

Subject: South West Area News
From: Paul Berry <paulberry1958@gmail.com>
Date: 21/12/2021 13:24
To: <chrislockwood@mail.com>

South West Lowdown Edition 24 dated 21st December 2021

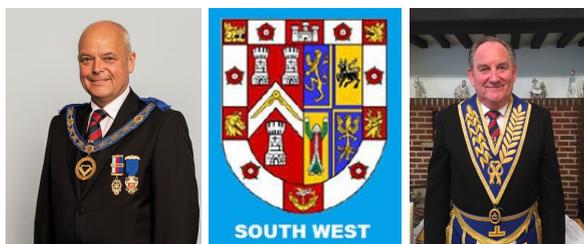


PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT



The South West *Lowdown*

Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again



Dear brethren,

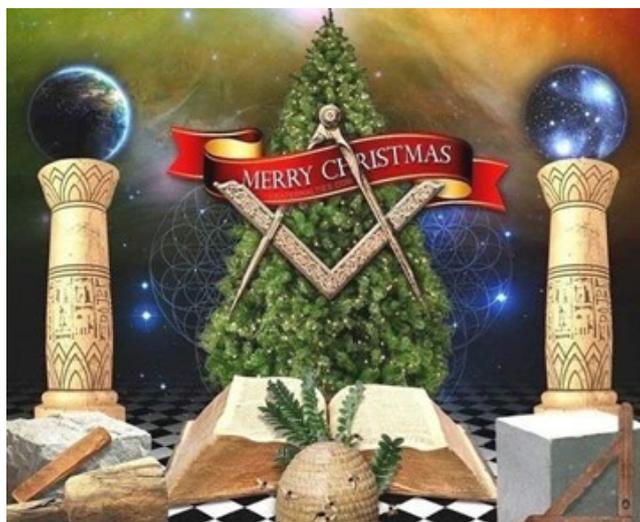
As we approach the end of another year, I would like highlight what we in the **South West Area** have achieved in our meetings since resumption in the Summer.

We have met 118 times at our 6 centres holding 15 initiations, numerous Passing's, Raisings and Installations, They consisted of 11 Official Visits including APMG's from neighbouring areas, 2 South West Tourist visits, 59 Festival jewel presentations, 60, 50 and 40 year, long service certificates and several lectures and some administrative meetings.

We have tried to get back to some sort of normality while at the same time respecting those who feel they need to hold off until things settle down a little more. That looks unlikely as I write this with talk of measures possibly being reintroduced after Christmas. With this uncertainty once again at this time of year, I can be certain of one thing and that is that we will all continue to support our Brethren and their families through whatever this pandemic throws at us. I will never underestimate or take for granted the comradeship of our Fraternity and how meeting in person enhances what we do.

I wish you all the very best for Christmas and to a Happy and Healthy New Year.'

W. Bro. Leon Whitfield, APMG, and Chris Lockwood, Area Chairman



A word from the Almoner

W. Bro. Rick Ashton - South West Area Almoner



Dear Brethren All,

I hope this message finds you all, and that you and your families are in good health.

As we approach the festive season, I just wanted to reach out with a few things that I think may be of interest and that are also relevant to the current times that we are living in. As you are aware, we all pay annual fees every year and often there is opportunity to put our hands in our pockets for additional monies. I believe it is important for you to know where some of that money goes to and to understand the good that it does when it gets there.

Firstly, we have the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) who give financial aid to those Masons or their connections who need it. They pay for Daily Living Costs, Medical Treatment, Medical Equipment, Educational Support and many other areas of support for those who need it. This financial year alone (Start of April 2021 to now) they have given over £552,000 worth of grants to the Masons and their connections of **HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT** alone!

Secondly, in Hampshire we also have a second charity, the Masonic Charitable Trust (MCT) which is administered by this Province alone and there are very many other Provinces that do not have any Provincial Charity at all. The MCT give financial relief again to the Brethren and their connections of this province and this is usually in the form of a one off payment to those in need. The money can be (and very often is) in the Bank the following day after someone calls for help and on one occasion that I am aware of, it was in the same day. Again, this financial year the MCT have given over £40,000 to those Masons and families of Hampshire who have needed it.

If you feel that you or any of your family connections need help or support, please speak to your Lodge Almoner, Group Almoner or myself, in confidence, and we will be very happy to advise you.

I think it would be remiss of me not to mention the Pandemic at the moment and whilst there are many of us who are younger and less vulnerable to the effects of Covid19, there are also many of us who either by age or underlying health issues, remain vulnerable to the potential effects that this dreadful disease can bring.

