

Across the Plain

The magazine of the Masonic Province of Wiltshire



Winter 2019



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Cover photo by Adrian Wooster

The Provincial Grand Master.....



THERE can be little doubt that the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge is one of the most exciting events of the Masonic calendar, and it is always a pleasure to see the auditorium of City Hall in Salisbury filled with Brethren from throughout the Province. I know that for many of the regular attendees the meeting is an opportunity to meet with old friends and enjoy a convivial meal and few drinks. While for others the thrill of the meeting is to experience the grandeur of the occasion with its impressive processions, superb music and a kaleidoscope of colour provided by the assortment of Masonic regalia on display. This year I was able to announce two initiatives which I am sure will be of lasting benefit to the Province. The first was the establishment of the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Foundation; a new charity designed with Wiltshire Freemasons and local Wiltshire charities in mind. The second initiative was the inauguration of the Peter Winton Trophy which I refer to on the facing page.

I was delighted to have been able to launch the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Foundation (WMCF) on 3rd October at Provincial Grand Lodge in Salisbury and I am pleased to hear from many Brethren just how important it was to have a charity for Freemasons. Having completed the launch process, the trustees of the WMCF have committed themselves to make sure that every member of the Wiltshire Masonic Family, and each Lodge in the Province are fully aware of its existence and its aims and objectives. A charity for Freemasons, their families and for local good causes.

Some of our members will ask “why do we need a new charity, aren’t there enough already?” I believe the answer to that question lies in an understanding of the stated objectives of the new WMCF, which has been created to support the Wiltshire Masonic Family and Wiltshire Charities. I know that the Provincial Almoner and Provincial Charity Steward are anxious to be able to make a prompt response for one off applications for help and to provide support to Wiltshire Brethren and their dependants who have an urgent and immediate requirement. The opportunity to complement the work of the MCF is something many Brethren have suggested would be good for Wiltshire Freemasons, especially as the MCF response times for assistance become extended, and the criteria for accessing help and support become ever more demanding. It is very important that the WMCF is recognised as being **YOUR** charity.



Please be assured the Wiltshire Provincial Benevolent Fund which is funded from the charitable element of your annual subscription will continue to support local charities with annual donations and the WMCF will work independently of the fund. With your support our aim is to build an endowment Foundation of one million pounds. We recognise this is an incredible amount to raise and we hope to achieve this with monthly donations and legacies; the Foundation will then be protected at this figure to generate higher investment returns. The WMCF intends to pay out qualifying grants as soon as there are sufficient funds. Examples of the type of qualifying grants that could be awarded are:

- Support to overcome short-term financial difficulties including funeral expenses.
- Rapid response to the need for funding health related matters.
- Emergency funding for items which otherwise might not be supported by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

Through the Provincial Almoner and the Charity Steward we will continue to work closely with the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) which is able to provide longer term financial, family and medical support.

Our new charity and The Peter Winton Trophy.....

I was also pleased to welcome Virginia Winton, her daughter Holly, and W Bro Stan Iles to Salisbury ; and to receive the magnificent trophy presented to the Province in honour of the late VW Bro Peter Winton. The *Peter Winton Trophy* will be awarded annually to the Lodge, which in the opinion of a panel chaired by VW Bro David Davies, has made an outstanding contribution to Wiltshire Freemasonry. Nomination forms will be sent to Lodge secretaries during the next few weeks and will also be available online through the Provincial website.

Peter advocated that Freemasonry should be visible and active in the local community, and to that end used his natural charm to persuade people to 'go the extra mile' - and rather than just give money to a cause, take a practical approach and do something. "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." I know that you will all appreciate and recognise that sentiment.



In 2017 the Province initiated 300 hours for 300 years, and this provided opportunities for Lodges to contribute time and skills to help local organisations. Who can forget the marvellous therapy goat project undertaken by members of Vale of Avon Lodge, or the school room painting by Downton Lodge members carefully overseen by Richard Hallin; and then there was the Stonehenge Lodge litter picking which resulted in an award from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). It is hoped that Lodges throughout the Province will discover their own unique project and share their experiences (good, bad and humorous) with the nominations panel.

And so as we come to the end of yet another year, Sally and myself wish you and your families a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful, prosperous and healthy New Year.



The 'light box' display columns at Provincial Grand Lodge
designed by Ian Lever - New Temple Lodge No.8435

A question - The first map of the world was drawn by Anaximander in the 6th century BC, and he assumed that the earth was flat and shaped like a cylinder; so how can the two 'spherical balls' atop the Wardens columns be said to delineate maps of the terrestrial and celestial? The simple and accurate answer, albeit perhaps an inconvenient truth is that the claim is probably nothing more than over zealous Masonic script

One of the pleasures of being the editor of the website and Provincial magazine is the opportunity it affords me to correspond with some incredibly interesting people. One such person is Dr Christine Finn the granddaughter of Sergeant William Burford Gething (later commissioned and retired in the rank of Captain) and listed as serving with Prov. Battalion based at Tidworth who was Initiated into the Border Lodge No.3129 on 17th September 1908; he was Passed on 18th October 1908, and Raised on 19th November 1908. To perform the three ceremonies in successive months was quite unusual in those days especially as candidates were quite numerous.

