



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

'The West Wing'
(Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

'The West Wing'

0



Masons Notebook

October '25

Issue 14



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

'The West Wing'
(Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

Introduction.

An opportunity to make your own collection of 'Masonic Gems' that will enhance your knowledge of the ritual and its meaning.

Every month you will receive some 'Masonic Gems' that will build into an amazing notebook that will last a lifetime.

The 'Gems' are sourced from a variety of authors that will give you, the learner, a balanced outlook on Masonic ritual and symbolism.

Start your collection and your journey today.

The 'West Wing' Learning and Development Team.



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The West Wing' Lodge of Instruction.

Lesson 2.

Symbolism of the Officers of the Lodge

(W. L. Wilmshurst)

Analyse the philosophical meaning behind the 'Officers of the Lodge'.

At the end of this lesson the student will be able to:

- a) Examine the symbolism of the Officers of the Lodge as written by W. L. Wilmshurst.
- b) Reflect upon the symbolism and apply findings to their daily lives.

The Four Core Pillars of the "Officers of the Lodge" Tutorial

1. **The Central Metaphor: The Lodge as a Blueprint of the Self.**

The foundational concept of the entire tutorial is that a Masonic Lodge is a symbolic map of an individual man. Drawing from the work of W. L. Wilmshurst, the author presents the Lodge not as a physical room but as a representation of the human psyche. Under this metaphor, the Worshipful Master symbolizes a man's "Spirit" (his purpose and wisdom), the Senior Warden his "Soul" (his character and essence), the Junior Warden his "Mind" (his spiritual consciousness and reason), and the Guards his outer and inner senses. This central idea transforms Masonic ritual from a set of external actions into a powerful internal allegory for self-awareness and personal integration.

2. **The Officer Roles as a Framework for Personal Development.**

The text systematically breaks down the duties of each officer and reinterprets them as specific functions for achieving a well-regulated life. It creates a clear framework for self-improvement that progresses from the outside in.

The journey begins with the Tyler (our outer senses) managing first impressions and external threats. It moves to the Inner Guard (our



intuition) filtering what we allow into our consciousness.

The Deacons represent the vital communication between our Spirit, Soul, and Mind. Finally, the principal officers—the Junior Warden (Mind), Senior Warden (Soul), and Worshipful Master (Spirit)—work in harmony to govern our thoughts, cultivate our character, and direct our life's purpose, using their respective symbolic tools to maintain moral and spiritual uprightness.

3. **The Practical Application of Symbolism in Daily Life.**

A crucial theme is that Masonic philosophy is not merely theoretical but must be actively practiced. The tutorial consistently bridges the gap between abstract symbolism and real-world behaviour. It begins and ends with "Betari's Box" ("My attitude affects my behaviour..."), emphasizing that our internal state has a direct external impact. Furthermore, each section includes a specific "Action" prompt, such as reflecting on the day's positive moments or setting a single achievable goal. These exercises demand that the Mason apply the lessons of the Lodge to their daily conduct, turning the pursuit of self-knowledge into a continuous, conscious effort to become a better person.

4. **The Ultimate Goal: Achieving Inner Harmony and Purpose.**

The overarching purpose presented in the text is the achievement of a state of inner harmony, which leads to a life of purpose, peace, and happiness. By getting all the internal "officers" to work together—the Spirit guiding, the Mind reasoning, the Soul feeling, and the senses guarding—a Mason can master himself. The text defines this state of self-mastery as knowing one's personal "Truth." This internal alignment is presented as the path to "Spiritual Enlightenment" and the true fulfilment of Freemasonry's core tenets: spreading Brotherly Love through a positive attitude, offering Relief from a place of compassion, and living a life guided by personal Truth.

(See link to the video tutorials below.)



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The links below take you directly to the video tutorials on the Officers of the Lodge as they are presented in '**Mentor's Notes**' (The Square Magazine). Please click on each link to access each of the tutorials. Learn and enjoy the process.

The Video Tutorials.

