



Hampshire & Isle of Wight

# 2027 FESTIVAL

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



**NEW  
EDITION**

## Pocket Guide

**Festival President**  
RWBro Jon Whitaker PGM

**Festival Director**  
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*“Since the launch there has been a very good response right across the Province to get behind the Festival Appeal. I am delighted that there is now a greater awareness of what the MCF is and how it can help us all and also how it assists the wider national and international community.”*

Barrie Hewitt,  
Festival Director



## About the MCF

- Launched in 2016
- Supports Freemasons, their families, and the wider community.
- Funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons and their families.
- One of the largest grant-making charities in the country.
- Provides around £20 million in support each year to help Masonic families, other charities, hospices, air ambulances and international disaster relief appeals.
- Since the launch in 2016 over 3,000 Charities from small community-run groups to large organisations have been supported with grants to fund the delivery of vital projects and services.

## Why we should support them

- MCF is OUR charity
- They build better lives by encouraging opportunity, promoting independence, and improving wellbeing for Freemasons, their families and the wider community.
- Support thousands of Freemasons and their families through millions of pounds in grants and support services.
- Over the last 5 years the MCF has responded to over 50,000 enquiries received from individuals and their families facing a difficult time in their lives.
- Provide over 32,000 grants to encourage opportunity promote independence and improve wellbeing.
- £6.7M awarded to local and National Charities.
- 1,162 Grants awarded to Local and National Charities.
- £1M to tackle social isolation and loneliness in later life.
- £2M to provide opportunities to disadvantaged children and young people.
- £300,000 to support Hospices.
- £45,000 to support disaster relief in the UK and around the world.
- £2.6M in response to COVID 19.
- Helped cover everyday living costs to support exceptionally talented children, to fund home adaptations for people with disabilities.
- The work ranges far and wide. At it's heart, focusing on ensuring people can lead a fulfilling life. Including support for:  
Age UK, Home Start, Medical Research and Responding to Crisis

## **MCF support for our Brethren in the Province**

During the year members and their families and dependents benefitted from **257 grants totalling £766,623 – all delivered through the MCF...**

**£444,000** was given to those in financial difficulty. In many cases as direct result of loss of income due to Covid and lockdowns.

**£276,000** was distributed to support health-related issues, such as surgical procedures, mobility aids, domestic care and medical assessments.

**£46,000** went to help with education, including fees, clothing and equipment.

***These grants have made life-changing differences to so many and are illustrated by their incredible and often moving accounts on the following pages.***

**“The MCF saved my life”** said Adam from Bourne Lodge, Bournemouth.

Diagnosed with cancer and given only 18 months to live, Adam lost his job because of his illness. He also lost his home, couldn't pay the ongoing household bills or afford to feed or clothe his children.

Through talking to his Lodge Almoner the MCF was made aware of the difficulties he and his family were facing. Coming to their aid, the MCF ensured Adam was able to feed and support his family again and a grant enabled him to buy his children's new school uniforms. Despite his serious illness this was what Adam and his family desperately needed just to keep going...

Meanwhile, his MCF Case Officer was able to arrange for Adam to see a cancer consultant leading to a week in hospital undergoing thorough examination and tests. The tests gave an astonishing result – he was on the wrong medication and it wasn't helping his condition. Happily, with the specialist medical help and the right treatment Adam is in remission...

The MCF was also able to support Adam's wife Christa with grant enabling her to 'go back to school' to gain a university degree resulting in the opportunity of the well-paid job she has today.

Adam and his family now have their lives back and are looking forward to a happy and successful future together.

**“Thanks to the MCF my wife is no longer in pain”** said David, a nurse and Master of Brockenhurst Lodge.

Recounting how the MCF stepped in to help his wife Lisa, David explained how she urgently needed a partial knee replacement and the waiting list on the NHS was at least a year. By this stage Lisa could barely walk and was in considerable pain. Having contacted the MCF regarding her plight they were assigned a Case Officer who arranged for Lisa to be referred to a consultant. She was able to have her knee operation done privately and it was funded by the MCF. Both David and his wife Lisa are delighted with the outcome saying: “The MCF is a fantastic charity we recommend everyone to support it.”

**“I’m back at my Lodge and enjoying a life which I owe to the MCF”** said Geoff from Faligia Lodge, Southampton.

Suffering from severe pains in his chest and difficulty with breathing, Geoff’s GP diagnosed heart disease and said that he would need to see a specialist.

Geoff waited his turn with the long list of NHS patients. Concerned about his chest on-going pains and breathing difficulties, Geoff contacted the MCF. Following the assignment of a Case Officer, Geoff was referred to a private appointment with a heart specialist and a quadruple bypass quickly followed.

