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SOL Y COMPÁS

The Newsletter of the
Provincial Grand Lodge
of Valencia



HAPPY NEW YEAR


2026





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

Dear Brethren,



It is my privilege to extend a warm and fraternal welcome to each of you as we return to the lodge after the Christmas recess. I trust you have enjoyed a restful and reflective festive period in the company of loved ones, and that you return invigorated for the Masonic

labours that lie ahead.

The year 2026 stands before us brimming with promise and anticipation. We are on the threshold of significant and exciting developments within our Order, and I am confident that, together, we shall meet these changes with the enthusiasm and unity that define our Craft.

One of the most noteworthy events this year will be the election of a new Grandmaster for Spain. This momentous occasion heralds the introduction of fresh perspectives and renewed energy within our Order. We look forward to the new ideas and initiatives that our incoming Grandmaster will bring, fostering a spirit of rejuvenation and growth across all lodges.

A particularly proud moment for our Province will be the realisation of our long-held ambition: the acquisition and opening of a new Masonic Centre in the heart of our Province. This achievement would not have been possible without the steadfast support and generosity of every Brother and Lodge who have contributed both time and resources. To you all, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Nevertheless, our work is not yet complete. Further funds are needed to finalise the initial works, and, under the guiding banner of Fraternal Unity, we shall soon launch a series of new initiatives to meet this goal. Your continued support and commitment are invaluable as we bring this vision to fruition.

Let me also remind you of the upcoming Provincial Grand Assembly, to be held on 28th February. This prestigious gathering is a cornerstone of our Masonic calendar, and I earnestly hope to see as many of you as possible in attendance, lending your presence and support to this significant event.

In closing, I wish all Brethren a fulfilling and prosperous Masonic season. May the spirit of brotherly love, relief, and truth guide all our endeavours in the months ahead.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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



2026 Annual Assembly



BOOK NOW!

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[BOOKING FORM](#)

XXXII Annual Assembly
XXXII Asamblea Anual

Saturday 28th February 2026
Sábado 28 de febrero de 2026

Gran Hotel Bali, Benidorm
C. del Actor Luis Prendes, 4
03502 Benidorm, Alicante





Euromason 55 installs W. Bro. Peter de Graaf as Master

The Lodge was honoured to receive V.W. Bro. Frank Hogg Wallace, Provincial Grand Inspector as the Official Visitor from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Valencia.



Pictured above (L-R) are: W. Bro. David Clarke, W. Bro. Ian Brown, W. Bro. Jens Gerl, W. Bro. Peter de Graaf, IPM W. Bro. Dieter Kuckai, V.W. Bro. Frank Wallace and W. Bro. Nigel Parker.

On Thursday 14th September, Euromason 55 installed W. Bro. Peter de Graaf as Worshipful Master.

Euromason 55, based in Jávea, is the Province's sole German speaking Lodge and, although Dutch by nationality, Peter hails from the Dutch province of Limburg, close to the German border and is a fluent German speaker.

W. Bro. de Graaf extended an invitation to all Masons within the Province to visit Euromason 55, commenting he said "German Freemasonry has a distinct flavour and we would be delighted to welcome any member of the Province who wishes to experience what we do. Although we work in the German language, I would be happy to provide translations for speakers of other languages. I hope to see many of you over the course of my year in office".



Jávea Lodge No 40 hosts a spectacular Ladies Night at Salones Canor



Mrs Jean Wilkins and W. Bro. Alex Wilkins

On Friday, 19th September, the Brethren of Jávea Lodge No. 40, together with their guests, assembled at the elegant Salones Canor in Teulada to honour and celebrate the invaluable contribution of their Ladies to the life of the Lodge and the wider fraternity.

The evening commenced with a sparkling Cava reception in the venue's beautiful gardens, where guests were entertained by the delightful vocals of Becky BB.

The formal proceedings began as the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Alex Wilkins, and his wife Jean were announced by the Master of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Peter Farrell, and warmly greeted with enthusiastic applause from all present.

A sumptuous four-course banquet followed, accompanied by a plentiful supply of fine wine and beer. Throughout the meal, Becky BB continued to provide a charming musical backdrop, enhancing the convivial atmosphere.

Following dinner, the Loyal Toast to His Majesty King Felipe VI was proposed, after which Bro. Paul Lewis delivered a heartfelt and entertaining Toast to the Ladies. Jean Wilkins responded with a witty and engaging speech, which was warmly received by all.

In keeping with cherished Masonic tradition, the Lodge organised a splendid raffle offering a range of attractive prizes. Thanks to the generosity of the guests and the proceeds from ticket sales, a total of over 1,700€ was raised.

The evening concluded in lively fashion as DJ Mick Dennison took to the stage, swiftly filling the dance floor and ensuring that Brethren and guests alike danced the night away in true fraternal spirit.

Commenting on the success of the evening, the Worshipful Master Alex Wilkins said: "My chosen charity for my year in office is the Balcón al Mar Voluntarios Firefighters. They do so much to protect the town of Jávea, and I am very proud that our Lodge is able to support their efforts."



Bro. Paul Lewis, Becky BB and W. Bro. Alex Wilkins



Santa Faz Lodge No. 48 Ladies' Night brings memorable finale to a successful year



On Friday, 20th September, Santa Faz Lodge No. 48 hosted its annual Ladies' Night at the elegant Seis Perlas Restaurant in El Campello. The occasion brought together Brethren, their Ladies, and guests for an evening of fine dining, lively entertainment, and warm fellowship.



