

Suffolk Masonic Festival 2029

Festival Handbook



'Give a little, Gain a lot'

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Message from the Provincial Grand Master

'Give a little, Gain a lot' is a wonderful expression that accurately describes what we are being asked to do, and why. A better slogan might have been 'Give a little, Gain more than you give, literally in economic terms, but also in terms of personal satisfaction, group cohesion and community engagement' but I can see why our Provincial Charity Steward chose the words he has!

I have complete faith in the generosity, determination and work ethic of every Suffolk Mason. Coupled with the expertise and leadership demonstrated by WBro Jon Neill in his role as Provincial Charity Steward, I am confident that we will reach, and probably exceed our Festival goals. Having said that, I am mindful we each have our own unique, daily challenges that can - and probably will - distract and hinder us from doing all we might to raise £1.5m by 2029. It is during these times that we need to think about what we gain from what we give. After all, it is the hope of reward that sweetens labour.

With our donation to the MCF, it will remain fit and primed to make its regular and ad hoc grants to deserving beneficiaries. Between Festival years we, as members of the Province of Suffolk or the charities we support, receive from the MCF far more than the £1.5m we have pledged to donate.



So we do 'gain a lot' from our investment in pure economic terms, but who among us do not consider the giving of Freemason's as one of the core reasons for our Masonry and does not point with justified pride at the charitable work we do? By taking on, meeting and exceeding this challenge we are literally putting into practice outside the Lodge those duties we were taught in it and by proving the beneficial effects of our craft, we define ourselves and strengthen the fraternal bonds that stretch across the Province and beyond.

Please support this Festival in every way that you can even if it is just by making the small regular pledge that qualifies you to wear our absolutely beautiful festival jewel. Thank you for every effort you will make over the Festival and I look forward to sharing with you the great satisfaction we will enjoy when we look back and say to ourselves that we did all that we could.

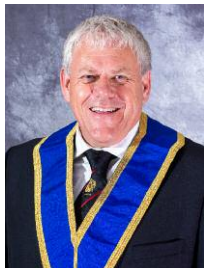
If, after having read this handbook questions still remain about what we are setting out to achieve, and why, please speak to your Lodge Charity Steward who will be happy to fill in any gaps. You should also speak to members of your Lodge or friends from other Lodges about your ideas for fundraising and which of the suggested steps your Lodge will take to help the Province meet its charitable goal for the Festival.

Jolyon Berry

Provincial Grand Master



Message from the Provincial Charity Steward



It is an honour and privilege to be appointed your Provincial Charity Steward / Festival Chairman. The role itself is a challenge, especially in the times that we find ourselves. I want the 'Suffolk Festival 29' to be enjoyable, memorable and as pain free as possible for us all.

When I joined freemasonry back in 2009 one of the areas that interested me and persuaded me to join was the 'charity' element, I like to help others and I get huge satisfaction from helping someone and seeing the difference you have made to their lives. So it is very apt that I now find myself in the role of leading Suffolk in our Festival. Helping our Provincial Almoner and acting as a Visiting Volunteer has given me great experience and enabled me over the last five years to also help others. During this Festival both the Almoner and Charity teams will continue to work closely together to deliver improved service to our members and community.

At our last Festival we raised around £1.5 million and since then we have had £2 million back from the MCF in grants, aid and support for our own members and local charities, as well as



£14 million pledged to be spent on Cornwallis Court, that is not a bad return on our investment.

A key focus for our Festival is looking after ourselves and that includes our own charity, the MCF, as well as our members and ensuring that in Suffolk we get something back for our hard work during the Festival.

If there is one thing you can do to help me and the Festival appeal it is to consider signing up for the Direct Debit or Regular Payment Plan to receive your honorific and wear your jewel with pride. If each and every one of us did just that we would achieve our goal easily. We have created a number of other options to help and to ensure that this is easy to remember, we have called it the 'Seven Steps'. So please get behind Suffolk, let us work together, have some fun and support and help each other to make this a successful Festival.

