



# Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

September  
2017

Wiltshire Freemasonry

## Will you join us at Salisbury Cathedral?

### EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THE SERVICE

I am sure it will come as no surprise to anyone to hear me say that the next six weeks promises to be a very busy time starting with the cathedral service at Salisbury on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 4.30pm. Wiltshire Freemasons will be celebrating 300 years of freemasonry in a location that represents the very best of the art of operative masons with all the mutual symbolism that it shares with the Craft. The fact that we will do so wearing our regalia at the service, represents the very positive attitude the Acting Dean and others have of Wiltshire Freemasons and what we are doing in our Province. I am reminded of what Stephen Bridge wrote in last months newsletter *"For any organisation based on voluntary membership to have existed for 300 years is of itself a subject for celebration and I believe we should hold our heads high and enjoy the opportunity to extol the virtues of freemasonry at this very special event."* I feel sure Wiltshire Freemasons and our guests from many other Provinces will raise their voices in song and celebrate what it means to be a Freemason. Philip Bullock PrGM



**DON'T FORGET - NO REGALIA CASES IN THE CATHEDRAL - PLEASE USE A CARRIER BAG**

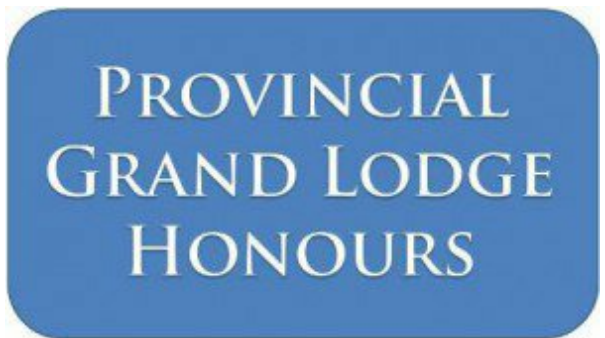
## Will you join us at Salisbury Racecourse?



David Henery invites you to join him at Salisbury Racecourse on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October for the very first running of the 'Become a Wiltshire Freemason EBF Novice Stakes' - a race for two year olds run over seven furlongs. David is not only a supporter of Swindon Town Football Club (yes he really is) he is also a racehorse owner who has experienced success with a winning horse at Goodwood. The afternoon promises to be fun filled and the perfect prelude to Provincial Grand Lodge. Racing commences at 2.00pm with the 'Become a Wiltshire Freemason EBF Novice Stakes' scheduled to start at 2.30pm, however, the programme is subject to change.

## Will you join us at Provincial Grand Lodge?

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October is the day when Provincial Grand Lodge meets in the City Hall at Salisbury and is the undoubted highlight of the Wiltshire Masonic calendar. The atmosphere in the hall is always quite magical and greatly enhanced with the theatre of processions, and superb music. For some the day will represent a very special moment in their Masonic life as they receive their first Provincial rank; while for others it will recognise their ongoing



commitment and support to Freemasonry in the Province as they receive a well deserved promotion. The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock is looking forward to welcoming Brethren from every Lodge in the province to share in the event and offer support to the 94 Brethren being honoured. Brethren will be joined in Salisbury by their families and members of the three branches of the Masonic Widows Association.



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## Calling all Masters in office.

The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock invites all Masters in office, and Immediate Past Masters together with their wives/partners to join him for dinner at Calne Masonic Hall at 7.00pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017. This event is an opportunity for the PrGM and the executive officers of the Province to meet Masters of Lodges and their partners in a warm and friendly environment with the minimum of formality. The Provincial Grand Master is pleased to announce that the guest speaker for the evening will be Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire *KBE, CB, KStJ* formerly HM Lieutenant Governor of Jersey.



Due to expected demand you are asked to book for this event as quickly as possible

Rob Evans email [1478@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:1478@pglwilts.org.uk)

## So, is it Ruling or Reigning Masters or something else?



**"You think I know"**

In the Summer edition of *Across the Plain* an advertisement for the forthcoming dinner for Masters and Immediate Past Masters caused a 'bit of a kerfuffle' and it wasn't simply due to the wrong date being given! What was it that caused such a furore? The query was whether or not the terms ruling or reigning master were correct and should they ever be used. I know this is a point for debate and even robust argument over a bread roll at the festive board, so I thought we should briefly examine the matter. The term ruling or reigning Masters is sometimes heard when the Lodge Director of Ceremonies invites Brethren to join the procession out of the Lodge. Sometimes he may say ruling masters, very occasionally you may hear the term reigning masters and more frequently the term, masters of other Lodges, so which, if any is correct? I think we can safely say that the term 'reigning master' is the least attractive as no master 'reigns' - that honour being wholly reserved to a monarch or sovereign. As for ruling master, well it could be argued that it has some merit as we are reminded that a Master rules and directs his Lodge, it is also the case that the newly installed Brother becomes Master of the Lodge and a ruler in the Craft. The Worshipful Master is constrained to act in accord with the Constitutions of Masonry and the By Laws of the Lodge. On that basis and the fact that there can only ever be one Master of a Lodge (all other Masters being Past Masters) it seems logical that the most appropriate designation should be Masters of other Lodges or maybe Masters in office. What do you think? If you have a view why not share it by writing to [editor@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:editor@pglwilts.org.uk)