The Tyler. –

<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/202012-28v1.mp4>

The Inner Guard –

<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/202101-28v1.mp4>

The Deacons –

<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/202102-28v1.mp4>

Junior Warden –

<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/202103-28v1.mp4>

Senior Warden –

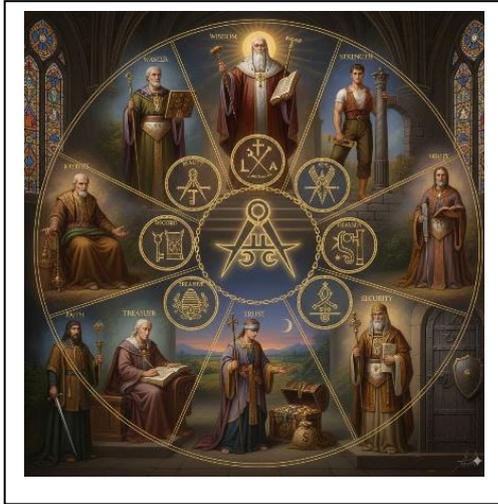
<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/202104-28v1.mp4>

Worshipful Master –

<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/202105-28v1.mp4>



Analysis of "The Lodge" as Man: A Symbolic Interpretation of the Officer Roles"



As a Masonic Educator, this tutorial, "Officers of the Lodge," presents a profound and valuable framework for Masonic instruction. It moves beyond the rote memorization of ritual and duties into the very heart of Masonic philosophy: the application of its symbols and allegories to the grand project of self-improvement. This analysis will delve into the tutorial's core concepts, its deconstruction of the officer roles, and its practical value as an educational tool, following the structured

inquiry provided.

I. Core Thesis and Philosophical Framework

- **Central Metaphor:** The tutorial's foundation rests upon the powerful metaphor from W. L. Wilmshurst's "The Meaning of Masonry": "**the Lodge represents man himself.**" This single idea is the key that unlocks the entire text. It transforms the Lodge from a physical room where rituals are performed into a living, breathing blueprint of the human psyche. The Worshipful Master ceases to be merely the presiding officer and becomes the symbolic representation of a man's own "spirit." The Wardens are not just assistants; they embody the "soul" and "mind," respectively. This interpretation is remarkably effective because it internalizes the Masonic experience. The drama of the Lodge—its officers, guards, and messengers—becomes the internal drama of every Mason's journey toward integrity, self-awareness, and purpose. It elevates the ritual from a mere performance to a dynamic map for personal development.
- **The "Betari's Box" Principle:** The author's choice to frame the tutorial with "Betari's Box" is a masterful pedagogical stroke. By starting and ending with the concept that "My attitude affects my behaviour which affects your attitude and your behaviour," the author establishes a crucial lesson in both internal and external relations. Internally, it speaks to the interconnectedness of our own spirit, soul, and mind. The attitude



of our "spirit" (WM) directly impacts the behaviour of our senses (the Guards). Externally, it applies with profound significance to the Tyler, who is the first point of contact. His attitude literally sets the tone and influences the behavior of a candidate or visitor, making him a true "ambassador of our character." This principle reinforces the idea that Freemasonry is not an abstract philosophy but a lived practice, where our internal state has a direct and tangible impact on the world around us.

- **Integration of External Thought:** The author skilfully weaves in concepts from a diverse range of fields—psychology, theology, science, and philosophy—to illuminate Masonic principles. This approach is highly effective. Referencing thinkers like Thomas Aquinas on moral law, Darwin on conscience, and Robert A. Emmons on spiritual intelligence serves to demonstrate the universality of Masonic teachings. It suggests that Freemasonry is a unique vessel containing timeless truths that humanity has explored through various disciplines. By quoting David Chalmers' view that understanding requires combining science and spirituality, the author validates Freemasonry's allegorical method as a legitimate path to knowledge. These external sources do not distract; rather, they enrich the interpretation by building a bridge between Masonic symbolism and the broader human search for meaning, making the teachings more accessible and intellectually robust.

II. Deconstruction of the Officer Roles as Aspects of the Self



The Tyler (Outer Senses & Blind Faith): The interpretation of the Tyler as the embodiment of our five outer senses is insightful. He is our first line of defence, guarding our "moral selves" from negative external influences. The analysis of his duties is particularly strong. The instruction to "Look into a person's eyes for it is there that you will see a reflection of their soul" elevates his role from a simple guard to

a discerning judge of character. The symbolism of the three knocks as "Seek," "Ask," and "Knock" provides a beautiful narrative for the candidate's journey. The concept of "Blind Faith" is perfectly tied to this



initial stage—it is the trust a candidate places not just in the institution, but in his own nascent belief that a path to a better self is possible.