If we reach or exceed the total from the previous Festival, you have my promise that in 2029 we will celebrate in style with an unforgettable celebration that will be open to all Suffolk Freemasons and their families – and the best part is that it will be free of charge!

Jon Neill

Festival Chairman



1. Strategy of the Festival period

The strapline for the festival is **'Give a little, Gain a lot'**. This will enable us to lead with what a Festival is, why we give to a Festival, along with what we get back from the MCF and linking the Almoners and Charity together. For example at our last Festival we raised circa £1.5 million but we have received back over £2 million in grants, funding and support. Followed by £14 million being spent at Cornwallis Court.

We can easily reach the PGM's goal of surpassing our previous Festival total by encouraging our members to obtain a Jewel through an individual standing order or direct debit donation.

The ambition from our PGM is to exceed £1.5 million for our Festival. This is lower than the amount we achieved at our last Festival but seems to be a realistic target in the current climate.

To ensure the Festival is fully inclusive with a fun element and a celebration of all the things we do so well in Suffolk, the Festival Team has a representation of our members from right across the Province.

To make sure that members get value for money and a return for their efforts and recognition of the work involved - the aim is for the closing event to be free for all Suffolk Freemasons and their families.

Clear communication, education, and appreciation are key to engaging members and raising funds for the Festival.



Integration with the Almoner team, educating members on the importance and impact of raising funds can increase support. Joint events like Q&A sessions with the Almoner Team and the MCF can engage members and give something back.

To publish an easy to read one page plan for the Festival, a regular infographic and newsletter indicating key information. It is a Craft festival but at the request of our PGM we will be including the Royal Arch and other Orders in our Festival plans and welcome their support.

Empowering lodges to raise funds independently is important. By reviewing their previous Festival results, each lodge can set realistic targets. If each lodge can then meet or exceed their previous result, it will be a great starting point.

You will hear the phrase RPP, it stands for Regular Payment Plan and is the standing order that will ensure you receive your jewel. If we can achieve a good participation of this it will make our fundraising so much easier. Therefore the RPP should be your main focus - by asking as many of our members to sign up as possible. If members already have an existing RPP with MCF - they can simply cancel it and complete a new RPP for Festival29 - this will ensure their donation gets them an honorific for the Festival and helps us achieve our ambitions.



What is a festival?

A festival is a fundraising appeal that is held to raise funds in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, MCF. The festival consists of an 'appeal' and a 'finale'. During the appeal, members are encouraged to donate, raise funds, participate in events, to learn about and promote the work of the charity, and join together for the benefit of the Province, the members and the MCF. The result of the appeal is celebrated at a final event where the total amount raised through donations is announced and the achievements and activities of the Province are celebrated.

A festival is very much a partnership with the MCF. Through participation in every aspect of the festival, the MCF aims to work with the Province to deliver a successful outcome.

What does Suffolk achieve from the Festival appeal ?

We receive grants, support and assistance from the MCF throughout the year, not just during the Festival. The amount of money we get back and the support we receive is more than what we raise.

How does Suffolk get this money back?

We receive this money back by the grants and support which is accessed through the Prov Charity Steward, the Prov Almoner or by direct contact with the MCF. See the MCF website for further information on grants.



When does our next festival start?

1st January 2024 with an official opening event planned for 22nd March 2024, where any saved donations over the last 5 years can be given.

Can we pay money into the Festival29 relief chest now?

Yes, the Festival29 relief chest is now open, further details will be given on how to do this.

When does the Festival finish?

It is planned to finish in Summer 2029 with an event where all will be welcome to celebrate our success.

Do we qualify for gift aid on our donations?

Yes, you can use the Festival relief chest then the gift aid is automatically paid in for you, straight into the relief chest.

Do we get interest on the money we donate?

Yes, if done via gift aid we can receive up to 6% back in interest making it better than any bank.

What happened to the old masonic charities?

They were all combined and now operate under one umbrella, our own charity the MCF.

Where can we get more information about Festival29?

