

# THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

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## Almoner Report

27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Worshipful Master, Brother Wardens, and Brethren all,

Firstly, please accept my sincere apologies for my absence at the Installation Meeting. I was unfortunately already committed to being away with my family in Wales and I must confess, the rugby was an additional draw that I could not resist.

Nevertheless, from a sunny Cardiff, I extend my warmest congratulations to our newly installed Worshipful Master, Bro Josh, and I wish him every success for the year ahead and I have no doubt it will be both a fulfilling and most enjoyable year.

Worshipful Master, this month I am pleased to report that I have received no notifications of any Brother, widow, or family member being unwell or in need of assistance. Long may that continue.

I have made contact with a widow, Peggy Malthouse, to enquire after her wellbeing, and I am currently awaiting her reply.

I also received a kind email from Kathy Waterer, expressing her thanks to the Lodge for the Christmas card and gift. I have responded on behalf of the Lodge, conveying our continued good wishes and reminding her that support is always close at hand should she need it.

Brethren, may I take this opportunity to gently remind you of a few valuable avenues of companionship and support available within our Province:

In Fareham, two Amity Groups continue to meet regularly:

The Chatterbox Club for ladies, held on Wednesdays from 10:30

Contact: Mrs Sandie O'Neil (07745 823789 / [sandie.oneil@talktalk.net](mailto:sandie.oneil@talktalk.net))

The "Grumpy Old Men's Club" for gentlemen, held on Tuesdays from 10:30

Contact: Andy Andrew (01329 832959 / 07711202023 / [aandrewava@googlemail.com](mailto:aandrewava@googlemail.com))

Both groups are informal, welcoming, and always pleased to see new faces. Should you, your partner, or any family member wish to attend, I would strongly encourage you to make contact and enjoy the fellowship on offer.

I would also encourage all Brethren to visit the Welfare section within the Members' Area of the Provincial website,

<https://hantsiowfreemasons.org/members-area/welfare/>

where a wealth of useful and supportive information can be found.

Additionally, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Provincial Masonic Charitable Trust remains available to provide assistance to Brethren and their families. This can include financial support, help with day-to-day expenses, mobility aids, essential household items, and respite care. Should you feel you may benefit from such support, please do not hesitate to contact me in confidence and I will ensure you are guided appropriately.

Finally, Worshipful Master, for those who were unable to attend our recent social gathering at the Blue Cobra Indian Restaurant, I am pleased to report that it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, filled with excellent food, good company, and warm fellowship. It was particularly heartening to see W.Bro Roger Barnard in attendance. He looked very well and it was so lovely to have a good catch up with him. He expressed how much he is looking forward to joining you all at the Installation Meeting and at future Lodge gatherings.

Worshipful Master, that concludes my report.

Thank you.

W.Bro Gareth Manson

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