

THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

Charity Steward:
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Charity Steward Report – November 2025

Freemasonry supporting the Royal British Legion and Armed Forces:

Portsmouth is the home of the Royal Navy. We have to remember those of all forces who have given their lives for our country. The RBL is there for anyone who wants the support. Remembrance day is not about one day, it's 365 days a year, all the time. This year's appeal marked a special partnership being forged between the RBL and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Freemasons. A Bumper £4,000 was raised at a recent dinner for local military charities. Jon Whitaker, head of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Freemasons, said the organisation has always had a strong connection to the armed forces, and a lot of members are signed up to the RBL. "We have a lot of ex service personnel and reservists". We have a great affinity and our values are very similar to those in the armed forces. We're setting up the relationship because we think it's really important to remember those who came before us and defended our country."

I had great pleasure in handing over a £200.00 donation on behalf of the Brethren of the Lodge to the Solent Diabetes Association in Fareham on Thursday 13th November. I met their Chair of Trustees and staff, so thank you Brethren, as they work very hard to improve the lives of people with diabetes in our area. I hope you managed to see the photo of the handover on our website.

Hampshire & IOW Province

No further updates are available at this time.

For More information see: -<https://hantsiowfreemasons.org/members-area/welfare/>

The Portsmouth Lodge as of 06/10/2025 has:-

a) Pledged **£22,362** - to the **Hampshire and I.O.W 2027 Festival** which is **95%** towards our Silver Honorific of **£23,500**

b) a **Charity Account** balance of - **£1,608.13**

For Worshipful Master Charity - £ 523.00

For IPM Worshipful Master Charities - £ 0.00

For Charity Steward disbursement - £1,085.13

c) a **Relief Chest** balance of - **£ 1,458.09**

Year to Date Receipts - £ 1,445.00

Year to Date Donations - £ 1,100.00

At the December meeting a Notice of motion will be given for:

A sum not exceeding £200.00 be allocated to, The Friends of the Homeless in Fareham and Gosport, a charity which started The Basics Bank in July 2003. The Basics Bank provides short term practical support to anyone in a crisis or emergency situation. In the past 12 months the Basics Bank has dealt with some 3000 referrals for people in our community who find themselves facing a crisis and who don't have enough money to buy food. Parcels include basic food and toiletries and other essentials. To access the service, a voucher is required. This can only be obtained through agencies that come into contact with people who are likely to need assistance. These include Citizens Advice, Local Authorities, services provided through the NHS, Schools, Doctors' Surgeries etc'. They rely on these agencies to confirm the need and to manage the relationship with their client. The raffle in December will be for this charity.

Also, at the Christmas dinner there will be a collection for those wearing xmas jumpers etc' for 'SCRATCH' A charity to combat hardship to which the Masonic motorcycle lodge (The Widows Sons) set up a toy appeal each year. A sum of two pounds for wearing xmas attire would be appreciated.
W.Bro Gareth Manson will be collecting the monies.

Charities Donated to in 2025

From The Lodge Charity Account: -

Date	Charity	Charity Number	Donation
Apr 25	Prostate Cancer Research	1156027	£ 250
Apr 25	Friends of Zetland Court		£ 100
Sept 25	Portsmouth Down Syndrome As	1147355	£1,400
Sept 25	Miscarriage Association	1076829	£1,400
Oct 25	Solent Diabetes Association	1141865	£ 200
Nov 25	Oakhaven Hospice	900215	£ 150
Total			£3,500

From The Lodge Relief Chest: -

Date	Charity	Charity Number	Donation
Jan 25	Cancer Research UK	1089464	£250
Jan 25	Prostate Cancer UK	1005541	£50
Jan 25	Hearing for Dogs	293358	£50
Jan 25	Key to Joy	1201453	£250
Mar 25	MCF 2030 Festival - Surrey (Crime and Craft Talk)		£250
May 25	Moving on Project	1147632	£250
Total			£1,100

Scan the QR code at the top right-hand corner to **donate** to the MCF Festival or our Lodge Relief Chest.

Bro Mike Crick
Charity Steward