



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

The National Theme for Holocaust Memorial Day this year was “The Power of Words” and an address was prepared by the Provincial Grand Orator, WBro George Mars accordingly. This was delivered on three occasions by senior members of the Province.



On Thursday 25th January, Barrie Hewitt the South East Area APGM, accompanied by the Area’s Public Affairs Officer, Roger Maber, attended the Holocaust Memorial Day commemorative service at Havant’s New Lane Cemetery. Along with the Mayor of Havant Cllr Elaine Shimbart, other Councillors and students from a number of local schools, Barrie gave a reading and later laid a wreath on behalf of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Freemasons.

Following the ceremony they were invited to attend a reception at Havant Civic Offices and listened to a very personal and moving account by a Holocaust survivor William Bergman. William recalled his childhood memories of escaping to Britain with his mother and father from Nazi Germany in 1938 as a four year old. Sadly he and his parents were the only survivors of his entire family.

William’s story is a wonderful account of succeeding over adversity. As a young boy arriving in this country unable to speak English he went on to master the language, attain top grades at school and university and forge a very successful career as a specialist in fine art.



On Saturday 27th January the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Mike Wilks visited The Island Free School at Ventnor on the Isle of Wight to represent the Province at the Isle of Wight Holocaust Memorial Service led by The Isle of Wight Jewish Society. Readings were delivered by students of Ryde School and The Island Free School, focusing on recent and current Holocausts, together with dignitaries including the Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Maj. Gen. Martin White CB CBE JP and the PGM. After each reading the students lit one of six memorial candles. The final reading was by Eve Alexander who gave a very moving account of her personal survival of the Second World War Holocaust.





A Holocaust Memorial Day Service took place at the Portsmouth City Museum on 1st February 2018 in the presence of the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor, Councillor Ken Ellcome, and the Leader of Portsmouth City Council, Donna Jones. The service was conducted by W. Bro. Paul Miles-Knight. A number of very moving and poignant readings were given including a reading by V.W. Bro. Alan Berman (the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in the Royal Arch) on behalf of the Freemasons of the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. The service was conducted adjacent to the Anne Frank Memorial Tree. Approximately sixty people attended the service including representatives from the local Police Force, the Fire and Ambulance services, Civic dignitaries, members of the Portsmouth and Southsea Hebrew Congregation, and several local Freemasons. The service concluded with the symbolic blowing of a rams horn, known as the Shofar.