The Festival website is now live giving you full information on all our plans and projects, but in the meantime if you have any question at all, would like to be part of the festival team or undertake a fundraiser, please email our Festival Chairman Jon Neill on chstdw@suffolkfreemason.org.uk



Strategy of the Festival - Donating early

Donating early to the Festival29 Relief Chest can make a significant impact to the total your lodge will donate as all of your deposits generate an additional 6% in interest. As an example Cambridgeshire received £97,000 extra simply as a result of lodges giving early to their Festival appeal.

We are accepting payments from November 2023, all significant initial payments will be announced and displayed on a large screen at the opening event in April 2024.

Visit: <https://donate.mcf.org.uk>
and select 'Festivals'

Or scan the QR code with your camera



This will take you direct to MCF Festival Page
'Suffolk 2029 Festival'



2. Key info on Festival29

Approximately every eleven years, each of the 47 Masonic Provinces holds a Festival. Historically these would have been for one of the four central Masonic Charities; Benevolent Fund, New Masonic Samaritan Fund, RMTBG or The Grand Charity. These charities merged in April 2017, to form the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

During the period of a Festival Appeal it is anticipated that all members of our Lodges and Chapters will do their very best to support the Provincial Grand Master's Festival 2029 Appeal in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The aim is for Lodges, Chapters, and individual Brethren and Companions within our Province to accrue a significant amount of money to support the charity.

The MCF is first and foremost a charity. Its mission is to build better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence for Freemasons, their families and the wider community. Further details regarding the MCF can be found on the link to the MCF website (<https://mcf.org.uk>)

Other charitable giving does not stop but it is the Province's hope that the emphasis of Lodges and Chapters will be to support Festival29 throughout the Festival period.



3. Seven Steps

The 'Seven Steps' approach is a simple strategy and a reference to the masonic steps to help Suffolk reach its goals.

We are asking individuals to pick three ways or more from the 'Seven Steps' promotion during the Festival appeal. Jewels and payment by direct debit should be the main focus.

We will have banners across the province in centres, promoting the Seven Steps to get the message out.





SUFFOLK FESTIVAL 2029

SEVEN STEPS

'Give a little, Gain a lot'

Please pick Three, Five or all Seven Steps to help support the Festival.

For more information speak to your lodge Charity Steward or visit our Festival website www.suffolkfestival.org.uk



1

COMMIT TO QUALIFYING FOR A FESTIVAL STEWARD'S JEWEL

Just £5 per month over the Festival period to qualify - the jewel itself is free.

2

OR GAIN A PATRONAGE JEWEL

For just £10 a month for Vice Patron, £15 Patron or £20 for Grand Patronage. Select the Patronage option of your choice and RECEIVE a free jewel, festival gloves, socks and handkerchief. Your contributions are assigned to you and your lodge.

3

FESTIVAL LOTTERY & SCRATCH CARDS

Not only a way to support the Festival Appeal but also a fun way to engage your friends and families, with the chance of winning a prize!

4

BRANDED MERCHANDISE

Promote your support of the Festival by wearing a Festival29 Tie and using other high quality items produced specifically for our Festival29 Appeal.

5

ENCOURAGE LODGE TO USE DIGITAL DONATIONS/GIFT AID ENVELOPES

This ensures your donations are assigned to you and to your lodge.

6

SUPPORT PROVINCIAL EVENTS

Your Festival Team are going to be arranging a host of events and activities that will not only raise funds for the appeal, but also provide you and members of your lodge with a fun experience that will allow you to include family and friends and may offer opportunities to attract new members.

7

ORGANISE A LODGE EVENT

Don't be afraid to organise your own event. Join forces with other Lodges or associated Chapters and encourage your members to take part, have fun and raise funds.

To make a donation, scan barcode or visit <https://gtap.uk/suffolkcg>

SCAN TO MAKE
A DONATION



And more...!

Perhaps you could take on a sponsorship challenge - Do you want to jump out of an aeroplane, run a half marathon, or challenge yourself to lose weight. There are endless ways to challenge yourself and gain sponsorship, plus the MCF can help you through our fundraising platform, Freemasonry Gives.

