

2027 FESTIVAL APPEAL

# Pocket Guide



Hampshire & Isle of Wight

2027 FESTIVAL

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Festival President, RW Bro Jon Whitaker

*“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.
- 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 grants for our Brethren in the Province

**£1,000,000**  
**PLUS**  
SUPPORT EXPECTED  
OVER THE YEAR  
2023 TO 2024

This year, members and their families and dependents will benefit from **100s of grants totalling over £1,000,000 – all delivered through the MCF...**

**£1,000s** given to those in financial difficulty.

**£1,000s more** is distributed to support health-related issues, such as surgical procedures, mobility aids, domestic care and medical assessments.

**And £1,000s** 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 that follow...***

Unable to find comparable work following the collapse of the company he was working for Mark was obliged to take low paid short term seasonal work with massive downturn in his lifestyle and financial wellbeing.

The resulting financial issues caused a severe decline in Mark's mental health. Depression began to bear down on him. Not even able to summon the strength to get out of bed,

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he grappled with thoughts of escaping the torment through the unthinkable.

Mark's journey towards recovery began with a glimmer of hope when his GP referred him for therapy, but he then discovered there was an 18-month waiting list!

Too proud to admit to anyone in his Lodge of his struggles, Mark made a call directly to the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF). They arranged a nearby visiting Brother to come to his home. Following an assessment of his financial situation Mark quickly received short term help from the Province's own charity the Masonic Charitable Trust (MCT), receiving a cheque for a £1000 to cover his immediate needs.

Mark says, "What followed was that Kath Betts, an angel in disguise from the MCF, entered my life.

She displayed remarkable sensitivity to my emotional struggles which enabled me to talk openly and freely. When I revealed the wait for NHS therapy, she offered me a lifeline, a phone number that would start my path from despair. That call led to a comprehensive assessment of my needs culminating in a connection with a compassionate therapist, all of which was fully funded by the MCF."

Mark adds; "The immediate support I received paved the way for more intensive therapy and my journey of recovery. Throughout this process, the benevolent presence of my Lodge Almoner served as a constant reminder that I was never alone. I felt supported every step of the way. **When recently asked by my Lodge to choose a charity to support, there was one clear choice for me - the MCF.**"

**“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 a 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.

**“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 for 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.

**Sally is a full-time mum who lives with her three-year-old twins** and partner Neil.

After a premature birth, Ted, one of the twins, developed cerebral palsy and can’t walk or stand unaided.

Sally’s father, a Freemason, contacted the MCF which resulted in the family receiving a grant to fund a mobility harness for Ted. He is now able to walk, enjoys helping his mum, putting on his wellies and having fun in the great outdoors with his brother! Such common things for a three-year-old to do but such a novelty for young Ted.

Why is this story important? The cost of Ted’s harness is covered by you becoming a Festival Steward. It’s that simple. Your donation of £500, which may be just £10 a month, has the power to help a small boy with Cerebral Palsy.

## The MCF's grants for our local charities

SUPPORT FOR  
LOCAL CHARITIES  
TOTTALLING  
**£100,000s**  
EVERY YEAR

Besides the support received by our members, the MCF provides grants to local charities which have included Age Concern Hampshire, Albaré Christian Care and Support in Gosport, Countess Mountbatten Hospice, Jackspace, Naomi House, The Rosemary Foundation, Rowans Hospice, No Limits in Southampton, Rose Road, The Literacy Hub in Portsmouth, Stepping Stones at Fleet and Ability Dogs For The Young on IoW.

THE MCF MATCH FUNDING GIVES  
**£10,000s**  
OF EXTRA SUPPORT

More local charities received grants through the MCF's Match Funding scheme which works in partnership with our lodges.

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.



## Honorifics

When a Brother has **PLEDGED** 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.

**PLEDGED**

*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**

## Centre Champions

**A NEW ROLE**  
TO ASSIST BRETHREN WITH THEIR  
SUPPORT FOR THE FESTIVAL

The Centre Champions are a new 'go to' for Brethren looking for guidance, assistance or clarification on anything Festival related.