The atmosphere was one of genuine conviviality as attendees enjoyed a superbly prepared meal, complemented by attentive service and a well-chosen programme of entertainment. The combination of excellent food, engaging music, and the company of friends ensured that the evening was a resounding success.

The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Greg Hustler, and his good lady Lin were at the heart of the celebrations, warmly welcoming all present and ensuring that the event reflected the spirit of gratitude and appreciation that Ladies' Night represents. Special thanks were also extended to W. Bro. Barry Hovell, and his good lady Gill, whose efforts contributed greatly to the smooth running and success of the evening.

This Ladies' Night held particular significance as it marked the final official function of W. Bro. Hustler's year in the Chair—a year widely regarded as both productive and harmonious. The event truly was the "icing on the cake" of his tenure, providing a fitting conclusion to a period of dedicated service to the Lodge.



In recognition of his year in office, Bro. Hamish McConnachie presented W. Bro. Hustler with the Lodge's traditional annual cartoon—a light-hearted yet cherished memento capturing the character and highlights of his term. The presentation was met with warm applause and good humour, encapsulating the fraternal spirit of the evening.

The night closed with a sense of shared pride and fellowship, as Brethren and guests reflected on a memorable occasion that celebrated not only the Ladies who support the Craft, but also the achievements of a Worshipful Master whose leadership has left a lasting mark on Santa Faz Lodge No. 48.



Who needs a temple? Leukopolis 85 hold a traditional "Field Lodge"



Whilst Freemasonry is often privileged to meet within architecturally splendid and historic buildings, not all Brethren—particularly those of other traditions—adhere to this practice on every occasion.

On Wednesday, 13th September, Leukopolis Lodge No. 85 held a Field Lodge at the home of Bro. Rob de Wolf in Abanilla, Province of Murcia. This is a long-standing custom among our French, Dutch and German Brethren, who regularly embrace the spirit and simplicity of outdoor ritual.

The origins of the Field Lodge can be traced to the military lodges of itinerant Freemasons, particularly among our French Brethren during the 18th-century wars with Germany. These were travelling lodges, in contrast to those meeting in permanent temples.

In the Netherlands, Field Lodges are still occasionally held. They take place in natural or remote surroundings, with only the most essential resources. Apart from a small Bible, compass, and square, all other materials are sourced from nature. Thus, sticks replace swords, and formal attire gives way to ordinary leisure clothing—long trousers, shirt, and closed shoes. Shorts, T-shirts, sandals, or flip-flops are not permitted.

Nevertheless, the Brethren wear their aprons and white gloves, preserving the dignity of the Craft. Only the Worshipful Master and the two Wardens wear their collars; other officers do not. The Tracing Board, traditionally placed in the centre of the Temple, is drawn in the sand so that it may be erased immediately should an uninvited person approach.

For this occasion, the makeshift Temple was constructed from breeze blocks and wooden tables, with garden torches serving in place of traditional candles. Although Masonic suits were not required, the Brethren were smartly attired in regalia and white gloves, maintaining the decorum befitting the ceremony.

Leukopolis Lodge No. 85 was greatly honoured by the presence of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Charles Bignell, accompanied by his escort of Provincial Grand Stewards and other distinguished members of the Provincial Executive.

Following the meeting, the Brethren enjoyed a delightful al fresco Festive Board in the tranquil surroundings of Bro. de Wolf's garden—a fitting conclusion to a memorable and fraternal gathering.



Arenal Deportiva 65 enjoy a famous Garden Party in the sunshine



Pictured above L-R, Eileen Brown, Ian Brown, Worshipful Master Ricardo Estornell Canet and Augustine Estornell Canet

On Sunday 28th September, Brethren, family, and friends of Arenal Deportiva Lodge No. 65 gathered to enjoy a splendid Garden Party beneath the warm autumn sun. This cherished annual tradition was especially welcome, having been regrettably cancelled the previous year due to inclement weather.

Our gracious hosts, W.Bro. Ian Brown and his wife Eileen, welcomed guests to their beautiful villa, where a generous buffet was served amidst convivial company. The afternoon was enhanced by the mellow musical stylings of Dave Manhattan, whose performance provided a delightful backdrop to the occasion.



A well-supported raffle added to the festivities, with proceeds benefiting the Lodge and its nominated charities. The event was a resounding success, reflecting the spirit of fellowship and generosity that defines our Masonic community.



Dovre Lodge No. 184 installs Bro. Morten Holm Gundersen as its new Worshipful Master



*The R.W. Provincial Grandmaster Rodney Charles Bignell congratulates W.
Bro. Gundersen on his Installation*

On Friday, 26th September, the Brethren of Dovre Lodge No. 184 assembled in great harmony and fraternal spirit to witness the Installation of Bro. Morten Holm Gundersen into the Chair of King Solomon.

The ceremony took place in the Temple at Sociedad Compas, Quesada, a setting well suited to the solemnity and dignity of the occasion. In keeping with the Lodge's proud heritage, the entire ceremony was conducted in the Norwegian language, a reminder of the Lodge's cultural roots and its commitment to preserving tradition whilst working within the wider Masonic family.



The Lodge was greatly honoured by the presence of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Charles Bignell, who attended in full form, accompanied by his official escort. Their attendance lent additional distinction to the proceedings and was warmly appreciated by the Brethren.

The Installation Ceremony was carried out with precision and decorum, reflecting the dedication of the Installing Master and his team of Officers. Bro. Gundersen was duly placed in the Chair of King Solomon, where he pledged to guide the Lodge with wisdom, integrity, and fidelity to the Craft.

