

The Portsmouth Lodge No.487

Almoner's Report

23rd May 2025

WM, Brother Wardens, Brethren All,

I want to start this Almoner's report by firstly welcoming back our Worshipful Master, WBro Rob Banks. You have certainly been missed during your absence, and I'm sure I say this on behalf of everyone here this evening, and that's how great it is to have you back here with us once again, and occupying your rightful place in the chair of king Solomon. So Welcome Back Worshipful Master!

It's been a little busy as regards to Almoner's duties during the month of May, and i really have to thank those who have assisted me by reporting illnesses and concerns for our fellow Brethren, so that i can follow up, and make sure they all know, our thoughts and prayers are with them, and any help they may need is only a call away!

So thank you to all those that passed on any reports or concerns they had onto me.

So, back at the beginning of May, May the 9th to be exact, our Admired Brother, WBro Barry Filer sadly had a fall out of bed and banged his head, causing a nasty gash. He was taken to hospital to have some scans, and to be thoroughly checked out, and I'm glad to say, all was well, and to Barry's delight he was allowed to go home later that evening, supporting a new and very fashionable head piece!

It's lovely to see you here with us again though Barry! And just a little bit of friendly advice from your almoner though, and that's to stop putting yourself through these things, just to get a glimpse at those nurses again!

It was reported to me a few days later that WBro Howard Bownes wife Dot had been admitted to QA with a chest infection. So Howard a call to find out how Dot was and passed on all our love to her, and made sure Howard knew that we were all thinking of him, and Dot, and if there was anything he needed, or anything I could do, i would do my best to help.

I phoned Him again this afternoon for an update on Dot and he informed me that she was allowed back home last night, and they are now back together and resting at home. He Gives is apologies for not being with us tonight and past on his regards to everyone, and I made sure he knew we are all thinking of them both, and we will raise a glass to him when the hands hit the square.

I phoned and spoke to WBro Norman Horsey after a concerned member hadn't been able to get hold of him. We had a lovely chat, but he did explain he's been suffering recently with his heart troubles alot more, so i offered assistance, and if there was anything i could do, but he explained that he has his son who looks after him, so I just made him aware that if he needs any futher assistance, we are all here for him.

As Almoner, it's also part of my duty to speak with past members too. So, as it's our White Table evening this month, I thought what a great opportunity it was to try and contact Bro Simon reeves, to see if he was back home and if so, ask him to join us. Unfortunately though, he's been deployed to the middle east for a few months, so unable to join us all this time, but did say he will definitely try to come along to our White Table evening at Christmas if he's back home. I passed on everyone's regards, and he passed on his, and he wished everyone well.

I spoke with Carol Russell, WBro Chris Russell's wife in regards to Chris, and she informed me that Chris has now unfortunately developed severe mobility issues, and now wheelchair bound. He is no longer at Harry Sotnick House, and back with carol at home, which carol is obviously pleased about. But with Chris's blindness, and now mobility issues, its also very hard work for her.

I did say I will pop round very soon, to have a nice catch up with them both, and help out with anything they may need, and I'll obviously keep you all posted on that.

And lastly, I was informed our past Almoner, WBro Bob Blackman, had been admitted into hospital.

So I phoned his very close friend and house sitter Michelle, who explained he had been admitted into hospital on 19th may with very swollen legs.

He had been moved wards a couple of times, so she couldn't remember what ward he was in, and he also had no mobile with him, so I was unable to phone him direct.

I phoned Michelle again this morning for any update on Bob, and I'm happy to say he was coming out either later today or tomorrow which was great to hear, and I said I will pop by to see them both after my hospital appointment next Wednesday, and i will keep you all updated.

I told Michelle to give him our regards when she sees him, and if either of them needed anything at all, don't hesitate to call me.

I hope that wasn't too long winded this month Worshipful Master, but that concludes my Almoner's report.

Thank you.