Please can I encourage **ALL** Brethren prior to any meeting, Lodge of Instruction or Social gathering to undertake a Lateral Flow Test before attending. Please let's all work together in Masonic Harmony to keep our Brethren and their Families as safe as possible.



Test Kits are available FREE OF CHARGE delivered to your home the following day from the NHS. They can be obtained online at: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or by calling the NHS on the 119 Helpline.

Finally, on behalf of the Provincial Almonry Team, we would like to thank all of the Lodge and Group Almoners for their hard work during this and every year, your hard work and commitment is appreciated by everyone within the Province. Please could I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Joyous and Healthy New Year!

Freemasons help children this Christmas



Alan Davies and Tony Drake at the start of the toy collection

Thousands of Christmas presents donated by Freemasons in Bournemouth were given to the Salvation Army to distribute amongst local children.

The annual appeal saw the members bring in wheelbarrow-loads of gifts to Freemason's Hall in Knole Road, Boscombe. Tony Drake and Alan Davies of Knole Lodge started the collection a few years ago but this year was the biggest yet.

Leon Whitfield, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, attended the hand-over when the gifts were given to the Salvation Army representative Major David Alton of the Boscombe Division.



Leon Whitfield presents a cheque to Mr Scott Akam, co-founder the Dorset Children's Foundation with Tony Drake looking on

Tony Drake said: 'There are lots of children who will receive nothing on Christmas morning and we wanted to change that'. 'Our members are extremely generous and each year bring in a huge number of presents'.

'We also raise money by raffling a wheelbarrow and this is also donated to the cause and after last year when things were difficult because of Covid we really wanted to push the boat out'.



Front three (l-r) Tony Drake, Alan Davies and Major David Alton from the Salvation Army

'Our members from Bournemouth and surrounding centres piled the presents high and it is wonderful to think that they might put the smile on a child's face'.

Leon Whitfield, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, said: 'This is a wonderful initiative and will

cheer disadvantaged children at Christmas'. 'This is a time of year when we think of others; children and the elderly being especially in our thoughts'.



Some of the presents

Bournemouth Masonic Holiday 2022 at the Mayfair Hotel

mayfair

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire & Isle of Wight is once again organising the Bournemouth Masonic Holiday to be held at the Mayfair Hotel in Bournemouth from **Saturday 25 June to Saturday 9 July 2022.**

This important initiative, which offers much needed respite for those in need is celebrating its 44th anniversary this year. It is organised by the Bournemouth Masonic Holiday Committee and provides a two-week break for those who would not otherwise be able to enjoy a holiday without assistance.

The Province is sponsoring a number of applicants and is now seeking Lodge Almoners in identifying suitable brethren, their wives, partners or widows from their lodges who are either financially, medically or socially disadvantaged and are in need of a break.

This fabulous holiday consists of 14 nights bed, breakfast and evening meal, evening entertainment, 4 coach trips out to local attractions and a Gala Diner on the last night and is

free for attendees.

The Provincial Almoner will soon be writing to all Hampshire and IOW Almoners and asking for them to nominate suitable nominations to attend the holiday. If individuals would like to be considered for the holiday please speak to your Almoner.



The Mayfair Hotel Bournemouth

The Mayfair Hotel Bournemouth is centrally situated, within easy walking distance of the Town Centre and with ample car parking. The Mayfair Hotel offers a choice of rooms and is the ideal venue for a variety of occasions. The Mayfair is part of the Bournemouth's OCEANA HOTELS resort and together with their dedicated and friendly team, will ensure the success of your stay.

The chairman of the holiday committee is looking for enthusiastic masons and their wives to help organise and run the holiday. The commitment is not arduous and will mainly involve joining the holiday makers during their coach trips out and attending some evening entertainments.

If anybody is interested in this very rewarding charity work please contact Paul Berry on 07889 921016 or paulberry1958@gmail.com

2027 Festival Presentations – South West Area.

Provincial Grand Charity Steward
John A Pearson PPGSwdB
john.pearson@mc2027festival.co.uk
07970 716212



Festival Secretary
David Hilton MBE PAGSwdB
david7652@btinternet.com
07580 658 813

The following presentations have been arranged which we hope that you will be able to

support, they are as follows:-

Thursday 20th January @ Lymington Masonic Centre – 7.00pm Start.
Saturday 5th February @ Bournemouth Masonic Centre – 10.30am Start.
Saturday 19th February @ Christchurch Masonic Centre – 10.30am Start.