### South Central Area

<i>Woolston</i>	W Bro Brian Durrant briandurrant113@hotmail.com 07443571199
<i>Totton</i>	W Bro Ash Bennette 6979@outlook.com 07894569254
<i>Albion Place</i>	W Bro Steve Humby steve@stevhumby.com 07740914017
<i>Botley</i>	W Bro Rob Wilson. the.wilsonfamily@btinternet.com 07711551792

### South East Area

<i>Cosham 1</i>	W Bro Ian Jenkins ian@solentsew.co.uk 07515286622
<i>Cosham 2</i>	W Bro Iain McLean iain.mclean.im@gmail.com 07960033110
<i>Havant</i>	W Bro Karl Semmens semmenskarl@gmail.com 07762 987224
<i>Horndean</i>	W Bro Rob Lowe rglowe0@gmail.com 07860 133811
<i>Phoenix</i>	W Bro Jordan Fretter jordanfretter@gmail.com 07772 823650
<i>Purbrook</i>	W Bro Luc Semmens lucgerard@hotmail.co.uk 07973 662750

### Solent Area

<i>Isle of Wight.</i>	W Bro Tony Mears tonymears9@btinternet.com. 07809847450
<i>Fareham &amp; Gosport.</i>	W Bro Paul Dungey dungeyp@yahoo.co.uk 07840207549

## North East Area

- Aldershot** Bro Keith Bean  
beanmasteruk@yahoo.co.uk  
07787 515313
- Alton** W Bro Malcolm Jones  
mpjones.lodge@btinternet.com  
07890 391950
- Bordon** W Bro Scott Duffield  
scottduffield@hotmail.com  
07445 022299
- Farnborough** Bro Guy Bell  
guy.bell@sky.com 07880 006262
- Petersfield** W Bro Simon Baigent  
simonbaigent@virginmedia.com  
07985 070590

## South West Area

- Knole Road** W Bro Brian Clark  
b.clark137@ntlworld.com  
07836 223720
- Knole Road** Bro Lloyd Clark  
lloydclark32@yahoo.com  
07818 046592
- Knole Road** W Bro Julian Morse  
julian.morse@ntlworld.com  
07876 564807
- Brockenhurst** W Bro James Bailey  
jamesbailey7040@gmail.com  
07971 036553
- Warren Avenue** W Bro Mike Harrold  
mike\_harrold@btinternet.com  
07971 034401
- Lymington** W Bro Maurice Richards  
morris@morrisrichards.com  
07801 950626

## North Central Area

- Kings Court** W Bro Justin Churcher  
Justin.churcher@gmail.com  
07530748441 and Bro Ian Shooter  
ian@fcfin.co.uk 07973298199
- Winchester** W Bro Ryan Hadfield  
rhadfield06@gmail.com 07718482012
- Andover** W Bro Bill Morris  
wmgmorris16@gmail 07587027722
- Basingstoke** W Bro Andrew Bradburn  
andykal5469@gmail.com 07971 750425
- Eastleigh** W Bro Ron Hancock  
ranniebee@btinternet.com 07887 366955

## **More useful contacts**

### **Festival Secretary**

WBro David Hilton MBE

David.Hilton@MCF2027Festival.co.uk

### **Provincial Grand Charity Steward**

WBro John Pearson

John.Pearson@MCF2027Festival.co.uk

## **AREA FESTIVAL CHAIRMEN**

### **North Central Area**

W Bro Andi Parker

Andi.Parker@MCF2027Festival.co.uk

### **North East Area**

W Bro Richard Lucas

Richard.Lucas@MCF2027Festival.co.uk

### **Solent Area**

W Bro Ray Bezani

Ray.Bezani@MCF2027Festival.co.uk

### **South Central Area**

W Bro Jim Renshaw

Jim.Renshaw@MCF2027Festival.co.uk

### **South East Area**

W Bro Scott Clarke

Scott.Clarke@MCF2027Festival.co.uk

### **South West Area**

W Bro John Donoghue

John.Donoghue@MCF2027Festival.co.uk

## **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***