



February 2019

Wiltshire Freemasonry

Acts of random kindness.....



February is the month the Chinese celebrate their New Year - this year it's the year of the pig, and of course February 14th is St Valentine's Day. However did you know that Sunday 17th is 'Acts of random kindness day'. I must confess that I had some trouble understanding how you planned a 'random act of kindness' but I'm sure that someone will explain it to me. What I do know is that anything which promotes kindness in our society is to be encouraged and supported. Freemasons are urged "to be kind to one another" and I would hope this is a principle by which we would all live our lives. I am constantly in awe of the many acts of kindness which take place without fanfare and just recently I heard about Ted Dredge the Master of Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity No. 663 who is a blood donor with a difference. Ted is a regular visitor to the haematology department at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford where he donates blood platelets, something he has been doing for the past two years. I understand he has donated well over the equivalent of 50 pints of blood. This 'act of kindness' would never have been known were it not for an observant Brother who commented on the magnificent veins standing out in his arms and hands. It transpires that Ted has a rare blood group and rather special blood; if he cuts himself the blood flow stops and the wound heals remarkably quickly. A phlebotomist's dream.

Over the Christmas period City Lodge No.5955 member Bro Jason Finlay and his family organised a collection for Salisbury's homeless and rough sleepers. This was the fifth year the family undertook this work and predates Bro Finlay's reception into Freemasonry. I believe this amply illustrates the meaning of the words in the charge to the Initiate, when referring to 'charity' we say "doubtless it has been felt and practised by you". Swindon Freemasons ably organised by Bro Peter Cowen, once again proved stalwart supporters of the local Women's Aid refuge by collecting all manner of essentials for the victims of domestic abuse. This was the eleventh year that Swindon Lodges including Highworth and Vastern Lodges have come together to make a real difference within the local community. Long may it continue!

I am always interested in hearing about *acts of kindness*, random or otherwise and would ask that if you know of anyone who has practiced that virtue which we all profess to admire, and remember charity is much more than giving money - please do tell the Communication Team.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Davies and Steve Lee's team held the first [Finding Your Feet](#) session which have been designed to help, guide and inform new Freemasons who might be uncertain as to what is happening in the Lodge Room. It's very clear that many Brethren want to know more about Freemasonry and the practices of their Lodge in particular. The interactive sessions in the Lodge Room were particularly useful especially in creating the perfect environment for some great questions to be asked and answered. I was delighted with the wonderful turnout in Swindon and look forward to similar support at the next session being held in Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street, Salisbury on **Saturday 16th February**

The Provincial Communication team is now planning which events they will be attending with the Provincial Display Trailer and are looking for drivers who would be prepared to tow the display trailer to locations within the Province. Experienced 'towers' are especially welcome, but don't worry if you have never towed before as the team will teach you at their Cricklade training school. If you would like to join the register of helpers contact Gordon Lindsay by email lindsay.ge1947@gmail.com



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Following on from Swindon we move to.....

Salisbury when David Davies together with Steve Lee and his team will be on hand to help guide you through the mysteries 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. The Salisbury event takes place on Saturday 16th February 2019 at 10.30am in Freemasons' Hall, Book your place today.

*"Knowledge is having
The right answer.
Intelligence is asking
The right question"*

What's up with WhatsApp?

Well actually nothing at all, a WhatsApp group can be a first class tool for enabling members to communicate with each other, and a number of Lodges have done just that with fantastic results. However, a recent enquiry has demonstrated just how quickly social media can morph from being a simple means of transmitting information into providing a medium for group debate and discussion. While at first glance you may think this is something to be absolutely positive about, unfortunately that's not always the case, particularly when the topics are not always related to Freemasonry and as such may not be enjoyed by everyone linked to the WhatsApp group. Straying off topic and using a WhatsApp group to debate political or social issues of the day is one way in which a system designed to be shared by many has become a platform for the expression and debate of personal views, as a result some members choose to leave the group rather than enter into the discussion and debate. It could be said that this negates the primary purpose of the WhatsApp group. If you have members who decline to join or leave your WhatsApp group, ask yourself - why?

Can I wear the Tercentenary Jewel?