## W. Bro Peter Jones PSGD, PAPrGM.

The Provincial Grand Master has announced the sad passing of W Bro Peter Jones PSGD, PAPrGM. Peter had not been well for some time and was recently admitted to the The Great Western Hospital in Swindon where he died peacefully on the morning of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Further details will be notified as and when Peter's family notify the Province. The family have requested that all communication from Wiltshire Freemasons should be made through the Provincial Secretary.



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## We hope you voted for your favourite charity.

Voting closed on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July for the [MCF Community Awards Tercentenary Fund](#). The four Wiltshire based charities nominated by our Province them will share a sum of £50,000. The four charities have enjoyed significant support from local news media, particularly our friends at the Swindon Advertiser, Valley News and the Wiltshire Gazette & Herald. Ian Priest Provincial Charity Steward said 'The result will be announced during the first few days in September and arrangements made to present each of the charities with their cheque'.



## Golfers enjoy Open Golf Day at Wrag Barn GC.



On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August over 90 golfers from Oxfordshire, Bristol, Gloucester, Somerset and Hampshire descended on the delightful Wrag Barn golf course at Sevenhampton just outside Highworth for the annual Wiltshire Open Golf Day. The event is now in its fifth year and apart from being a great opportunity for aficionados of the Royal & Ancient game to test their skill on what is recognised as a course offering a tough challenge, it is also an occasion for old friends to meet and catch up on events which have happened during the past year. The Wiltshire Masonic Golf Society has been a major fund raiser for the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Wiltshire Festival raising over £15,000 during the past five years. Philip Bullock PrGM who acted as chief cheerleader on the day, said *"I am so pleased that the weather enabled everyone to have a good days golf, most importantly I am indebted to the Golf Society for their generous support of the festival"*

## Organist Mike May reminds us "Where words leave off, music begins".



Provincial Organist Mike May is aware that many Lodges no longer have an organist to play music during a ceremony and have to rely on CDs.

Mike has compiled and recorded a selection of Masonic music covering all three Degrees, the Opening and Closing Odes, the National Anthem and his very own arrangement of the Provincial Grand March. A piece of music particularly suited for when a member of the 'chain gang' visits your Lodge and you want to make an impression.

The music, which Mike will tailor to suit the individual Lodge requirements is available as an MP3 file which can be recorded to CDs and can be obtained by contacting [mikemay@talktalk.net](mailto:mikemay@talktalk.net) who asks only for a donation to Teddies for Loving Care which we are sure you will agree is a superb cause to support.



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## September 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock looks forward to welcoming Wiltshire Freemasons with their wife or partner to join



him for lunch on Saturday 23rd September at Trowbridge Civic Centre. Wiltshire Freemasons will be joined by The Deputy Grand Master RW Bro Jonathan Spence and President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation RW Bro Richard Hone.

### Lodge Installation meetings in September 2017 plus three special Provincial events

Sunday	September	3	Cathedral Service	Province	Salisbury
Saturday	September	16	Provincial Officers Dinner	Province	Chippenham
Tuesday	September	19	St Aldhelm	2888	Malmesbury
Thursday	September	21	Vastern	8977	Lydiard Millicent
Saturday	September	23	Festival Luncheon	Province	Trowbridge
Wednesday	September	27	George Duke of Kent	8788	Swindon
Wednesday	September	27	Moonraker	8747	Devizes
Thursday	September	28	New Temple	8435	Swindon

### End of Festival Lunch at Trowbridge.

The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock extends a warm invitation to every member of the province to join him for the end of festival Lunch which is being held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 1.00pm with pre-lunch drinks available from 12 noon. RW Bro Jonathan Spence DGM and RW Bro Richard Hone QC will be our special guests at this event. We are also pleased to announce that the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Tank Regiment will entertain guest with a dazzling display of marching and music. **The dress code for this event is lounge suit for men and day dress for ladies.** There is still time to book a place by contacting W Bro. Ian Dunbar by email [pewsham1@sky.com](mailto:pewsham1@sky.com)

### Masonic Widows Association welcome new members.

Do you know the names and addresses of your Lodge widows and do they know that there is a support network available to them in the form of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association? The MWA provides a vital social lifeline to our widows, and the three branches based in Salisbury, Chippenham and Swindon will be pleased to welcome new members to attend meetings and other events. To learn more please contact your Lodge Almoner or W Bro John King by email at [john21jk@aol.com](mailto:john21jk@aol.com)



### Finally - make a note in your diary for Provincial Grand Lodge AGM.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017, City Hall, Salisbury**