

THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

Charity Steward:
Bro. M. Crick
5 Livingstone Road
Portsmouth
Hampshire PO51RS
Tel: 07971829083
E-mail:
thecrickster69@hotmail.co.uk



Charity Steward Report – February 2026

Let's be honest: making a Will ranks right up there with watching paint dry. It sounds boring, a little bit morbid, and is incredibly easy to put off until "tomorrow." Writing your will is much easier than you think.

The perks of pledging and planning your estate isn't exactly fun, but getting it done comes with some incredible benefits. Most importantly, leaving a legacy gift to a charity like the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF, the Freemasons' charity) is an amazing way to be a permanent force for good. Your gift, no matter the size, assists those in need long into the future.

It also can save you cash on taxes! Any legacy left to a registered charity is completely **exempt** from Inheritance Tax (IHT) and If you leave at least 10 per cent of your net taxable estate to a charity, your standard IHT rate drops from 40 per cent down to 36 per cent.

How do you divide up your empire? When leaving a legacy, there are three main ways to do it:

- **Residuary:** This is a percentage or share of whatever is left in your estate *after* the boring stuff (like debts, taxes, and funeral expenses) is taken care of. This is a brilliant option because it ensures your loved ones are looked after first, and the charitable portion naturally keeps pace with inflation!
- **Pecuniary:** Want to keep it simple? This is a specific, set amount of cash. You can even have it index-linked so it holds its real-world value over time.
- **Specific:** This is where you pass down a particular item. Think along the lines of a house, a car or some jewellery.

While you can always use a local solicitor, the MCF has teamed up with The Goodwill Partnership to help you write or update a basic Will for **free**. You can arrange a home visit or just chat over the phone, and a SRA regulated solicitor will draft it all up for you.

Take a moment and decide what kind of legacy suits you best, and get that Will written.

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 05/03/2026 has:-

a) Pledged **£21,777** - to the **Hampshire and I.O.W 2027 Festival** which is **93%** towards our Silver Honorific of **£23,500**

b) a **Charity Account** balance of - **£2,030.13**

For Worshipful Master Charity - £ 523.00

For Charity Steward disbursement - £1,507.13

c) a **Relief Chest** balance of - **£ 1,494.00**

Year to Date Receipts - £ 151.00

Year to Date Donations - £ 200.00

At the March meeting a Notice of Motion will be given, that a sum ne £250.00 be allocated from the Charity account for the Solent Multiple Sclerosis Therapies unit based in Portsmouth. They provide therapies – high dosage oxygen therapy, Physiotherapy, Osteopathy, Shitatsu , Reflexology and pain relief therapy to people with multiple Multiple Sclerosis and other health conditions in our area. They offer advice and support and a community building for the users.

I am arranging with The Elizabeth foundation a date to donate the £523.00 approved at last month's meeting, this was the Worshipful Masters charity for the year.

The Elizabeth foundation is based at Queen Alexandra Hospital Portsmouth. The Foundation, provides a wide range of services to offer young deaf children (from birth to five years old).

Its coming round to the prize draw for the 'Association of friends of Zetland Court' and their annual fete that takes place on the 6th June 2026. If anyone wishes to attend please let me know and I'll give details. They have sent raffle tickets for the event with a first prize of £250. I shall bring the tickets with me for the March meeting. They are just £1.00 each, so please bring along some change for a chance to win a prize. It's a very worthy cause.

Charities Donated to in 2025-26

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
Dec 25	Lord Mayor charity appeal	1100417-2	£200
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
Jan 26	Friends of the Homeless	1194360	£200
Total			£1,300

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