



November 2018

# Wiltshire Freemasonry

### Didn't we have a wonderful day.....



I'm sure many of you will recall the words which followed these opening words, a novelty song released in 1979 and performed by folk group Fiddler's Dram. As I left City Hall in Salisbury, having presided at Provincial Grand Lodge, I was able to reflect on the day's events with a great deal of pride in the amazing teams who made sure every aspect of the proceedings was carried out with professional precision. For me and the 'chain gang' it really was a wonderful day. As always, there were some minor mishaps which we will need to work on and get right for next year; already the team, under the guidance of Phil Still, have met to analyse the day with a view to making Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 even more memorable than this year's event. Phil is always looking for 'feedback' good or bad, it doesn't matter, please tell him what you thought of the day and let him have your suggestions on how we can improve.

Having managed to squeeze a short break on the beautiful island of Malta where the temperature was in the high 30s it was a shock to return to typical October weather. My absence prevented me from attending the regular Lodge meeting of Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 at which RW Bro Francis Wakem was present and on my behalf awarded two 50 year Service to Freemasonry certificates. It was a real joy to join the Grand Superintendent John Reid at the Provincial Church Service which was held at St Mary's, Calne on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - and to sample the delights of Andrew and Frances Evans carvery lunch immediately before the service. I would like to thank the Canon Richard Hancock for his spiritual leadership in the Province and the Provincial Senior Grand Warden Michael Barratt for his well crafted sermon.

The new Masonic season has already welcomed six new Masters attaining the Chair of King Solomon, and I look forward to meeting them and all Masters and Immediate Past Masters with their partners at the Installed Masters black-tie dinner on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. The Bear Hotel, Devizes is the venue and further details of the evening can be found on page 4 of the newsletter. Please do book your seats with Rob Evans.

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on 11<sup>th</sup> November, providing an extra special reason for Freemasons to attend their local cenotaph or war memorial in remembrance of the men and women who gave their lives in two world wars and other conflicts. We also commemorate the end of the 1914/18 war. I have authorised the wearing of Lodge and Provincial collars (not aprons, gloves or gauntlets) at any formal act of remembrance, and I would ask that Brethren who do attend an event, wear their regalia with pride.

The City of Salisbury continues to suffer the effects of the recent security scares. Many of you commented on how quiet the city streets were in early October, and this certainly affected the numbers of men who attended a PSA testing session held at Crane Street on 13<sup>th</sup> October. However, The Loganberry Trust was pleased to welcome over 100 men through the doors of Freemasons' Hall and it was good to see that some visitors took the time to view the beautiful Lodge Room. Thank you to everyone who made the day a success.

I was joined by the Assistant provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield when we met the committee of The Sarsen Club. I am sure our new (and slightly younger Brethren) will benefit from the events planned by the Club, and I would ask all our Lodges to encourage and support the work of The Sarsen Club

On **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** at 6.15pm - Methuen Lodge No.8692 invite you to join them when they will host the 2018 Prestonian Lecture at Swindon Masonic Centre at which W.Bro Christopher Noon will deliver a lecture titled: *"A Good Workman Praises His Tools: Masonic Metaphors in the Ancient World"* (see page 4).



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Wiltshire Freemasonry

### Tradition versus Change..... Andy Entwistle PM Methuen Lodge No.8692

Much has been written and said about the importance of maintaining tradition in Freemasonry, particularly within our ceremonies. Likewise, it has become necessary that we embrace change in order to engage with, and relate to younger prospective candidates, and with newly made Freemasons.

To achieve the best balance between tradition and change is never going to be easy. Every Freemason will have a different opinion as to where the line is drawn. For some, these lines will be marked indelibly as red, never to be crossed. The ritual book states quite unequivocally that no deviation is allowed. But is this really true? While the wording is all but sacrosanct, small differences of actions, positions and extra detail occur which help to distinguish and characterise an individual lodge. These small differences derive from, or become the 'traditions' of the lodge, and they are highly valued by most members. After all, they do make visiting more interesting and even entertaining!

Sometimes, these individual lodge traditions become blurred or lost, especially when roles change and older members begin to take more of a 'back seat'. Sadly, this can result in criticism of how the ritual is practised, with comments such as "that's not the way we do it in this lodge". To which some junior Brethren rightly ask "then how do we do it in this lodge" At this point it is generally discovered that no one person has access to the 'knowledge base' and if there is a sole repository of knowledge, the owner is sometimes less than forthcoming with any detail.

In Charles Dickens novel 'Bleak House' Sir Leicester Dedlock's cousin Volumnia, describes Mr. Tulkinghorn:

*'He is so original, such a stolid creature, such an immense being for knowing all sorts of things and never telling them! Volumnia is persuaded that he must be a Freemason. (She) Is sure he is at the head of a lodge, and wears short aprons, and is made a perfect Idol of, with candlesticks and trowels.'*

As a Freemason himself, even Dickens noticed the same issues in 1853!!

The harmony of the lodge can be materially affected if and when the 'keepers of the old ways' do not volunteer the valuable knowledge that they possess. Not knowing the questions to ask, newer members may omit these precious details. The solution, on paper at least, is simple, but please involve the current Director of Ceremonies:

- New members who are interested in learning, restoring and maintaining these traditions:- *approach older members and ask what is missing and what should be changed back.*
- Older members, the keepers:- *volunteer, and encourage the use of the valuable knowledge they hold.*

Preservation of these traditions can only occur if they are written down and adopted, and although seemingly at variance with the words contained in the Obligation of the First Degree, it is clear that any attempt to 'just remember' the differences is doomed to failure Without both of the actions above, meaningful differences, and even the founders' intent, could be lost forever.