We particularly hope that the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens as well as the Lodge Charity Steward will attend, along with all of those Brethren interested in finding out more about how the MCF support us and how in turn we can support them.

We intend to provide a welcome drink for those attending the Lymington presentation and a Tea/Coffee and Bacon Roll at the Bournemouth and Christchurch presentations.

We will require all of those attending and wishing to take advantage of the above to book in either via Square Events (Provincial Website www.hiowmason.org > to News & Events > Online booking service > log in or set up an account – click on the event and book in).

Or Email: secretary@hantsmasonsw.org.uk giving the Centre you wish to attend – your Name and your Lodge).

We need you to **‘book-in’** to ensure that you receive your drink or coffee & bacon roll. Should you have any queries – please email: secretary@hantsmasonsw.org.uk or call on 07977 414597.

Sincere regards

Chris Lockwood

W. Bro. Chris Lockwood

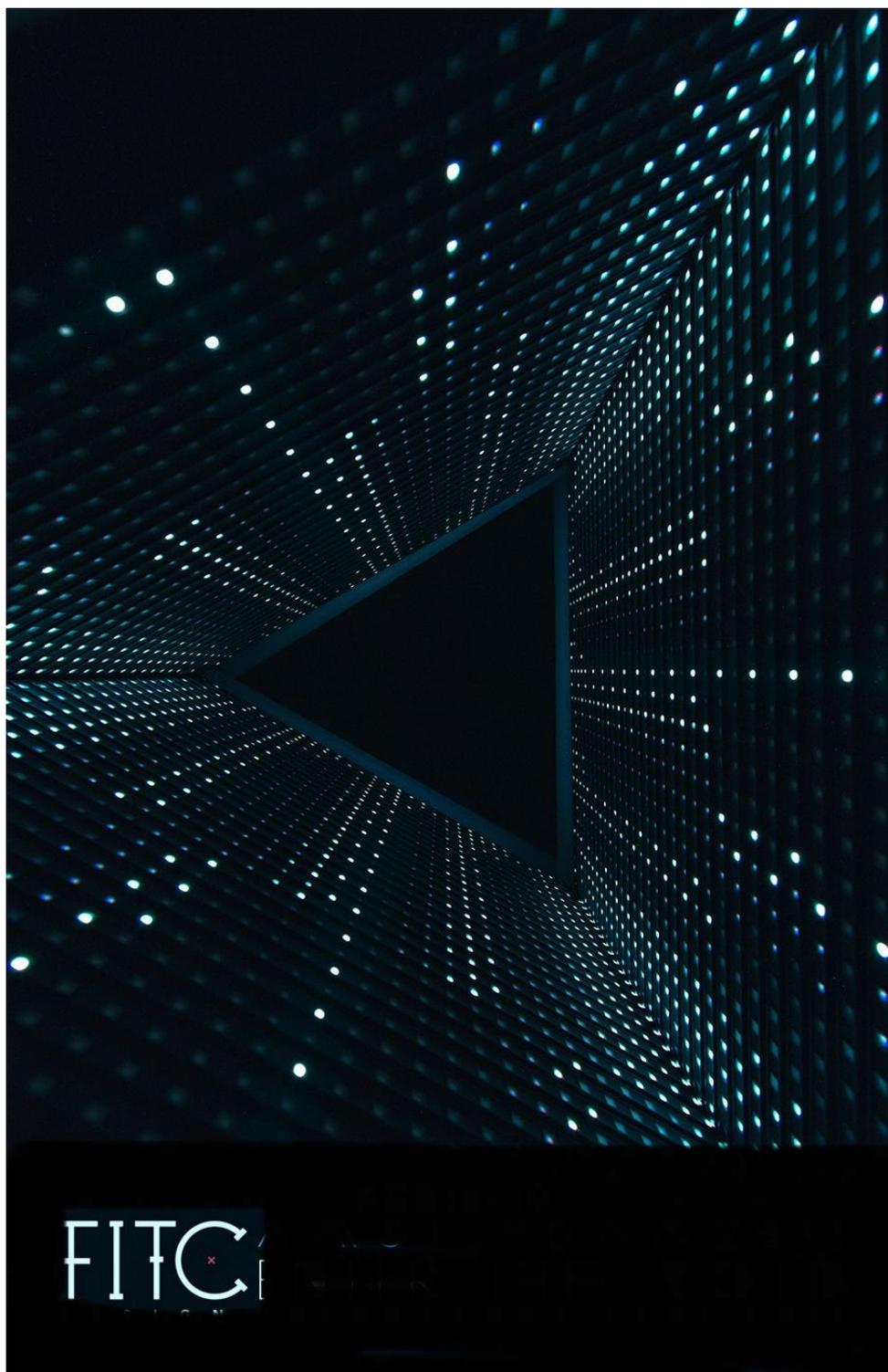
South West Area Chairman.

