



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons
Easter and Passover celebrated



April 2019

Wiltshire Freemasonry

The greatest story ever told.....



The month of April holds a special place in the calendars of the Christian and Jewish faiths. For the one, Easter is probably of much more significance than Christmas (although I'm sure our children and grand-children would beg to differ) while for the other, Passover or *Pesach* is important as it reminds our Brethren of the Jewish faith of the remarkable deliverance of the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt. Something we are reminded of in the explanation of the Second Degree Tracing Board. The symbol in the top right hand corner is the Seder plate which is the focal point of the Passover proceedings. Whether it's an ornate silver dish or a humble napkin, it bears the ceremonial foods around which the Seder is based: matzah, the zeroa (shankbone), egg,, bitter herbs, charoset paste and karpas vegetable. As with the symbols in Freemasonry, each item has a special meaning and allusion.

In March the people of Christchurch in New Zealand were shocked when a lone gunman attacked Moslem worshippers who were attending Friday prayers at their local mosques. It is a sad reflection on society that for a tiny minority the prejudices of yesterday are alive and active today. It is almost beyond belief that in the 21st century people are dying simply for exercising a choice to which faith group they identify.

April 23rd is of course St George's Day and many Lodges will be holding special events celebrating the Patron Saint of England. While we may not display the enthusiasm of our many friends in Wales, Scotland and the island of Ireland (I put that down to English reserve) we are very proud of our connection to St George. Slaying dragons and rescuing damsels in distress may not be fashionable in twenty first century England, but the Provincial Orator on a recent visit to City Lodge No.5955 posed the question "Did the dinosaurs win?"

One of the more pleasant duties for a Provincial Grand Master is the opportunity to recognise Brethren for their contribution to Freemasonry within the Province; and I was delighted to ask the Provincial Grand Secretary to post letters to those who will be honoured at Provincial Grand Lodge in Salisbury on Thursday 3rd October. Please do make a note in your diary to attend in support of a friend and Brother.

I am also pleased to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Ian Dunbar and David Little on their appointment to Grand Rank, with both Brethren being appointed Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer. David at only 43 is the youngest Grand Officer the Province has had, certainly in living memory. In addition to his promotion to Grand Rank, Bro Ian Dunbar will also succeed Colin Cheshire as Divisional Officer (North). It would be remiss of me were I not to mention W Bro Michael Lee *CBE* who has been promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon at the age of 89! What a tremendous event it will be for Wiltshire Freemasons attending the Investiture on Wednesday 24th April 2019. Regrettably, there is a limited guest allocation for the Investiture.

I do hope you will have seen the promotional work being undertaken by Colin Cheshire in which he is making contact with the various military units located in Wiltshire, or who will be returning to the county under the Army Basing Programme. Colin's team has produced eye catching posters which are unique to the regiments and corps and these are now on display in the appropriate Mess. The online media response has been very positive and I look forward to hearing of new additions to our numbers. Talking of which, the Provincial display team was located in Salisbury Market on Saturday 9th March. Despite a chill wind the communication team was supported by a number of Salisbury Brethren and Charlotte Salt; and I am pleased to report that four very positive enquires were made which are being processed by Divisional Officer David Henery.



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To salute or not - that is the question!

Nowhere in the Book of Constitutions is it laid down that salutes **shall** be given. However, a reference to Rule 6 will reveal that there are rules to be followed if and **when** they are given. Whether salutes are necessary or desirable is a point of discussion often heard in the bar after a meeting; needless to say, as with many so called 'rules' it is local custom and practice which dictates the form used, and on such a keen matter as salutes, custom and practice really does matter! For a more concise view of the 'rules' we can do no better than refer to that excellent tome Masonic Etiquette Today penned by none other than VW Bro Graham Redman.

In general terms they are not necessary at all, except when a Ruler or one representing him pays a formal visit. In many Lodges, especially those with a high proportion of Grand Officers among their members, no salutes are ever given except on those occasions, but in most cases such a minimalist policy is not the norm, to which some will say "Thank goodness".

What is clear is the order of precedence for those being saluted and how many salutes their rank receives. In simple terms the Provincial Grand Master (which incidentally is a Grand Rank and not a Provincial Rank) is saluted with 'seven' - the Deputy with 'five' and the assistant is also saluted with 'five'. A Past Deputy or Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master who is entitled to wear the collarette of his previous office is saluted with 'five' but only within his Province, any other occasion where he is saluted it is as a courtesy of the Lodge within the Province he is attending. An interesting question is, from whom should he receive his salutes? The answer is not to be found in the Book of Constitutions, but students of Masonic procedure will recall that at a Provincial Installation, it is only the Brethren of the respective Province who are called upon to salute - thankfully pedantry may be safely set aside and the rule of common courtesy be allowed to prevail.