Following the formalities, the Brethren extended their heartfelt congratulations to the newly Installed Master, wishing him a happy and successful year in office. The evening concluded in a spirit of brotherhood and conviviality at a Festive Board where traditional Scandinavian food was served.



We all wish W. Bro. Gundersen the very best for his year in office.



Oliva La Safor 112 celebrates its 25th Anniversary at a glittering Ladies Night



On Saturday, 4th October, Oliva La Safor Lodge No. 112 was delighted to host its annual Ladies' Gala Night at the distinguished Restaurante Molí Canyar, set amidst the orange groves so characteristic of the La Safor region.

The evening commenced with a cava reception in the restaurant's gardens, accompanied by piano music which created a convivial atmosphere in which Brethren, Ladies, and guests could gather. Thereafter, all retired to the ballroom, where an excellent dinner was served, complemented by a generous selection of wines, beers, and soft drinks.

The Worshipful Master, David Clarke, extended a warm welcome to all present and expressed his sincere appreciation to the organising committee for their efforts in arranging this traditional event in honour of the Ladies. He reminded the gathering that this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the formation of Oliva La Safor Lodge No. 112, and that it was both fitting and proper that the celebration had returned to its roots in the La Safor region.



David was particularly pleased to welcome the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Bignell, together with his Lady, Jeanette, who had travelled from the south of the Province to attend.

Following the dinner, Fred Miller proposed the Toast to the Ladies in eloquent terms. This was followed by a spirited rendition of the Ladies' Song, performed with distinction by Ken Cornforth, supported by Alex Henderson and Bill Taylor.

In response, Kristina McNicholl expressed her gratitude to all who had contributed to the success of the evening. She delivered a heartfelt and moving reply to the Toast to the Ladies, offering particular thanks to her partner, David, for his encouragement and support in enabling her to deliver her speech in English, despite German being her first language.

The Grand Raffle proved to be a highlight of the evening, offering a range of excellent prizes. A total of €800 was raised for the Lodge's Masonic Charities, a portion of which has been earmarked for the 2026 Festival, of which the Lodge is a proud supporter.

The formal proceedings concluded with further entertainment from the local group RIO, whose lively performance ensured that the evening ended on a joyful note, with many guests taking to the dance floor.



A brief history of Masonic Fire



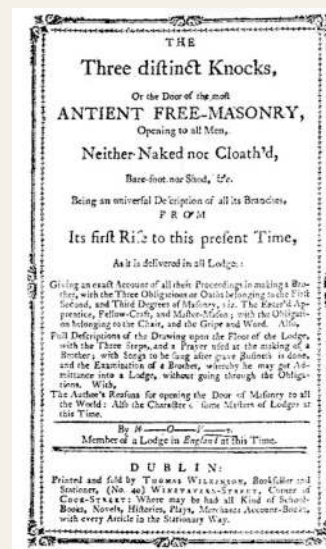
A military 21 gun salute

The custom of Masonic Fire has long been a distinctive feature of the festive board, used to conclude toasts with ceremony, rhythm, and a sense of unity. Its origins lie in the mid-eighteenth century, when Brethren would bring their glasses down sharply upon the table in unison, producing a sound likened to musket or cannon fire. This emphatic gesture was intended to honour the subject of the toast and to demonstrate collective harmony.

The earliest detailed accounts appear in the 1760s in anti-Masonic texts, such as the "Three Distinct Knocks", commonly known as the "English exposures", which describe the sequence of drinking, setting down the glass, and clapping in rhythm. French Masonic exposures of the same period also record similar practices, often with elaborate descriptions of rhythmic clapping and gestures. These continental references suggest that the tradition was widely known and may have developed in parallel across Masonic cultures, with local variations in form and symbolism.



Vintage Masonic Firing Glasses



"Three Distinct Knocks" – an English exposure – c1760

The pattern of "three times three" – nine in total – soon became the most common form, reflecting the symbolic importance of the number three within Freemasonry. In some Lodges, this was extended to "seven times three", producing twenty-one claps in total. This sequence was often compared to the 21-gun salute, the highest military honour rendered to sovereigns and heads of state. Just as the artillery salute symbolised respect and loyalty in the civic and military sphere, so too did the twenty-one "fires" within the Lodge symbolise the highest honour that could be paid in a Masonic context.



The association with military Lodges, particularly those connected with Artillery regiments, reinforced this martial imagery. In such settings, the terminology of “firing” was especially apt, and the ritualised clapping or striking of glasses echoed the drills and salutes of the parade ground. “Regimental Fire” and became a recognised form, marked by disciplined rhythm and martial symbolism, further strengthening the link between Masonic fellowship and military tradition.

In modern times, the phrase “Brethren, Quick Fire” has generally been preferred over “Good fire” as it more accurately reflects the military connections associated with the practice.



The Badge of the Royal Regiment of Artillery

Another distinctive development was the practice of “Point Left Right” (PLR), where Brethren extend their arms alternately to the left and right before clapping. This gesture, which appears in French exposures of the eighteenth century, was described as symbolising the spreading of goodwill and harmony in all directions. Over time, it became incorporated into English practice as well, particularly in Lodges that valued a more elaborate and symbolic form of Fire. Today, PLR remains a familiar element in many Lodges, often performed before each set of claps in the “three times three” sequence.