Tel: 07977 414597

Email: swareachairman@hantsmasonsw.org.uk

Freemasonry in the Community

A message from Carl Sams
Freemasonry in the Community team leader



With our return to Freemasonry becoming stronger by the week, it is time for us to look forwards and plan the continual development of the various aspects of F.I.T.C.

The growing list of initiatives which now fall under the F.I.T.C banner, can only be successfully achieved if we collectively build our resources and man power via volunteers in both specialist and general areas.

To this end, we are asking for your help to build a strong, inter active and interchangeable team, small enough to manage easily, and big enough to ensure that no individual is put under too much pressure with any given task.

The kind of skills we are looking for include:

- Good communicators.
- Those able to assist with event organisation & logistics.
- Face to face 'Ambassadors for Freemasonry'.
- Those who enjoy talking and listening to people.
- Designers.
- Data collection and input volunteers.
- Social media and general media specialists.
- Secretarial work.

The initiatives we are involved with are:

- The annual charity cheque presentation evening (at Bournemouth & Lymington).
- Various public and Masonic community events such as the Summer Fayre, Firework displays, motor shows, open days etc. Both organising and attending with the display stands and trailers.
- Dine A Friend and Master Mason evenings.

If you feel that you could contribute to the growing success of F.I.T.C, we would love to hear from you. This initiative will embrace all of the South West Area Masonic Centres. Please respond in the first instance to Carl Sams at cjsams66@gmail.com with your skills/interests. I will contact you specifically to discuss.

Thank you for your support.

W. Bro Carl Sams

F.I.T.C Team Leader

South West Area

Light shines on Zetland Court

Via Lucis Lodge 8228, which meets in Christchurch, presented £1,000 to Zetland Court in Westbourne.



Pictured here are: WBros Julian Redston, Chair of Association of Friends of Zetland Court, Huw Evans VO, Martin Walsh, Treasurer, and David Manley, WM of Via Lucis Lodge.

Originally built in the 1840s and set amongst landscape gardens, Zetland Court provides residential care, nursing and residential dementia support for up to 71 residents with permanent care or short stay respite breaks.



12 December 2021 - South West Area Christmas Carol Service

The 2021 South West Area Christmas Carol Service took place on **12th December** at St Andrew's Church in Bournemouth.



This annual event which now takes place in St Andrew's Church in central Bournemouth was a joyous and uplifting occasion with South West Area Lodge representatives taking part.

W Bro Leon Whitfield the SWA APMG opened and closed the Volume of the Sacred Law to mark the beginning and end of the service.

W Bro the Revd Robin Nash conducted the proceedings beautifully accompanied by the Church Choir. Seasonal readings were carried out by: Bro Scott Richardson, Meyrick Lodge 7295, Mrs Jackie Warner, W Bros Chris Lockwood, Tony Tykocki, Anthony Mellery-Pratt, Simon Hartwell and Mrs Joanne Tuck (dressed as a Christmas Elf).

After the service mince pies and hot drinks were served where families celebrated together in happy conversation.

Now that St Andrew's is familiar with us and we have now trialled two successful services at the Church, the SWA will be looking to enhance next years Carol Service to include more Lodges from within the Area.

Help is available – don't hesitate to get in touch

If you need help please contact the area almoner or area chairman who will assist you.

South West Area Almoner
Rick Ashton
rickashton21@hotmail.co.uk
07730 956584

South West Area Chairman

Chris Lockwood

[chrislockwood@mail .com](mailto:chrislockwood@mail.com)

07977 414597

Also, the Masonic Charitable Foundation has been active in helping brethren – if you are struggling or require assistance please contact them on 0800 035 6090.

The South West **Lowdown** will be published regularly. If anyone or any Lodge would like an article published please send the content by email or post to:

Paul Berry

16 Amethyst Road

Christchurch

BH23 3EA

paulberry1958@gmail.com



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SWA L&D

Flat 1, The Fountain, 1 High Street

Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1AE

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