



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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



THIRD RISING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WEST GROUP - SUSSEX FREEMASONS



Brethren All,

Welcome to the third edition of 'The Third Rising'. Our hard-working West Group Secretary Ian Gregory collates news and events each month and delivers them to your Inbox. If you have a Flyer for an event which you would like to publicise, just let Ian have a copy in the first couple of weeks of the month and he will do the rest!

Unbelievably we are already a quarter of the way through 2026. There have been some superb meetings in Lodges and Chapters across the West Wing with the prospect of more to come. Our engagement in the community continues at pace. Do watch out for news stories in the local press with three more coming out very shortly.

I hope that you all have had the opportunity to read this month's edition of 'The West Wing Masons Notebook' (Issue No 20) produced by Steve Goulding. There is a fantastic commentary on the Charge after the Initiation.

This edition of the Third Rising features the monthly status of the all-important 'The One Challenge', news from around the West Wing over the last month and a look forward to forthcoming events.

Onwards & Upwards!

John Spence

West Group Chairman

Contents

West Group Ambassador visits The Martlets	4
Masonic Trout and Salmon Fishing Charity – Sussex Branch	5
Local Donation.....	7
The Craftsmen	8
Charity Football Match in Worthing	9
West Sussex Light Blues Club Breakfast.....	10
Royal Arch Workshop	11
New Community Engagement Champion for Bognor!	12
Volunteering at Sage House	13
Travelling Ensign	14
70 years as a Freemason, for VW Bro Don Durrant!	15
'The One Challenge'	16
Save the Date – Black Tie Dinner & Dance	17
St Wilfrid's Hospice Moonlight Walk 2026 - 13th June	18

‘Facebook campaigns re-launched’

Is your Lodge looking for new members?

The West Group has relaunched an offer of running Facebook advertising campaigns for individual Lodges or Centres to attract potential candidates. These campaigns have been on hold for a couple of months while UGLE ran a national campaign. Essentially an advert is run on your behalf with all leads directed to your Membership Officer or Secretary. At a cost of £50 per Lodge, it is a simple but effective way of attracting enquiries.

Fiscian Lodge No 7461 have been first out of the blocks with their campaign going live last week. At the time of writing, they have received twenty one leads to follow up.

For more details contact our West Group Attraction Lead, Mark Williams at

markwilliams@sussexmasons.org.uk



West Group Ambassador visits The Martlets

Another Hospice visit by Sam Weber this time to The Martlets. After a tour of their facilities, Sam discussed his upcoming Yukon 1000 Challenge and joint promotion.

In yet another extreme fundraising challenge Sam is supporting four of our local hospices: St Wilfrid's Chichester, Chestnut Tree House Arundel, St Barnabas Worthing and The Martlets. Hove Go for it Sam!



Masonic Trout and Salmon Fishing Charity – Sussex Branch



19th March 2026 – Northbrook Fly, West Ashling



The day began beautifully, marking our first fishing event of the year. glorious sunshine, it really was a splendid March day. The only was the unexpected absence of one school, who unfortunately could the last moment. Nevertheless, we were delighted to welcome eight pupils from Oak Grove, Worthing, all keen and ready for a day on the



Bathed in dampener not attend at enthusiastic water.

The site was swiftly prepared ahead of the school's arrival. After everyone enjoyed a hearty breakfast, a safety briefing was provided for the casters.



hen, ensuring everyone had received safety instructions and their fishing gear, both the pupils and their staff began their journey. Success came quickly, as fish were being netted within minutes of starting. Both Brown and Rainbow Trout were caught during the session, with the largest tipping the scales at just over four pounds (1.8 kg). To the delight of everyone present, each pupil managed to catch at least one

fish.

Fishing concluded just before 13:00, followed by a delicious lunch, prepared and served by Phil, Vanessa, Phil, and Margaret. There was just enough space left to enjoy some cake and participate in the presentations.



The school departed shortly after 14:00, taking with them both fish for the pot and cherished memories of a wonderful day.

We extend our sincere thanks to Assistant Provincial Grand Master Michael Lear for attending and presenting the certificates. Our gratitude also goes to all the casters and helpers whose efforts contributed to making the day truly special for everyone involved.



Here are a couple of letters of thanks from the Social Worker at Oak Grove school and also one of the parents – whose son is called Mason.

From Social Worker:

I just wanted to take the opportunity to say an official thank you.

Your organisation before, during and after these events is on a different level, and it allows our pupils to access such a wonderful experience. It genuinely makes a huge difference.

And yes, you look after the staff too (the food definitely didn't go unnoticed!), but more importantly, the care and detail that goes into everything really stands out. Please do pass on my thanks to everyone involved.

