



### It promises to be a great meeting.....



As we fast approach Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October and Provincial Grand Lodge which is being held in the City Hall, Salisbury, I want to thank the many Brethren who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes in order to make the day a great success. I never cease to be amazed at how much time and effort goes into the planning for the meeting, followed by the implementation process. I do hope that as many Brethren as possible will join the Provincial team for what I am sure will be a great day in the Wiltshire Masonic calendar.

I am particularly looking forward to welcoming the partners of all those Brethren receiving Provincial Honours - for some Brethren it will be their first appointment while others will be in receipt of a well deserved promotion. It will also be a great pleasure to continue the tradition established by my predecessor in welcoming members of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association from Swindon, Salisbury and Chippenham, and to join them for tea and biscuits after the meeting.

Sally and I were delighted to join David and Marion Davies as guests of the outgoing Provincial Officers at their annual dinner which was held at The Bear Hotel, Devizes. The evening is organised by the Wardens of the year, and this year the task fell to David Little and Steve Lee; suffice to say they really did a wonderful job and the evening was enjoyed by all who attended. I did notice David Reed making notes as he probably realised that next year the task will fall on his and Michael Barratt's shoulders (see next page for why)

The evening provided me with a rare opportunity to thank the active team's partners for their patience and forbearance, and for permitting their 'other half' to spend so many evenings on Masonic duty. I am very conscious that it is all too easy to fall into the trap of allowing a hobby to dominate ones life, and while we always make clear to Brethren who accept Provincial Office that family and work come first and second with Masonry third, I know it is vitally important that Brethren maintain a lifestyle balance and that nothing is allowed to impinge on the very special and vitally important role that our family plays in each of our lives.

The work of a Provincial Grand Master includes much more than attending Lodge meetings (as wonderful as that is) and this was brought home to me when I was invited to attend a media training session at FMH in London. You may think it odd that training is required for someone used to speaking in a Lodge or at various events. Please let me assure you that everyone, no matter how erudite they think themselves to be, needs to refresh and hone their public speaking skills in order that they are up to-date with current methods of communication. I can today confirm that four Wiltshire Brethren will be attending a course in November.

I was also very pleased to attend Ian Lever's amazing 'fishing event' at Walters Lake, by kind permission of Stephen Hobden - Yatton Lodge of Hospitality No. 9299. Held under the auspices of the Masonic Trout Salmon Fishing Charity, Ian and his willing anglers host young people from Uplands School part of the Uplands Educational Trust a charity committed to meeting the needs of disabled young people and their families. The day starts very early for the volunteers (fortified by bacon rolls) as they set up their rods and nets at the designated pegs ready to welcome their young charges. The joy on the faces of the young people when they catch a fish really does make the effort very worthwhile. Bro Graham Cooper nearly met his match when landing this magnificent specimen - can you spot it?





## Meet the new Wardens.....



Michael Barratt

The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock will Invest Bro Michael Barratt as Senior Provincial Grand Warden and Bro David Reed as Junior Provincial Grand Warden at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge to be held in Salisbury



David Reed

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October

City Hall  
Salisbury

Please be seated by 2.15pm



## Masters' and Immediate Past Masters' Dinner.....

If you are a Master in office or an Immediate Past Master this event is just for you. Every year Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock and Sally host a dinner for Masters of Lodges and their partners. Due to the fact that some Masters are unable to attend during their year in office the invitation is also extended to Immediate Past Masters and their partners. The year the Dinner will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November in Devizes. To book your place contact Rob Evans at [robtevangplw@gmail.com](mailto:robtevangplw@gmail.com)

## Tisbury Lodge No.8718.....

Mike Greenyer and Dave Edwards of Tisbury Lodge No.8718 meeting in the Cathedral city of Salisbury presented a bumper cheque for £4,600 to Salisbury Hospice. The Lodge is a keen supporter of the STARS Appeal (very similar to Swindon's Brighter Futures) and this is the latest of a number of donations they have made, and we are sure there will be more to come in the future. Well done to the Brethren of Tisbury Lodge No.8718





### I bring you warm and fraternal greetings .....

And why not, after all what could be nicer than greeting the Master of a Lodge at which you are a welcome visitor? So why do we 'give greetings' at the end of a Lodge meeting, what is its history, and is it a universal practise throughout Freemasonry.