The Inner Guard (Inner Senses & Instinct): The Inner Guard as the seat of our intuition, imagination, and instinct is a compelling parallel. If the Tyler manages external data, the Inner Guard processes our internal, intuitive responses. This officer is our "gut feeling," the part of us that asks, "Will this person, idea, concept be of benefit or harm to you?" The tutorial correctly identifies this as a crucial protective mechanism for our integrity. The symbolic duty of obeying the Junior Warden (our "Mind") is a brilliant illustration of a well-ordered psyche. Our instinct must not be purely reactive; it must be governed by our "Spiritual Consciousness" to ensure our actions are morally sound.

The Deacons (Communication): The portrayal of the Deacons as the vital communication channels between our Spirit (WM), Soul (SW), and Mind (JW) is a cornerstone of this symbolic structure. The text rightly emphasizes that communication is about understanding, not just transmitting information. The lesson to "listen to understand" is critical for our internal dialogue. The symbolism of the wands is explored effectively; the dove representing wisdom and peace (the message from the Holy Spirit or higher self) and Mercury representing the accurate interpretation of those messages. Within "man himself," the Deacons ensure that the wisdom of the Spirit is clearly understood by the Soul and Mind, allowing for informed and integrated decisions that preserve our integrity.

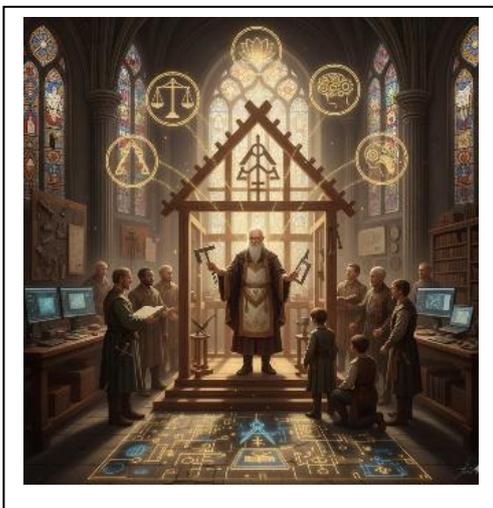
The Junior Warden (Spiritual Consciousness & The Mind): Equating the Junior Warden with our "Mind" and "Spiritual Consciousness" is a profound step. The plumb rule, his jewel, becomes an emblem of the internal "uprightness" and "integrity" that must govern our thoughts. The tutorial's connection between the sun at its meridian—the hottest part of the day—and the mind's duty to call the craft from labor to refreshment is a beautiful allegory for self-care and balance. It is the Mind's responsibility to prevent burnout and ensure that our daily actions result in both "profit and pleasure." The gavel as the "force of conscious" that keeps down "unbecoming thoughts" perfectly captures the role of a disciplined mind in achieving inner peace.



The Senior Warden (The Soul & Your Very Essence): The Senior Warden is presented as our "Soul," the very essence of our character that experiences deep feelings and pursues happiness. The level symbolizes the "equal measures" by which our Spirit and Soul must work together. The most powerful imagery here is the moon. The Senior Warden's column, representing the moon, "reflects the light of the sun (the mind)." This beautifully illustrates that our character and our pursuit of happiness (Soul) are illuminated by our virtuous thoughts (Mind). The duty to close the Lodge and reflect on the day's labors is perfectly aligned with the soul's need for introspection and growth, directly referencing "Kolb's experiential learning cycle" as a model for learning from our experiences, good and bad.

The Worshipful Master (The Spirit & Purpose): Finally, the Worshipful Master symbolizes our "Spirit"—our purpose, wisdom, and driving will. The text correctly places the Three Great Lights at his pedestal, as it is from this source that our Spirit draws its moral and ethical guidance. The author connects the Master's duties directly to an individual's life purpose. "As the sun rises in the east to open and enliven the day so the WM is placed in the East." This is our Spirit setting our daily agenda, driving us "to grow, to move into a better world." The analysis of the three questions posed during the installation ceremony frames them as foundational promises we must make to ourselves: to obey the moral law, to be a peaceable and constructive member of society, and to guard ourselves from negative influences.

III. Practical Application and Pedagogical Value.



Action-Oriented Learning: The inclusion of "Action" prompts is what makes this tutorial an exceptional educational tool. These simple, reflective exercises—such as "list three things that have made you smile today" or "set one achievable objective that will take a step towards making you a better person"—are invaluable. They prevent the lesson from remaining a purely intellectual exercise. They demand that the reader immediately



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apply the symbolic teachings to their own life, grounding the esoteric in the practical and fostering a habit of daily self-reflection and advancement.

