

THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

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Lodge Membership Officer Report – MAY 2026

WM and Brethren,

I have an update on the new prospective candidates to date we have **two, new members and one joining member**, the two are **Mr Mark Smith** who lives in Gosport and wanted to join a Gosport lodge however that lodge met on a Thursday so he will now join us because we meet on a Friday and the other one is **Mr Stephen Burt** via the Portsmouth Lodge Website (well done W Bro Andy Brown) and they have both been interviewed in April and proved suitable to join, and they are planned to be initiated in **September/October and this will be confirmed after the May GP** . Mr Marcus Taylor has declined not to join us due to a busy work schedule. The joining member is **Bro Josh Watkins** who is based at HMS Collingwood and has attended many of our social functions and is planned to join us in the Autumn 2026.

The “**Dine A Friend**” event for the Fareham area is on **6th May 2026** and is at “Gosport Masonic Centre” which is being delivered as a joint Gosport and Fareham initiative and I believe **W Bro Gareth Manson** will be bringing his friend John who is also keen to join **487** and is pencilled in to be initiated in **January 2027, tbc**, and I shall be attending and bringing along **Mr Stephen Burt** and W Bro Bob Cullen is also attending .

The second event is on **20th May 2026**, at the Albany Masonic Centre, Isle of Wight, and both events are supported by the APGM and the Area Chairmen.

Just a friendly reminder that “**Retention**” is equally important as “Recruitment” and following our Membership survey to ensure we are still going in the right direction as a lodge; it is essential we ask the right questions of our brethren eg; -

;- Are we enjoying our Freemasonry? if not why? let me know.

;-What`s prevents you from attending? Do you require a lift in?

;-Is the Festive Board suited to your modern lifestyle? any changes you would like to see happen?

Finally, I have been sent a “**Initiate**” communication template for both the pre and post initiation so that the new candidate is fully aware of what is expected on the night and thereafter, so if a member of 487 has a prospective candidate please let me know and I can send it to you.

W.Bro Roger Barnard
Lodge Membership Officer.