



Edition 2 July-September 2025



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The Newsletter of the
Provincial Grand Lodge
of Valencia



Issue Number 2 - July to September 2025



Foreword by the R.W. Provincial Grandmaster, Rodney Charles Bignell

Dear Brethren,



As the heat of summer gives way to the familiar rhythm of our Masonic labours, I extend to you all a warm and fraternal welcome back. I trust the past months have brought you rest, enjoyment, and the opportunity to return to the Lodge refreshed and ready for the new season.

We begin with a full and rewarding calendar, and I would like to highlight two important dates. On **8th November**, the **Provincial Lodge of Instruction** will be held at the Bonalba Hotel, Mutxamel—a valuable occasion to support our junior brethren, strengthen our bond of friendship, and share in the collective knowledge of the Craft. Booking details will be issued very shortly.

Then, on **6th December**, we gather for the **Provincial Ladies' Night** at the Grand Hotel Bali in Benidorm—a splendid evening to honour the support of our partners and to enjoy the fellowship that extends beyond the Lodge room. It promises to be a memorable celebration, and I encourage you to attend with guests and good cheer. Reservations can be made by clicking here:

[CLICK TO BOOK FOR THE LADIES NIGHT](#)

In this new edition of the Newsletter, alongside news from around the Province, you will find articles that combine tradition with learning. A fascinating exploration of **Masonic Aprons** offers insight into their symbolism and history—an enriching read for those who value the deeper meanings within our regalia.

For our **Entered Apprentices**, there is also a practical guide to the arrangement of a Lodge, designed to clarify its structure and the roles that bring our meetings to life.

I wish to formally record my deep gratitude to the Provincial Secretariat for their exemplary dedication in the preparation of this Newsletter, and for the many tireless and often unseen labours which so greatly contribute to the smooth administration and continued success of our Province.

These contributions reflect our shared commitment to education, inclusion, and the steady advancement of every Brother. Let us step forward into this new season united in purpose, eager to learn, and steadfast in the enduring spirit of Freemasonry.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

R.W. Bro. Rodney Charles Bignell
Provincial Grandmaster of Valencia



Bookings are now open for the Provincial Ladies Night

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Rodney Charles Bignell and his Lady Jeanette are holding their Ladies' Night on **Saturday 6th December 2025** at the Gran Hotel Bali in Benidorm.

The festivities commence on Friday 5th December on the Hotel's Crystal Terrace at 7.00pm with a casual dress code. Those attending will be welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master and his Lady to enjoy drinks and canapés accompanied by live music.

The main event is on Saturday 6th December with the dress code being 'Black Tie'. The evening will start with a Cava Reception on the Terrace of the Crystal Ballroom at 6.30pm and dinner will be served in the Crystal Ballroom at 7.30pm. Dancing after dinner will be to live Music with Carriages at 1.00am.

However, if you wish to continue the celebration to the early hours, then you can do so at the Hotel's Cotton Club until 3am.

The cost of the evening will be 40€ p.p. and must be paid for, in advance. Full details are provided on the Booking Form which can be accessed by clicking on the button below:

Please enter all your party's names on the Booking Form, with their menu choices.

Rooms are available at the Hotel at reasonable rates, with full information available on the Booking Form.

We are all truly looking forward to spending this unforgettable evening with you all. Let us celebrate friendship, tradition, and the holiday spirit in style.

Provincial Ladies Night
*Saturday 6th December, 6.30pm at
The Grand Hotel Bali, Benidorm*

Menu

Starters
Iberian ham and Manchego cheese with
home made breadsticks
Foie Mi-Cuit with tomato marmalade
Marinated prawn lollipop
followed by
Sorbets de Valencia

Main Course
Christmas Roast Turkey

Dessert
Christmas Pudding or
Fresh Fruit

*Includes cava, wine, soft drinks,
beer, water and coffee*

Price €40 per person

Click HERE to book or scan the QR code

FRIDAY
7pm - Cocktails on
the Crystal Terrace

SATURDAY
6.30pm - Cava Reception
on the Crystal Ballroom Balcony
7.30pm - Dinner in
the Crystal Ballroom
Dancing until late

CLICK HERE FOR THE BOOKING FORM FOR THE LADIES NIGHT.



The 2025 Provincial Lodge of Instruction



The 2024 Provincial Lodge of Instruction

On Saturday, 8th November 2025, the Provincial Lodge of Instruction will be convened at the Bonalba Hotel, Mutxamel, Alicante.

This year marks the twenty-second occasion of this distinguished event, and the honour of hosting has been entrusted to Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No. 58. It is a privilege for any Lodge to preside over such a significant celebration of our Masonic ritual, and this will be the first time that Puerto de Xàbia 58 has undertaken this esteemed responsibility.