Bro Gething attended regularly until March 1909 but the secretary was unable to find any record of his attendance thereafter. It is presumed that his military duties and then the war took him away from the area when he sailed for the Gold Coast in March 1909 serving with the Rifles Brigade before he retired to Jersey in 1920. In subsequent members' lists he is shown first as Lieutenant and subsequently as Captain Gething. He remained a member until his death which was recorded in the Lodge minutes in April 1934.

Dr Finn's investigations clearly show that Gething's life was not at all ordinary in fact it can genuinely be claimed it was anything but ordinary. He seems to have adopted the name of someone his mother later married - a William Burford Gething who is mentioned in a lurid Victorian divorce case! But it is believed his real father was someone passing through London, as it were, given

his features. Dr Finn says her mother's Jersey ID photo, taken while the island was under German occupation and a hand coloured image of her alerted her to this. *"I am oddly at peace with the fact that I will probably never know the identity of my great-grandfather; it feels more likely than the Lincolnshire farming stock my mother had led me to believe, which never really chimed with my grandfather's photos."*

William Burford Gething (junior) enlisted into the army while quite young and served overseas until 1919, and he retired to Jersey in 1920, where he died aged 61, of malaria contracted during colonial service in Africa. He had no known relatives in Jersey, but it was a popular place for Army officers to retire to, and his funeral notice suggests he had a wide circle of friends. And thereby hangs another tail, as despite his proven popularity, and an illustrious Army career (he was mentioned in dispatches after engaging in the first battle of the first World War, at Kamina, Togoland) being well regarded professionally, and not least, retiring to a substantial two-villa home in St. Helier, he was buried without a headstone in Mont del'Abbe cemetery.

The most likely reason given to Dr Finn was that there was no money for a headstone. But this was long before the Occupation and makes one wonder if he lost money in the Great Depression, or perhaps gambled himself into a state of penury.

Dr Finn remembers growing up in St. Helier around the amazing objects her grandfather brought back from the colonies - vases and carvings and the like, which probably inspired her interest in anthropology, and certainly her own travels off the beaten track. She says "I would have liked to have known him"

Sadly, such were the family's financial circumstances in the 1960s - possibly related to what happened in the 1930s - that all his chattels were sold off at auction in 1967, just before Dr Finn's parents and her grandmother moved to Deal in Kent.

The reason for the sudden move was never given or discussed, and Dr Finn's mother never recovered from it. However records suggest that the relocation of the family to the mainland was almost certainly to evade action from creditors, Gething being fully aware that debtors could be jailed on Jersey.



Captain William Burford Gething and his wife Annie with Christine's mother and an unknown man in their garden - St Helier, Jersey Cl.

Charlie was looking rather gloomily at his little blue book. Fred, ever solicitous, raised an eyebrow. "Well" said Charlie, "why does Grand Lodge demand that we learn all this Traditional History in the Third by heart when you told me that there wasn't a scrap of evidence for even a single word of it? Fanciful at its very best you said. Furthermore the First Degree Tracing Board which contains some really good stuff is merely an optional extra. What goes on at Great Queen Street?"

Fred had a quiet smile and ordered two re-fills. "Sadly it is not for us to question Great Queen Street, Charlie. Grand Lodge proposes, a Lodge merely disposes. The First TB? The reason may be as simple as an Initiate's mental indigestion. He may be so swamped by all that he has already heard so far he probably switched off even before the Charge. If you added in the Tracing Board he will merely acquire a fish-eyed glaze of total non-comprehension - not a pretty sight. Leave the Tracing Board for a quiet evening when the Initiate is fresh and the Stewards' Bench can perform it as a team effort. He'll learn far more".

"The Third History is another matter. Again it may be that the 1813 Grand Lodge felt it useful in driving home the signs, tokens and words but I suggest the reason is far more likely to do with honour and integrity".

"If an operative mason let slip the secrets of his craft then he knew he would never work again. He was unemployable. For the average Speculative Freemason tempted to spill the beans, the threat of never again being allowed to seek employment as a stone mason was hardly likely to influence a membership of aristocrats, clergy and country gentlemen. Their response might well have been a unanimous thank goodness for that".

"However while income may not have mattered to them honour certainly did. Remember that the birth of Speculative Freemasonry was in the days of death by duelling. A gentleman's honour was paramount. Besmirch either him or his womenfolk and you were faced with a catechism of when, where and which

weapon – pistol, poinard or epee. If you declined their kind offer, you and your kin would become ostracised by polite society for ever. The similarities with the operative mason are then surprisingly close".

"Roll forward to the Mason of today. If you reveal Masonic secrets to all and sundry at the 'Pig and Whistle' tonight, Grand Lodge will almost certainly never black-ball you or invite you to a duel-at-dawn with the Grand Master. So what can the Grand Lodge do to ensure Masons respect their vows?"

"Bluntly they have to place the onus on the integrity of the individual mason – and this is where we come to Hiram Abiff. In the traditional History we are told of a master-builder who, having solemnly vowed with Solomon and Hiram of Tyre never to reveal the Temple's secrets, had the supreme integrity to prefer death to the dishonour of breaking his vow".

"But, Fred, death is a little OTT – it is not as if we were revealing the Enigma Code".