The quick intervention by the MCF made all the difference to Geoff’s life.

### **Joanne, a Lodge Widow**

During the Covid pandemic Joanne’s husband of 53 years passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

They didn’t have any children and the last of her savings were spent on her husband’s funeral. Living in the rented home they had shared together, Joanne was struggling financially. She couldn’t afford heating or to put food on the table.

By chance, a new Almoner from her late husband’s lodge, looking through the lodge records, noticed Joanne and decided to visit her at home.

He discovered the house was freezing, there was no heating or lighting, and the kitchen cupboards were empty. Joanne would go to bed early in the afternoon wearing several layers of pyjamas to keep warm. Her main meal of the day was simply a bowl of cornflakes!

Urgently contacting the MCF, the Lodge Almoner was able to secure help for Joanne. A budget was set ensuring Joanne had all the heat, light and food she needed. Moreover, Joanne, who is now 84, is not only financially secure, but she enjoys many visits and calls from the lodge members and other lodge widows.

No longer cold, alone, and hungry - what a difference the MCF and the lodge has made to Joanne’s days.

## The MCF's support for our local charities

Besides the support received by our members, the MCF has in the last year also provided grants to local charities totalling **over £280,000**.

Grants made have included Age Concern Hampshire, Albaré Christian Care and Support in Gosport, Countess Mountbatten Hospice, Jacksplace, Naomi House, The Rosemary Foundation and Rowans Hospice.

More local charities received grants through the MCF's Match Funding scheme which works in partnership with our lodges. Together this added an **extra £36,000** of support.

The Match Funding included The Gosport Shed, Harbour Cancer Support, Macmillan Caring Locally, Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association, The Salvation Army (Boscombe) and Ryde Sea Cadets.

## Helpful tips to consider

### Visit [www.mcf.org](http://www.mcf.org)

Read some of the stories on the MCF website, it will give you an emotional connection with what we are trying to achieve and help you when communicating with the brethren of your lodge.

### Show Authenticity

If you don't show belief and commitment, you can't expect others to give freely and be committed to the festival.

### Create a target to aim for

People will generally work a lot harder to achieve a target than if they are just left aimless.

To achieve a Silver Award by year 5 would be a good achievable target with spare capacity to go further.

### Communicate with the Area Festival Chairman (AFC)

The AFC is there to support and assist you. He can arrange Festival Presentations for your lodge should you so desire.

***Remember it's a Marathon not a Sprint!***

## Honorifics

When a Brother has **PLEGGED** or **DONATED** £500\* he qualifies as a Festival Steward and upon payment of £10 is entitled to be presented with a Festival Jewel.

When a Brother has **DONATED** £1,000, £1,500 or £2,000 he qualifies as a Festival Vice Patron, Patron or Grand Patron respectively. He is entitled to be presented with a bar to his Festival Jewel free of charge.

**PLEGGED**

*The Brother has set up a regular payment promise to the Festival Account*

**DONATED**

*The money has been received by MCF*

\*Excluding GiftAid and the interest awarded by the MCF.

## Lodge Honorifics

The following awards are based on average donations per lodge member:

**Bronze** ..... £375

**Silver** ..... £500

**Gold** ..... £750

**Platinum** ..... £1,000

\*\*Based on number of lodge members on 29th July 2021



*and a special*

**PLATINUM TROPHY**

## How donations can be made...

### Donate online



To set up a regular donation  
[donate.mcf.org.uk/festival-or-appeal/](https://donate.mcf.org.uk/festival-or-appeal/)

### Donate over the phone



To set up a regular donation or make a single payment call **020 3146 3352**



**Donate using Gift Aid Envelopes**



**Donate using QR code**



*If you are a taxpayer every £1.00 donated attracts 25p gift aid.*

## **Useful contacts**

### **AREA FESTIVAL CHAIRMEN**

**North Central Area**

W Bro Andi Parker

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**North East Area**

W Bro Richard Lucas

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**Solent Area**

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**South Central Area**

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**South East Area**

W Bro Scott Clarke

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**South West Area**

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### **FESTIVAL AMBASSADORS**

**W Bro John Donoghue**

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**W Bro Sean Whelan**

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### **REPORTING AND JEWELS**

**W Bro Peter Hill**

Peter.Hill@MCF2027festival.co.uk

### **WEBSITES**

[www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)

[www.mcf.org.uk/media/better-lives](http://www.mcf.org.uk/media/better-lives)

[www.hiowmasons.org/2027festival](http://www.hiowmasons.org/2027festival)

*You can follow updates on the 2027 Festival Appeal on social media, using hashtag **#2027FESTIVAL***