The Provincial Lodge of Instruction provides an invaluable opportunity for newer Brethren to occupy offices they may not yet have held within their own Mother Lodge. On this occasion, Brethren from eight Lodges across the Province will assemble in due form to present a full demonstration of the First Degree Ceremony of Initiation.

Following the Ceremony, the Brethren and guests will retire to a formal Festive Board, where the Worshipful Master for the day, Bro. Rafe Parker, will extend fraternal greetings and invite all present to partake in a splendid banquet, conducted with all due Masonic decorum and tradition.

Speaking on behalf of the host Lodge, the Worshipful Master of Puerto de Xàbia No. 58, W. Bro. John Young, said:



"Our Lodge is deeply honoured to have been entrusted with hosting this most prestigious event. The Brethren participating in the Ceremony are working diligently to perfect their ritual, and I am confident they will deliver a demonstration worthy of the Province."

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Rodney Charles Bignell, also reflected on the significance of the occasion:



"Each year, we gather to witness our junior Brethren perform a Masonic ceremony. This is not only an enjoyable occasion, but also a fine opportunity to celebrate our fraternity and strengthen the bonds of friendship."

Full booking details will be circulated shortly, and it is hoped that as many Brethren as possible will attend both the Ceremony and the Festive Board, to support our junior Brethren and share in the harmony of the day.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK FOR THE PROVINCIAL LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.](#)



Meet the Team: the Provincial Secretariat



W. Bro. Sergio Pereira Behm, Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary (L)
and W. Bro. Matthew James, Provincial Grand Secretary (R)

What we do

The Provincial Secretariat underpins every aspect of our Lodges, offering governance, communication and practical support. By coordinating administrative, technical and advisory services, it equips Lodge officers and Brethren with the tools and guidance they need to work effectively and uphold Masonic protocol.

Digital Support and Technical Services

Central to the Secretariat's remit is the management of our digital platforms. This includes regular upkeep and development of the provincial website, oversight of social media channels and the provision of Zoom facilities for virtual meetings.

The team administers online forms and surveys, maintains an up-to-date provincial calendar and delivers general IT support. These services ensure that Lodges remain accessible, connected and fully supported—whether Brethren gather in person or online.

Membership Enquiries and Applications

All inquiries about joining our Order pass through the Secretariat. We promote membership via the Provincial website, social media campaigns and press releases, before forwarding each incoming inquiry to the relevant Lodge Secretary. The Secretariat also processes Lodge applications ("Solicitudes") swiftly and accurately, ensuring every candidate receives a prompt response.

Training Programmes and Guidance

To foster personal growth on everyone's Masonic journey, the Secretariat develops and publishes comprehensive training materials. These include certificates for incoming Worshipful Masters, information leaflets for new initiates and dedicated guides for each Lodge office. Regular revisions to the Secretaries' Guide, Intranet Guide, Toast Lists and Social Media Guide help maintain consistent standards across the Province.

Communications

Acting as the conduit between the Grand Lodge of Spain, the Province of Valencia and our individual Lodges, the Secretariat circulates directives, dispensations and by-law amendments.



The Secretariat publishes details of all Provincial and Lodge news and events on a dedicated section of the Provincial website. On a regular basis, we produce a Provincial newsletter, keeping every Brother informed of news and developments. We also manage relations with Press and media outlets and issue Press Releases on all News and events to ensure that a positive image of the Order is maintained.

Events Coordination and Venue Liaison

From the Provincial Lodge of Instruction to our annual Assembly and Ladies' Night, the Secretariat co-ordinates all bookings, negotiates room rates and menus, and liaises with venues to secure favourable terms. It publishes event summonses and maintains an accurate calendar of engagements, all while nurturing positive relationships with other Provinces and progressive orders.

Supporting Lodge Governance

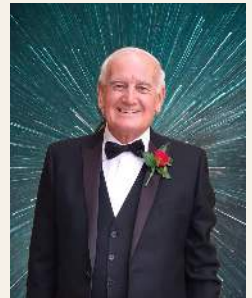
Beyond its visible services, the Secretariat offers confidential guidance on Lodge by-laws and constitutional queries. By advising on amendments and interpreting regulations, the team helps preserve each Lodge's sovereignty and integrity, enabling Worshipful Masters and Secretaries to fulfil their duties with confidence.

It offers expert advice on constitutional matters and Masonic protocol, ensuring clarity and fostering fraternity.

Conclusion

Through its wide-ranging responsibilities, the Provincial Secretariat ensures that our Lodges function smoothly, our rituals remain intact, and our bonds of brotherhood grow ever stronger. By shouldering these tasks, the Secretariat enables every Mason to focus on their labours, knowing that expert support is always at hand.

