



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

A very happy Christmas to all our readers



December 2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....



Last month I began my column by using some words from a novelty song performed by folk group Fiddler's Dram. This month it's the opening line of a song written by Meredith Wilson in 1951. Originally sung by Perry Como and then recorded by Bing Crosby it was also covered by Alvin and The Chipmunks! I am sure many Brethren will be planning their Masonic visits with a view to reducing the effect on their ever expanding waistlines; a lost cause for some of us who only have to see a portion of Christmas pudding or digest a crumb of mince pie to put on a pound. How we envy the Brethren who seem to be able to eat for England and scarce make a difference.

One of the most popular pre-Christmas events is the annual visit of the Prestonian Lecturer to Swindon and on Tuesday 4th December at 6.15pm - Methuen Lodge No.8692 invite you to join them at Swindon Masonic Centre, when Bro Christopher Noon will deliver the 2018 Lecture titled: *"A Good Workman Praises His Tools: Masonic Metaphors in the Ancient World"*

Sally and I were delighted to welcome over 80 guests, including UGLE Director of Communication Michael Baker and his wife Kristina to Devizes on Saturday 17th November; when Michael was the guest speaker at the Masters' Dinner. For those who did not attend the dinner, I can honestly say that 'you really did miss out'.

I was delighted to read that Lodge secretaries have been advised that the practice of giving a 'Notice of Motion' to Initiate a candidate into Freemasonry has been deemed not necessary. This will enable Lodges to reduce the time applicants are currently having to wait before being brought into Freemasonry; by using a two stage process following the appropriate interviews. We must not delay introducing men into Freemasonry.

I was pleased to hear that Lodge Charity Stewards and Almoners attended a meeting which included a talk by the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Derek Gibbens is looking for a small number of Charity Stewards to form a working group to explore ideas for the future. If you are interested please let him know.

Many Lodges are preparing for the festive season by organising Christmas lunches for members and their families, and special events for their Masonic widows. Wiltshire Freemasons are proud to have introduced the strap line '[Charity - it's in a Freemasons DNA](#)' which serves to remind us that charity is also about giving our time and energy. I thank you all for this practical demonstration of what it means to be a Freemason.

Christmas is a time for families to come together, but sometimes there just isn't any family left - siblings may have died or are themselves too old to make the journey to visit. For others, their children may have moved away, often to another country as opposed to just down the road. Being alone at any time of the year is a far from pleasant experience and being on your own at Christmas must be perfectly wretched. Loneliness joins homelessness and rough sleeping as issues which blight our communities. Fortunately there are excellent social programmes and initiatives which offer help to those who *from circumstances of unavoidable calamity and misfortune, are reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress*. The prospect of anyone having to spend Christmas on the streets or alone is something we should not accept as normal in a society such as ours. If you can offer any form of assistance to a shelter in your area I am sure it will be thankfully received.

Finally, on behalf of David and Simon and the Provincial team, I wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and the hope of a very happy and healthy New Year.



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Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.....

and please don't ask me "what have the Romans ever done for us?"

Our headline is an allusion to the story of the wooden horse of Troy, used by the Greeks to trick their way into the city. It is recorded in Virgil's Aeneid, Book 2, 19 BC: "Do not trust the horse, Trojans. Whatever it is, I fear the Greeks even when they bring gifts." And yet in Freemasonry we owe the Greeks quite a lot - I wonder why? The answer is found in three of the five noble orders of architecture which found their genesis in Greece.

We are well acquainted with the three columns known to us by their architectural names, the Ionic, Doric and Corinthian and we are reminded of these columns twice in our Masonic Ritual. The first time the noble orders of architecture are referred to is when we hear the Explanation of the Second Degree Tracing Board and the next when we are presented with a Grand Lodge Certificate. In the first example we are reminded that there are five orders; the three we have named, plus Tuscan and Composite. The latter two are not of Greek origin but rather Roman. It would appear the Romans loved the Doric order, recognising its sturdy build to be almost perfect to support the entablature which include: the architrave, the frieze and the cornice. They couldn't quite make up their minds which of the other two they liked most, so created the Composite an amalgam of the Ionic and Corinthian.



The three Greek orders of architecture are used in Freemasonry not only to represent, Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, we are also told that our Lodges are supported by those same three great pillars. They should not be confused with the two great pillars which stood at the porch way entrance to King Solomon's Temple.

Still finding your feet?.....

