

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWS:

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 20th September 2022. Seven Trustees were present with two apologies for absence.

Seven awards were made, with grants totalling £11,109 and £94,083 in loans: total £105,202. One application had required the attention of the Emergency Committee since the previous meeting. Five of the awards were made to beneficiaries living in Britain and two were made in local currencies to beneficiaries in Circles outside Britain.

Seven 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 19 cases were considered, either as a result of actions arising from previous meetings or correspondence being received. One loan had been repaid in full.

Two “thank you” letters were received from beneficiaries 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 15th November 2022.

To summarise the activity in the first half of the financial year, i.e. April-September 2022:

- Seven grants awarded - £39,559;
- 12 loans awarded - £160,055;
- Four loans repaid;
- 24 loans reviewed;
- 10 thank you letters received;
- 796 items of correspondence received in the office (post and email);
- 600 items of correspondence sent.