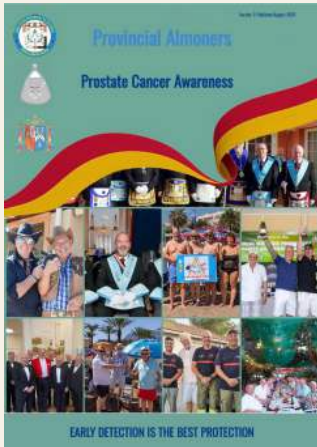
Who we are



From Left to Right: W. Bro. Matt James, Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Sergio Behm, Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Nick Carter, Asst Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Frederico Stewart, Asst Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. Alejandro Lopez, Social Networks Manager, Bro. Jose Lopez, Recruitment Officer, Bro. Stephen Young, Communications Officer



Provincial Almoners launch Prostate Cancer Awareness Campaign



Prostate Cancer and the Importance of Risk-Based Testing for Older Men

Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer among men in England, with cases

surging by 25 per cent between 2019 and 2023 and claiming a life every 45 minutes despite its high curability when caught early. As in many countries, Spain and the UK lack a formal screening programme, leaving many older men at risk of late diagnosis and advanced disease.

Understanding the Stakes for Older Men

Many of us in the Masonic community find ourselves entering the age bracket where prostate cancer incidence climbs steeply. In the UK alone, on average, more than 55,000 men are diagnosed annually, and over 12,000 die of prostate cancer—making it the second most common cause of cancer death in men.

Globally, prostate cancer ranks as the second most common male cancer, with new cases set to approach three million annually by 2040 and mortality rising by 85 per cent if no action is taken.

Why early testing matters

A one-size-fits-all approach to prostate cancer testing has drawbacks. Traditional PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood tests can detect elevated protein levels, but they miss some cancers and generate false positives that lead to unnecessary biopsies and treatment. That's why recent UK research is focusing on classifying men by individual risk—using age, family history, ethnicity and, in the future, emerging genetic tools—to target testing where it will have the most impact.

- Brethren aged 50 and over should consult their doctor and consider a PSA or other test; those aged 45 and over who are Black or have a family history of prostate cancer are strongly advised to discuss testing sooner.
- In the UK, one in five men present with incurable, advanced disease compared to under one in ten in countries with formal screening programmes such as the United States—largely thanks to routine PSA testing.
- Socio-economic and educational disparities mean that affluent, health-literate men are more likely to seek testing, while many others slip through the net simply due to lack of awareness or inconsistent advice from doctors.



Practical Steps for Masons

The Provincial Almoners team has produced a Factsheet which provides information on Prostate Cancer, the different tests available and signposts to where brethren can seek individual advice on their risk and the different tests available to them.

1. Know your baseline risk: consider age, ethnicity and family history.
2. Discuss testing with your doctor once you turn 50, or at 45 if you're Black or have affected relatives.
3. Keep abreast of developing work on Prostate Cancer.
4. Use the strength of our fraternity: share experiences and encourage one another to take proactive steps.

Looking Ahead

By staying informed and supporting one another, we can help ensure that prostate cancer is caught early—when it is most treatable—and safeguard the health of our brethren for years to come.

**REMEMBER – EARLY DETECTION IS
YOUR BEST PROTECTION**

The Grand Chapter of the Widows Sons Spain



On 13th and 14th June 2025. W. Bros Kjell-Arild Vaage, Jason Fowler, Jacob Magnussen and Jerry Roberts and Bro Johan Nilsson of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Valencia, travelled to Madrid and were honoured to become founder members of the Grand Chapter of the Widows Sons Spain. Although a well-recognised world-wide association of Masonic motorcyclists, this was the inauguration of a Spanish Chapter, with a charter from the Grand Lodge of Spain.



Seven Weeks, 280 Hours; Marina Alta 144's Summer of Masonic Learning



Some of the attendees at the final meeting

On 2 July, the Marina Alta Installed Masters Lodge No. 144 launched its Summer Lodges of Instruction at the Costa Nova Masonic Centre in Jávea.

Over the following seven weeks, 39 Brethren from 11 different Lodges took part in the programme. Attendance averaged 20 Brethren per session, and with each meeting lasting around two hours, the Summer LOIs delivered an impressive 280 hours of Masonic education and learning.

Topics covered included:

- Processing in and out
- Opening and closing in the three degrees
- The three Degree ceremonies
- Calling on and off
- The Inner Workings
- The Installation Ceremony
- The Festive Board

A new feature for 2025 was introduced by W. Bro. Cliff Gingell, who organised a weekly Jotform Quiz to test attendees' knowledge of Masonry, its symbols, and the history behind the symbolism of our rituals. Some of the answers certainly raised an eyebrow or two, but the aim of deepening our Masonic understanding was undoubtedly achieved.