I also wanted to share part of an email I received this week, as it really highlights the impact:

From Parent:

Thank you so much for providing Mason with some amazing opportunities over the past few weeks. I fully recognise the amount of planning and effort that goes into the organisation of such activities. Both the fishing trip and the theatre trip were such positive experiences for him.

The fishing trip really pushed Mason out of his comfort zone with learning new skills and interacting with new people. In addition, it created a core memory of us both working together to gut our first fish using the power of YouTube!

If you are interested in assisting with casting or would like to help at future events, please get in touch via email at peteejhansen@gmail.com or contact our Chair, petertwhiteside4@gmail.com Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Pete Hansen - Schools Liaison Officer MTSFC Sussex

Local Donation

Bro Dean Lancaster raised awareness for Bognor Family Support Network whereby they provide a comprehensive assistance to parenting with specialised support for children with disabilities. Picture shows Dean presenting a cheque for £500.00.



Picture shows Dean presenting a cheque for £500.00.

The Craftsmen



The Craftsmen

a new masonic function band

Seek an experienced
Lead Guitar, & Saxophonist



Based on the South Coast of Sussex playing
classic Soul, Funk. & Disco as part of a 8 piece
band with horn section

for more information contact David Lindfield on
07518 678365 or email david.lindfield@ntlworld.com

Charity Football Match in Worthing

Ticket sales here;

<https://www.martlets.org.uk/events/martlets-fc-vs-sussex-freemasons-fc/>



The poster features a background image of a football pitch with a stadium in the background. Overlaid on the image is the text 'CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH' in large, bold letters. 'CHARITY' is in blue, 'FOOTBALL' is in pink, and 'MATCH' is in white. To the right of this text is a red and blue banner that says 'BREAKING NEWS'. Below the text are the logos for Martlets Football Club and Sussex Freemasons F.C., separated by a 'v'. The Martlets logo is a blue circle with a white bird and a heart, with '20' on either side. The Sussex Freemasons logo is a blue circle with a gold shield containing three birds. At the bottom, a blue box contains the following text:

WATCH THIS SPACE...!
A STAR STudded LINE UP OF EX PRO'S, SUSSEX CELEBS, ACTORS, MEDIA STARS, PROVINCIAL GRANDMASTER, BUSINESS ASSOCIATES & SURPRISE GUESTS!
GATES OPEN at 1pm - 2.30pm KO
Saturday May 30th at Worthing Football Club
TICKET NEWS TO FOLLOW

West Sussex Light Blues Club Breakfast

The second WSLBC monthly breakfast club meet took place on 28th March at the Benito Lounge in Bognor Regis with sixteen in attendance. A great way for our newer members to meet up socially. Check out future WSLBC events:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1120356763219567?locale=en_GB



Royal Arch Workshop

A very educational and thought-provoking Royal Arch Workshop was held on 28th March at The Charmandean, presented by Steve Goulding and his L&D team Barry Smith and Fred Biggs. Attended by twenty members with many being Royal Arch Representatives in their Craft Lodges.



New Community Engagement Champion for Bognor!

We are delighted to announce that the vacant Community Engagement Champion position at the Bognor Centre has been filled by Clive Mills. Clive brings with him great enthusiasm and a passion to get things done in the Community Engagement arena. His first planned event is a 'river clean' in Littlehampton on 17th May.



Volunteering at Sage House

Following the hugely successful painting and decorating weekend at Sage House Dementia Hub in Tangmere last summer, Merrick Eames of Pagham Lodge, returned to tackle the cafeteria. Sage House provides vital dementia support services and The West Group are proud to offer help to one of our five Strategic Charity partners. Well done Merrick, fantastic work!



Travelling Ensign

The Travelling Ensign has travelled!

A fantastic evening at Gordon Chapter on 15th April where a party from Mount Moriah Chapter visited to deposit it in its next place of safety...until it's next trip.



70 years as a Freemason, for VW Bro Don Durrant!

What an amazing evening on Friday 27th March when the Provincial Grand Master presented a Platinum Jubilee certificate to VW Bro Don Durrant, recognising **70 years** as a Freemason.



‘The One Challenge’

Our Provincial Grand Master has set the challenge of each Lodge in the Province having one additional member at the end of December 2026 compared to membership at 1st January 2026. Of course, if we experience resignations or passings to the Grand Lodge above this increases the need for Initiates or Joining Members.