"But that's not the point is it, Charlie? If you make a vow with your hand on the Bible that you will never reveal certain secrets – however insignificant you may feel they actually are - should you later improperly disclose them you will have demonstrated publicly that either you don't really value the Great Architect or the Bible or that freely given vow. Any promise you might later make to a Brother Mason could then equally well be broken at your slightest whim. In short, Charlie, your word has become worthless – you will have become as untrustworthy as the handle of the proverbial chocolate tea-pot".

"That's rather hard, Fred".

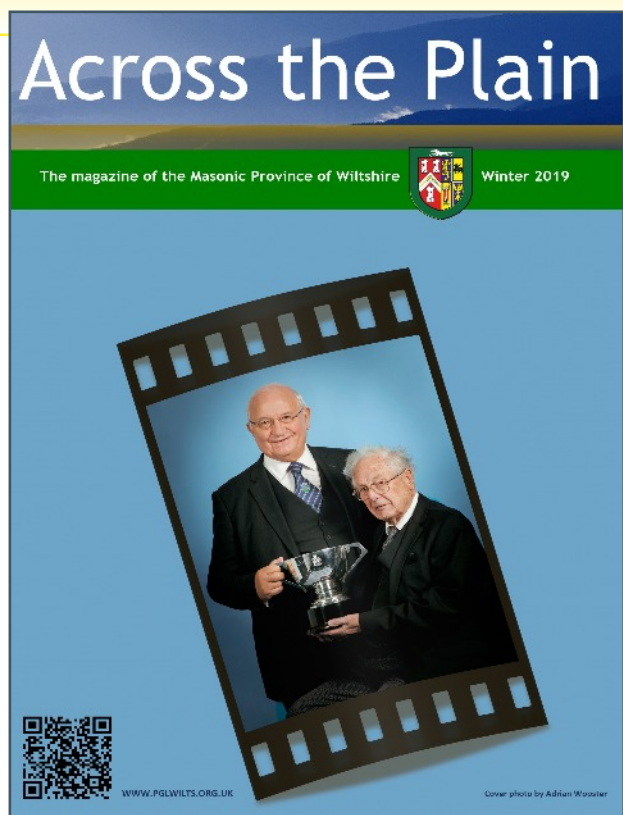
"Freemasonry is not just a social club, Charlie, it remains a system of morality. For the future of Freemasonry *both* club and morality are important. Your Brothers must be able to rely on your integrity".

"Well I can now see why we shouldn't forget Hiram, Fred. Better start learning about him - how does it go?"

"We left off at the part of our traditional history..."

HISTORY MYSTERY





This month's cover photo was taken by Adrian Wooster

"Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution."

— Kahlil Gibran

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Peace on Earth and goodwill towards all me

And as we come to the end of another year it surely provides the ideal opportunity to reflect on what those words really mean and how they apply to the Freemason.

I am often asked "Is there anything about Freemasonry you don't like?" To which I have a ready answer, which is, "The thing I dislike most about Freemasonry, is the ability of some Freemasons to not only create, but also to foster disharmony".

I do ask myself, why would anyone want to be a member of this wonderful fraternity which cites Brotherly Love as being a pre-eminent principle, and yet bear malice and ill will towards another - it is simply incompatible with the obligations we take and the high standards by which we claim to live our lives.

One of the five points of fellowship concludes with the words 'I will maintain a Master Mason's honour and carefully preserve it as my own: I will not injure him myself, or knowingly suffer it to be done by others' - words, which sadly drop from the tongue and fall to the floor to be metaphorically swept up and recycled on a future occasion.

In the Initiation ceremony we are reminded that if you have an issue with a Brother, the correct course of action is to seek a remedy, or, as the entreaty makes clear 'amicably settle your differences'. To hold a grudge or to continue backbiting is neither Masonic nor to the credit of the individuals concerned.

In much the same way we are reminded that we must 'Learn, submit and obey. Humility in each being an essential requirement'. I recall during my working life being told that whenever someone claimed to be 'incompatible' with a colleague it was usually a way of them excusing a lack of willingness to compromise or seek a resolution to a problem.

To most minds, the absence of peace is the result of people not getting along with other people, either at an individual or a societal level. Break down the barriers of selfishness and strife between people, and you'll have peace.

It was Henry Ford who said "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

Our ritual teaches us that 'brotherly love and affection SHOULD distinguish us as men and as Masons'

LONG MAY IT CONTINUE

Note from the editor: Articles appearing in the Monthly Newsletter or Across the Plain have a number of purposes, to inform, to educate, to entertain and to challenge. Not every piece written will meet with universal approbation but neither are they intended to offend. The editor is delighted to receive your views on any article appearing in the Newsletter or Magazine.

Side by Side Volunteers....

Barry Jordan-Davis PrDGDC

When Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Barry Jordan-Davis told me about his friend Michael, and how he spends a few hours each week with him, I was intrigued and



wanted to know more, especially when Barry explained that he and fellow Freemason Nigel Dalby are Side by Side volunteers, a service which assists people living with dementia to continue to play active roles in their communities, and helps them to lead fulfilling

lives, and reduces loneliness and isolation.

