



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons
Happy New Year to all our readers



January 2019

Wiltshire Freemasonry

Out with the old and in with the new.....



I wonder how many of us can remember the popular 1976 television show, Logan's Run. In Logan's Run, it is the year 2274 and anyone under the age of thirty lives a protected, sheltered life within the confines of a domed city. The propaganda in the domed city is that anyone who ventures outside of the city will die. But the domed city is not that big, so the population must be controlled. So, those in power tell the citizens that once a person reaches age thirty, they are ritually killed, whereupon they will be reincarnated. This ritualistic killing was referred to as, "Out with the old, in with the new," as it got rid of the thirty year old geezers to provide space for the lively young folk.

Now before anyone starts to get worried, let me assure you there is no intention to initiate a scheme in which any Wiltshire Freemason over any age, let alone thirty is 'disposed of' - far be it from us any such intention. However, I know that many Brethren share my aspiration that we will continue to welcome young men into Freemasonry, as it is only by bringing young men into our Order that it will thrive and survive in the future.

As we enter 2019, like me, I am sure you will reflect on the good things that occurred in 2018 and rue the things which were not quite so good. Sadly, we don't always get to choose what cards are dealt us and we find ourselves having to play the hand we are given.

In the December Newsletter I wrote about how loneliness is a condition which affects so many, and during the holiday period I became aware of how it is possible to be lonely even when not alone. It is not only national celebrities, such as Dame Esther Rantzen who campaign on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society. Our friends at the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) have been very active in providing funding for programmes aimed at making life better for those affected by isolation.

I was pleased to hear that our Charity Steward Derek Gibbens met with representatives of the MCF in December. It is vitally important that we have good lines of communication between the MCF and Provincial team, which will allow for the free flow of ideas, opinions, information and even challenge. I am convinced that working in concert with the MCF we can optimise the positive effects of charitable giving throughout the Province. In December the MCF Grants Team advised the Province of a large grant of £50,000 made to the Villiers Park Trust. The grant will fund the salary of a Learning Mentor for the Swindon Scholars programme, providing a mentoring relationship between learning mentors and disadvantaged able students to improve their academic chances. The MCF also notified us of grants made to the three hospices in the Province.

One of the most exciting series of events planned for 2019 are the various workshops being organised by Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Davies and Steve Lee and his team under the title [Finding Your Feet](#) which are specifically designed to help, guide and inform new Freemasons who might be uncertain as to what is happening in the Lodge Room. The first one is being held in Swindon on **Saturday 19th January 2019** at 10.30am. (See page 2 for more information) I do urge every new Freemason to make the effort to attend this meeting, and to be armed with questions for the team.

Provincial Mentor David Little invites all Lodge Mentor's to join him at the Masonic Hall, Morris Lane, Devizes on **Saturday 16th February 2019** for a workshop on [How to become a more effective mentor](#) - a role which I am convinced plays a very important part in the development of new Freemasons.



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Have you booked your place?

Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Davies is looking forward to welcoming Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Freemasons to the Swindon Masonic Centre, The Planks, Swindon on Saturday 19th January at 10.30am (See diary page). Steve Lee and his team will be on hand to help guide you through the uncharted waters of the Lodge meeting. The team will show you where to be and what to do from the start of the meeting until the very end. [Finding Your Feet](#) 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. If you can't make Swindon, there will be a Salisbury event on Saturday 16th February 2019 also at 10.30am in Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street, Salisbury.

*“Knowledge is having
The right answer.
Intelligence is asking
The right question”*

Procrastination.....

We are all guilty of delaying doing something that must or should be done, occasionally because we genuinely do not have time, sometimes because it is unpleasant or boring, but more often it's because we choose to do something else. We often hear that 'It's difficult to spend time studying and learning the ritual, and this is generally followed by the claim that 'my life is very busy, with work, family etc'. And when all else fails the cry is 'It's different from your day' (*has it ever been any different?*) Is it really the case that the life of the young Freemason in the eighties, nineties, or early noughties was less 'busy' than it is now?, was life with a young family easier to manage than it is today?, and was a work career less demanding than it is now? Oh and by the way don't you think the Freemason of a generation past said to the demanding Lodge Preceptor - 'It's different from your day'. It appears that some things never change!

Selfies are not always for sharing.....