What else can you do? Why not think of other ways that you can support the appeal.



4. Festival Launch and Timescales

The Festival will start on the 1st January 2024 and finish in Summer 2029. A simple pledge to donate the required amount is all that is necessary. In the event of individuals exceeding their initial goal, they will receive an upgrade with the presentation of a Patron Bar. For more information, please refer to the Jewels poster.

The 500 Club is set to launch in early 2024. The main aim will be to encourage people to sign up for a regular payment, which will be facilitated through an automated online monthly lottery-style scheme. <https://draw.ourclublotto.co.uk/suffolk500club/>

A range of quality Merchandise will launch early in 2024.

The Festival's Grand Opening is on 22nd March 2024. The evening will feature food, entertainment and a special presentation. This is something you will not want to miss.

As we proceed through the Festival all events will be published onto the Festival website, on social media and details will also be sent to lodge secretaries for members information.

Festival29 will close at our Annual Meeting in May 2029. With a separate spectacular finale being held to celebrate the support the members have given. This will be free for all members and their families and take place at some point in the summer of 2029.



5. The Festival29 Team

Festival President Jolyon Berry

Festival Chairman Jonathan Neill
- chstwd@suffolkfreemason.org.uk

Deputy Festival Chairman Andy Gentle
- andy@drugentle.com

Assistants to Festival Chairman
Robert Bamberger - mrrbamberger@gmail.com
Nick Moulton - nick@moultons.uk
Bill Dotesio-Eyres - bill@dotesio-eyers.co.uk

500 Club/Lottery Lead Chris Drinkald - chris.drinkald@icloud.com

Festival Jewel lead Roger Cawston - roger.cawston@talk21.com

Light Blue Liaison Ryan Harvey
- slbchairman@suffolkfreemason.org.uk

Festival Merchandise Lead Mark Campbell
- mark.campbell60@sky.com

Communications Kelvin Avis - comms@suffolkfreemason.org.uk

Treasurer Paul Rayner - treasurer@suffolkfreemason.org.uk

Provincial Reps will also become Festival Group Reps to promote and support the Festival, if these positions change then so does the title.

Charity Stewards of all lodges will also hold the title of Lodge Festival Reps and are acknowledged with a free gift from MCF.

As we move through the Festival the Provincial Charity Steward will visit all lodges regularly to update on our progress.

For up to date information throughout the festival period visit:
www.suffolkfestival.org.uk



6. Events and fundraisers

Provincial events planned by the team

1. Opening event, March 2024, date to be confirmed.
2. Festival procession (To be announced at launch event).
3. Festival Ball by Light Blues at mid-way point, 2026/7.
4. Festival Golf Events.
5. Festival Shooting Events.
6. Festival Fishing Events.
7. Fun Days as previous Festival.
8. Murder Mystery Weekend.
9. Charity Auction at Ashlar House.
10. Closing event free to all members and their families.

Suggestions for individual Lodge fundraisers/events may include:

- Race Nights
- Quiz Nights
- Home barbeques
- Bake Sales
- Golf Days
- Parachute Jumps
- Walks/Hikes
- Sponsored Events
- Antique Auctions
- Craft Fairs
- Balls/Discos
- Quiz Nights

These events would be organised by individual lodge teams but can be advertised as Festival events.

We can promote all your events on our website and social media. The MCF also have a designated section for promoting our festival events on their own website.



8. How to donate

The easiest way is to set up a regular giving Direct Debit, and receive the following benefits:

1. Gift aid gets collected automatically (extra 25%).
2. The donation will be recorded as your personal donation as well as from your lodge.
3. You will become entitled to wear the prestigious Festival29 Jewel at all Lodge meetings in the Province (minimum donations apply).
4. Your donation counts to your Lodge being awarded Festival honours.
5. We know what is coming in and what to expect.
6. You can relax knowing you have supported the Festival and done your bit.

This is the QR code for the regular giving direct debit page form and will secure your jewel honorific.



