



**Provincial Service of Thanksgiving Winchester Cathedral.
Sunday 10th March 2019**

Despite the wet and windy weather forecasted for last Sunday, the clouds parted, and the sun shone out over Winchester Cathedral for our Provincial Service of Thanksgiving. This year it was incorporated into the Cathedral's Evensong – a perfect setting to celebrate the

150th Anniversary of the amalgamation of the Provinces of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The Provincial Grand Master RW. Bro Michael Wilks and his wife Kay were extremely pleased to welcome a multitude of Brethren and their families, plus numerous dignitaries, amongst whom were The Lord Lieutenant, The Mayor of Winchester, accompanied by High Sheriffs and many Mayors and Civic Leaders. We were also very pleased to welcome a number of representatives from the numerous charities supported by us throughout the years, across the length and breadth of our Province.

It turned out to be the most memorable occasion of its kind to date - a wonderful and thought-provoking service, during which we were treated to the beautifully expressive singing of the girl Choristers and Lay Clerks.

A big thank you to the members of the [Hampshire and Isle of Wight Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge](#), who yet again provided superb assistance throughout the occasion, despite a growing chill in the air as the afternoon unfolded!

Another resounding success for the Province of Hampshire & Isle of Wight.



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Freemasons support the Royal British Legion

On Saturday 9th March 2019 the Farnborough Masonic Centre hosted an evening of musical entertainment for the Farnborough Concert band of the Royal British Legion. The concert was a roaring success and was attended by 90 guests, including the Mayor of Rushmoor Cllr. Steve Masterton, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the North East Area, Peter G. Vossler.

The 26-strong band included some well-known compositions, including The Dambusters, Shepherds Song and Jerusalem and much of this was a rehearsal for an event which is shortly to be held in Belgium. On 24th May 2019 the concert band has been selected to represent the Royal British Legion to play at the Ceremony of Remembrance at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium. A wreath will be laid following the sounding of the Last Post and the band will then play for the large crowds that gather to remember the fallen of World War 1.

The free concert at the Farnborough Masonic Centre was a celebration for the support already received from Freemasons in North East Hampshire towards the bands travelling costs to the Menin Gate. Masonic Lodges across the area, including Farnborough, Aldershot, Bordon, Alton and Petersfield were encouraged to support the Concert Band and cheques to the value of £1,550 were presented on Saturday evening. The concert raised a further £350 in additional donations.

The event demonstrated that Freemasons care about the community we meet in and there was a unanimous request from all participants for the band to return to the Masonic Centre for another concert in December this year.

About the Concert Band

The Farnborough Concert Band of the Royal British Legion was formed in 1987 and consists of over 40 enthusiastic musicians who enjoy performing and entertaining.

It has performed at many prestigious venues, including the Brit awards in 2011 and 2012 where they performed for the pre-awards event. In 2011 they played for the opening of Brighton football club performing in front of a crowd of 17,000 football fans. Each year the band play at Field Day in Hackney entertaining the vast crowds playing more modern music from well-known stars like Adele, Britney Spears and Olly Murs. The band also supports local remembrance events.

The band's main charity performance is the annual proms style concert held in Aldershot in October with funds donated to charities including Parkinson's UK, the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal British Legion and other local charities.

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For more information on the Farnborough Concert Band: www.farnboroughconcertband.org

More information can also be found at: www.hantsmasonne.org.uk/RBL



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