Educational Tool: As a Masonic Educator, this text is a superb resource. It is perhaps most suitable for Master Masons who have experienced the rituals and are ready to explore their deeper meaning. However, its clear language and powerful metaphors would also be profoundly illuminating for new candidates after their initiation, helping them understand that what they have joined is not merely a club, but a system for personal transformation. In a Lodge of Instruction, I would supplement this text by asking Brethren to share their own reflections on the "Action" prompts or to discuss which officer's symbolic function they feel they need to work on most in their personal lives.

Synthesis and the "Awakening Experience": The tutorial masterfully synthesizes its components in its conclusion. The Lodge, as "man himself," is not a collection of disconnected parts but a harmonious whole. The Spirit (WM) sets the purpose, which is communicated by the Deacons to the Soul (SW) and Mind (JW). The Mind maintains integrity and balance, while the Soul reflects on the journey, driven by a quest for happiness. All of this is protected by the inner and outer senses (the Guards). This internal harmony, this well-governed inner Lodge, is what leads to the "Awakening Experience" David Chalmers describes: "a sense of oneness with other human beings, nature and the world as a whole." The tutorial argues, persuasively, that this is the ultimate aim of Freemasonry—to build a better self in order to experience a deeper connection to all of humanity, perfectly encapsulated in the principles of **"Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth."**

Note for Preceptors.

The Preceptor's more detailed working copy of this lesson can be found in the **Learning and Development** section of the **West Group Web Site** (www.wgsm.org.uk) along with an **audio 'Podcast' analysis**.

The Learning and Development Team.



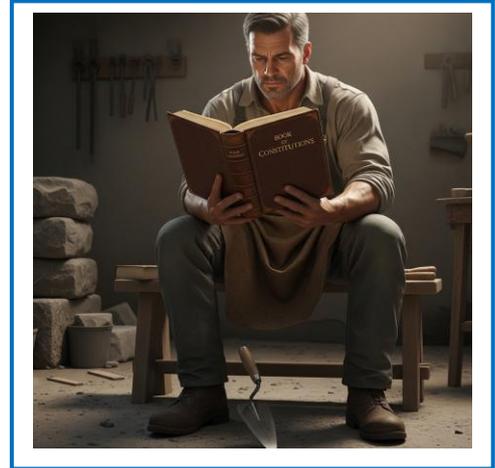
Model Answers to Lesson 1 (September Issue)

Here are the model answers to the discussion points regarding the Ceremony of Installation.

1. The Significance of Rule 105 Book of Constitutions.

The annual election and installation of a new Master is fundamental to the health and continuity of a Lodge for several reasons:

- It ensures a balance of fresh leadership and continuity.
- This regular transition of leadership prevents stagnation and infuses the Lodge with new ideas and energy.
- It provides an opportunity for different members to develop their leadership skills, contributing to a more resilient and capable membership.



Democratic principles are embedded in this process and align with Masonic values:

- The election of officers is a crucial event in the Masonic calendar, where members participate in a democratic vote.
- Freemasonry adheres to liberal democratic principles, including religious toleration and loyalty to local government.
- The privilege of voting in the lodge is a basic right for Master Masons, carrying the responsibility of being informed.
- This aligns with the Masonic value of equality, as all members have a voice in choosing their leadership.

The detailed procedure for a motion to prevent a Master-Elect from being installed highlights the following:

- **Seriousness of Masonic Governance:** The existence of such a detailed process underscores the gravity with which Masonic governance is treated. It demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that those who hold leadership positions are fit and proper for the role.



- **Importance of Due Process:** It reflects a deep respect for due process and fairness. It ensures that any objection to a Master-Elect's installation is handled in a structured, transparent, and equitable manner, protecting the rights of all individuals involved.

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2. The "Inner Workings"

The symbolic significance of being placed in the "Chair of King Solomon" is profound:

- The Master of a Symbolic Lodge symbolically fills the role once occupied by King Solomon.
- This act imparts upon the new Master the weight of history and the expectation of wisdom, justice, and leadership in guiding the Craft.
- Sitting in this chair reminds the Master to wield his authority with responsibility.

The Square, as the Master's jewel of office, has a dual function that relates to his duty to provide instruction:

- The square is a symbol of morality, truthfulness, and honesty.
- It is used to test the accuracy of stones, ensuring they are "true." This symbolizes the Master's role in correcting and harmonizing the conduct of the brethren based on principles of morality and virtue.
- The square reminds the Master to act with rectitude and measure his actions with precision, which in turn guides his instruction of the brethren.