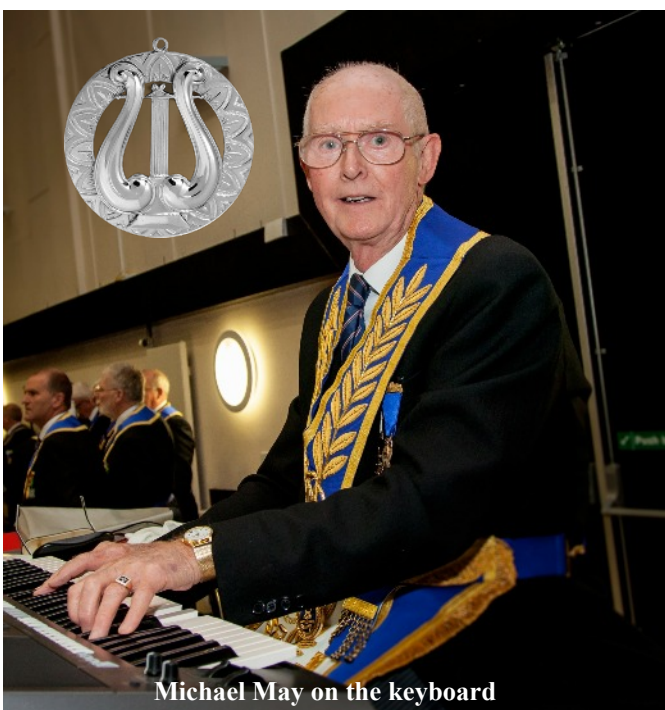
Side by Side is the brainchild of the Alzheimer's Society and Wiltshire Masonic News spoke with Diane Jenkins who is the local Side by Side co-ordinator for the Alzheimer's Society Wiltshire branch.

Dianne is passionate about the scheme and explained what a Side by Side volunteer does. *"A Side by Side volunteer will help a person living with dementia to keep on doing the things they love – and trying new things too. The idea is that the volunteer and their new friend meet up, decide what they would like to do, and then do it together. It's all about having fun and feeling good – amazingly what starts off as being an opportunity to help one person often results in making a big difference to each other's lives"*.

You can help the Alzheimer's Society celebrate its fortieth anniversary and support the work they do by applying to join Barry and Nigel and become a Side by Side volunteer sidebysidewiltshire@alzheimers.org.uk Whatever is your idea of a good time - going to the gym, watching a film, a jog around the park, or just a trip to the shops followed by a cheering cup of tea or coffee, Side by Side is one way to help you keep involved with your community.



Thank you for the music - for giving it to us.....



Michael May on the keyboard

After fourteen years at the keyboard as Provincial Grand Organist, Michael May played himself out in style at the October meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Michael's musical pedigree has its origins with the Essex Youth Orchestra in which he played the clarinet. At the age of eighteen, Mike took up the church organ and quickly established himself as the organist at his local church.

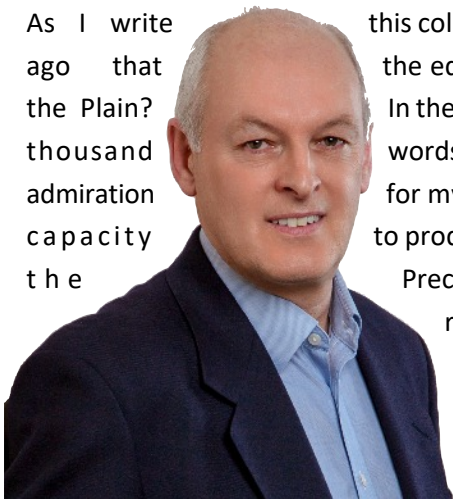
On becoming a Freemason Mike was asked to play at Lodge and Chapter meetings and soon developed a keen interest in playing electronic organs and keyboards. Mike has written many pieces for use in Masonic ceremonies, with his stirring processional pieces being particularly well known.

Mike is a true musician playing at various locations in Wiltshire with the BJ-Big Band which he joined in January 2010 - he claims the change of tempo with the Band is still keeping him young!



The Grand Superintendent

As I write ago that the Plain? thousand admiration capacity the



this column I ask myself “Where has the past year gone” and wasn’t it only a few months the editor was asking me to let him have the ‘copy’ for the Summer edition of Across the Plain? In the 2018 Winter edition I asked the question “Just how difficult can it be to write one thousand words for the magazine?” Knowing how hard it is enables me to have the utmost admiration for my friend and fellow Companion Michael Lee who continues to amaze me with his capacity to produce such amazing articles as are published in this copy of Across the Plain, and in the Preceptor’s Page on the Provincial website. Michael is also a major contributor to the recently launched UGLE initiative SOLOMON an online facility which enables Companions to discover **more about** the Holy Royal Arch. I’m sure Michael will not be offended if I suggest he is not in the first flush of youth, and yet he demonstrates boundless energy and a passion to produce such excellent articles, and I invite you to read his latest piece (on facing page).

The past year has been unprecedented in terms of Chapter activity, with Exaltations at record high levels and the general standard of meetings being of an exemplary nature. This suggests to me that Companions are putting in the necessary effort to learn the ritual and making the essential commitment to attend Chapter rehearsals. The result of both is clear for everyone to see and I believe the benefits are tangible in that our Brethren in the Craft can see and appreciate the benefits of our Order and its role as the ‘next step’ in pure and Antient Freemasonry.

