

JULY 2021 NEWS

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 20th July 2021. It was preceded by the AGM of the Charity. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, it was the first time that the Trustees had been able to get together in person since March 2020, previous meetings having been held by video-conference. It was an occasion of great joy for this reason.

AGM

Two new Trustees were welcomed, Brothers David Brinkley of Sheffield Hallamshire Circle, a former Director of Province 3, and Denis Murphy of Broxbourne Circle, currently Director of Province 14. They replace Brothers David O'Malley and David Rowley who were retiring.

The Chairman's Annual Report was approved, as were the Statutory Report and Accounts for The Catenian Association Benevolent & Trustees Fund and for Catena Trustees Ltd. The Chairman's Report and the two sets of Statutory Reports & Accounts may be downloaded from the Home Page by selecting "Useful Info" and the "Downloads"

TRUSTEES' MEETING

At the beginning of the meeting, Peter Devine was elected Chairman of Trustees and David Cawdery as Vice-chairman, both for 2021/22. Mark Allanson spoke on behalf of all Trustees thanking Mike O'Malley for his 25 years of service as a Trustee, the last seven being as Chairman. Mike then vacated the Chairman and left the meeting to the applause of all present.

Seven awards were made, with grants totalling £30,934 and loans totalling £200,000. One of the awards was to confirm a decision made by the Emergency Committee since the previous meeting in May. Five awards were made to beneficiaries living in Britain and two were paid in local currencies to Catenians belonging to Circles in territories outside Britain.

Thirteen cases were reviewed. These are cases where a loan has been made previously and remains outstanding. The Trustees review such cases at intervals of no longer than two years. Occasionally, a beneficiary might offer to start making repayments; more often, it is appropriate to offer additional assistance; most often the file is put away for a further review in two years time.

A further 11 cases were considered, either as a result of actions arising from previous meetings or correspondence being received. Three lump sum repayments had been received since the meeting in May. They amounted to £92,600.

Three "thank you" letters were received from those the Trustees had helped at previous meetings, or from someone on their behalf. The Trustees are always pleased to receive such letters. Sometimes they come from a brother or other beneficiary who has recently received help: some come as a follow up to full repayment, either as a lump sum or in instalments.

The next meeting of Trustees is on Tuesday 21st September 2021.