. Anketell

**Honorary Secretary:** R.W. Bro. N. W. Sufferin  
Beagh Lodge  
1 The Grange  
Lisburn  
BT28 3XX  
[secretary@downwidows.org](mailto:secretary@downwidows.org)

**Honorary Treasurer:** R.W. Bro. D. R. Woodrow  
8 The Grange  
Saintfield  
BT24 7NF  
[treasurer@downwidows.org](mailto:treasurer@downwidows.org)

**Independent Examiner:** R. Savage & Company Limited  
Certified Public Accountants  
Old Bank House  
2 Crossgar Road  
Saintfield  
BT24 7BD

**Website:** [www.downwidows.org](http://www.downwidows.org)

**E-mail:** [secretary@downwidows.org](mailto:secretary@downwidows.org)

## **DOWN MASONIC WIDOWS' FUND**

**Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2024**

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The Down Masonic Widows' Fund was founded in 1893 as the idea of a Doctor Cromie.

The Fund is governed by the Board of Trustees and ably assisted by the Office Bearers. The Chairman, Fund Treasurer and Fund Secretary constitute the Executive Committee.

#### **Financial Review**

The Fund covers that part of the Province of County Down outside a six-mile radius of Belfast covering the Masonic Districts of Banbridge, Bangor, Downpatrick, Newry and Newtownards supporting widows of deceased brethren situated within these districts.

The Down Masonic Widows' Fund has a commercial property and investment portfolio approx. £2.11 million which currently realises approx. £158,000.00 net rental income per annum and together with donations from the aforementioned Masonic Districts the combined annual income assists with payment of annuities to the widows, providing finance for an annual outing and a bereavement grant to a widow on the death of a deceased brother. In addition, the derived income also provides a platform for the Trustees to enhance and secure the fund for future years.

#### **Custodian trustee**

The Charity and trustees do not hold assets on behalf of others.

#### **Public benefit statement**

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by 'The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland' in exercising their powers and duties.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The Fund is established with the object of the provision of assistance to widows to enable them to meet their day to day financial needs in order to make their remaining years more manageable, by :-

- The provision of financial assistance on an ongoing basis to assist eligible widows to make ends meet.
- The provision of immediate and urgent financial assistance if needed, or required on the death of their partner.
- The provision of social occasions for groups of widows.
- The provision of advice to an individual widow on her entitlement to any further state benefits.

#### **Achievements and performance**

During the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, the fund made payment by way of annuities and finance for a bereavement grant on the death of a deceased brother which totalled more than £145,000. Any shortfall from donations from the brethren being ably covered by investment income. Most of the grants have been made to heighten and enhance the welfare and quality of life for those who would otherwise struggle to exist on the minimum income. The financial performance of the fund continues to be impacted due to a reduction in membership and the challenges facing the retail property rental market. These two factors will continue to impact the financial performance of the fund for the foreseeable future.

## **Independent examiner's report:**

**To the Trustees of "The Down Masonic Widows' Fund".  
(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)**

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- a) examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- b) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- c) to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

We have examined the accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Our examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1) Which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and
  - b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008 and section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations have not been met or
- 2) To which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



A.F.A. M.I.P.A.

R SAVAGE & COMPANY LTD  
Certified Public Accountants  
Old Bank House 2 Crossgar Road  
Saintfield BT24 7BD  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Down Masonic Widows' Fund

(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)

Donations/Legacies Account Income	31st January 2024 £		31st January 2023 £	
Down Masonic Widows' Fund	705		600	
Banbridge District Masonic Charity Committee	23,487		20,343	
Bangor District Masonic Charity Committee	10,635		3,911	
Downpatrick District Masonic Charity Committee	14,576		10,529	
Newry District Masonic Charity Committee	9,965		8,511	
Newtownards District Masonic Charity Committee	10,194	69,562	6,706	50,600
	<u>10,194</u>		<u>6,706</u>	
<b>Gift Aid</b>				
Down Masonic Widows' Fund	1,394		1,264	
Banbridge District Masonic Charity Committee	3,249		2,879	
Bangor District Masonic Charity Committee	2,465		1,465	
Downpatrick District Masonic Charity Committee	5,451		3,616	
Newry District Masonic Charity Committee	961		549	
Newtownards District Masonic Charity Committee	2,947	16,467	1,386	11,159
	<u>2,947</u>		<u>1,386</u>	
	86,029		61,759	
<b>Other Districts/Provinces</b>				
Provincial Grand Lodge of Down	1,626		647	
District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Down	1,751		1,508	
Provincial Priory of South Ulster	123		-	
Other (detailed below)	6,745	10,245	5,569	7,724
	<u>6,745</u>		<u>5,569</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<u>96,274</u>		<u>69,483</u>	