Other ways to give

1. By using envelopes in a lodge meeting (But make sure it's the Festival version and it has your lodge details on it).
2. One off donations, regular direct debit, forms are all on the website.
3. Legacy giving.
4. Take part in events and commit to the 'Seven Steps'.
5. Use the QR code and follow the instructions.
6. Lodge donations.

Lodges can pay direct into the Festival Relief Chest.

See the MCF Giving Guide on our website for other ways to give.



9. What is a Relief Chest?

A Relief Chest is a charitable account which is owned collectively by a group of Freemasons, such as a lodge, chapter or province. Donations made by members of the group are collected and held securely in the Relief Chest, until the group decides to distribute them to registered charities.

Today, there are over 5,000 Relief Chests which hold funds totalling more than £21 million. Every year, Relief Chest holders donate over £10 million to charity.

We have a Festival relief chest where we can hold our Festival monies, we can see what each lodge has donated, we get a great rate of interest on this as well as all the gift aid.

You may have your own lodge relief chest, it is easy to transfer your donation from one chest to another.

The charity Steward can update you on your progress.

Most lodges in Suffolk have a relief chest.

Why open a Relief Chest?

A means of obtaining tax relief on money donated to UK charities.

Donors must be UK tax payers in order to qualify for gift aid. The relief is currently 25%. If you give £10 with gift aid, the charity receives £12.50. Higher rate taxpayers can claim additional personal relief, details are on the donations forms.



The rules are really very simple You must be a UK tax payer, and The gift aid tax reclaimed on your contributions must not exceed your tax bill. The detailed rules are spelt out on our donations forms.

If making single donations or regular donations you need to complete one of these forms, providing your name and address and confirming by ticking one of the boxes, that you wish Gift Aid tax to be reclaimed on your behalf in favour of the charity. If using gift aid envelopes you need to complete the section on the reverse of the envelope and make sure you tick the relevant box.

Take control Having a Relief Chest allows you to take control of your lodge's giving with the capability to raise funds for multiple charities and appeals and keep track with regular statements and reports.

Using the Relief Chest Scheme means donations go even further

- Gift Aid is automatically reclaimed on all eligible donations, boosting every £1 donated by 25p.
- The online sponsorship platform and fundraising support can help you to raise more money.
- A favourable interest rate is earned on all funds held in a Relief Chest.

Save Time A Relief Chest is quick to set up and simple to manage, reducing the burden of administering donations. There is no need to deal with accountants, lawyers, or HMRC.



10. Merchandise

1. Gloves with Suffolk Festival logo.
2. Provincial Festival tie.
3. Quality but reasonably priced pen.
4. Handkerchief with Suffolk Festival logo.
5. Socks with Suffolk Festival logo/Light Blues logo
7. Scratch cards for Festive board/bars.

See poster or website for price list.

All issued in a display box for each lodge with stock record, value. Unsold good will need to be returned or paid for.

Please contact Mark Campbell on mark.campbell60@sky.com for further goods or to restock.

You may wish to purchase and use some of these goods for your raffle prizes, please send all payments for merchandise goods as soon as possible to:

Suffolk Provincial Grand Charity bank account

Sort Code 20-44-51

Account 70868221

Please quote 'Merch and lodge number' and advise Mark of the payment.



11. Festival Jewels or honorifics

Why this design?

The main charge in the arms is the sun rising over the sea. Suffolk is the most easterly County in England and thus the first to see the sun rise. The sun also refers to a poem by Michael Drayton, written in 1627, and was also used as the badge of Suffolk at the battle of Agincourt.

Entitlement to wear the jewel depends on the level of donation pledged:

Steward

£300 donation over the period of the festival (£5 per month).

Vice Patron

£600 donation over the period of the festival (£10 per month).

Patron

£900 donation over the period of the festival (£15 per month).

Grand Patron

£1200 donation over the period of the festival (£20 per month).





SUFFOLK FESTIVAL 2029 HONORIFICS

Give a little, Gain a lot



A series of Festival 2029 honorifics have been created to acknowledge and celebrate individual giving based on donations from members and lodges.