Talking of ‘tangible’ things, I would like to make special mention of Companion Ian Lever who once again produced a stunning Royal Arch display unit for the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge which was held at Salisbury on Thursday 3rd October. I never know what to expect from the Communication Team, but I am never disappointed, only amazed and in awe at their ingenuity in providing such superb displays. My fellow Grand Superintendents are very generous in their comments about the themed displays at Provincial Grand Lodge and I am most grateful to the Provincial Grand Master for his continued support in promoting the Holy Royal Arch.

I am constantly being made aware of the work of the Lodge Royal Arch representatives, and I am most grateful to them for the part they play in providing a link between the Craft and Chapter; there is no doubt in my mind that the recently revised and more clearly defined role of the Royal Arch representative has been well received.

Our active participation in charity is something which gives me great pride, and as we approach the festive season of Christmas we will once again be presenting gifts to a number of charities whose work is mainly with children and families. It is so easy to forget that in a home where domestic abuse occurs the often forgotten victims are generally the children who live in the household. The child or children may not be physically harmed, but they are scared and scarred by the experience. It may be many years before the damage is recognised and in some cases the long term effects reveal themselves in adulthood. Christmas for many families is not the joyous experience with which we identify. I am reminded of the principle behind the words of a lovely piece of ritual in which we are prompted to practise benevolence to all who require our assistance, and I thank every Companion for their kindness and generosity in supporting the many charities and worthy causes which have received your attention during the year.

The past year has seen a marked increase in the amount of Royal Arch activity on social media, for which I have to thank E Comp Mark Fuller who really has accomplished an enormous amount working closely with our friends in the Craft. I know that Mark is always on the hunt for a good news story (preferably with a good quality picture) and would welcome any contribution from a Chapter or Companion. If you want any ideas, look no further than the story about the wonderful work being done by The Alzheimer’s Society with their Side by Side Volunteer Programme

To all Companions, I wish you health and happiness as we come to the end of one year and look forward to the next.



Fred and Charlie strolled slowly home after 'Chapter', reflecting on an enjoyable evening.

Fred broke the silence. *"I did enjoy the way all three Sojourners shared the work...and 'J' read the Bible passages so slowly and beautifully. Great stuff."* A distant owl hooted softly in agreement.

After a contemplative pause he added: *"By the way how did you get on persuading Tom to join the Royal Arch?"*

Charlie hesitated. *"Not well I'm afraid. The words 'Holy' Royal Arch worried him. He doesn't want to come into a religious degree... and what's more I gather he's already been approached by another Order..."*

"appens too often, Charlie. Despite the Pro Grand Master's recommendations time and again to first join Chapter, new Master Masons are persuaded to join other 'Degrees' far too soon after Raising simply because they are 'friendly and fun'. Every degree is! Those recruiting sergeants brush the Royal Arch aside as being just for the religiously minded. Absolute nonsense of course."

"Tell Tom from me that neither the Craft nor Chapter is religious. Can't be. All traces of religion were deliberately removed in 1717 and 1813. Heck, there are no more prayers to God in the Royal Arch than there are in the First Degree. All Speculative Freemasons believe in a Supreme Being as a first condition of membership so a prayer to God when taking an obligation in Chapter is no more religious than the one given on Initiation, is it?"

"Why Chapter? Tom's a thinking chap. All men have a conscience, a morality, a sense of right and wrong. We might say it's God given. The Third Degree 'Tools' say the same thing in C17 language: 'having laid down for our instruction the limits of good and evil (He) will reward or punish as we have obeyed or disregarded his Divine commands.' In the Third Degree the Moderns flatly ignored saying where these commands could be found. In their Third however the Antients restored the 'divine source'. In the argy-bargy of combining their rituals in 1813, the Moderns and the Antients finally agreed to call it an Order - 'The Holy Royal Arch'. Craft

Freemasonry's not complete without it, can't be."

"I've mentioned some of that" said Charlie reflectively, "but how does Zerubbabel fit into any part of a Third Degree ceremony?" "Can't talk and walk" said a less-than-spritely Fred, '- "sadly not yet multi-skilled! Let's slip into the Masons Arms."

Fred composed his thoughts. *"Freemasonry started in London, in a C18 Christian country. If the Founders wanted to introduce a moral code, Charlie, it had to be one acceptable to the average Freemason of the day"*

"The Temple at Jerusalem, the backdrop to our three Degrees, was built by Solomon for God's Chosen People, the Tribe of Judah. All twelve tribes then started to worship other gods. Jehovah's vengeance was dramatic. He severed his Covenant. All the northern tribes (Israel) were vanquished by the Assyrians in 722 BC and deported, never to return. The southern tribes (Judea) of Judah and Benjamin suffered a similar fate and were removed to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC."

"As foretold by the prophets (Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah) God's love for his Creation prevailed. Jerusalem's Temple would be rebuilt as a token of His commitment. However Judah had blown it as His Chosen People. Henceforth Jehovah would be worshipped throughout the world, not in any earthly temple but in a man's heart. The ruler chosen to introduce this new Covenant was appropriately not a Jew but a Gentile, King Cyrus. The builder he chose was Solomon's descendant, Zerubbabel."

