



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers"

October 2019

Wiltshire Freemasonry

When autumn leaves start to fall.....



One of my favourite lines from L M Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables is when Anne proclaims. *"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it?"* In the story, Anne was reflecting on how the birches in the hollow turned as golden as sunshine and the maples behind the orchard were royal crimson and the wild cherry trees along the lane put on the loveliest shades of dark red and bronzy green, while the fields sunned themselves in aftermaths. As I enjoy the autumn view from my study window, I must say how much I agree with the words of the author A A Milne who wrote; *"The end of the summer*

is not the end of the world. Here's to October....." And what a busy month October promises to be. As you read this newsletter the Provincial team will be finalising arrangements for members of the Wiltshire Masonic family and many of our friends from neighbouring Provinces to join us in City Hall, Salisbury for the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. I am looking forward to honouring the Brethren who will be receiving a Provincial promotion or first appointment, and I trust that after the extensive and colourful advertising campaign organised by the communication team the auditorium will be filled to capacity. I know that for some Brethren they have to take a day off work 'to attend Provincial Grand Lodge, and I am very grateful they feel the meeting justifies such a decision. If you are able to attend the meeting please do make yourself known to David, Simon and myself, we will be delighted to welcome you to Salisbury.

The Provincial Communication team assure me that there will be newly designed display stands for the charities attending the meeting, and I am eagerly looking forward to seeing what Ian Lever has produced this year! I'm reliably informed that the displays will be square, level and perpendicular - how intriguing!

At the top of the page you will have noticed the purple ribbon which is used to represent so many great causes. The purple ribbon is most commonly used to raise awareness for animal abuse, Alzheimer's disease, **domestic violence**, epilepsy, lupus, sarcoidosis, Crohn's disease and pancreatic cancer. I am very proud to acknowledge the great work undertaken by Wiltshire Freemasons who selflessly support organisations such as Swindon Women's Aid, Salisbury Women's Refuge, Splitz and Victim Support.

It was a privilege to be invited to the opening of the **Survivors@SWA** charity shop in Swindon which has been set up to raise much needed funds for the work of Swindon Women's Aid. The joint venture between Swindon Freemasons and Swindon Women's Aid has been co-ordinated by Bro Peter Cowen and supported by many local Freemasons and their families. I was particularly impressed to see and hear Swindon Freemason's very own 'Elvis' in action - I have to confess I could sing along with every word!

Sally and I were guests of the Senior and Junior Provincial Grand Wardens and the Brethren who served the Province as Active Officers during the past year. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of officers who travel the length and breadth of the Province supporting David, Simon and myself

On Sunday 22nd September Sally and I joined Simon and Nicola at the unveiling of a plaque on the Wallington Hall celebrating 150 years of Freemasonry in Bradford on Avon. This unveiling coincided with the hall opening to the public as part of the Heritage Open Day Scheme when the Millennium Embroidery was also on display.

At the end of October the Province will hold its annual Church Service this event will take place on Sunday 27th October and once again will be held in St Mary the Virgin Church, Calne. I do hope to see you there.



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Do I stand or do I sit?

A Brother reminded me just recently how confusing it can be when attending church (not a place he frequented) and not knowing when to stand, sit or kneel; he then proceeded to tell me he was similarly confused when attending Lodge meetings, especially Installations. I knew exactly what he was referring to and we entered upon a very reasonable discussion about the protocol of standing or sitting.

So, where does the supposed confusion occur? Well, it all seems to originate at the point when the Provincial Junior Grand Warden takes the floor to 'Address the Brethren' - at which point I should point out that he follows the Presiding Officer and his fellow Senior Warden who respectively have already presented the 'Address to the Master and the 'Address to the Wardens'. I also ought to add that the Junior Warden has the most to say, but equally he does have the largest audience, to which you may ask "who are his audience?"

Dare I suggest the answer lies in the formal title of the address which is 'Address to the Brethren' which surely can only mean one thing, his audience are the **Brethren of the Lodge**. It seems so simple, doesn't it? And yet at the point when the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies invites the Brethren of the Lodge to stand (a Wiltshire convention) some stay rooted in their seats unsure as to what they should do.

Some Brethren are of the view that the 'Address to the Brethren' is only for those who have never occupied one of the three principal offices of the Lodge; but if this was the case the question to be answered is "Why isn't there an address for those Brethren" - are they exempt from any requirement to 'learn, submit, and obey? The hope expressed by the Provincial Junior Grand Warden is that the Brethren *are of too generous a disposition to envy their preferment*, and if we accept the logic that the word **their** refers to the two Wardens *who have been appointed by the Master to assist him in ruling and governing the Lodge*; it follows that the word Brethren as in the title of the address must refer to whoever is neither of the former three.