The best way you can support this Festival is to commit to donating and RECEIVE a Festival Jewel. It is hoped we can achieve at least 70% of Suffolk members to participate and be proud to wear the jewel.

Donating by standing order is the easiest option and ensures we RECEIVE the gift aid and interest on all your generous giving. The amounts below are for the five year period, it only works out at £1.15 per week for a stewards jewel



Steward - £300 (£5 per month on standing order)

Vice Patron - £600 (£10 per month on standing order)

Patron - £900 (£15 per month on standing order)

Grand Patron - £1200 (£20 per month on standing order)

Jewels themselves will be issued free and identified by a different bar

PRE ORDER

If you pre-order any of the Patron Jewels you will receive a free pair of festival gloves, socks and branded hankerchief.

Complete the Standing Order now to receive jewels prior to our opening event

LODGE HONORIFICS

If your lodge matches or exceeds the giving from the 2019 Festival, Lodge Grand Patronage will be achieved, this will be rewarded with a certificate and treasured gift from the PGM at the next Annual Meeting at Holbrook.

FAQ

All donations are allocated to both individuals and lodges

Complete a Standing Order to ensure we receive gift aid and interest

A commitment can be over 5 years or longer if required to lower the monthly donation

Jewels can be worn until our next Festival in 2034

See website for regular giving Festival s/o form (or see Charity Steward)



If you choose a level but exceed it you will get an upgrade and a free new bar. If you do not want to be seen to give more, you don't have to wear your upgrade bar, meaning we could all wear the same Jewel

The payment can be made in one lump sum, or by setting up a direct debit for the appropriate sum, or by pledging to make the appropriate payment by other regular means.

Once the appropriate sum is pledged, the jewel will be dispatched - please speak to your Charity Steward or direct to Roger Cawston on roger.cawston@talk21.com, who will arrange delivery of jewel for you.

Lodge Patronage

For lodges that match or exceed the amount raised at the last festival, Lodge Grand Patronage is achieved, a gift and presentation will be made and Grand Patronage recognition from the PGM at the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting.

Whilst at the discretion of individual lodges it is hoped that all Jewels are given out in lodge by the Charity Steward or the WM to add some weight to the fact these are an honorific and worn with pride at supporting our Festival. It will also highlight the Jewel to others and may promote participation.

Please also ensure all new members are informed and given the chance to set up the direct debit to obtain a Jewel, the time for payment can be extended beyond the Festival if needed.



Jewels should only be worn when attending Meetings of Craft Lodges and RA Chapters within our own Province, and not when attending meetings of Grand Lodge or Lodges and Chapters in other Provinces.

We have not set expected upper or lower targets for lodges; it is entirely up to individual Lodges and Chapters as to how much they raise, but please start early to maximise the effect of the very good interest rate of the relief chests.



12. Festival 500 Club

The lottery or 500 club has been moved to an online platform for ease of operation. It is an important part of our fundraising.

This is our website for the lottery

<https://draw.ourclublotto.co.uk/suffolk500club/>

It is very easy to sign up and buy your tickets, you choose the length of time, it can be monthly or yearly, payments of tickets are made automatically.

50% of all money raised goes to the winners, so the more that play the higher the prize. If you need assistance please contact Chris Drinkald - chris.drinkald@icloud.com.



13. Fundraising Support

If you organise an event and need a fundraising platform, we have two options ready for you to use.

'Give Tap' or 'Freemasonry Gives'

You can become a fundraiser and by using 'Give Tap' simply set up your own scheme with funds going straight into the Festival Relief chest. By using this method it is advertised and tracked for you by the MCF - you just need to advertise it, the Suffolk Festival29 Team can help with that. See the link to become a fundraiser and set up a scheme for your event.

<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/masonic-charitable-foundation/mcf2029-suffolk-mcf-2029-festival>

It will benefit from Gift Aid if applicable and its makes it easy to track, with support from the MCF and the Province.



