



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOMERSET

To: All Somerset Craft Lodge Secretaries

10th December 2019

Ref: Potential Founding of a Military Craft Lodge in Somerset

Dear Bro Secretaries,

The Provincial Grand Master is very keen to promote the links between Freemasonry and the Military within the Province and, as a result, I am eager to ascertain whether or not there would be sufficient interest within the Province for a Military or Combined Services Lodge.

It is almost certainly no coincidence that the general decline in numbers being experienced in Freemasonry is also mirrored by the falling numbers of military personnel, both present and past and whilst definitely not the sole cause of declining membership to our organisation, I think it is very true that those who have served in HM Forces have an extra level of appreciation for the camaraderie, education, discipline and support network that Freemasonry can offer.

I would envisage an eligibility criteria that would include all serving and retired HM Forces personnel, Reservists and Adult Cadet Staff. The Lodge would most likely meet on a Saturday in order to try and encourage the membership of serving personnel and would probably be peripatetic in nature, but nothing has yet been discussed or decided in terms of meeting days/dates, venues etc. It would however be an essential part of the Lodge function to support Military Charities, to try and enhance the lives of some of our Somerset Military Veterans who may require assistance (be they Masonic or non-Masonic), to promote an active Lodge social calendar and also to perhaps encourage those leaving the Forces to join our organisation and attempt to fill the void that leaving service life can sometimes cause.

In order to better understand the level of interest and to discuss a way forward for the project, a meeting for potential Founders has been arranged for **Tuesday 21st January at Bridgwater Masonic Hall commencing at 1900**. I would very much appreciate it if you could circulate this letter to your Lodge Members and ask that any Brother who is eligible to join and interested in finding out more please contact W Bro Scott Gibbons, the Secretary of Royal Naval Lodge, either by email at sgibbons@adanac.biz or by telephone on 01963441371. He will be only too pleased to take some contact details from you, keep you abreast of any progress and if you are available, to book you in to attend the initial Founders Meeting at Bridgwater Masonic Hall.

Yours Sincerely & Fraternaly,

W Bro Tony Guthrie AGStdB

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