In week 4, W. Bro. Philip Bowick also delivered a fascinating lecture on the Royal Arch, explaining how joining it completes the journey of the Master Mason degree.

On 23 August, the final meeting of the summer was marked with a celebratory Festive Board. Before the meal, W. Bro. Cliff Gingell gave an engaging talk on the customs and traditions of the Festive Board itself.



During the Festive Board, the following Brethren took on key roles:

- Worshipful Master: Bro. Rafe Parker (Puerto de Xàbia 58)
- Director of Ceremonies: W. Bro. David Clarke (Oliva La Safor 112)
- Senior Warden: Bro. Stephen Young (Puerto de Xàbia 58)
- Junior Warden: Bro. Max Heinrich (Jávea 40), who proposed the Toast to the Visitors
- Immediate Past Master: W. Bro. Jerry Roberts (San Juan de España 28)
- Chaplain: W. Bro. Malcolm March (Jávea 40) – also Master Elect of the Marina Alta Lodge of Installed Masters No. 144
- Response to the Visitors' Toast: W. Bro. Ray Pease (Puerto de Xàbia 58)
- Tyler – W. Bro. Ray Guise Smith (Jávea 40)

The 2025 Summer LOIs were hailed by everyone who attended as a great success. At the Festive Board which marked the conclusion of the 2025 Programme, in his response to the Toast to the Worshipful Master, Bro. Rafe Parker expressed heartfelt thanks to all members of the Marina Alta Installed Masters Lodge for their hard work in organising the programme.

Bro. Parker made special mention of R.W. Bro. Michael Shilan, the current Master; W. Bro. Peter Johnson, who diligently recorded the minutes; W. Bro. Cliff Gingell who organised the Quiz and, last but by no means least, W. Bro. Peter Farrell, Preceptor of the LOIs, whose energy, knowledge, and wise counsel illuminated every meeting and made the time both valuable and enjoyable.



Double click to enlarge the images. Reading left to right from the top (1. W. Bro Cliff Gingell and R.W. Bro. Michael Shilan, 2. Bro. Rafe Parker, 3. W. Bro. Peter Farrell, 4. W. Bro. Ray Pease, 5. W. Bro. Malcolm March, and 6. Bro. Max Heinrich and W. Bro. David Clarke



Sponsored Swim raises €800 for the 2026 Festival



On Sunday 13th July, under blazing sunshine and with the mercury reaching 30 °C, a handful of our brethren took the plunge at Les Marines Beach for the Provincial Sponsored Swim. Many others sent their best wishes—and, as importantly, generously sponsored our intrepid swimmers.



entry.

Among the participants was W. Bro. David Clarke of Oliva La Safor Lodge No 112, accompanied by his partner Kristina. In good humour, David revealed that the Lodge had contributed €20 for “testing the waters” and a further €180 to spare us from photographing his



Before braving the gentle Mediterranean surf, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Rodney Bignell; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. David Wynn; and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Terry Whitehead,

ceremonially adjourned from labour to refreshment – Cheers!



Our swimmers enjoyed robust support from a distinguished assembly of brethren.

Below are a small sample of photographs of our swimmers racing hard up and down the coast (ahem!)





Finally, we include a rare photograph of our Province's Communications Officer, Bro. Steve Young of Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No 58, whose lens captured every memorable moment.

Thanks to the brave swimmers and the generosity of all of the brethren who sponsored them, the Swim raised €800 for the 2026 Festival.

Every contribution brings us a stroke closer to our goal of acquiring a new Marina Alta Masonic Centre.



Celebrating 50 Years of Service: W. Bro. John Beavis



On 2nd July, Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No 58 celebrated W. Bro. John Beavis's 50 years of dedicated service to Freemasonry.

John followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both longstanding members of the Craft. His Masonic journey began with his initiation into Worton Lodge No 8225, Province of Middlesex, on 2 June 1975.

Advancing in his career as a senior police officer, John relocated to Surrey and joined Haroldslea Lodge No 7328, where he:

- Served as Worshipful Master
- Was appointed as Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in Surrey
- Was appointed to the rank of Past Assistant Grand Registrar in Surrey

Upon moving to Spain, John joined Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No 58 on 10 October 2017. He was installed as Worshipful Master on 14 October 2021, appointed Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in March 2024 and, in March of this year, was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Deacon for the Province of Valencia.

The Lodge was also honoured by the attendance of the Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Matthew James, who presented John with a 50-year distinguished service certificate on behalf of the Province of Valencia.



Following the formal meeting, the Lodge's brethren retired to a local curry restaurant. There, W. Bro. John Young presented John with an exquisite bottle of Gran Reserva brandy on behalf of the Lodge, toasting half a century of steadfast commitment.



Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No. 58 Donates €2,025 to Help of Marina Alta



Accepting the cheque on behalf of Help of Marina Alta, President Candy Wright MBE explained, "These funds will support our Care at Home service, allowing more elderly and infirm residents to remain in their own homes while long-term support plans are developed. We are extremely grateful to John, his wife Jenny, and the Puerto de Xàbia Lodge for their generous donation."

(L-R) W. Bro. John Young, W. Bro. Philip Bowick, Mrs Jenny Young, W. Bro. Jim Campbell, Candy Wright MBE, Donna Hoffmann

Charity remains a fundamental pillar guiding Freemasons' contributions to society. Today, 7 July, Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No. 58 had the honour of presenting €2,025 to Help of Marina Alta.

The funds were raised at the Puerto de Xàbia Ladies Gala, held at Salones Carrasco. In addition to ticket sales, money was generated through a Grand Prize Draw, an auction of select items and personal contributions from local Freemasons.

Worshipful Master John Young emphasised the Lodge's commitment to philanthropy: "Supporting good causes is an essential aspect of Freemasonry. Help of Marina Alta is one of our chosen charities for my year in office, and I am immensely proud of our Lodge's achievement in raising this splendid sum."





Javea 40's Thrilling Race Night Raises Over €1,000 for Local Heroes



(L-R) Mark Richards, W. Bro. Alex Wilkins, Ian McCarthy and Darrel Jones

On July 9th, Jávea Lodge No. 40 held its annual lively and fun filled Race Night on the terraces of Casa de la Pizza at the Costa Nova Masonic Centre in Jávea.

Fifty members, friends, and generous sponsors gathered for an evening of virtual horse racing, laughter, and community spirit, raising 1,050€ for the local firefighters and other masonic charities.

The Balcon al Mar Voluntarios Firefighters are a group of dedicated volunteers covering the whole of Jávea and who rely largely on donations to keep going.

The atmosphere was tremendous, with cheering and celebration, all the while helping to protect the Jávea area. Those of us who experienced the terrible forest fires of 9 years ago, remember how bravely the local volunteers battled to save our homes.

Jávea 40's Worshipful Master, Alex Wilkins, said "Supporting our local Firefighters is so important – they need essential equipment to keep us safe, and every euro helps."





In the first half of the meeting, discussions typically cover Lodge news, proposing new members, financial updates, and reviewing minutes from previous meetings. In the second part of the Lodge meeting, one of the following ceremonies may take place:

What Is a Masonic Lodge?

One of the first steps in beginning your Masonic journey is understanding the Lodge, one of the cornerstones of Freemasonry. By the end of this article, you'll have a clearer understanding of what a Lodge is, making it easier for you to make a proper contribution to your Lodge's work.

A Lodge is a community of individuals who share similar values, a sense of purpose, and a dedication to making a positive impact on society. Through timeless traditions and ancient ceremonies, Freemasonry provides an opportunity to explore your potential through improved self-knowledge and confidence on an enduring foundation of ethical and moral values, united by the core values of Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Service. Within the Lodge, members collaborate to support local charitable causes and develop practical solutions to assist those in need.

What Happens in a Lodge?

A Lodge Room or Temple, is thoughtfully arranged with designated seating for Lodge Officers. Each Officer plays a key role in ensuring the Lodge operates effectively. Lodge meetings are typically divided into two halves, with an agenda shared beforehand in a formal notice called a *Summons*.

- **First Degree (Initiation):** The first step in a Freemason's journey, where a candidate is formally initiated into the Lodge, taking an oath and committing to the principles of Freemasonry —Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Service.
- **Second Degree (Passing):** The candidate progresses to the Fellowcraft Degree. This Degree encourages exploration of nature, science, and self within the universe.
- **Third Degree (Raising):** The final stage of the Craft, symbolising self-reflection, moral growth, and the contemplation of life's deeper meanings.
- **Installation:** Marks the appointment of the new Worshipful Master, who takes over the leadership of the Lodge and appoints the other Officers for the year.
- **The Exaltation:** The Ceremony of Exaltation sees members follow the clues from the Third Degree to complete their journey in Pure Antient Masonry, in a spectacular and unforgettable ceremony. Through ongoing participation, members will work together with old friends and new Companions to build on the principles of the Craft and unlock fresh perspectives on the meaning and value of Freemasonry.



From the outset, every new Freemason must understand that their Masonic journey comprises these four elements, with the Royal Arch as the fourth and ultimate stage, which enriches and completes that journey. It is an aspiration we hope all will seek to fulfil when the time is right for them.

One Journey One Organisation

We emphasise the seamless integration of the Craft and Royal Arch at all levels as one unified organisation. This requires not only better education for all members about the importance and benefits of the Royal Arch, but also a more practical approach to leveraging this connection to engage and retain members, who are vital to our future.

