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PATRON: Ken Jarrold CBE

BENEVOLENT FUND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO AGM 2021

What a strange time it has been for the World. The Retirement Fellowship has continued though, with a strong Board of Trustees guiding us through the problems of the pandemic.

Sadly of course, 2020 was such an extraordinary time when all Branches were unable to meet, but the Benevolent Fund kept going and there were grants made to our needy members.

I am pleased to say that through the awful pandemic year from January 2020 grants were made to a total of £2,400.00, and we are still giving for this year. Now I think that is pretty wonderful, and our thanks go to the Benevolent Fund Committee who give their time to undertake this, often sad and heart breaking task. The Benevolent Fund still needs your help to continue this support to our members.

You will remember in 2019, I stood with a bucket at conference and £477 was raised. My own branch in Basildon had pledged for 2020 that any extra monies raised would go to the Benevolent Fund, of course that didn't happen because we didn't meet, but I am hoping we can go back to it in 2022, we did make one donation in January 2020, that being the only month we met. Could your branches do something similar, helping to keep this very worthy and much needed Fund up and running through 2022?

You will all know now that I stepped down from the Board of Trustees from March 2021, sadly I was unable to continue as the Chairman of the Benevolent Fund as our Benevolent Fund Constitution clearly states that the Chairman must be a member of the Board of Trustees.

The grants may not seem very big, but when they come at just the right time, they are very much appreciated.

So I leave you with that thought.

Keep well and safe.

Thank you everyone.

Audrey Harris

October 2021