The matter of how the Rulers are announced is also subject to local practice and should be agreed with the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. However, with the obvious exceptions of the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, the format for announcing Grand Officers is that they are referred to by their Grand Rank and not their Provincial Rank, with the latter being annexed to the announcement.

What about foreign visitors? In fact such a visitor, irrespective of his rank, is not **entitled** to any salutes. However, as a courtesy, for which Freemasons are famed, he is accorded the salutes to which his rank would so entitle him under this Constitution, but only *after* all the salutes to English Brethren have been given.

Confused, well that's not surprising, and it's for that reason we generally adhere to the age old principle of 'doing unto others as we would like them to do to us' - therefore be kindly disposed and err on the side of kindness and be of a generous spirit. Now shall we move on to the wearing of collars - maybe next month!

We offer our congratulations to.....



Assistant Provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield who has been appointed Past Junior Grand Deacon Ian Dunbar and David Little who have both been appointed Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer and Michael Lee who have been promoted to the rank of Past Junior Grand Deacon. Simon, Ian and Michael will be joined in London by Wiltshire Lodge members Edward (John) Price, Keith Surry and, Neil Hawes together with Brethren from across the country at the annual Investiture Meeting on Wednesday 24th April. Sadly, the Investiture, unlike Quarterly Communication is ticket only and UGLE does restrict the number of guests a recipient can invite to the event.



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Join David Henery.....

It's no secret that Freemasonry, like many other organisations is experiencing recruitment issues, for which there are many reasons, not least the vast number of alternative organisations a man can belong to. Being a Freemason has never been at the fore of anyone's 'bucket list' of things I must do before I shuffle off this mortal coil. Visiting every football ground in the land is likely to feature ahead of becoming a Freemason (ask David Henery). But we do want to increase our numbers and we have to find new ways of achieving growth.

What has changed in the long history of Freemasonry is the way in which we present ourselves to the rest of the world who are not Freemasons - or has it. Your editor was really shown a copy of the Swindon Evening Advertiser from 1991 which published a superb article about Wiltshire Freemasonry. Suffice to say, the then Provincial Grand Secretary was generous to a fault in counteracting some the more popular misconceptions regarding the Order; and in outlining some of our Masonic ritual (without compromising any obligation).

On Thursday 16th May, Freemasons from the South of the Province will welcome visitors to Freemasons' Hall in Crane Street when they will be invited to discover 'What Lies Behind Closed Doors'. Join them if you can.

**WHAT LIES
BEHIND THESE
DOORS?**

FREEMASONS' HALL

CRANE STREET
SALISBURY

THURSDAY 16TH MAY

6.15PM

YOU ARE INVITED



WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

WWW.PGLWILTS.ORG.UK

Visit the Provincial website www.pglwilts.org.uk



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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					

Installation Meetings					
Tuesday	Apr	2	Methuen	8692	Swindon
Thursday	Apr	4	Clarendon	5908	Trowbridge
Thursday	Apr	4	Brothers In Arms	9540	Salisbury
Friday	Apr	12	Highworth	9009	Highworth
Wednesday	Apr	17	Border	3129	Ludgershall
Wednesday	Apr	24	Craft Investiture	UGLE	London
Tuesday	May	7	Loyalty	1533	Marlborough
Thursday	May	9	Elias de Derham	586	Salisbury

Have you been following the latest Provincial recruitment initiative?
Over 4,000 service personnel will be re-locating to Wiltshire in 2019.

There will be a number of Freemasons looking for a Masonic home.

Wiltshire Freemasons will be contacting every regiment and corps.

The communication team has set up two special email addresses.

Can you help the Province to promote Freemasonry to soldiers in Wiltshire?



The Annual
Rectitude Essay
Masonic Responsibility
given by
Dr David West

**Monday
20th
May**

Lodge Tyles at

4.15pm

Masonic Hall
Bath Road
Pickwick
Nr Corsham
SN13 0HX

To reserve a place
335@pglwilts.org.uk

MASONIC

RESPONSIBILITY



KEEP UP TO DATE
**WEBSITE
TWITTER
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PROVINCIAL
GRAND
CHAPTER OF
WILTSHIRE



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BRINGING YOUNG FREEMASONS IN WILTSHIRE TOGETHER

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