"So it was Cyrus who set the ball rolling but Zerubbabel who built a temple as the focus for all people and all religions. That therefore includes us. Hence Zerubbabel and his mates are on our Chapter thrones and not Solomon or Hiram."

There was a long silence. Charlie eventually spoke between sips. *"Our system of morality is really veiled in this allegory about Zerubbabel, isn't it? Disobedience, reconciliation and forgiveness all through the kindly hands of a stranger. Sounds just like Brotherly Love."* Thanks, Cyrus! Fred, never one to miss an opportunity, said merely *"Aye, Charlie. I'll drink to that."*

Towards the end of 1900 Henry Hewer, manager of the Capital and Counties Bank in the town's High Street, approached Joe Moore, owner of the Bell Hotel and a forage merchant to suggest that the town could support a Masonic Lodge. Baldomero de Bertodano, a retired solicitor, who had already received high honours in Craft Masonry and his brother Carlos had recently moved to Malmesbury also showed interest in forming a Lodge. On 31st January 1901 a dozen prospective members met at the Bell Hotel where they agreed to petition for a new Lodge. Included in the discussions was a scale of fees to be charged; Provincial fees were set at £1/5 shillings, a joining fee of £1/10 shillings or £121 today, and a hefty £5/5 shillings was set as the fee for Initiation.



There was some delay in processing the application for the new Lodge as the Provincial Grand Secretary wasn't keen to advance the case presented by the prospective members, the delay was unacceptable and resulted in a strongly worded letter being sent to the Provincial Secretary threatening an appeal to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. This letter did the trick and on 14th January 1902 the Petition was accepted and the new Lodge was styled St Aldhelm Lodge No.2888, St Aldhelm being the peripatetic priest who worked his way across the country and was the founder of the Malmesbury Benedictine Abbey where Athelstan, King of England is reputed to have been buried.

The Lodge was consecrated in the Abbey on 31st July 1902 and to mark the occasion, one of the Founders, Rev Kenrick Adkin laid a corner stone at the base of the new Technical School then under construction on Tetbury Hill. Bro Adkin was to be the first Junior Warden of the Lodge. The Presiding Officer for the Consecration was The Provincial Grand Master the Rt Hon Jacob Pleydell-Bouverie 6th Earl of Radnor, and the first Master was W Bro Baldomero de Bertodano. Interestingly one of the founders of the Lodge was none other than W Bro Harry Bevir the Provincial Grand Secretary whose antipathy towards a new Lodge was the subject of the 'terse correspondence' referred to previously.

Baldomero de Bertodano was a generous benefactor to the Lodge and provided much of the Lodge furniture still in use today; he was also Lodge Director of Ceremonies for two brief spells. His brother Carlos Edmundo de Bertodano a Grand Steward was invested as Senior Warden and later acted as Secretary for a long time. Carlos presented the Lodge with the officer's jewels which are still used today. Although Baldomero and Carlos had names which were of Spanish origin they were very English Victorian gentlemen and Baldomero in particular was exceedingly wealthy. Among the first Founders was Bro Sir R Hungerford Pollen Bt. F Robourne, and Col. W W Turnor, who was described as a very fierce Justice of the Peace. Neither stayed associated with the Lodge resigning in 1904 and 1906 respectively.

For many years the Lodge met in the billiard room of the Bell Hotel of which Bro Joe Moore was the owner. Joe was a Founder of the Lodge and for many years the Director of Ceremonies. He was considered a 'peppery individual and a real character!' The Lodge Banner was made by the ladies of the Brethren, including four Miss de Bertodanos.

In 1906 the Lodge agreed to the formation of a Royal Arch Chapter.

St Aldhelm Lodge No.2888 qualified as a Hall Stone Lodge having donated £525 to the Masonic Memorial Fund towards the new Masonic Hall in London (what we now refer to as Freemasons' Hall). The jewel was presented to the Master in office W Bro HW White at a ceremony in Grand Lodge on 2nd September 1925.

The Lodge has always had an association with the Abbey and in 1928 Brethren attended a service of re-opening and re-hallowing. The Lodge presented the Abbey with the Pulpit on which the Square and Compasses can still be seen.

At the beginning of 1946 Lodge meetings were moved to the Town Hall. At the very first meeting the heating pipes had frozen, the cold was so intense the Brethren wore overcoats in Lodge - worse than that there was no festive board! Having been unable to purchase the old Parish Rooms in Silver Street, the Lodge signed a 21 year lease on the Independent Church opposite and moved there in 1958. The Lodge purchased the freehold in 1974.

But what of Bro Henry Hewer the manager of the Capital and Counties Bank? Sadly, his story doesn't have a happy ending. After all his hard work he was moved by the bank, well before he was able to share in the fruit of his labours.

Wallington Hall a real treasure....

Bradford on Avon's Wallington Hall has an amazing history which recently was celebrated by the presentation of a Heritage Plaque unveiled by the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire Philip Bullock.

