

THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

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Charity Steward Report – October 2026

The Freemasons Charity

As mentioned at the last meeting the MCF (Masonic Charitable Foundation) will be using the **Freemasons' Charity** as its working name. The change aligns public identity more clearly with the support provided to communities on behalf of Freemasons.

Over the coming months, you may still see both names used as the branding is updated across platforms as the transition progresses. If you have any questions about the rebrand, you can contact **communications@freemasonscharity.org.uk**.

Please note that the legal name remains the Masonic Charitable Foundation and all existing contact routes and donation mechanisms continue to operate as normal during the transition.

The bank account names and details are not changing, and direct debits, standing orders and other donation/payment methods continue to work in the same way.

The Newsletter is 'Charity Light' if you are interested in reading the latest developments.

This year also marks 40 years since the "Lodge Relief Chest", as it was then known, was launched. The Scheme's success has been made possible by the generosity of all the brethren and members. The donations have made a significant difference to our communities.

Hampshire & IOW Province

No further updates are available currently.

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

The Portsmouth Lodge as of 31/9/2026 has:-

a) Pledged **£22,432** - 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 - **£ 1,874.13**

For Worshipful Master Charity - **£ 490.00**

For Charity Steward disbursement - **£1,484.13**

c) a **Relief Chest** balance of - **£ 1,983.15**

Year to Date Receipts - **£ 640.00**

Year to Date Donations - **£ 200.00**

At the October meeting a Proposition will be given, that a sum ne £250.00 be allocated from the charity account for **Connors Toy Library** based in Portsmouth. This charity has been a trusted part of the community for over five decades, proudly celebrating 52 years of service this year. They have been dedicated to supporting families and helping children thrive through play. For many families' life brings extra challenges. Some face isolation and loneliness, others are navigating disability, long term health conditions, financial struggles or difficult personal circumstances. They offer a welcoming and inclusive environment where families can access a wide range of quality toys, resources and support.

Also, at the October meeting a Notice of Motion will be given that a sum ne £250 be allocated from the charity accounts for 'The Lifehouse' a charity based in Southsea. They are a focused, friendly, free, food kitchen serving the homeless and vulnerable communities in Portsmouth & Southsea with a mandate to relieve poverty across the city. They have converted two former shops and a house into community use as a food bank and food kitchen providing a wide range of support services.

Charities Donated to in 2025-26

From The Lodge Charity Account: -

Date	Charity	Charity Number	Donation
Mar 26	Elizabeth Foundation	293835	£ 523
Apr 26	Solent Multiple Sclerosis	299545	£ 250
May 26	Friends of Zetland Court		£ 100
Oct 26	Connors Toy Library	1129353	£ 250
Total			£ 1123

From The Lodge Relief Chest: -

Date	Charity	Charity Number	Donation
May 25	Moving on Project	1147632	£250
Jan 26	Friends of the Homeless	1194360	£200
Total			£ 700

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