The jewel of the Immediate Past Master, featuring Euclid's 47th Problem, represents the culmination of a year of leadership and progress:

- This symbol, also known as the Pythagorean Theorem, represents a general love for the arts and sciences.
- It signifies the completion of a journey through the Lodge's leadership positions to a new level of understanding and accomplishment.
- **Connection to Moral and Intellectual Guidance:** The 47th Problem is foundational to geometry and architecture, demonstrating how knowledge and reason can create perfect and true forms. This connects to the moral and intellectual guidance a Mason should follow by symbolizing the



importance of a solid foundation of knowledge and the application of principles to build a virtuous life.

3. The Address to the Master: A Charge of Servant Leadership

- **The Sun as a Metaphor:** The imagery of the sun rising in the east to open and govern the day defines the Master's role as a source of "light and instruction" for the brethren. Just as the sun illuminates the earth, the Master is expected to enlighten the minds of the brethren with knowledge and Masonic principles.
- **The Ultimate Purpose of Masonic Teachings:** The charge for the Master to ensure the Brethren practice the duties taught in the Lodge *outside* of it emphasizes that Masonic teachings are not meant to be confined to the lodge room. Their ultimate purpose is the betterment of society through the individual actions and moral conduct of its members in their daily lives.
- **Hierarchy of Authority for Good Governance:** The prescribed order of authority—the Lodge's By-laws, the Constitutions of Masonry, and the Sacred Writings—is significant for good governance. This structure ensures a balance between the specific rules of the local lodge, the overarching regulations of the broader Masonic body, and the foundational moral and spiritual guidance of the sacred texts. This hierarchy provides a clear framework for decision-making and ensures that the Master's actions are consistent with Masonic principles at all levels.

4. The Address to the Wardens: The Art of Middle Management

- **Cultivating Future Leaders:** The instruction for Wardens to "carefully imitate" praiseworthy qualities in others while amending their own defects is a direct exercise in self-improvement and leadership development. By observing and learning from experienced members and engaging in introspection, they cultivate the wisdom and character necessary to lead in the future.



- **Importance of Being "Examples of Good Order and Regularity":** The Wardens' conduct directly influences the adherence of the brethren to the Lodge's laws and the overall harmony of the Lodge. As the second and third in command, their respect for rules and decorum sets a powerful example for all members to follow. The Senior Warden's jewel, the level, symbolizes that all Masons meet on the same level.
- **A Blueprint for Effective Mentorship:** This address serves as a blueprint for effective mentorship and delegated authority. The Wardens are, in essence, senior and junior vice presidents who assist the Master and may chair various committees.[They are being prepared for future leadership, learning to manage responsibilities and guide their fellow brethren.

5. The Address to the Brethren: The Social Contract of Freemasonry

- **The Role of Humility:** The concept of "Humility in each" makes the structure of "some must rule and teach, so others must learn, submit, and obey" workable and prevents resentment. Humility teaches that no one person is more important than another and that the power of an office resides in the position, not the individual. It fosters an understanding of our common faults and makes brotherhood a reality. This allows for a harmonious and respectful environment where leadership is a service, not a means of self-aggrandizement.
- **The "Grand Design of Being Happy":** The shared goal to "be happy and communicate happiness" unifies the leadership and membership of the Lodge. This common purpose, rooted in personal fulfilment and the well-being of others, transcends individual roles and fosters a sense of unity and collective effort.
- **The Working Tools in Daily Life:**
 - **The Rule:** The 24-inch gauge represents the wise use of time, dividing the day into periods for serving God, helping a neighbour, and self-improvement.
 - **The Square:** This tool guides our actions, reminding us to be honest, fair, and just in all our dealings with others. It is a symbol of acting with integrity and righteousness.



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- **The Compasses:** The compasses teach us to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds. They symbolize self-control and the importance of establishing healthy boundaries in our lives.





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Cornerstone (Miscellaneous bits)

Learning Programs:

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Program.
Freemasonry is a Lifestyle Choice. Learn more through your Lodge Mentor, the
West Group web page or the L & D Team.

Solomon <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>

Mentors Notes: <https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mentorsnotes/>

West Group Web Page: <https://www.wgsm.org.uk>

ONLINE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Start your journey
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Facebook.

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<https://www.facebook.com/share/Tx388jyGJiYKfd4q/?mibextid=K35XfP>

West Sussex Light Blues Club



<https://www.westsussexlbc.org/>

Are you a new Mason in the West Group of Sussex? Click on the QR Code and enjoy your journey into an exciting aspect of Freemasonry.