Grants etc. to Annuitants Expenditure	31st January 2024 £		31st January 2023 £	
Banbridge District Masonic Charity Committee	40,240		35,520	
Bangor District Masonic Charity Committee	13,230		11,450	
Downpatrick District Masonic Charity Committee	29,360		25,310	
Newry District Masonic Charity Committee	20,760		16,940	
Newtownards District Masonic Charity Committee	27,280	130,870	22,370	111,590
Bereavement Grants		10,420		16,800
Widows Teas		3,781		-
	<u>27,280</u>		<u>22,370</u>	
	145,071		128,390	
<b>Total</b>	<u>145,071</u>		<u>128,390</u>	
<b>(Deficit)</b>	<u>(48,797)</u>		<u>(58,907)</u>	

<b>Other</b>	
Portaferry Mason Lodge 104	2,000
Royal Down RAC 207	100
United Masonic Charity Committee	800
Anonymous	50
The Down Lodge of installed Masters No. 382	1,000
Lisburn and District Masonic Charity	55
Lodge Ireland 2000	750
St Comgalls Preceptory	275
The Province of Down Chapter 14	200
Anonymous	50
Tesco Mobile Community Fund	1,000
Carrickfergus & District Masomic Charity Committee	20
Rosetta PM Chapter XVIII	445

6,745

# Down Masonic Widows' Fund

(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)

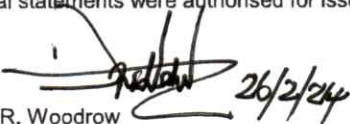
Revenue Account	31st January 2024		31st January 2023	
Income	£		£	
Rents/Service Charges	186,310		169,954	
Ground Rent	-		11	
Bank Interest	1,564		513	
125th Anniversary Jewels	290		20	
Amazon Smile	88		136	
NI Water Refund	-		12,122	
Gain/(Loss) on investment	26,331	214,583	(5,881)	176,875
	<b>Total</b>	<b>214,583</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>176,875</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<u>Property</u>				
Management Fees, Service charges and repairs	27,551		21,156	
Adjustment to Provision for expenditure	(16,000)		8,000	
Adjustment to Provision for bad debt	-		(4,104)	
<u>Governance</u>				
Secretary/Treasurer Expenses	1,600		1,600	
Independent Examiners Fees	1,200		1,100	
Bank Fee	155		133	
Insurance	535		524	
AGM Expenses	200		25	
Sundry Expenses	1,860	17,101	722	29,156
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,101</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,156</b>
	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>197,482</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>147,719</b>
<b>Summary of Accounts</b>				
Donations/Legacies Account	(Deficit)	(48,797)	(58,907)	
Revenue Account	Surplus	197,482	147,719	
	Net surplus	148,685	88,812	


# Down Masonic Widows' Fund

(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)

Balance Sheet	31st January 2024 £	31st January 2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<b>Investments:</b>		
Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities	100,000	
Quilter Cheviot	414,427	288,096
<b>Commercial Property:</b>		
445/449 Ormeau Road, Belfast	392,500	392,500
Unit 2 Wallace Buildings, Lisburn	175,000	175,000
15/21 The Square, Ballyclare	550,000	550,000
Unit 2 Sinclair Buildings, Belfast	479,293	479,293
<b>Tangible assets</b>	<u>2,111,220</u>	<u>1,884,889</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	37,193	54,387
General Account	14,760	10,152
Annuity Account	-	1,860
Reserve Account	30,000	110,140
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>81,953</u>	<u>176,539</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
H M Revenue and Customs - VAT	9,925	9,005
Breavement Grants	-	-
Annuity Grants	-	1,860
Provision for Liabilities	2,000	18,000
Provision for Bad Debt	-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>11,925</u>	<u>28,865</u>
<b>Nett Current Assets</b>	70,028	147,674
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<u>2,181,248</u>	<u>2,032,563</u>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>		
<b>Opening Net Capital</b>	2,032,563	1,943,751
Subscriptions/Donations - Surplus/(Deficit)	(48,797)	(58,907)
Revaluation Reserve - Surplus/(Deficit)		
Revenue Account - Surplus/(Deficit)	197,482	147,719
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	148,685	88,812
<b>Closing Net Capital</b>	<u>2,181,248</u>	<u>2,032,563</u>

