

***Minutes of the 679th regular meeting of Meyrick Lodge 7295 held at
Freemasons' Hall, Knole Road, Bournemouth, on Wednesday 4th March 2026,
commencing at 18:06hrs***

Present: WM P Hopkins, WBros A Weldycz, E Baker, A Shapley, T Drake, T Parfett, J Sweeting, D Barker, B McMurdo, R Froggatt, B Dobson, and Bros M Gibbs, C Fay, J Marley, M Riley, P Stonard, T Wilkinson, J Brown.

M Harrison (tyler)

Apols: WBRO Neil West VO, F Davis, P Hoyle, S Dossett, H Baker, M Dedman and Bros B Jackson, N Broom, W Baker, L Welch

The Opening ode was sung and the lodge opened in due form and with prayer at 18:06.

The WM, Paul Hopkins attended but following illness sat in the East and WBRO T Drake PPJGW stood in as WM.

WB John Sweeting PPSGD stood in as SW

B McMurdo PProvDGSwdB acted as IG

RECEIVE VISITING MASTER

WBRO David Tidman, WM of Bourne Lodge 6959, entered and was welcomed by the WM.

SIGNING OF MINUTES

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on February 4th were confirmed and signed by the WM.

COMMUNICATIONS

The secretary read various communications already distributed to the brethren. These included news that the Zetland Court fete will go ahead despite the RMBI selling off its care homes.

THE RAISING

All EAs were asked to leave the lodge. Bro Jack Brown exited, accompanied by Bro Michael Riley.

The lodge was opened in the 2nd degree. All EAs except Bro Tony Wilkinson were asked to leave the lodge. There were none.

Bro Tony Wilksinson answered the questions leading from the second to the third degree, was entrusted by the WM with the token and word leading from the second to the third degree and retired for preparation. The lodge was opened in the third degree. Bro Tony Wilkinson was readmitted and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason by the WBro Tony Drake assisted by WBro Tony Parfett and WBro Andrew Weldycz **PJGD**.

Bro Wilkinson retired to restore himself to his personal comforts.

On Bro Tony's return he was invested with the distinguishing badge of a master mason by the SW Bro Mark Gibbs.

The Traditional History was described by WBro Ed Baker.

Bro James Marley presented the working tools of the degree.

WBro Richard Froggatt presented the candidate with the Bible on which he had been obligated in all three degrees.

WBro David Tidman, in his capacity as acting VO, presented Bro Tony with a copy of the provincial booklet for master masons.

The lodge was resumed in the first degree and Bro Michael Riley and the EA were readmitted.

The almoner's and charity reports were given while the candidate was without.

RISINGS

The WM rose for the first, second and third times.

On the second rising acting VO David Tidman gave an update in up-coming events and the portal system.

On the third rising, Tony Drake thanked those who had taken part and said the new bar would be open shortly.

A Weldycz gave news of Tony Parfett's exaltation into RA.

WM P Hopkin previously thanked the brethren for stepping in while he was poorly. It was good to see him back in lodge.

Bro Chris Fay proposed for initiation Mr Dennis Miller, DoB 15.01.72; 9 Troak Close, Christchurch, BH23 3SR, a solutions architect for Stonewater, Lancaster House, Grange Business Park, Leicester LE8 6EP. WBro David Barker seconded.

There were present 18 members and 8 guests whose names are recorded on the sheets attached to these minutes. A total of 26.

The alms collection raised £37 for the almoner's account, and the raffle at the FB raised £85 for dementia nurses.

The lodge was closed with prayer and in due form at 19:42



WM Paul Hopkins with collar

Tony Drake with collar



Worshipful Master.....

01.04.26