It may surprise you to know that the subject has been written about, discussed and debated for many years by some of the wisest of Freemasons. The late Harry Carr in his superb book *'The Freemason at Work'* offers a very clear explanation for the history of greetings, suggesting its origins were in the lesson given to the new Mason, teaching him how the greeting was to be given should he visit another Lodge. The greeting was not only a way the Mason announced himself it was also the way he identified the Lodge of which he was a member. Interestingly the original greeting was part of the Second Degree ceremony and occurred mid-way in the ceremony. There is no substantive evidence to support the notion that 'giving greetings' as we now do is anything other than a modern practice, not that such lack of convincing proofs makes it any less agreeable.

Perhaps to prevent the overloading of what can sometimes be a lengthy meeting, the custom of giving greetings is rarely evidenced in London nowadays. However, it is practised in many if not most Provincial Lodges including Wiltshire. The greetings are usually given by the Master or most senior member of a visiting group of Brethren from one Lodge, and when he rises, all members of his Lodge rise with him and stand to order while he gives the greeting. But what do you say, and is there anything you shouldn't say?

It used to be the case that *"Hearty Greetings, Worshipful Master, from the .....Lodge No....."* was sufficient. Nowadays it seems in some instances to be a case of 'out performing' your neighbour with *'warm and fraternal greetings'* extending into a confection of congratulations covering various aspects of the ceremony or a particular Brother's participation - followed by the very next Brother adding additional comments which for some reason are then echoed around the Lodge. Imagine if you would, the distress of the Brother nominated to respond to the visitors toast at the festive board, who by now is sitting with his head in his hands having heard all of his carefully planned words being used by others. Remember you bring greetings not congratulations.

Many Lodges, especially at the annual Installation meeting nominate a Brother to offer greetings on behalf of all the visitors - a practise of which it could be said, achieves the twin objectives of 'doing the job' and reducing the time taken up by perambulating around the Lodge Room and inviting numerous Brethren to participate.

One other thing to bear in mind is that greetings are brought from one Lodge and given to another - there is no room for introducing a hybrid greeting such as from a society or association which may or may not have a Masonic connection. Above all and to paraphrase Hamlet's Lord Polonius *"Brevity is the soul of wit"* so a greeting kept short and to the point should always be the aim of the speaker. It really will be 'well received'.

### Any Questions?

Every Freemason is encouraged to *'make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge'* but what does this mean and how can it be achieved?

What are the *'liberal arts and sciences'* that I was recommended to study?

Who can teach me how *'to dedicate yourself to such pursuits as may at once enable you to be respectable in life, useful to mankind, and an ornament to the society....?'*

How can I learn about the officers of the Lodge what they do and how they do it?

If you have any questions about Freemasonry, its history, structure, ritual, and etiquette please speak to your Lodge Mentor who will be pleased to answer your question.





# Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



October 2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

## October 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	31				

## MASTERS' DINNER

**Date:** Saturday 17th November

**Time:** 7.00pm for 7.30pm

**Place:** The Bear Hotel, Devizes

**Speaker:** Michael Baker UGLE

**Dress:** Black Tie

Contact Rob Evans robertevanspglw@gmail.com



**"LIFE'S MOST URGENT QUESTION IS: WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?"**

Thanks to Martin Luther King

The Provincial Communication Team is always looking for volunteers to help organise and man the Provincial display unit at venues throughout the county. If you can help contact: [pco@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:pco@pglwilts.org.uk)

## Lodge Installation meetings in October

Thursday	Oct	4	Provincial Grand Lodge		Salisbury
Friday	Oct	5	Calley	7525	Swindon
Wednesday	Oct	10	Stonehenge	6114	Salisbury
Tuesday	Oct	16	White Horse	2227	Westbury
Monday	Oct	22	Good Fellowship	8388	Marlborough
Wednesday	Oct	24	Radnor	4451	Salisbury
Wednesday	Oct	31	Agriculture	9090	Corsham

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



## TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE

CAN YOUR LODGE DONATE JUST £150

SPEAK TO YOUR LODGE CHARITY STEWARD

## Provincial Church Service

St Mary the Virgin Church, Calne

Sunday 21st October 2018

At 3.00pm