Social media offers great opportunities but with such opportunities there is also increased responsibility and this is very apparent with the seeming insatiable appetite for taking selfies and other images particularly with a smart phone camera. The speed with which they appear on Twitter, Facebook and other media is quite staggering and yet that same speed may just be it's weak point, as we discover that many images are shared without the knowledge or permission of those included in the frame. Concerns have been registered where clearly recognisable images of a Masonic nature have been included on Facebook sites linked to political and commercial activity, and while there is no suggestion that the Brethren whose images appear are supporting either activity, it would probably be better if the images were kept distinct and apart. What cannot be over emphasised is that if your thinking of posting a selfie on your Facebook site, always make sure you have the consent of every person in the photograph.

Stealing your data.....

Some secretaries have reported their email has been hacked, very sadly this is not an uncommon occurrence, and it can be very annoying, especially when you start to receive junk email. One solution we use for limiting the opportunities for hacking is to use generic email addresses (lodge no@pglwilts.org.uk) and automatically forward emails from that account to the personal account of the current secretary. Some secretaries have created a free gmail account which allows them to conduct Lodge business through a unique email address. Both schemes enable an outgoing secretary to pass on the Lodge or Chapter email address to his successor, with the latter system allowing the incumbent to hand over the accumulated correspondence.



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So why 6019..... did you spot the date in the top right hand corner?

Look no further than your Grand Lodge Certificate for the answer, for it is there the new Freemason is first made aware of the unique date he was first admitted to the Craft. Anno Lucis or A.L. is a Latin phrase that translates into 'Year of Light' and is said to predate the Christian or Common Era by 4000 years. Therefore the year 2019 Anno Domini or A.D. becomes 6019 Anno Lucis A.L., which will be the date used on a Grand Lodge Certificate for anyone Initiated in this new year. The first use of A.L. in Freemasonry doesn't appear until 1777 in a certificate issued by the Grand Lodge of England to the Lodge of Alfred (closed in 1790), prior to that A.L. appeared with varying translations such as Anno Lithotomorum (year of labour), Anno Lapidarium (year of movement) and Anno Laotomiae (year of release), all of which appeared in some form on different documents relating to the Craft. The letters A.M. have also appeared, as the 'Year of Masonry' in another form of dating the fraternity. But from 1777, Anno Lucis appears in more and more documents until, eventually, it's believed it was adopted and further spread into common usage as masonry coalesced into an organised body with orthodox ritual and rites. In our Lodges today you are more likely to hear it referred to as the 'Year of Masonic Light' as part of the explanation of the Grand lodge Certificate.

Did you know that Archbishop James Ussher calculated the date of the Creation to have been nightfall on 22 October 4004 BC. Some Masonic scholars agree with him., so you may find some textbooks suggesting Anno Lucis is 4004 years BC.

A New Year Resolution.....

In 2016 we launched the 'State of the Province' with a series of presentations to Lodges which were thought to be 'at risk' in terms of member numbers. The programme might be two years old but it still conveys a message which may surprise you. The Provincial Grand Master asks that Lodge committees make a commitment to invite the Communication Team to present a tailored version unique to their Lodge.

BRINGING YOUNG FREEMASONS IN WILTSHIRE TOGETHER

THE SARSEN CLUB

SUPPORT | CONNECT | EDUCATE | EMPOWER

Are you under 40 years of age? Are you interested?
Contact Mitch Bryan 07540 166664

LODGE MENTORING WORKSHOP

Join the Provincial Mentor for a morning of talks and discussions on how you can **become a more effective Lodge Mentor**

Saturday 16th February 2019
Devizes Masonic Hall, Morris Lane SN10 1NU
10:00am to 12:30pm



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Installation Meetings January

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			

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




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


join
Our
team

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

Lodge of Friendship & Unity invite you to hear the Provincial Orator as he asks What are the perfect points of entrance?

Wednesday 9th January 2019
6.30pm
Masonic Hall.
Bradford-on-Avon
Email: 1271@pglwilts.org.uk



Solomon



Fostering Curiosity - Developing Understanding

Your Journey of Masonic Learning and Development
For members of the United Grand Lodge of England
<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>

Did you know: As a general rule a dispensation should be read immediately before the proceeding which it authorises. The notable exception to this is a dispensation that authorises the holding of the meeting itself - whether on a different day or in a different place or as an emergency meeting - which must be read immediately **after** the Lodge has been opened and **before** any business is transacted.