

## JANUARY 2022 NEWS

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the fifth meeting of this financial year was on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022. All Trustees were present.

Grants totalling £64,900 and loans of £60,000 were awarded to eight applicants. The total awarded at the meeting was thus £124,900. These awards included confirmation of awards made by the Emergency Committee in two cases. The Emergency Committee has limited, though usually effective, authority to provide help where waiting until the next meeting of Trustees might create more difficulties for an applicant. It is sometimes called upon to act very quickly when there is urgent need.

Five “open” cases, i.e. where there is a loan outstanding, were turned up for two-yearly review. In three of these cases, the Trustees concluded after careful consideration that there was no realistic prospect of the beneficiaries ever being able to repay the loans and re-designated them as grants.

Four of the awards were made to beneficiaries living in Britain and four were made in local currencies to beneficiaries in Circles outside Britain.

A further 18 cases were considered by the Trustees either as matters arising from the previous meeting or from correspondence received, making 31 cases considered in total..

No loans were repaid in full since the previous meeting in November. There are a number of brothers who have previously received loans who make regular monthly repayments.

Five “thank you” letters were received from brothers and widows 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.

The next meeting of Trustees is on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. A summary of 2021/22 will be provided after that meeting