Other variations also developed, including “Running Fire”, where the sound travelled around the table in sequence, and “Silent Fire”, a muted form often reserved for solemn occasions or toasts to absent Brethren. Regional customs such as the nineteenth-century Kentish Fire – a distinctive pattern of rhythmic clapping popular in political and social gatherings – were also adopted in some Lodges.

What emerges from the historical record is that there has never been a single, universally accepted form of Masonic Fire. Each Lodge, Province, and country has developed its own variations, shaped by local custom, military influence, and cultural exchange. Yet the underlying purpose has remained constant: to honour the subject of the toast with a collective act of enthusiasm, fellowship, and symbolic unity.

In modern times, the practice is generally more restrained, with hand clapping replacing the once-boisterous crashing of glasses. Nevertheless, it continues to serve as a distinctive and memorable feature of the festive board, linking contemporary Brethren with the traditions of their predecessors, and echoing the same spirit of respect and honour embodied in the 21-gun salute.

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



Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No. 58 Installation highlights



On Tuesday, 14th October 2025, the brethren of Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No. 58 assembled at the Costa Nova Masonic Centre, Jávea, for the annual Installation Meeting. This important occasion brought together members and distinguished visitors to witness the installation of a new Worshipful Master and to celebrate the milestones and contributions of valued brethren.

The centrepiece of the evening was the installation of W. Bro. Nick Coates as Worshipful Master of Puerto de Xàbia 58. The ceremony was conducted with due solemnity and precision, reflecting the traditions and values held dear by the Lodge. In attendance was V.W. Bro. Frank Wallace, Provincial Grand Inspector, who honoured the Lodge by acting as Official Visitor for the evening, lending further distinction to the proceedings.



A desk plaque dedicated to R.W. Bro. Phil Gibson-Daw

A particularly poignant moment was the dedication of a desk plaque in memory of R.W. Bro. Phil Gibson-Daw. This tribute served as a lasting reminder of his dedicated service and enduring legacy within the Lodge, ensuring that his memory will continue to inspire brethren for years to come.



Following the formalities, brethren gathered for the Festive Board, where the spirit of camaraderie was evident. In a heartfelt gesture, a bottle of Carlos I brandy was presented to W. Bro. Ray Pease in celebration of his 90th birthday. This act of recognition was warmly received, marking a significant personal milestone within the Lodge.

Additionally, the outgoing Master, W. Bro. John Young, was presented with a Memories Book, a collection of reflections and well-wishes from his time as Master. This thoughtful gift expressed the Lodge's gratitude for his leadership and dedication over the past two years.

The Installation Meeting was a fitting tribute to the enduring fellowship and shared values of Puerto de Xàbia 58. The evening's events—marked by respectful ceremony, heartfelt tributes, and joyful celebrations—exemplified the spirit of Freemasonry.



A super Sunday lunch for Jávea 40



On Sunday, members of Jávea 40 Lodge, along with their partners and guests, gathered at the inviting Railway Tavern in Dénia for an afternoon of camaraderie, good food, and charitable giving. The event saw 30 brethren, partners, and guests come together in a warm and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the true spirit of fellowship that defines the Lodge.



Far more than just a social gathering, the Sunday lunch was an opportunity to make a positive impact on the community. Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, an impressive €125 was raised for the Lodge's charity fund. These funds will be used to support a range of important causes in Jávea and beyond, helping those who need it most.



Speaking at the event, Worshipful Master Alex Wilkins thanked everyone who came along. He said, "This year I have been especially pleased that we've been able to support the Balcón al Mar Voluntarios Bomberos, whose dedication to keeping our community safe is truly inspiring. This money will also help us continue supporting good causes in Jávea, making a real difference where it's needed."

The success of the Sunday lunch at the Railway Tavern is a testament to the generosity and community spirit of Jávea 40 Lodge. As the Lodge continues its charitable work, events like these remind us of the importance of coming together, not only to enjoy each other's company but to lend a helping hand to those in need.



Jávea Lodge No 40 welcomes a new Brother



On Wednesday 22nd October, on a pleasant autumn evening, the brethren of Jávea Lodge No. 40 gathered for their Regular Meeting, highlighted by the Initiation of Bro. Terry Waldron as a member of the Order.

The Lodge was filled with pride as Worshipful Master Alex Wilkins conducted our newest Brother through his first steps in Freemasonry, marking the beginning of a lifelong path of learning and fellowship.

This meeting was a fine example of Masonic tradition at its best—ritual well performed, fellowship warmly shared, and the joyful welcome of a new Brother. The Initiation of Bro. Terry Waldron was not only a milestone for him personally but also a proud moment in the continuing life of the Lodge.



Bro Terry Waldron and W. Bro. Alex Wilkins



The Symbolism of the Lewis



In the world of operative building, a Lewis is a steel device ingeniously designed to grip and lift heavy blocks of stone or concrete. It consists of three interlocking pieces, arranged to form a dovetail. The two outer pieces are placed into a dovetail-shaped mortise cut into the stone, and the central piece is then inserted, locking the whole securely in place. This simple yet effective tool enables great weights to be raised with safety and precision.

In Freemasonry, however, the term Lewis carries a deeper, symbolic meaning. It refers not only to the physical lifting tool employed by operative masons, but also to the son of a Master Mason. Just as the Lewis supports and raises the stone, so too does the son represent both the strength of his father and the continuation of his work. The Lewis thus symbolises duty, support, and the enduring bond between father and son within the Craft.

This symbolism was beautifully exemplified at Oliva La Safor Lodge No. 112, when W. Bro. Bill Taylor had the privilege of proposing his own son, Matthew, as a Joining Member of the Lodge.