In 1813, the two rival Grand Lodges sought to strike a delicate balance that would enable their union to form the United Grand Lodge of England. This balance was reflected in the 1813 Act of Union, which established a unique and indissoluble link between the Craft and the Royal Arch.

That declaration defines Freemasonry within the Grand Lodge of Spain as the practice of Pure Antient Masonry, consisting of three degrees and no more: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, including the Royal Arch. This establishes four distinct elements: the first three governed by the Grand Lodge of Spain, and the fourth, the Royal Arch, under the governance of the Supreme Grand Chapter.

In a practical sense, this means that three ceremonies take place in one space (Lodge Room) and another in another space (Chapter Room) at a time when you are ready.

Roles of Lodge Officers

A Lodge cannot function without its Officers, who each play a crucial role in its operations.

The **Worshipful Master** holds the highest position in the Lodge. Elected annually, they conduct most ceremonies and is symbolised by the *rising sun*, which represents leadership, wisdom, and new beginnings. Just as the sun rises in the East to bring light to the world, he is seated in the East of the Lodge room, guiding the members by sharing knowledge, upholding traditions, and ensuring the smooth running of the Lodge. His role reflects the idea of enlightenment, helping members on their Masonic journey.

The **Senior and Junior Wardens** help maintain order within the Lodge and assist the Worshipful Master during ceremonies. They have the authority to use the *gavel* to ensure decorum. The Senior Warden, represented by the setting sun, is seated in the West, while the Junior Warden, represented by the sun at midday, is in the South.

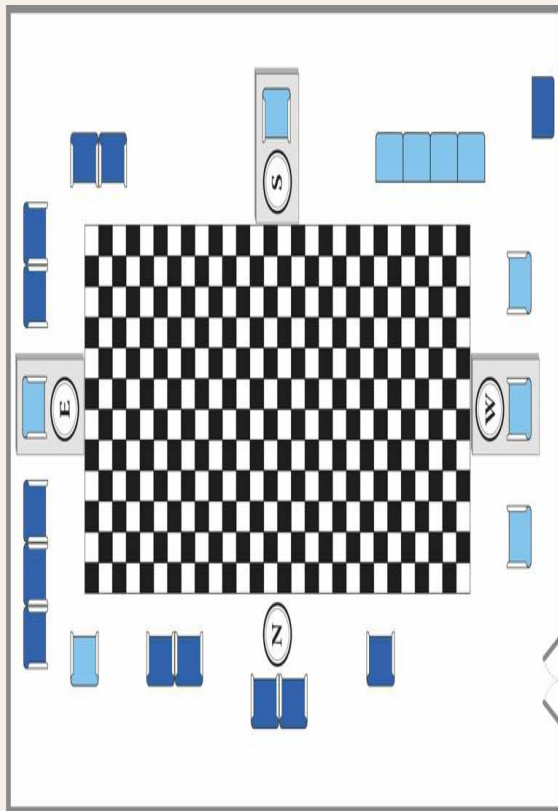
The **Senior and Junior Deacons** play a key role in guiding candidates through ceremonies. Their symbol is the Dove bearing an olive branch, representing peace and guidance.



The **Secretary** ensures the smooth administration of the Lodge by organising *summons*, advising the Worshipful Master, managing correspondence, and keeping members informed of Lodge news and activities.

Responsible for maintaining the Lodge accounts, the **Treasurer** manages payments, including dining expenses and charitable contributions.

Other Officers are the **Tyler**, who guard the Lodge from the outside. The **Inner Guard** ensures candidates are prepared before entering the Lodge. The **Almoner** looks after the welfare of members who may need support.



The layout of the Lodge Room

The Final Stop: Festive Board

After the Lodge meeting, members gather for a **Festive Board**: a formal dinner where they socialise and enjoy fellowship. A series of dedicated toasts are made by members of the Lodge to celebrate the occasion.

Freemasons and Their Attire

Freemasons wear **Masonic Aprons** (see the article in this Newsletter) as part of each Degree. Their attire typically includes a dark suit, a white shirt, and a Freemason tie. White gloves may also be worn, depending on the Lodge's preferences.

Conclusion

Freemasons and their Lodges uphold timeless traditions of fostering community, personal development, and community engagement. Freemasons continue to make a meaningful impact on society by supporting local organisations, mentoring members, and promoting the values of Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Service.



Puerto de Xàbia 58 donates €2,025 to support Cancer Care Jávea



*(L-R) – W. Bro. John Young, Jayne Blake, Mrs Jenny Young and
volunteers from Cancer Care Jávea*

On 15th July, Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No 58 had the honour of presenting a donation of €2,025 to Cancer Care Jávea. These funds were raised at the annual Ladies Gala on 30th May 2025, and will directly benefit those in our community facing the challenges of cancer.

