



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

“change is the only constant in life”



July 2019

Wiltshire Freemasonry

We must embrace change.....



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ittle did Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace know how much their paper on the theory of the evolution of species and natural selection, which was presented in July 1838 to the Linnean Society in London, would create such social, religious and political upheaval. Today we often refer to Darwin (but seldom Wallace) when we seek to stress the importance of a need for Freemasons to adapt in in order to survive and prosper in an ever changing environment. Although not on a par with the scientific and social discourse initiated by Darwin and Wallace, I am sure the Paris launch of the modern bikini in July 1946 may well have caused a similar sense of outrage.

In Freemasonry, some see change as nothing less than a heresy perpetuated on an unwilling audience by people who consider themselves progressive. While those who resist change are perceived to be antediluvian and are accused of living in a vacuum. Neither view is correct, yet entrenched positions are taken, and the love and harmony which should at all times characterise Freemasons all but vanishes out of the window.

What I do know, and what is very clear from my visits to the ‘Big House’ is that the rate of change within our organisation is being conducted at a pace never before experienced, and probably in ways never envisaged by many of our older Brethren. The creation of the role of Chief Executive “to run a distinct organisation separate from UGLE and Supreme Grand Chapter” is probably the most visible change which has occurred, but there have been others, chief amongst which are the establishment of new directorates, each with a distinct functional role and supported by new levels of management. Those familiar with the way in which businesses such as the NHS are run will see clear parallels between them and the new way of doing things in London. Such measures are considered necessary and they will have an effect on Provinces and Districts; of one thing we can be sure and that is ‘Change is the only constant in life’.

One of the most distressing aspects of the role of a Provincial Grand Master is having to intervene in the internal affairs of a Lodge when the harmony referred to above is affected by the behaviour of any of its members. Too often I hear of Brethren of whom it is said ‘they think they run the Lodge’ or worse of a committee of senior members who think they have an executive right to ‘tell the incoming Master which officers they can and cannot appoint’. Leaving aside the arrogance of such outrageous viewpoints, there is the not so small matter of adhering to both the by-laws of the Lodge and the Book of Constitutions. Rule 154 develops this point in greater detail by making it clear that if the Lodge by-laws permit it, the Lodge can appoint a committee for the purpose of making proposals for membership; the rule goes on to make clear that *‘The Lodge by resolution may specifically refer any other matter for consideration and report, or with power to act within limits as the Lodge may define, but no Committee may be invested with any general executive powers.’* How much clearer does the rule have to be? A Lodge committee may recommend a change to Lodge practice but only the Lodge members themselves can approve a change. And of course it is the Master who presides over every committee of the Lodge.

I look forward to welcoming a number of charities to our special Presentation Evenings being held in Calne on **Wednesday 24th July** and Salisbury on **Wednesday 31st July**. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know what your money is spent on and the work of the charities. I offer my thanks to Derek and his teams who have put the evenings together, Please do make a diary note to attend these special events.



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Wiltshire VC honoured.....

Gary Dolphin, secretary of Gooch Lodge No.1295 was in London at Freemasons’ Hall, Great Queen’s Street and was joined by Provincial Grand Secretary Phil Still and his wife Carol at a special event in the presence of the Grand Master His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent who unveiled a very unique Remembrance Stone in honour of all English Freemasons awarded the prestigious Victoria Cross, which is the highest award for gallantry that can be conferred on a member of the British Armed Forces. Since its introduction in 1856, more than 200 men awarded the Victoria Cross had either been or have subsequently become Freemasons. Wiltshire Freemasons had one recipient.



Sergeant William Gosling VC
Gooch Lodge No.1295

William Gosling was a twenty-four year old sergeant in the 3rd Wessex Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, during the First World War. On 5 April 1917 near Arras, France, a bomb was fired by the Stokes Mortar from Sergeant Gosling’s battery; it had a faulty cartridge, and fell ten yards from the mortar near front-line infantry. Incredibly, Sergeant Gosling won a coin toss with colleagues, and despite vehement demands from the infantry, left the trench, lifted the nose of the bomb which had sunk into the ground, unscrewed the fuse and threw it on the ground where it immediately exploded. This action undoubtedly saved the lives of the whole detachment. For this action, he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Following his discharge from the army William was an officer in the Home Guard and became a Freemason joining Gooch Lodge No.1295.

Communication Team support Armed Forces Day.....

Philip Bullock visited the communication team in Trowbridge Park where they were set up for Armed Forces Day. This is the sixth year that the team has supported the Trowbridge event and this year they were joined by members of The Widow’s Sons and a number of local Freemasons including Mike Swanton (Lodge of Agriculture) James Irvine (St Aldhelm Lodge) Ryan Hartley (Clarendon Lodge) and Simon Lunt (Broade Forde Lodge) During the day a steady stream of visitors visited the stand and enquired about Freemasonry - one lady even exclaimed “I never expected to see the Freemasons here!” To which the PrGM said “We clearly have much more to do in terms of getting the message across that we are open for business”

A second team under the guidance of Barry Cooper (St Edmund Lodge) were at Calne for the annual Summer Festival.

Both events were a great success, providing the Communication Team and its supporters with the opportunity to promote our two charities, The Loganberry Trust and Teddies for Loving Care.

The team will be back in action on Saturday 6th July at Stratton Fair, and on Saturday 13th July at The Calne Bike Meet.



The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock (pic R) is joined by James Irvine (St Aldhelm Lodge) and Ryan Hartley (Clarendon Lodge)



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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 and other meetings

Friday	July	5	Summer Lodge	9548	Chippenham
Wednesday	July	24	Charity Evening	Prov	Calne
Wednesday	July	31	Charity Evening	Prov	Salisbury
Friday	Aug	30	Wiltshire Masters	6731	

Out and about with the display team

Saturday	July	6	Stratton Festival	Trailer	Swindon
Saturday	July	27	Calne Bike Meet	Tent	Calne

To help promote Wiltshire Freemasonry email lindsay.ge1947@gmail.com

MEET THE TEAM

- Meet the Provincial Grand Master and his team.
- Discover a Masonic Lodge Room.
- Get answers to those awkward questions.
- Talk to other new Freemasons

07 09 19
SATURDAY

MASONIC HALL
EMERY GATE
CHIPPENHAM
SN15 3JP

LIGHT BUFFET SERVED COST £8 PER PERSON

Join Derek Gibbens as he welcomes the charities to Salisbury

YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET THE CHARITIES

Salisbury Hospice Charity

WEDNESDAY
31st JULY
7.30PM

FREEMASONS' HALL
CRANE STREET
SALISBURY

INFO@PGLWILTS.ORG.UK

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

Step 1. Entered Apprentice Step 2. Fellowcraft Step 3. Master Mason Step 4. Companion

Did you know? If you lose or mislay the warrant of the Lodge or if it is withheld by Masonic authority, the Lodge cannot meet until it has been granted a Warrant of Confirmation or until the Warrant has been found or restored to it (BoC Rule 103). This should act as a reminder to everyone, particularly the Tyler of the importance attached to this very important document. Too much caution cannot be observed.

Visit the Provincial website www.pglwilts.org.uk