



Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Protocol and Etiquette

Enquiries about Craft Masonic protocol and etiquette are by far the most common questions received by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, and some are so frequent that they are shown below as a series of Questions and Answers.

These and many other 'answers' can often be found in the Book of Constitutions, the little booklet 'Guidance for members of the Craft' which accompanies every BoC and in the various ritual books themselves. The vast majority of this Province works 'Emulation' ritual and that is what has been used where appropriate below. They are in no particular order and are for H&IoW brethren.

Q. Which of my various Masonic ties can I wear....?

A. A plain black tie or the (Grand Lodge) Craft tie can be worn at any Craft meeting, anywhere. The Provincial tie can be worn at any H&IoW Craft meeting but it is bad form to wear this tie in another Province without permission of that Province's PGM. The VO tie can be worn by active VOs, and other members of the VO's Mess, at any H&IoW Craft meeting. A lodge specific tie may only be worn in the lodge to which it applies and, when attending a lodge in a kindred association, e.g. the Pax Hill tie can be worn at other 'scouting' lodges, always assuming that the particular kindred association has agreed that it is appropriate.

The Royal Arch Supreme Grand Chapter tie may be worn at Craft meetings, but not a local Provincial Chapter tie.

Advice – always have either a plain black tie or a Craft tie with your regalia.

Q. Should I wear two or more collars of office at meetings of my lodge?

A. An easy rule of thumb is collar of office, badge (apron) of rank. There are some senior brethren who believe that an office holder should wear all his collars! However, this can be an encumbrance, look awkward and certainly cause clanking of jewels when moving about a lodge room.

Advice – if a Grand or Provincial officer, wear the lodge light blue collar only, except at Installations when your dark blue collar will be exposed when relinquishing a lodge office.

Q. Can I wear a lodge collar at meetings of other lodges?

A. Lodge collars are not to be worn outside the lodge to which they apply. The only exceptions are for a Worshipful Master or current Wardens who may and should wear their lodge collars at meetings of Grand Lodge or their own Provincial Grand Lodge.

Q. What is the correct order for wearing Masonic jewels?

A. The Royal Arch jewel nearest the heart, followed by the Tercentenary jewel, followed by a current or permanent Festival jewel or a Past Master's jewel. It follows that if not a Royal Arch Mason the Tercentenary jewel is first and so on.

Q. What is the correct position to wear an apron?

A. Aprons should be worn so that the top edge is at or just above the navel. Good regalia suppliers will attach a 'becket' (a leather button-hole, or loop) if asked, and this can be applied to the central button of your jacket for perfect positioning. All too often aprons are worn as if they are large sporrans!

Q. When should 'Full-dress' regalia be worn?

A. BoC Rule 257 is clear for Grand Officers and by extension for Provincial Grand Officers: "... a Grand Officer shall wear a collar of garter-blue ribbon embroidered or plain as he so desires..." except that an embroidered collar "...shall be worn: (i) in Grand Lodge; (ii) at great ceremonials ... (iii) in any ... Provincial ... Grand Lodge. In other words, except in these circumstances, it is up to the Brother to decide whether he wears Full-dress regalia unless otherwise directed by the Grand Master or a Provincial Grand Master in his own Province.

In H&IOW it is deemed appropriate to wear Full-dress at lodge Installations and Official Visits, otherwise as desired.

Q. What sign should be used at the Closing of a lodge?

A. The ritual book states – "All touch I b lightly with r h (not the Sn of F) with each word 'F'"

Advice – Look at any recent Emulation ritual book!

This is the first of an occasional series of protocol Q&As.



W.Bro Jon Bell has asked to stand down as Area Chairman for South Central Area and the PGI has been pleased to appoint W.Bro Kevin Turner in his stead with immediate effect.

Kevin has been replaced as AVC of Botley Centre by W.Bro Chris Harper.