After closure of the Boys Free Grammar School in 1903 The Hall became dilapidated and was put up for sale. The Masons took a short lease on the building, made it habitable and moved in permanently in 1913. In 1918 Albert Wallington, a Mason, bought the whole building, completely renovated it and, with extreme generosity, donated it for joint use by the Masons and Holy Trinity Church. This act of philanthropy has benefited the Masons, the Church and the Town alike. Since acquiring the entire building in 2010, and taking on the considerable maintenance obligations, the Masons have decided to honour their benefactor by renaming the building.

This beautiful grade II* building will continue to be hired out to the community as always. Its central position with nearby parking is ideal. Significant investment is ongoing – central heating throughout, new folding tables, window cushions, curtains and comfortable chairs.

RECENT RENOVATIONS

The Hall's kitchen and toilets have been recently upgraded. All proceeds from hire are ploughed back towards the considerable maintenance and improvement costs of the building. Donations by individual Masons and Lodges have been crucial to this venture.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1538 - The Old Church House was built by a wealthy clothier, Thomas Horton, in the early 16th century. It was recorded by Leland in 1538 by which time Horton was dead, although his wife was still alive. In the days before rates the house was used for meetings which raised funds for Church repairs and the poor.

1850s - By the mid 19th century the Old Church House became the home of a Free School and tenements.

1920 - In 1920, the building was bought by Albert Wallington of Trowbridge who had the property transformed into its present configuration so that he could give the freehold to Holy Trinity Church with a long lease to the Freemasons of the Lodge of Friendship and Unity.

2010- In the summer of 2010, The Church decided to sell the building and the Freemasons bought it at a public auction in October 2010.

2019 - The Lodge of Friendship and Unity No.1271 celebrates 150 years of Freemasonry in Bradford on Avon and with members of Broade Forde Lodge No.8547 in attendance a plaque is unveiled by Philip Bullock.

The Provincial Grand Master and Mrs Sally Bullock joined brethren and their families at Holy Trinity Church for evensong on Sunday 27th October, and while not a Masonic service, it provided an opportunity to thank God for the continuing presence and influence of Freemasonry in Bradford on Avon.



Did you know? - A Grand Officer who is also an active Provincial Grand Officer does not wear his Provincial Collar and jewel over his Grand Officer's collar unless he is performing official Provincial duties.

Provincial Grand Lodge 2019....

On Thursday 3rd October the AGM for the Province of Wiltshire Freemasons took place in Salisbury. The Agenda has many items and it's easy to think that only those receiving a change to their Masonic status or are in a "busy" position should attend. It's true that the initial meeting is only open to those who have completed their third degree, but the promotions and appointments are carried out in full view of many groups including wives and partners of those getting Provincial honours, members of the widows associations, AND Entered Apprentices as well as Fellow-Crafts. This year saw three Fellow Craft Freemasons join the meeting. Many brethren attend to see a member of their Lodge being congratulated.

When Brethren attend, their presence is recorded by ticking their name against a Lodge of which they are a member – *which Lodge THEY choose is down to them*. You may think that they'd select their Mother Lodge or the one with which they have had the longest association. Two Lodges consisting of only Joining members may get no ticks, other than the Master. The "Signed In" column shows which Lodge a Brother chose, along with the % of Brethren for the Lodge they represent. During the meeting all Lodges are asked to confirm they are there and as the Lodge name and number is called the Brethren of that Lodge stand. The "Stood to Order" values show how many members of THAT Lodge were present.

Senior Brethren from 11 Provinces joined 301 Wiltshire Freemasons in Salisbury this year. That 301 represents just over 1/6th of those, in Wiltshire, who have taken their "3rd step". Some will attend to return or gain an Appointment/Promotion. That accounted for 94 brethren (31% of those there). This is a similar figure to the last few years.

Salisbury is not 'on the doorstep' for all Brethren. Despite this, the split between the regions is reasonable even; North 27.7%, Central 35.1% and South 27.2%. Since the host Lodges were 355 and 4037 (North) and 2644 (Central) it is possible that numbers for those regions were helped by those assisting in the smooth running of the day. The columns for "2019 Rank" and "2018 Rank" are highlighted for the Lodges that acted as hosts and would be expected to have a higher level of attendance. There is actually a very small percentage decrease in attendance from the North region. With 112 brethren expected to take part on the day, almost 63% were spectators.

Some Lodge officers are expected to attend. The Master being the most likely. Of the 44 Masters in Office 23 attended (52.3%). This is similar to that of previous years but the Secretaries and DCs attendance has improved since last year.

The 112 with some involvement is broken down as;

Year	WM	SW	JW	Sec	DC
2019	23	11	11	25	23
2018	25	8	5	21	17
2017	23	14	12	25	25
2016	20	16	8	23	21

4 Are unaccounted for as they did not attend or send an apology.

4 Who sent their apology.

9 Standing down from an Active appointment.

85 Appointment, Promotion or remaining in the role.

Key to the table on next page

Signed in – Number shown as ticked in for THAT Lodge. One entry per brother. The % of membership follows.

Stood to Order – How many stood to order, for each Lodge, when each Lodge is called to do so. The % of Lodge membership that represents follows. This involves multiple memberships.

Subscribing Members – How many brethren that Lodge had at the time of the meeting.

Ranking – Ranked by the % of Lodge Members that "Stood to order".

