



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

April 2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

April Fools Day.....



In the March newsletter we celebrated two patron saints, St David for Wales and St Patrick of Ireland. On Monday 23rd April we have the opportunity to celebrate St George's Day and I know that New Temple Lodge No.8435 will be flying the flag at their April meeting when the festive board will reflect the very best of England including a musical extravaganza, bowler hats and Union flags.

April is also National Pet Month, one can only hope the dragon slain by George wasn't someone's favourite pet! In our house, Mutley our bearded collie is a certain candidate for a special treat during National Pet Month.

Wednesday 28th April is a very special day for members of the Province who will travel to Freemasons' Hall in London to attend the Annual Investiture Meeting of Grand Lodge. Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Davies will be promoted to Past Grand Sword Bearer, John Reid will be promoted and appointed as Deputy Grand Sword Bearer, John's second active appointment at Grand Lodge. John Smith PrGDC and stalwart of Gooch Lodge No.1295 together with Barry Cooper of St Edmund Lodge No.4714 will be invested as a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. I am absolutely delighted and I'm sure you will join me in wishing them well for their very special day.

This is a very special year for Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 as they celebrate a remarkable milestone in Swindon's Masonic history; having enjoyed a 200 year continuous presence in the town. I look forward to joining them at their very special bi-centenary meeting on **Monday 21st May** at the Marriott Hotel in Swindon.

I am sure it will not have escaped your attention that during February an article appeared in the national press which erroneously alleged there were secret lodges with restricted membership situated in Westminster, The United Grand Lodge of England embarked on an extensive programme of rebuttal which included placing advertisements in a number of newspapers under the strap line 'Enough is Enough' - a sentiment which I am sure will find favour with many Wiltshire Freemasons. For far too long Freemasonry has been reluctant to challenge the absurd claims made about our membership, meetings and charity work. Our new Chief Executive decided 'Enough is Enough' and launched a concerted fight back which took him into radio and television studios from where he demolished the claims made against Freemasonry and took the opportunity to present a more honest and balanced view of the organisation. The campaign was given fresh momentum by the Pro Grand Master who used part of his address at Quarterly Communication meeting to reinforce the message and said "The time has come for the organisation to stand up and make these points loudly and clearly. Enough, brethren is enough." I am persuaded that we must be bold in our approach and handling of 'fake news' - the stereo typical comments about Freemasonry, albeit offered in a jocular fashion are wearing thin and detract from the good Freemasons do. To counter negative press reports and present the alternative of positive and objective news reporting, I have asked the Provincial Communication Officer to establish a programme by which we can prove to the world we 'Connect with the Community' and in this edition of the Newsletter you can read about Lodge of Good Fellowship No.8388 who supported two local 'community' based organisations. The Lodge invited the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Stephen Bridge and the Communication Officer to attend and we hope the local media will publish a short piece about these superb initiatives. The message is simple, let's tell our local communities about who we are and what we do - the unfounded caricature of Masons and untruths disguised as misunderstandings must no longer be acceptable 'Enough is Enough'

Provincial Grand Lodge annual meeting in Salisbury on Thursday 4th October



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

April 2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

Boats at Bedwyn.....

Members pushed the boat out to support two very worthy local causes. Canal Trips for Special Children provides canal boat trips for disabled and disadvantaged people along with their family, friends or carers. Narrow boats sailor Stephen Bridge APrGM joined volunteers and members of Lodge of Good Fellowship including WM Francis Brook and Larry Baldry at Bedwyn (near Marlborough) and presented a cheque for £500 to this wonderful organisation.



Stephen Bridge and Francis Brook
WM join Larry Baldry and volunteers
on board 'Hannah'

Horses at Manton.....

Stephen Bridge and Larry Baldry also visited Manton Grange where they were delighted to see young people with learning and physical disabilities participating in a programme run by Marlborough Riding For The Disabled. After watching the horses and riders, Stephen said, "I remember with fondness my younger days watching horses at work hauling trees, it really is wonderful to see these young people riding under the expert care of members of the RDA team". Organiser Eileen Devenish was presented with an MBE by the Queen in 2008 for her activities with Riding for the Disabled. The team at Manton really are enthusiastic and passionate in helping young people experience the joy of connecting with horses.