As you might expect there are some 'rules' with regard to wearing the Tercentenary Jewel, starting with the fact it can only be worn by a Brother who has been a member between the 24 June 2016 and 31 December 2017. What may come as a surprise is that It can only be worn by Master Masons that is a Brother who has been Raised to the Third Degree. The Royal Arch Jewel (if a Companion) should be worn closest to the centre of the body and it is recommended that the Tercentenary Jewel be worn to its left, followed by the Provincial 2017 Festival Jewel and a Past Master's jewel. However, both take precedence over a Founder's or any other Lodge specific jewel, which should, as a matter of 'good form' only be worn in the Lodge to which they apply.

Companions may wear the Tercentenary Jewel at a Wiltshire Chapter meeting but not at Supreme Grand Chapter. The golden rule is to always ask if you are unsure as Grand Superintendents from other Provinces may have different rules. A quick enquiry will provide guidance and avoid giving offence.

Ties can be a pain in the neck.....

Just who would have thought that there is a Board of general purposes 'decision' on the wearing of the humble tie in a Craft Lodge, but strange as it may seem, yes there is. The starting point must always be a plain black tie or the Craft tie. An absolute don't do in Lodge is to wear a tie that is directly associated with an Order other than the Craft or Royal Arch. Wiltshire has its own Craft tie which can be worn in any Province where the PrGM of that Province has given his permission; this also applies to wearing the Wiltshire Royal Arch tie. The best advice is to never assume you can wear your favourite tie, best to check first. Club, society and even Lodge specific ties are not allowed, whereas in certain Lodges military or 'old school' ties are permitted.



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Mentoring for young students in Swindon.....



Photo courtesy of Swindon Advertiser

The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock was joined by Provincial Charity Steward Derek Gibbens when visiting Lydiard Park Academy in Swindon to present a grant on behalf of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) to the Villiers Park Educational Trust. The Grant was for £50,000 and is the largest single amount given in Wiltshire. The Freemason's £50,000 grant will pay for a Villiers Park Educational Trust learning mentor, as part of the social mobility charity's Scholars Programme.

The programme, which operates in seven schools and colleges in Swindon, has been shown to improve exam results, raise aspirations and motivation and increase vital skills such as confidence and communication.

We were particularly delighted the story was featured in a recent edition of the Swindon Advertiser.

Are you a Mentor?

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](#).

Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock commented: *"Having seen the presentation preview, I am sure the meeting will be of great interest to Lodge Mentors and those Brethren who want to take a more active role in assisting and guiding newer members through the complexities of a Lodge meeting. Mentoring plays a key role in the development of new Masons"*



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



What is it? A searchable online library of materials for your use and for group activities.

Who is it for? Anyone with an interest in Freemasonry.

Where can I join? Via the *Solomon* website solomon.ugle.org.uk

What will I find? Once you have registered with *Solomon* you can enrol into any of the modules, read, print or download items of interest. It's a real treasure trove of Masonic information.



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



February 2019

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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 | | | |

Installation Meetings

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|----|----------------------|------|-------------|
| Wednesday | Feb | 6 | Remembrance | 4037 | Swindon |
| Wednesday | Feb | 20 | Innocence & Morality | 9587 | East Knoyle |
| Friday | Mar | 15 | Fidelity | 663 | Devizes |
| Monday | Mar | 18 | Chaloner | 2644 | Melksham |
| Monday | Mar | 18 | City | 5955 | Salisbury |
| Wednesday | Mar | 20 | Gooch | 1295 | Swindon |
| Thursday | Mar | 21 | Fiat Lux | 9773 | Devizes |
| Tuesday | Apr | 2 | Methuen | 8692 | Swindon |
| Thursday | Apr | 4 | Clarendon | 5908 | Trowbridge |

Wiltshire Freemasonry

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ENTERED APPRENTICE AND FELLOW CRAFT FREEMASON

"FINDING YOUR FEET"

Saturday 16 February 2019
10.30am
Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street, Salisbury. SP1 2QD

Salisbury next

info@pglwilts.org.uk

Join Our Towing team

lindsay.ge1947@gmail.com

John Reid says - You are never too old to take the next step in the masonic journey of discovery. To discover more about joining a Chapter speak to your Lodge Royal Arch representative today.

Are we too old for The Royal Arch?