Their shared Masonic journey has been both rich and meaningful. Back in the United Kingdom, Bill was present at Matthew's Initiation on 2nd February 2015 at Gabriel Newton Lodge No 9071 in Leicester, where Bill himself had the honour of presenting the traditional North East Corner speech.

With the necessary dispensation, Bill later advanced his son to the Second Degree in Sprig of Acacia Lodge No. 43 in Spain in 2016. He was also present at Matthew's Raising to the Third Degree, and subsequently at his Exaltation into the Holy Royal Arch.

Most recently, Matthew was successfully balloted for as a member of Oliva La Safor Lodge and solemnly took his Obligation to the Grand Lodge of Spain, at the Regular meeting held on 21st October.



This story is a reminder of the living symbolism of the Lewis. It demonstrates how the Craft not only preserves ancient tools and traditions but also breathes life into them through the bonds of family, fraternity, and faithfulness to our obligations.



Santa Faz Lodge No 48 installs a new Master



On Sunday, 13th October, the Brethren of Santa Faz Lodge No. 48 gathered in due form at the International Club, El Campello, Alicante, for the Installation Meeting of their new Worshipful Master. In a ceremony marked by solemnity, tradition, and fraternal goodwill, W. Bro. Frederico Stewart was duly installed into the Chair of King Solomon.

The occasion was further distinguished by the presence of two eminent visitors: R.W. Bro. Jeffrey Hyde, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and W. Bro. Terry Whitehead, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, whose attendance greatly honoured the Lodge and lent additional lustre to the proceedings.

The Installation Ceremony was conducted with dignity and precision, reflecting the careful preparation of the Officers and the deep respect held for the Craft's ancient customs. Brethren and visitors alike bore witness to a memorable evening, one that not only celebrated the investiture of the new Worshipful Master but also reaffirmed the Lodge's commitment to the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.



Following the formalities, the Brethren retired to the Festive Board, where the assembled company enjoyed both convivial fellowship and the strengthening of those bonds which unite us as Freemasons.



Behind the scenes at the Provincial Lodge of Instruction



An event such as the Provincial Lodge of Instruction depends on planning, diligence and the coordinated effort of a number of teams.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals began as monthly sessions at the Costa Nova Masonic Centre in Jávea and increased to weekly from September. These sessions allowed individual roles to be refined and the team to develop the timing and flow that are essential to an orderly ceremony.

The final rehearsal, held in the event room at the Bonalba Hotel on 7 November, was especially important. Practising in the larger space ensured that everyone could project, move and position themselves confidently in the very room we would use on the day.

Setting up and the day before



Work begins the day before the Ceremony. W. Bro. Peter de Graaf, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, hired a large van and collected furniture, carpets, regalia, Masonic books, collars and banners from Costa Nova and Quesada, transporting everything to the Bonalba Hotel.



Members of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, lead by W. Bro. Peter Farrell, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, assisted by members of the Ceremony team unloaded and set out the room.

Final thought

A successful Provincial LOI is the visible part of a much larger endeavour. The ceremony itself is brief compared with the weeks of preparation behind it, yet every hour spent in planning and rehearsal is repaid tenfold in the calm, measured dignity of the day.



Rising to the Challenge: Junior Brethren Shine at the Provincial Lodge of Instruction 2025



On Saturday 8th November, in the presence of the R.W. Provincial Grandmaster and other members of the Provincial Executive team, 108 brethren assembled at the Bonalba Hotel in Mutxamel for the Provincial Lodge of Instruction 2025. Junior brethren from across the Province of Valencia united to deliver the First-Degree Ceremony in full—a collaborative effort involving sixteen brothers from eight Lodges.

Preparation and Purpose

The Provincial Lodge of Instruction exists to uphold the highest standards of ritual while nurturing the next generation of Masonic leaders. By offering a safe and supportive environment, it enables brethren to practise, grow in confidence, and deepen their understanding of ceremonial work. This year's gathering exemplified that mission with clarity and purpose.

Newer Brethren in Senior Roles

Our junior brethren assumed the roles of Worshipful Master, Wardens, Deacons, and other key offices. Each brother carried out his duties with care and commitment, demonstrating a solid grasp of ritual. The teamwork displayed throughout the day was a testament to their preparation and shared dedication to the Craft.



Following the Ceremony, the Lodge of Instruction team hosted a splendid Festive Board, where traditional Toasts were honoured and a raffle raised 1,195€ to support the 2026 Festival.

The Provincial Lodge of Instruction Team





The Provincial Lodge of Instruction team were:

- Bro. Rafe Parker - Puerto de Xàbia 58 - WM
- W. Bro. Manuel Guillen - Fidelísima-Amor 199 - IPM
- Bro. Stephen Young - Puerto de Xàbia 58 - SW
- Bro. Max Heinrich - Jávea 40 - JW
- Bro. Kevin Bird - Dama de Eleche 163 - SD & Working Tools
- Bro. Dave Brettle - Puerto de Xàbia 58 - JD
- Bro. Paul Lewis - Jávea 40 - Inner Guard
- W. Bro. Barry Rowe - Jávea 40 - Tyler
- Bro. Colin Kenward - Oliva La Safor 112 - Chaplain
- Bro. Hector Peris - Puerto de Xàbia 58 - Secretary (English) and Charge after Initiation
- Bro. Haakon Ellingsen - Santa Faz 48 - Secretary (Español)
- W. Bro. John Beavis - Puerto de Xàbia 58 - DC
- Bro. Luke Holmes - Armonia de Ifach 46 - ADC and North East Corner
- Bro. Istvan Szekely - Armonia de Ifach 46 - Mode of Preparation
- Bro. Stuart Wall - Puerto de Xàbia 58 - Candidate
- W. Bro. Ken Cornforth - Oliva La Safor 112 - Organist



The R.W. Provincial Grandmaster and the PLOI Worshipful Master Bro.
Rafe Parker

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Bignell, added:

"I wish to congratulate Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No 58 and everyone involved in putting on today's Ceremony. This event is a hugely important glimpse into our future. By giving our junior brethren the chance to stretch themselves, we ensure that the traditions of Freemasonry remain in safe and capable hands."