“Charity is the cornerstone of our fraternity,” remarked Worshipful Master John Young. “It is through our collective efforts that we bring light to those who most need our support. Today’s donation exemplifies the very essence of Freemasonry—working together to uplift our community.”

Cancer Care Jávea’s Lynwen nursing team provide vital services across the town, ensuring that every patient and family member affected by cancer receives compassion, guidance and practical assistance. Their professionalism and dedication embody the spirit of care that the Lodge strives to foster.

Jayne Nuttall Blake, President of Cancer Care Jávea, offered her heartfelt thanks: “The generosity of Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No 58 makes a significant difference to the lives of those affected by cancer. Our team of Lynwen nurses is truly grateful for this support, which enables us to extend hope and comfort to every individual in Jávea facing this journey.”

Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No 58 remains committed to charitable endeavours that strengthen our local community.

W. Bro. Young concluded, “We extend our sincere gratitude to all of our friends in other Lodges who attended the Ladies Gala and contributed to this worthy cause. Together, we will continue to uphold the proud Masonic tradition of benevolence and compassion.”



The Provincial Grandmaster and the Stewards Lodge visit Lake Como



R.W. Bro. Rodney Charles Bignell, the Provincial Grand Master, together with members of the Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge and their partners, gathered this weekend for the Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge annual summer retreat. Set against the timeless beauty of Lake Como, this cherished tradition affords an ideal balance of fellowship, reflection and forward-planning for the year ahead.

The retreat took place at the charming Hotel Bazzoni, where delegates enjoyed the splendid views and shared convivial company over local cuisine and wines.



Hotel Bazzoni

More than a working meeting, the retreat reinforces the close bonds between Stewards across the Province of Valencia, ensuring our collective endeavours continue with unity and purpose. As with tradition, a Lodge of Instruction was held, with the rehearsal of a third degree ceremony.

We are pleased to share a curated gallery of photographs from this year's gathering. Please see below to view highlights of friendship, inspiration and the stunning Lake Como setting that make this event a true highlight of our Masonic calendar.







Arenal Deportiva Lodge No. 65 Supports Alzheimer's Centre in Teulada



On Tuesday 24th June, members of Arenal Deportiva Lodge No. 65 visited the Alzheimer's Centre in Teulada (AFA) following a gracious invitation from the Association's President, Mrs Sylvia Tatnell MBE.

As part of our ongoing support for the local community, Lodge member W. Bro. Graham Simons had identified a need for an orthopaedic chair at the centre. We were therefore pleased to fund this essential piece of equipment through our various fundraising initiatives.

The dedicated staff and nurses at the Alzheimer's Centre deliver exemplary care to individuals with dementia, thereby easing the burden on carers and families. This cause is one of our most commendable, significantly benefiting those affected and their loved ones.



Pictured are Worshipful Brothers Ian Brown, Philip Bowick, Ricardo Estornell (Worshipful Master), Graham Simons and Peter Johnson alongside Centre President Mrs Sylvia Tatnell MBE.



Why Freemasons wear Aprons

In the world of Freemasonry, few symbols carry as much significance and historical weight as the apron. This simple garment, adorned with symbolic emblems and designs, has become an integral part of the fraternity's regalia, representing the principles and ideals that have guided the organisation for centuries.

History of Aprons



Apron belonging to Sir Christopher Cole, Provincial Grand Master of South Wales, 1817-1820 (Credits – Museum of Freemasonry)

Did you know that Freemasons have been wearing aprons for over three centuries. This longstanding tradition is a way for Freemasons to stay connected to their roots and shared heritage. By continuing this practice, present-day members can feel a strong connection to the past and a sense of belonging among the community.

The Middle Ages saw the establishment of trade guilds and the ceremonial use of aprons. A fascinating record of a Freemason bequeathing his apron, adorned with letters with a Masonic allusion, still exists today. The formation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717 brought together Freemasons from four active Lodges in London. One of these Lodges was dedicated to Operative Freemasons, while the others were comprised of members not affiliated with the trade, but those seeking the supportive community fostered within these Lodges.

Originally, the aprons worn by stonemasons were practical garments designed to shield their clothing from the rigours of their labour - the dust, grime, and wear and tear that came with building mighty structures. Unlike the ceremonial aprons donned by modern Freemasons, these early aprons were fashioned from leather and extended from the wearer's chest to the ankles to provide full coverage and would probably have been supported by laces around the neck as well as the waist. There would have also been no ornamentation on an operative Freemason's apron, and this helped distinguish him from other tradespeople who would have worn different styles of apron.