I am reminded of the words of the Second Degree Tools (extended version) in which we are reminded that *"although distinctions of rank are necessary to preserve subordination, let no eminence of situation cause us to forget that we are all Brothers equally entitled to the same regard"*.

So "Why do some Brethren feel uncomfortable at being asked to stand to receive this wonderful address?" The editor would be delighted to receive your views and comments. editor@pglwilts.org.uk

Bradford on Avon celebrates in style.

Philip and Sally Bullock were joined by Simon and Nicola Leighfield at the unveiling of a Preservation Trust plaque to celebrate Bradford on Avon's Wallington Hall and 150 years of Freemasonry in the town, and invite you to join them on Sunday 27th October for evensong in Holy Trinity Church (see diary page 4)



Simon and Nicola Leighfield with Sally and Philip Bullock



The Preservation Trust plaque takes pride of place



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Gone Fishin' and we had a jolly good time.



Simon Leighfield APiGM presented certificates to eight students from Uplands School who were guests of Wiltshire Freemason's fishing experience at Walters Lake, South Cerney. Uplands school aims to meet the needs of young people with severe or profound learning difficulties, and complex needs.

Hosted by Ian and Elaine Lever with support from Freemasons and friends, the days fishing produced some great catches, but most of all it was fun and generated a lot of happy smiles.

MAKE A CHRISTMAS WREATH

Sally Bullock will be hosting two of her very popular Christmas Wreath making workshops at the end of November and beginning of December. You can join her in Swindon on Saturday 30th November or at Salisbury on Sunday 8th December, both sessions starts at 10.30am until 2.30pm. While tea and coffee will be provided, you are requested to bring your own food.

Sally will provide all the necessary greenery, twigs and adornments but please do feel free to bring any special decorations with which to finish off your wreath. During the morning session, Sally will demonstrate how to make a Christmas Wreath and this wreath will be raffled to raise funds for Teddies for Loving Care. The cost for the workshop is £25 per person and is open to Masonic friends and family.

Places are limited at both venues. Please e.mail Sally on sallybullock30@hotmail.com for further information.



SALLY BULLOCK INVITES YOU TO MAKE A
CHRISTMAS WREATH
SWINDON MASONIC CENTRE
THE PLANKS
SWINDON
Saturday 30th November 2019
10.30am until 2.30pm

JOIN THE PROVINCIAL TRAINING TEAM

Are you a good communicator?

Do have excellent presentation skills?

Would you like to join the training team?

Discover how you can help e.mail Steve Lee.

steve.lee22@ntlworld.com



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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	Oct	4	Calley	Swindon
Wednesday	Oct	9	Stonehenge	Salisbury
Tuesday	Oct	15	White Horse	Westbury
Tuesday	Oct	15	Sarum	Salisbury
Wednesday	Oct	23	Radnor	Salisbury
Monday	Oct	28	Good Fellowship	Marlborough
Thursday	Oct	31	Agriculture	Corsham

To square or not to square, that is the question -

And it is a question recently raised by a Brother who had occasion to visit a Lodge where the procedure was most definitely to square the Lodge, almost in an exaggerated fashion. The simple answer is that it depends on what ritual book you are using, and the practice of your Lodge. If you are an adherent of Taylor's Ritual (*to know more just ask the Provincial Communication Officer*) squaring the Lodge, that is walking around the black and white mosaic pavement is second nature; while in Emulation Ritual it is not necessary to observe such a convention.

One explanation given for squaring the Lodge is the position of the tracing boards, or its predecessor, the floor cloth; and before that the hand drawn image (chalked or drawn in the sand) which was generally in the centre of the room, and which required everybody to walk around it in order not to deface or destroy it.

The practice of squaring the Lodge Room has been widely adopted; although it has to be acknowledged that it is not a universal custom. Interestingly, some Lodges continue the practice of squaring the Lodge Room despite positioning their tracing boards out of harms way in front of the Junior Warden's pedestal

Some observers are of the view that squaring the Lodge adds a degree of dignity and decorum to the proceedings, whereas others consider it an affectation which only serves to waste time. Perhaps the truth lies somewhere between the two opinions and we should simply acknowledge that 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder'.

Lodge of Friendship and Unity No.1271

**EVENSONG
AT
HOLY TRINITY**

Sunday 27th October
at 6.00pm

Church Street | Bradford on Avon

