

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWS:

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 21st September 2021. All Trustees were present.

Four awards were made, with grants totalling £16,523 and loans £61,646 in loans: total £78,169. There had been no applications requiring the attention of the Emergency Committee since the last meeting. Two of the awards were made to beneficiaries living in Britain and two were made in local currencies to beneficiaries in Circles outside Britain.

Twelve 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 28 cases were considered, either as a result of actions arising from previous meetings or correspondence being received. One loan had been repaid in full.

One “thank you” letter was received from a brother that the Trustees had helped at previous meetings. 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.

Notice has been received from Virgin Money Giving that they would cease to accept donations on 30th November 2021 prior to closing down the operation altogether. An alternative supplier to connect with the “Donate” button on the website is being sought.

The next meeting of Trustees is on Tuesday 16th November 2021.

To summarise the activity in the first half of the financial year, i.e. April-September 2021:

- Nine grants awarded - £57,631;
- Eight loans awarded - £340,342;
- Six loans repaid;
- Thirty seven loans reviewed;
- Seven thank you letters received;
- 718 items of correspondence received in the office (post and email);
- 465 items of correspondence sent.