After the first three months of 2026 here are the current positions;

		MEMBERS @ 01/01/26	MEMBERS @ 01/04/26	+1 CHALLENGE From 01/01/26
Pentalpha	3164	33	36	3
Rustington	6490	20	23	3
Artemis	9964	12	14	2
Lodge of Union	38	32	33	1
Cissbury	5237	30	31	1
Stanford	1947	36	36	0
St Mary of the Harbour	2591	32	32	0
Thomas á Becket	3352	23	23	0
Midhurst	4460	45	45	0
Petworth	5547	24	24	0
Bognor Regis	6295	26	26	0
Chanctonbury	6296	28	28	0
Heene Lodge of Peace and	6350	22	22	0
Lancing	6352	13	13	0
Fiscian	7461	14	14	0
Wayfarers	7995	56	56	0
Bishop Edward Story	8256	36	36	0
Sompting	8450	48	48	0
Witterings	8863	28	28	0
Ferring Contemporary	9976	17	17	0
Classic Motoring	10004	23	23	0
Howard Lodge of Brotherly	56	43	42	-1
Gordon	1726	10	9	-1
St Andrew's	4655	34	33	-1
Arundel	5822	32	31	-1
Sussex Motorcycling	9871	20	19	-1
Felpham	5413	38	36	-2
Mount Caburn	6811	14	12	-2
Ordines	6866	40	38	-2
Owers Light	7756	24	22	-2
Bond of Friendship	9117	35	33	-2
Worthing Lodge of Friends	851	29	26	-3
Shoreham Beach	8303	21	18	-3
Pagham	8280	40	35	-5

Early days and we know that many Lodges have Initiations and Joining Members lined up.

Save the Date – Black Tie Dinner & Dance

An opportunity to involve wives, partners, family and friends in an evening of fun whilst supporting the Chichester Hall funds.



CHICHESTER MASONIC CENTRE

Black Tie Dinner & Dance

A glamorous evening of dining, dancing & celebration

In aid of the Building Fund

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

Arrival 6:15pm • Dinner 7:00pm
Carriages at 10:45pm

-  Luxury three-course dinner with menu choices
-  Live music & dancing with The Vincents
-  Elegant charity raffle in aid of the Centre Building Fund
-  Wives, partners & non-masonic guests warmly welcome

£47 per person

RESERVE YOUR PLACES

bes.squareevents.org

Black tie • ballroom glamour • tables available for groups

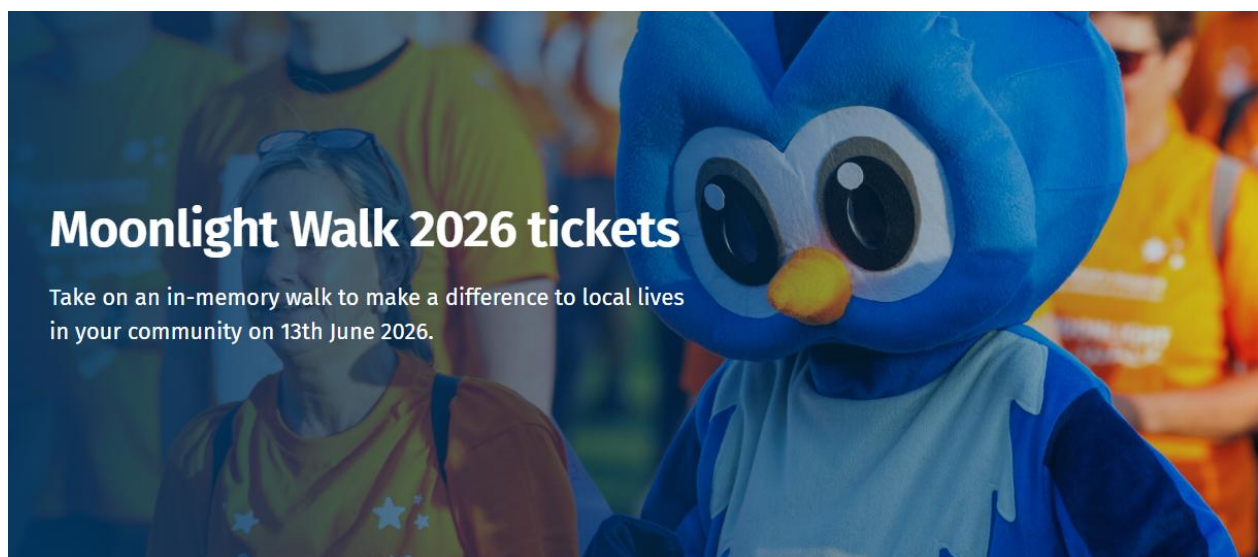
St Wilfrid's Hospice Moonlight Walk 2026 - 13th June

In 2025 a team from the West Group took part in the Moonlight Walk raising a fantastic £2,867 for this much-loved local charity. Only 19% of their funding comes from the NHS, the rest is from public donations.

We're entering a team again this year (5- or 10-mile options).

If you want to join the team, please register with St Wilfrid's via the link below and let our chairman, John Spence jjspence@aol.com know so that he can add you to the West Group team list

<https://stwh.co.uk/moonlight-walk-2026-tickets/>



Ian Gregory

West Group Secretary

West Group Facebook group

https://www.facebook.com/groups/443058108347143?locale=en_GB

West Group Website

www.wgsm.co.uk