Talking about the value of education, all of us wish to possess knowledge, but few, comparatively speaking, are willing to pay the price. Which for the Freemason is the requirement to 'study such of the liberal Arts and Sciences as may lay within the compass of your attainment.' A Freemason should never regard study as a duty, but as an opportunity to learn more about the Craft and himself. The best place to find out more about Freemasonry is your Lodge of Instruction. If you are not able to attend and want to learn more, why not attend

"Education is not the learning of facts, it's rather the training of the mind to think"

the first 'training' session designed for those of you still finding your feet. Embarking on the journey of discovery for the Freemason has never been easier, with access to a library of information made possible through the technological wonder of the Internet. However, some lessons are still best learned through practical demonstration and instruction.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Davies has announced the first of two dates on which Steve Lee and his team will be holding a training session for the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Freemason. The Swindon Masonic Centre, The Planks, Swindon is the venue on Saturday 19th January 2019 at 10.30am (See diary page). The theme chosen for the event will be [Finding Your Feet](#) and is designed to help, guide and inform new Freemasons who might be uncertain as to what is happening in the Lodge Room, and who feel they might benefit from a slightly lighter and more informal approach to learning about the 'basics' of Freemasonry. The Salisbury event will be on Saturday 16th February also at 10.30am in Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street, Salisbury.

Mid-December will see the Launch of [Solomon](#) an online library designed to be used by individual masons, lodges, chapters, Provinces and Districts and to fit comfortably with the needs of all levels of experience and interest. Solomon can be accessed by logging on to the UGLE website <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>



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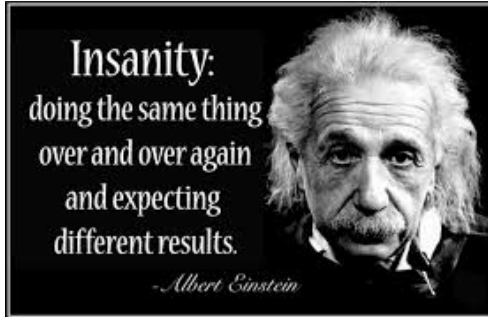
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Thank you Einstein.....



Not that Provincial Registrar John Badger would every claim to be a genius. However, he is a 'dab hand' at presenting figures and his monthly breakdown of Lodge membership is always interesting (said without a trace of irony). The health of the Province is measured by a number of indices, one of which is Lodge membership. At the end of the year we take stock and review the past, in doing so we have an eye to the future and are constantly thinking of the things we need to do to make Freemasonry more appealing to those wishing to join, and more interesting to our existing members.

Today, the very survival of Freemasonry really does depend on our willingness to adapt and adjust to new ideas, and to remain focused as we face the challenge of the future. The excellent 'State of the Province' presentation might be two years old but it still conveys a potent message which may surprise you. Lodge committee's are urged to invite the Communication Team to present a tailored version unique to your Lodge.

Contacting a long lost friend.....

Many Lodges have what on the face of it appears to be a 'healthy' membership, but do the figures disguise a problem best described as "absent Brethren" and, by that we mean those members we hardly ever see attending a Lodge meeting. Of course there are reasons, there always is. Wouldn't it be nice, if this Christmas every Lodge made a special effort to make contact with a Brother who has not been seen recently and, where possible invite him to attend the next meeting - maybe even as a guest of the Lodge. It's just a thought!

I was taught to be cautious.....

Did you know that it is contravening copyright law to *reproduce* the Emulation ritual to show the differences between the original and your own Lodge variations. In a recent communication, the company licensed to print and publish the Emulation Ritual book has asked that the practice of producing modern innovations of the Emulation Ritual should be actively discouraged. It's also illegal to use unpaid for images, please be careful.

It's horses for courses.....

The Immediate past Master of City Lodge No.5955 David Rowland was joined by his wife Rosemary as they presented a cheque for £2,284 to Alex Hill, Chair of Trustees, of the Wilton branch of Riders for the Disabled Association (RDA).

Centre stage stealing the show is 'Nobby' and his rider Olivia, once again confirming adults should never work with animals or children. Wilton RDA is entirely self funding, volunteer staffed and relatively unique in that it does not charge its disabled customers to use the facility.



David and Rosemary Rowland present a cheque to Alex Hill



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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
31						

Installation meetings in December

Wednesday	Dec	5	Vale of Avon	8432	Chippenham
Saturday	Dec	8	Tisbury	8718	Salisbury
Tuesday	Dec	11	Lansdowne	626	Chippenham
Wednesday	Jan	2	Longleat	1478	Warminster
Friday	Jan	11	Royal Sussex	355	Swindon
Monday	Jan	14	Concord	632	Trowbridge


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



Wiltshire Freemasonry



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



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ENTERED APPRENTICE AND FELLOW CRAFT FREEMASON

"FINDING YOUR FEET"

Saturday 19th January 2019
10.30am
Swindon Masonic Centre, The Planks Swindon

Philip, David and Simon
Wish you all a very
Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!



Simon *David* *Philip*