



THE

PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

Almoner
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Almoner Report

May 2026

Worshipful Master, Brother Wardens, and Brethren all,

I have been in contact with several brethren and their families since our last meeting.

Firstly, I spoke with Carol Russell, wife of WBro Chris Russell, whilst Chris was attending his day care.

Carol informed me that he is doing reasonably well considering his circumstances. She also asked that I pass on both their apologies for not being unable to attend our White Table Evening in May, together with their sincere hope that the evening proves both successful and enjoyable for all concerned.

I also spoke with Julie Walshaw, widow of WBro John Walshaw.

Julie is keeping well, though naturally she continues to miss John immensely. She recently enjoyed a lovely holiday to India and is hopeful of travelling to Sri Lanka later this year, a destination she and John regularly enjoyed together.

I assured Julie that the Lodge continues to think of both her and her family, and that should she require anything at all, we remain only a telephone call away. Julie expressed her gratitude and advised that at present she requires no assistance.

WBro Barry Filer has unfortunately been suffering with ill health once again. However, he was prescribed a course of antibiotics and is making a gradual recovery. Barry is hopeful of joining us at our forthcoming White Table Evening at the end of the month.

I also spoke with Bob Blackman, who is keeping reasonably well. Sadly, Michelle is currently unwell, and I have offered the assistance and support of the Lodge should it be required. I shall continue to keep in contact and monitor the situation.

One of our prospective candidates, Mr Mark Smith, has recently suffered a bereavement following the sad passing of his brother-in-law over the weekend. On behalf of the Lodge, I have sent a card and flowers to express our sincere condolences and to assure the family that they remain in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Finally, I was saddened to hear that WBro Roger Smith had recently been involved in a serious motor car accident. Fortunately, after spending several nights in hospital, Roger has now been discharged home with no major injuries. When I spoke with him, he said he was understandably sore, shaken, and upset by the incident and the loss of his vehicle. I reassured Roger that the Brethren of the Lodge are thinking of him, and I am sure he would appreciate a telephone call from any Brother able to spare a few moments to raise his spirits.

That concludes my report, Worshipful Master. May I wish you every success for the White Table Evening at the end of the month.

WBro Gareth Manson
Almoner