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Treasurer and Chairman:

  
R.W. Bro D.R. Woodrow  
Treasurer

  
R.W. Bro W. G. I. Ritchie  
Chairman



## Down Masonic Widows' Fund

(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)

### Summary of Subscriptions/Annuities

The following calculations do not form part of the Financial Statements. They are for Lodge information only.

Year ending 31st January	District		Other £	Total £	Annuities £	Surplus/ (Deficit) £
	Charity Committees £	Centenary Appeal £				
1986	39,470		16,062	55,532	55,520	12
1987	40,402		16,690	57,092	80,950	(23,858)
1988	44,685		13,097	57,782	72,175	(14,393)
1989	48,796		17,803	66,599	81,595	(14,996)
1990	54,185		12,076	66,261	84,975	(18,714)
1991	56,882		13,166	70,048	86,165	(16,117)
1992	57,908		21,579	79,487	88,550	(9,063)
1993	58,989		18,889	77,878	89,240	(11,362)
1994	60,480	13,113	10,409	84,002	91,150	(7,148)
1995	79,227		8,439	87,666	95,410	(7,744)
1996	70,332		5,442	75,774	100,690	(24,916)
1997	70,403		10,975	81,378	109,600	(28,222)
1998	76,231		5,154	81,385	106,600	(25,215)
1999	82,456		5,432	87,888	112,125	(24,237)
2000	80,369		5,200	85,569	110,180	(24,611)
2001	80,563		4,481	85,044	115,110	(30,066)
2002	92,367		4,905	97,272	113,250	(15,978)
2003	94,382		14,078	108,460	109,300	(840)
2004	94,860		4,805	99,665	104,430	(4,765)
2005	88,033		3,000	91,033	105,600	(14,567)
2006	123,690		3,600	127,290	114,900	12,390
2007	88,827		4,755	93,582	120,450	(26,868)
2008	102,501		6,299	108,800	110,000	(1,200)
2009	93,394		4,292	97,686	113,000	(15,314)
2010	107,830		7,375	115,205	125,150	(9,945)
2011	96,576		5,219	101,795	139,800	(38,005)
2012	80,465		5,521	85,986	139,100	(53,114)
2013	98,450		2,932	101,382	157,904	(56,522)
2014	84,682		6,409	91,091	139,712	(48,621)
2015	88,345		4,548	92,893	144,149	(51,256)
2016	88,365		9,146	97,511	161,608	(64,097)
2017	77,173		6,501	83,674	150,238	(66,564)
2018	78,859		13,866	92,725	153,136	(60,411)
2019	78,230		9,548	87,778	157,805	(70,027)
2020	81,673		40,574	122,247	150,696	(28,449)
2021	65,456		4,876	70,332	149,430	(79,098)
2022	48,223		6,229	54,452	136,780	(82,328)
2023	61,759		7,724	69,483	128,390	(58,907)
2024	86,029		10,245	96,274	145,071	(48,797)

# Down Masonic Widows' Fund

(Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number NIC 100079)

---

## Donation and Annuity Analysis for the year ended 31st January 2024

District Masonic Charity Committees	Number of Members	Donations	Donation per Member	Number of Annuitants	Paid to Annuitants
Banbridge	669	£26,736	£ 40	42	£40,240
Bangor	401	£13,100	£ 33	13	£13,230
Downpatrick	532	£20,027	£ 38	23	£29,360
Newry	455	£10,926	£ 24	17	£20,760
Newtownards	514	£13,141	£ 26	22	£27,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>£83,931</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>£130,870</b>

### Number of Annuitants

Full Annuitants	82
Reduced Annuitants	24
Annuitants in Care Homes	11
	<u>117</u>