W. Bro. Nick Coates, Worshipful Master of Puerto de Xàbia 58, expressed heartfelt thanks:

"On behalf of the Puerto de Xàbia Lodge No 58 and particularly from myself and our Immediate Past Master W. Bro. John Young who oversaw most of the team's preparations for today, I want to extend our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this important event; W. Bros. Peter Farrell, Peter de Graaf, John Beavis, and Kevin Hamilton, who acted as guides and coaches to the team; W. Bros. Matt James, Malcolm March, and Richard Davis for their work in organising the venue and managing bookings; and above all, to the junior brethren who gave so freely of their time and energy to deliver a truly memorable ceremony."

The Provincial Lodge of Instruction 2026

As the 2025 Provincial Lodge of Instruction came to a close, the R.W. Grandmaster had one final duty to perform. To great acclaim, R.W. Bro. Rodney Bignell announced that the Provincial Lodge of Instruction 2026 will be hosted by San Juan de España Lodge No 28.

We send our congratulations to everyone at San Juan de España Lodge No 28 and we look forward to seeing everyone assemble next year for the 2026 Provincial Lodge of Instruction.



A Sunday Gathering Marked by Fellowship, Sunshine, and Symbolic Generosity

The number 555 is often referred to as an “Angel Number”, representing change, transformation, and personal growth—a fitting symbol for a day that brought together Brethren and guests in celebration, conviviality, and charitable purpose.



On Sunday, 16th November, more than forty members and friends of Armonia de Ifach Lodge No. 46 assembled at the Va Bene restaurant in Moraira for the Lodge’s inaugural Sunday luncheon—an occasion designed to foster fellowship and strengthen fraternal bonds beyond the formalities of the Lodge room.

Guests were treated to a splendid three-course meal, accompanied by generous quantities of cold wine and warm conversation. Though the weather forecast hinted at the arrival of winter’s chill later in the week, the autumn sun proved gracious, bathing the gathering in a balmy 24 degrees—an unexpected blessing that added to the day’s cheer.



As the seasons prepare to turn, so too did the Angel Number 555 reveal its deeper resonance. Through the sale of luncheon tickets and a spirited raffle featuring a range of delightful prizes, the Lodge succeeded in raising a remarkable €555 for Masonic charities. A symbolic sum, echoing the theme of transformation and benevolence, and a testament to the generosity of all who attended.



The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Paul Nichols closed the festivities, commenting “It was a joy to see so many brethren and friends gathered in fellowship and good cheer. The warmth of the day was matched only by the generosity of spirit shown by all who attended. To raise €555 for Masonic charities is a wonderful testament to what we can achieve together; guided by friendship, purpose, and the enduring values of our Craft.”



Elda retrieves a chapter of its history: Freemasonry returns after 86 years

Report by Bro. Alex Lopez, Senior Warden, Fidelísima-Amor Lodge No 199



ELDA (Alicante) – On Saturday 22 November 2025, a new Masonic lodge was consecrated in the city of Elda. Named Fidelísima-Amor No. 199 and belonging to the Grand Lodge of Spain, it will operate under the authority of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Valencia.

The Lodge's very title serves as a declaration of intent. It signals continuity with earlier Masonic traditions in the town and represents far more than the founding of a new institution. It marks the meaningful recovery of the sentimental and historical heritage that links Elda with Freemasonry.

In just a few weeks it will be 2026, marking 140 years since the first Lodge was established in Elda. The founders of Fidelísima-Amor have worked to honour that anniversary.



Pablo Guarinos Guarinos, first Worshipful Master of Fidelísima Lodge No. 335.

Elda's Masonic history began on 4 April 1886 with the creation of Fidelísima Lodge No. 335, which operated from 1886 to 1904.



José Tomás Sánchez, Worshipful Master of Amor Lodge No. 9 (photograph from the 1940s).

In the second quarter of the twentieth century, Amor Lodge No. 9 was founded in the city, remaining active from 1927 until 1939, the year it was closed.



Its story reflects the broader experience of twentieth century Spain: committed to Enlightenment ideals and universal fraternity, it was brought to an abrupt and violent end by repression which dismantled its structures, persecuted its members and attempted to erase its memories.



*Digital recreation of a Masonic temple of the Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite in Spain in the first half of the twentieth century.*

Beyond their ritual work, both lodges played a role in shaping ideas about the future and modernisation of Elda. They provided an alternative civic space where proposals for improving the city were explored.

The return of Freemasonry to Elda is a rare and notable event in the cultural and historical life of the province. Many national and international Masonic authorities are expected to attend, travelling to the city to show their support for the initiative and for the commitment of its members to recovering a part of Elda's history linked to freedom of thought, solidarity and progress.