### Education. education. education.....

Education is a process of inviting truth and possibility, of encouraging and giving time to discovery. Just as food is necessary for physical growth and development, education (*Educare (Latin) also means 'to nourish'*) is an essential requirement for intellectual growth and development. Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge is not just about learning the relevance of symbols or the finer points of ritual; it is much more, and all Masonic education should aim to enable the individual to flourish in life.





# Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



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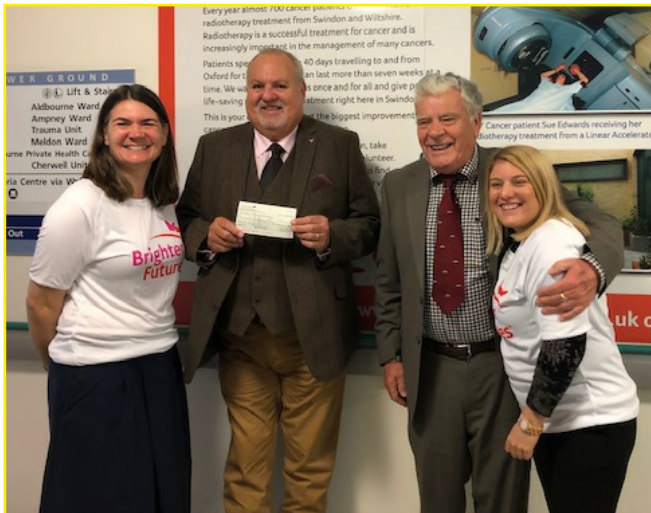
Wiltshire Freemasonry

## Proud to follow in dad's footsteps.....

And they're big shoes to fill! But according to proud father Maurice Leighfield, his son Simon, who also succeeded his father as managing director of the family building firm, is just the man to fill them. It was back in 1985 that John Ing invited Maurice Leighfield to become the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and in 1991 he was promoted to Deputy Provincial Grand Master. At Provincial Grand Lodge on 4<sup>th</sup> October, Simon a member and Past Master of Gooch Lodge No.1295 was Invested as the twelfth Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire. Simon has already presided at the Installation meetings of Stonehenge Lodge No.6114 and Lodge of Good Fellowship No.8388. We wish Simon well for a very happy future as the Province of Wiltshire's new Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



## Wiltshire Summer Lodge No.9548.....



Terry Davis and Michael Smith of Wiltshire Summer Lodge No.9548 presented a cheque for £233 to Lisa Utting and Jane Leighton fund raisers for Swindon's Great Western Hospital Brighter Futures Appeal.

The donation from Wiltshire Summer Lodge was made specifically for the Radiotherapy Appeal, which will see a new radiotherapy satellite centre built in Swindon in Partnership with the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The first patients are due to be treated in early 2020.

## What is the Prestonian Lecture?

The Prestonian Lecture are named after William Preston who died in 1818. Preston left an Endowment Fund of £300 to enable the annual delivery of the Prestonian Lecture. Just what the actual Lectures intended by Preston were, is not known. However the terms of his will were quite clear directing that the interest from the Endowment Fund should enable "some well informed Mason to deliver annually a Lecture on the First, Second or Third Degree of the Order of Masonry according to the system practised in the Lodge of Antiquity during my Mastership". The Lecture was delivered on an irregular basis until 1860 and was revived in 1924 and continued until the second World War, being given a new lease of life in 1947. In recent years the Lecture has tended to be on a subject relating to Craft Masonry, still delivered by "some well informed Mason". For many years Methuen Lodge No.8692 has promoted the Prestonian Lecture in Wiltshire and will be hosting WBro. Christopher Noon the 2018 Prestonian Lecturer on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 6.15pm in the Swindon Masonic Centre. The subject of this year's Prestonian Lecture is:

"A Good Workman Praises His Tools: Masonic Metaphors in the Ancient World"



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| 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  |     |     |

## 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](mailto:robertevanspglw@gmail.com)

Wiltshire Freemasonry



**"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you"**

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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 November

|           |     |    |                    |      |            |
|-----------|-----|----|--------------------|------|------------|
| Monday    | Nov | 5  | Broade Forde       | 8547 | B o A      |
| Wednesday | Nov | 14 | Friendship & Unity | 1271 | B O A      |
| Saturday  | Nov | 17 | Masters' Dinner    | Prov | Devizes    |
| Tuesday   | Nov | 27 | Pleydell           | 4687 | Swindon    |
| Wednesday | Dec | 5  | Vale of Avon       | 8432 | Chippenham |
| Saturday  | Dec | 8  | Tisbury            | 8718 | Salisbury  |
| Tuesday   | Dec | 11 | Lansdowne          | 626  | Chippenham |

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



## The Prestonian Lecture 2018

*"A GOOD WORKMAN PRAISES HIS TOOLS: MASONIC METAPHORS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD"*

**W. Bro. Christopher Noon  
Methuen Lodge No.8692**

**Tuesday 4th December. 6.15pm**

**Swindon Masonic Centre**

**The Planks, Swindon**