Membership Benefits

- Monthly Social Events Across The Province
- Curated masonic events, just for club members
- Learn more about the craft in a relaxed setting
- Access to a private Facebook page & WhatsApp group
- Socialise with & meet likeminded Freemasons in your area
- Future planned benefits including a masonic passport, lapel pins, a role within the club and more...



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The NEW Royal Arch Chapter of Improvement in Chichester.

A different approach to teaching the mysteries of the Royal Arch has been adopted in the Chichester Chapter of Improvement. It combines education of both the philosophical meaning and the personal development application of the ritual alongside traditional teaching methods of the Royal Arch ceremonies.

"Tell me I will forget.

Show me I will remember.

Involve me I will understand".

Part 2 of the Course commences in September '25.

The three Royal Arch Lectures will be analysed in order to understand how the Royal Arch applies to 21st Century Freemasons.

Historical Lecture. 6th September. (Completed)

Symbolical Lecture. 25th October.

Mystical Lecture. 29th November.

To Enrol or if you would like a prospectus please contact the Chichester Chapter of Improvement Secretary Ex. Comp. Stephen J. Goulding, SLGCR:

Email: stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk



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Sussex Royal Arch Masonry launches new BLOG

<https://www.sussexroyalarch.co.uk>



The **BLOG** is a standalone communication platform which operates separately but in conjunction with the Sussex Royal Arch Website. The **BLOG** is **updated daily** and is easily accessible, simply visit <https://www.sussexroyalarch.co.uk>

A One Journey – One Organisation BLOG



Conveying information about

Royal Arch Masonry and how to join.

Future *Exaltation and Installation Ceremonies* taking place local to you.

Royal Arch Events taking place in Sussex Chapters and beyond.

Royal Arch Articles and *Announcement's*.

Membership and *Mentoring*.



Archway Support

UGLE- Solomon Royal Arch Virtual Learning Platform Guidance



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Charity.

The West Group Supported Charities.

In 2025, the West Group have set three challenges.

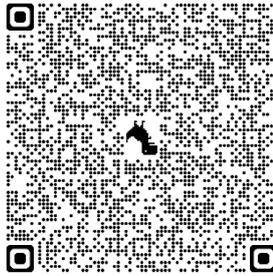
Challenge 1 Successfully Completed. Amberley Museum.

Repairing their 'Nature Trail'.

Challenge 2 Successfully Completed. Moonlight Walk (14th June, 2025.) for St. Wilfrid's Hospice.

Challenge 3. **SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED**

Supporting Stonepillow the Chichester homeless charity with a 'BIG Sleepout'. (Saturday, 20th September, 2025.)



To contribute please go to:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/stonepillowbigsleepout2025



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Actions Not Words.



Bro Mark Scott set off from the Gordon Centre in Bognor Regis at 9am this morning (Sunday, 28th September) on his 80 mile, three day, trans Province walk. A superb effort to raise funds for the Sussex 2028 Festival via his MY28 challenge.

Following his send off by the West Wing team watch out for updates during the day as he traverses the West Group joined at various points by West Group MY28 Champion Steve Taylor.



Thanks to a speedy response by the Brethren of Bishop Edward Story Lodge and the Companions of Manor of Bosham Chapter a new fridge unit was rapidly funded for the Daisy Café in Sage House, Tangmere. Sage House brings together local dementia support services under one roof.

Pictured Secretary of L8256 and MEZ of C6297 with Lisa Hoare, Fundraising & Relationships Lead and Head of Fundraising James Lovel



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The second of our monthly Community Food Hubs was held at the Charmandean (18th September). A UKHarvest / West Sussex County Council initiative with the combined objectives of preventing food waste and food insecurity. The Hub was supported by a number of support services.

Upcoming L&D Events.

The Learning and Development Team are putting together the following for your interest and education:

- Standards and Performance Workshop for ALL Lodge officers.
- Mentors Workshop
- Royal Arch Representative Seminar for RA Reps and all those brethren interested in joining the Royal Arch.

Watch this Space.

Any Brother wishing development in any area of Craft or Royal Arch Masonry that we have not covered please let us know. We will try to put a learning plan together for you.

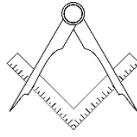
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Enquiries: stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk



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If you are not willing to
learn no one can help
you.

If you are determined
to learn, no one can stop
you.

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Notes.