An Introduction, Two Advancements, and a Diamond Jubilee at Jávea Lodge No. 40



L-R W. Bro. Kevin Hamilton, Bro. Peter Waring, W. Bro. Alex Wilkins, Bro. Charles Toomey, W. Bro. David Johnson

On Wednesday, 26th November, the Brethren of Jávea Lodge No. 40 assembled for a most industrious and memorable evening, marked by significant labours and joyous celebrations.



The first highlight of the evening was the Raising of Brother Charles Toomey to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The ceremony was conducted with solemnity and dignity, and the newly-raised Brother was warmly congratulated by all present upon attaining this exalted stage in his Masonic journey.

Following this, the Lodge was pleased to initiate Brother Peter Waring into the Craft. The Ceremony of Initiation was carried out with due decorum, and the newly-admitted Brother was welcomed with fraternal affection, beginning his path of light and knowledge within the Lodge.



Not content with two notable achievements, the Brethren then proceeded to elect Worshipful Brother Kevin Hamilton as Master Elect. He will, in due course, be installed into the Chair of King Solomon at the Lodge's Installation Meeting in February next year, a moment to which the Brethren look forward with great anticipation.



Members of the Jávea No 40 Lodge

The meeting concluded with a most distinguished announcement. To enthusiastic applause, the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Alex Wilkins, was delighted to inform the Lodge that on 18th December 2025, Worshipful Brother David Johnson will celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of his Initiation into Freemasonry. W. Bro. Johnson was initiated in London, on 18th December 1965 and joined Jávea 40 on 5th April 2019, and his forthcoming diamond jubilee in the Craft stands as a shining testament to his long and faithful service to the fraternity.

The Brethren of Jávea Lodge No. 40 expressed their heartfelt congratulations to W. Bro. Johnson, whose dedication and example continue to inspire all who work with him.



Finally, the brethren retired to enjoy a convivial and relaxed Festive Board where traditional toasts, good food and good wine were enjoyed by all.



Honouring a Diamond Jubilee in the Craft: Worshipful Brother David Johnson's 60 Years in Freemasonry



On 18th December 1965, W. Bro. David George Johnson began his Masonic journey when he was initiated into **Cathedral Lodge No. 2741** at Freemasons' Hall, London. As a Lewis, he proudly continued the tradition established by his father.

His dedication soon shone through: he served as Master of the Lodge in 1977 and again in 1992. In 1990 he became a Founder Member of **Square Mile Lodge No. 9352** in the City of London, later becoming its third Worshipful Master. His outstanding service in the capital was recognised with the award of London Grand Rank.

After retiring from his distinguished career as a Senior Police Officer, David moved to Kent and joined **Prince Edwin Lodge No. 125**, where he was installed as Master in 2012.

In 2019, having moved to Spain, he joined **Jávea Lodge No. 40**, where he remains an active and valued Brother, currently serving as Junior Warden. His commitment was further marked in 2024 when he was honoured in the Province of Valencia as Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer.



On Wednesday, 3rd December, Jávea Lodge No. 40 gathered for a convivial Chinese meal following the GP Committee meeting. Among those present was W. Bro. David George Johnson, unaware that a special surprise had been arranged in his honour.





On behalf of the Lodge, the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Alex Wilkins, together with David's proposer into Jávea Lodge No. 40, W. Bro. Matt James, presented W. Bro. Johnson with a commemorative Lodge certificate marking sixty years in Masonry, together with a fine bottle of brandy, that he might raise a glass in remembrance of the many Brethren he has known throughout his Masonic journey.

W. Bro. Wilkins then added a final comment: "It is indeed rare, in these times, to witness the celebration of a Diamond Jubilee. W. Bro. David's service to Masonry has been exemplary, and it continues to this day, as he remains a hugely popular and active member of the Lodge and participates fully in all of our meetings and ceremonies."





Provincial Ladies' Night 2025: Fellowship, Festivity and Charity



On Saturday, 6th December 2025, a distinguished gathering of 220 brethren, their partners, and honoured guests assembled at the Grand Bali Hotel in Benidorm for the annual Provincial Ladies' Night. This cherished occasion, held in the spirit of fellowship and gratitude, once again proved to be a highlight of the Provincial calendar.



With the season of goodwill fast approaching, the evening was graced by a surprise visit from Father Christmas himself. Accompanied by his faithful Elf, he delighted all present by distributing festive treats, adding a joyful touch to the proceedings and ensuring that the warmth of Christmas was felt throughout the company.





The formalities of the evening were conducted with exemplary decorum. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. David Wynn, proposed the traditional Toast to the Ladies in a manner both eloquent and heartfelt, reflecting the esteem in which our Ladies are held. Mrs Jeanette Bignell responded with poise and confidence, her words delivered with grace and polish, embodying the dignity of the occasion.

The Ladies' Song was rendered with great spirit by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Jeff Hyde. He was ably supported by the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, W. Bro. Paul Nicholls, and the Provincial Junior Grand Warden, W. Bro. Ian Bullock. Their harmonious performance was received with warm applause, marking a memorable highlight of the evening.





Guests were treated to a sparkling programme of entertainment. The Entertainers presented a dazzling repertoire of popular and musical theatre classics, while the duo It Takes Two offered a stirring performance that captivated the audience and ensured the dance floor remained lively throughout the night.

In keeping with the Masonic tradition of benevolence, the R.W. Provincial Grand Master Rodney Bignell announced that the proceeds of the raffle would be dedicated to the fitting-out works of the new Marina Alta Masonic Centre in Ondara. The generosity of brethren and guests was, as ever, most commendable, resulting in a significant amount of money being raised. This contribution will greatly assist in the completion of a centre that will serve as a beacon of Masonic fellowship and community engagement for years to come.