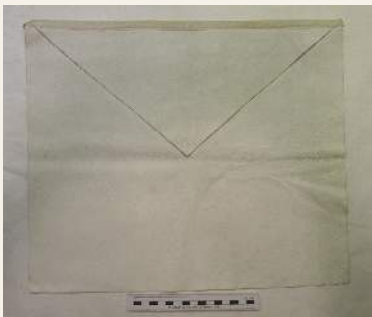


*Grand Officer Apron of the Moderns Grand Lodge, 1790-1800
(Credits - Museum of Freemasonry)*

Over time, the apron's purpose transformed from practical work wear to a symbolic regalia piece. As Freemasonry became popular across Europe and globally, more elaborate designs of aprons were created. These designs served to represent the Degree or Degrees that were being worked on or to which the owner of the apron belonged.

The Meaning behind the Aprons

In modern Freemasonry, the apron stands as perhaps the greatest symbol representing the organisation's rich traditions and storied history. For Freemasons, the apron represents the lifelong work of building one's moral character. Essentially, the Masonic Apron is the badge of honourable labour.



The apron of an Entered Apprentice (Museum of Freemasonry)

Upon joining Freemasonry, individuals are referred to as "Entered Apprentices" and are provided with a simple white lambskin apron. Subsequently, as they progress through the Degrees, their aprons are adorned with light blue and silver decorations. In the event of attaining higher ranks, the colours of the aprons transition to dark blue and gold.

All Freemasons, regardless of the positions or roles they may attain later on, begin by participating in the three initial Degrees and wearing the corresponding aprons. There are no exceptions to this process; every member starts at the beginning and progresses through the ranks systematically.

Conclusion

Above all else, a Freemason's apron symbolises their pride in the organisation and their dedication to its principles. The apron holds an esteemed place among a Freemason's prized belongings, regarded as one of his most treasured possessions. Wearing this simple garment connects each man to the greater stream of Masonic tradition spanning centuries. It is an enduring reminder of the virtuous path they have vowed to follow.



*Master Mason apron belonging to Winston Churchill (Credits -
Museum of Freemasonry)*



Social and Fund Raising Events



As agreed with the Provincial Charity Stewards, I am delighted to publicise local and Provincial social or fund-raising events where the attendance of brethren from all lodges, plus their guests, will be welcome.

Additionally, I have included other important dates for your diary.

Friday 19th September: Javea 40 Ladies Night, El Canor, Teulada.

Details to follow.

Saturday 20th September: Santa Faz 48 Ladies Night, Seis Perlas Restaurant El Campello. Contact Greg Hustler on greg4hustler@gmail.com

Friday 3rd October: Dama de Elche 163 Summer Ball. Restaurante Raco D'Anna, Camino Viejo de Alicante, Elche

Saturday 4th October: Oliva LaSafor Ladies Dinner. Salones Moli Canyar, Potries, (near Gandia) details to follow

Friday 24th October: Curry Night Caledonia 68 at Punjabi Palace, Los Montesiños at 18.00

Saturday 8th November: Provincial LOI, Hotel Bonalba, Muchamiel.

Saturday 6th December: Provincial Ladies Night, Gran Bali Hotel, Benidorm

Tuesday 9th December: Arenal Deportiva 65 Carols by Candlelight, Golf Club, Javea. Contact Peter Johnson on Email: peter_john1@hotmail.com.

Thursday 11th December: Oliva LaSafor Christmas Lunch. Black Flame, Pedreguer. Details to follow.



Monday 15th December: Old Tower Lodge, Pre-Christmas Party, Coopers Restaurant, Quesada, Music and Dancing to Project Duo

Saturday 10th January 2026: 2026 Festival. Themed Dinner Dance, details to follow.

Saturday 24th January 2026: Old Tower Lodge, Burns Night Supper, Coopers Restaurant, Quesada, Music and Dancing to Rae Daniels

Saturday 14th February 2026: Arenal Deportiva Ladies Night, Attico Restaurant, Javea. Details to follow.

Saturday 28th February 2026: Provincial Grand Assembly, Gran Bali Hotel, Benidorm

Sunday 1st March 2026: Caledonia 68 Chinese Night: Nan Kin at Guardamar at 18.30

Friday 29th May 2026: Caledonia 68 Ladies Night. Casa Antonio, Formentera del Seguro at 18.30

If anyone has any further events which they want me to publicise, please ask your Charity Steward to let me know.

Sincerely and Fraternally

Peter Johnson
Provincial Grand Charity Steward

pgcs@glpvalencia.com

For further details, please go to the Provincial Events Calendar which can be accessed [HERE](#).

To add your Lodge event to the Provincial Events Calendar, please email full details to calendar@glpvalencia.com.



Sol y Compás is published by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Valencia at regular times throughout the year. The Secretariat is responsible for all editing and production.



We are always glad to publish Lodge News and stories: Send your stories to the Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Matt James at

sec@glpvalencia.com