Stephen takes the reins
watched by a delighted
Tom

Seb takes to the skies

Sebastian Salt a member of City Lodge No.5955 which meets at Crane Street, Salisbury will be risking life and limb when he makes his first sponsored Wing Walk on a bi-plane on Sunday 10th June (weather and Charlotte permitting). This year Sebastian has chosen Cancer Research UK as his nominated charity and he invites you to sponsor him in this intrepid adventure. You can contact Seb at sebattheforge@live.com

Have you a picture of a special event or visit by your Lodge, share it by sending it to the editor@pglwilts.org.uk
Always let us know who's in your picture and always ask for their permission for us to use it in a public forum.



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

April 2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

DISTILLERY

Saturday 21st April

The Sarsen Club Bombay Distillery Tour Contact - mitchbryan89@yahoo.co.uk

Just where do I put my thumb?

Little Jack Horner sat in the corner, eating his Christmas pie; he put in his thumb, and pulled out a plum, and said, "What a good boy am I!" How easy it was for little Jack Horner, but where does a Freemason put his thumb? I refer of course to the confusion which ensues when the Lodge Chaplain intones a prayer and the question of the moment is 'is it thumb up or thumb down, and what is meant by thumb down'. Strangely, there is actually no Masonic authorisation or explanation for a sign of reverence. However, such a sign, a closed hand placed over the seat of human emotion, the heart, is well recognised and respected outside Freemasonry across much of Western culture. We see it when an American President takes his Oath of Office, and when some nations sing their National Anthem, and it used to be a common sight at the roadside when a cortege passed by. The inclusion of this secular sign into a Lodge is as appropriate as standing to attention during the National Anthem (as we do at every meeting) they are not Masonic gestures, they are social ones.



So what do we mean by 'thumb down?' It simply means the thumb lies parallel with the fingers, which themselves are closed up and not splayed open. The Sign of Fidelity, a recognised Masonic sign, is explained in detail at the ceremony of Passing and should not be confused with a sign of reverence.

What about at the closing of the Lodge when the IPM calls us to unite in the act of F., F., F. Hearing the word 'Fidelity' some Lodge visitors and some Members unwittingly employ the Sign of Fidelity whereas the correct sign, in my opinion and based on a reading of the words of the rubric is a sign of reverence, not the Sign of Fidelity. The rubric or set of instructions or rules reads as follows - *He strikes his l.b. with his r.h. each time as he says these words, the Brethren doing likewise.* Sometimes we can and should be guided by what is not said or written, as opposed to looking for specific direction. This may just be such an occasion.

You can read more about 'Wiggly thumb syndrome' in the Summer edition of Across the Plain.

Are you ready to complete your journey in pure Antient Masonry ?



Step 1. Entered Apprentice



Step 2. Fellowcraft



Step 3. Master Mason



Step 4. Companion



You can make a difference by introducing a friend to Freemasonry

Visit the Provincial website www.pglwilts.org.uk



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

April 2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

April 2018

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						

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Myth, misunderstanding, ignorance or prejudice, whatever it is Freemasons must speak up and say

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Fake news, plain untruths or just lazy exaggeration, whatever it is Freemasons must speak up and say

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

False reports, absurd claims of Masonic influence whatever it is Freemasons must speak up and say

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

It's time to be proud and to be loud

Lodge Installation meetings in April and May 2018

Tuesday	April 3	Methuen	8692	Swindon
Thursday	April 5	Clarendon	5908	Trowbridge
Thursday	April 5	Brothers in Arms	9540	Salisbury
Wednesday	April 18	Border	3129	Ludgershall
Friday	April 20	Highworth	9009	Highworth
Thursday	May 1	Loyalty	1533	Marlborough
Thursday	May 10	Elias de Derham	586	Salisbury
Monday	May 14	Downton	9064	Downton
Monday	May 14	Harry C Preater	8204	Swindon
Saturday	May 19	Wyvern	8620	Warminster
Tuesday	May 22	St Edmund	4714	Calne
Thursday	May 24	Corsham	6616	Corsham



TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE

CAN YOUR LODGE

DONATE JUST

£300

SPEAK TO YOUR LODGE

CHARITY STEWARD

Royal Sussex announces...



Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 celebrate their bi-centenary in 2018 and have announced that a special meeting will take place on **Monday 21st May**. This very special meeting will be held at Swindon's Marriott Hotel and will be attended by RW Bro Jonathan Spence DGM. Newly Installed Master Phil Johnson is looking forward to welcoming the Lodge's special guests including the Provincial Grand Master, Grand Officers and members of the Provincial team. To register your interest in attending the bi-centenary meeting and the subsequent lunch please contact the Secretary Bro Dave Pearson by email 355@pglwilts.org.uk Early booking is recommended due to the high level of interest expressed.