Photographs by W. Bro. David Clarke/Report by Bro. Stephen Young





Yuletide Charity and Companionship for Oliva La Safor Lodge No 112



On Thursday, 12th December, the Brethren of Oliva La Safor Lodge No. 112 were pleased to welcome partners, friends, and visitors from neighbouring Lodges to their annual Christmas gathering, held at the Black Flame restaurant in Pedreguer.



A total of fifty guests assembled and enjoyed a traditional carvery luncheon, complete with turkey and all the trimmings. The spirit of conviviality was evident throughout, with fine fare and warm friendship marking the occasion.



The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. David Clarke, extended a cordial welcome to all present and undertook the role of Master of Ceremonies for the seasonal raffle. The generosity of those assembled shone brightly, with the sum of 330€ being raised in support of the Lodge's charitable endeavours.



Caledonia Lodge No. 68 Welcomes a New Worshipful Master



On 9th October 2025, Caledonia Lodge No. 68 celebrated the Installation of W.Bro. Phillip Wells, who was placed in the Chair of King Solomon by W.Bro. Mel Young. The Lodge was also honoured by the presence of the Assistant Grand Master of Spain, R.W. Bro. Barrie Roy Mansell, a member of the Lodge and the Official Visitor, the Assistant Provincial Grandmaster of Valencia, R.W. Bro. Jeffrey Steven Hyde.



This marked W.Bro. Wells' first occasion presiding as Worshipful Master, and although he may not have been fully aware of the responsibilities that lay ahead, he quickly discovered the demands of office. His very first meeting was no small undertaking, being a Third Degree Ceremony held in November.

Since then, his calendar has been equally full. He has already overseen a First Degree Demonstration, and is preparing to conduct two First Degree Ceremonies scheduled for January and February.

It is clear that W.Bro. Wells has begun his year in office with energy and commitment, embracing the challenges of leadership and guiding the Lodge through a busy and rewarding programme of work.



Provincial Ladies Night Raffle Prize: A Nautical Treat



The Provincial Ladies Night was full of laughter, friendship, and generosity. One of the evening's highlights was the raffle, which had everyone waiting eagerly to see who would win the star prize.

Congratulations to Mrs Pauline Hutchinson, who walked away with a brand-new sailing jacket! She looked delighted as she tried it on, ready for her next adventure on the water in comfort and style.

This fantastic prize was kindly donated by Boats and Barcos of Torrevieja. A big thank-you to them for their generosity and for supporting our Province's events.

We're also proud to share that Boats and Barcos is run by Chris Bignell, son of our Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master. It's wonderful to see the Bignell family continuing to play such an active role in our community and charitable work.

Warm congratulations again to Mrs Hutchinson, and heartfelt thanks to Boats and Barcos. Their support helped make this Provincial Ladies Night one to remember. Here's to many more evenings of fellowship, fun, and the values we hold dear.



Annual Donation to Cruz Roja by Santa Faz Lodge No. 48

On the 15th of December, representatives of the local Cruz Roja (Red Cross) were received by members of Santa Faz Lodge No. 48 at the International Club in El Campello.



Present on behalf of the Lodge were V.W. Bro. Ivan Beckett, W. Bro. Nick Carter, and W. Bro. Barry Hovell the Lodge Charity Steward, who together passed over the Lodge's annual donation of dry foodstuffs and personal hygiene products.

This year's charitable endeavour was further strengthened through the valued support of Santa Faz No. 26 Royal Arch Chapter and the International Club. These contributions exemplify the spirit of unity and benevolence that lies at the heart of Freemasonry.

The Lodge is proud to continue its longstanding tradition of assisting those in need within the local community, and extends sincere thanks to all who joined in this worthy cause.

Report by Bro. Hamish McConnachie





Santa Faz Lodge No 48 Christmas Party – El Campello



On Friday, 12th December, members and friends of Santa Faz Lodge gathered at the International Club in El Campello for a festive Christmas Party.



The evening was well attended, with 35 brethren, family, and guests joining together in fellowship and seasonal cheer. Entertainment was provided by Ben Ashley, whose performance added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

Special thanks are extended to Barry and Jill Hovell for their excellent organisation, ensuring that all present were able to share in a memorable and convivial celebration.



Report by Bro. Hamish McConnachie



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.

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

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

14th February 2026: Arenal Deportiva 65 Ladies Night: Attico Restaurant, Jávea

17th February 2026: Las Salinas 79 Salt Pot Lunch: Restaurante Rendezvous, Torrevieja

21st February 2026: Puerto de Xàbia 58 Race Night: Casa de La Pizza, Jávea

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

1st March 2026: Caledonia 68 Chinese Night: Nan Kin Restaurant, Quesada

14th March 2026: Las Salinas 79 Charity Night: Silverstone's Bar and Bistro, Montebello

17th March 2026: Las Salinas 79 Salt Pot Lunch: Restaurante Rendezvous, Torrevieja

25th April 2026: Jávea 40 St George's Day Fête: Venue TBC

15th May 2026: Las Salinas Ladies Night: Las Palmeras Resort, Crevillente

29th May 2026: Jávea 40 Ladies Night: Salones Carrasco, Jávea

29th May 2026: Caledonia 68 Ladies Night: Casa del Antonio, Formentera del Seguro

21st June 2026: Oliva La Safor 112 Solstice Dinner: Venue TBC

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

Or you can access further details on the Provincial website [HERE](#).



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