APGM Jonathan Stainton-Ellis wishes publicly to thank Jon Bell for his assistance, enthusiasm, knowledge and support as Area Chairman and wishes him well for the future.

Jonathan Stainton-Ellis has also been pleased to appoint W.Bro Sean Jordan as the Area Membership Officer in succession to Chris Harper.

Ends.

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Provincial Grand Charity

The Tom Langton Fund

INFORMATION RELEASE No. 22

The Committee of The Provincial Grand Charity – ‘The Tom Langton Fund’ - meeting on Tuesday 26th November 2019 considered 32 applications from Lodges across the Province of which all but two were approved, totalling £13460. The Grants will help numerous non-Masonic Charities supporting vulnerable people, including those with disabilities, disadvantaged children, youth organisations, local churches and associations. At this meeting, the Fund reached £790,365 in grants since it was established in 1985 and over 1551 Charities and deserving causes have benefited as a result.

The Fund Committee meets twice a year; application forms, also showing the process and Area Charity Representative contact details may be downloaded via: <http://www.hiowmasons.org/charity/tom-langton-fund>. Alternatively, Lodges may contact the Area Representative listed below who can advise on the application.

Summary of Grants awarded in November 2019

Lodge Name & Number	Charity/Organisation	Amount (£)	
NCA Anton Lodge No. 6953 Oakley Lodge No. 694 Oceanus Lodge No. 7785 Southampton New Temple No. 8131 & Beach Lodge No. 2955 Mayflower Lodge No. 8815 Pax Hill Lodge No. 9878	Andover Young Carers	***500	
	MIND Andover and Basingstoke	750	
	Pam Brown Ward Children's Cancer Unit	***500	
	Friends of PICU	1000	
	2nd Locks Heath Scout Group	200	
	Cranbury Park Scout Site	500	
	NEA Chequered Flag Lodge No. 9914 St Peters Lodge No. 9182	Breast Cancer Haven	260
The Rosemary Foundation	***500		
SCA Test Valley Lodge No. 6181 Knightwood Lodge No. 7813 Albert Edward Lodge No. 1780 Homelea Lodge No. 8151 Pear Tree Lodge No. 7954 Thomas Bennett Langton Lodge No. 9224 Pear Tree Lodge No. 7954	Southampton Hospital Charity	1,000	
	Radiotherapy Development Fund		
	Guide Dogs UK (Hampshire)	***500	
	Jumbulance	300	
	Two Saints	500	
	Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy	500	
	Fledge Youth Support	300	
	Solent Pituitary Support Group	500	
	SWA Vortigern Lodge No. 4854 Rowena Lodge No. 3180 Southbourne Lodge No. 6281 Lyndhurst Lodge No. 8012 Lyndhurst Lodge No. 8012 Lodge of Expiation No. 9290 Lentune Lodge No. 8743	Multiple Sclerosis Society - Bournemouth	390
		The Connie Rothman Learning Trust	500
Bournemouth Hospital Charity		500	
Testwood Lakes Sailability		250	
Minstead Trust		***250	
Open Sight (New Milton Branch)		300	
The Amelia Grace Rainbow Fund		0	
SEA James E Bullen No. 9273 The Lodge of Hope No. 2153	12th Portsmouth Cathedral Guides	560	
	Ickle Pickle (Winchester)	***500	

SOL	The Portsmouth Lodge No. 487	8th Portsmouth Scout Group	***250
	The Portsmouth Lodge No. 487	Parent Support Link	500
	Haslar Lodge No. 7234	Alabaré Christian Care Centres	750
	St Vincent Lodge No. 5295	Oarsome Chance	300
	St Vincent Lodge No. 5295	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People	300
	East Medina Lodge No. 175	Vectis Youth Football Club	300

*Awards marked *** have been specifically supported by W.Bro Tom Jones PPSGW, Solent Lodge No 6182*

Total applications granted (30) totalling £13460

**W Bro Simon Wright, PProvSGD
Secretary
The Tom Langton Fund**