Changes – How that Lodge has changed Ranking since last year (Up = Positive, Down = Negative)

Were you at Salisbury?

W Bro John Badger PAGDC, PrGReg

Attendance as Signed in and Stood to Order		Signed in	Signed in %	Stood to Order	Stood to Order %	Subscribing Members	2019 Rank	2018 Rank	Change
335	Rectitude	3	5.5	12	21.8	52	8	11	3
355	Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation	11	16.7	13	19.7	61	13	25	12
586	Elias de Derham	10	21.3	10	21.3	45	9	4	-5
626	Lansdowne	7	14.9	7	14.9	45	22	29	7
632	Concord	7	9.5	8	10.8	69	31	27	-4
663	Fidelity	10	17.2	11	19.0	53	15	19	4
1271	Friendship and Unity	10	16.4	10	16.4	60	20	20	0
1295	Gooch	9	13.6	9	13.6	62	27	10	-17
1478	Longleat	10	13.0	11	14.3	74	24	30	6
1533	Loyalty	2	4.1	2	4.1	46	40	22	-18
2227	White Horse Lodge	8	14.0	8	14.0	56	25	32	7
2644	Chaloner	13	18.6	14	20.0	68	11	35	24
2888	Saint Aldhelm	2	3.1	2	3.1	64	42	43	1
3129	Border	13	21.0	14	22.6	61	6	18	12
4037	Rememberance	10	17.5	10	17.5	56	18	26	8
4451	Radnor	7	21.2	8	24.2	30	3	5	2
4687	Pleydell	6	9.0	6	9.0	64	35	38	3
4714	Saint Edmund	2	2.8	4	5.6	69	39	39	0
5137	Sarum	1	3.8	2	7.7	23	37	31	-6
5908	Clarendon	6	14.0	6	14.0	41	25	40	15
5955	City Lodge	13	24.5	13	24.5	53	2	13	11
6114	Stonehenge	11	21.6	12	23.5	50	4	15	11
6616	Corsham	12	15.8	14	18.4	75	16	17	1
6731	Wiltshire Masters	2	1.4	61	43.6	139			
7525	Calley Lodge	1	1.9	1	1.9	52	43	36	-7
8204	Harry C Preater	4	9.5	4	9.5	41	33	37	4
8388	Good Fellowship	9	18.0	11	22.0	45	7	16	9
8432	Vale of Avon	4	11.8	5	14.7	32	23	9	-14
8435	New Temple	6	10.7	7	12.5	55	30	34	4
8547	Broade Forde	5	13.5	5	13.5	35	28	28	0
8620	Wyvern	5	9.1	7	12.7	51	30	42	12
8692	Methuen Lodge	7	20.0	7	20.0	34	11	2	-9
8718	Tisbury	7	20.6	8	23.5	32	4	1	-3
8747	Moonraker	10	14.9	12	17.9	59	17	7	-10
8788	George Duke of Kent	3	6.8	3	6.8	42	38	41	3
8977	Vastern	4	9.3	4	9.3	41	34	33	-1
9009	Highworth	8	21.1	10	26.3	35	1	8	7
9035	Forget Me Not	7	13.0	7	13.0	51	29	21	-8
9064	Downton	7	14.9	8	17.0	40	19	12	-7
9090	Agriculture	6	7.6	7	8.9	73	36	24	-12
9540	Brothers In Arms	10	13.9	11	15.3	67	21	14	-7
9548	Summer Lodge	1	3.8	1	3.8	19	41	23	-18
9587	Innocence And Morality	9	19.6	9	19.6	43	14	6	-8
9773	Fiat Lux	3	6.8	9	20.5	34	10	3	-7
Total Brethren		301	16.1	403	18	2297	Host	Lodges	

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The Hall of Fame - an incentive to visit.....

A new initiative by the Sarsen Club sees its members being encouraged to visit each of the 44 Lodges which meet at 18 Masonic Centres around the Province.

Watch out for young Freemasons as they arrive at your Lodge with their Wiltshire Masonic Passport in a challenge which will see them journey to all four corners of Wiltshire. From Salisbury in the South, across the Plain to Swindon and Highworth in the North; Marlborough in the East and Bradford on Avon in the West.

Awards will be given out at the Sarsen Club AGM to the club members who have achieved the most visits in both the Lodge and Masonic Centre challenge.

The challenge is described by Sarsen Club Chairman Ryan Hartley as *'Not a race, but more of an incentive to see what Wiltshire Freemasonry has to offer, and to meet your fellow Sarsen Club Members'*.

A special award will be given to members who visit all 44 Lodges in the Province, with every Club member achieving this goal being inducted into the **Sarsen Club Hall of Fame**.



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In with the new.....



GREAT NIGHT OUT FOR THE 'NEW' TEAM

We have a new Provincial Almoner.....

The Province has been fortunate in having outstanding Almoners, a key role in dealing with 'real human issues' and one which requires so many qualities, not least patience, good judgement, a kind heart and a listening ear. These are qualities which are evidently possessed by newly Invested Provincial Grand Almoner Gary Dolphin of Gooch Lodge No.1295.

Gary is well known throughout the Province having served in the office of Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2015 and also as Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.

Speaking about his new role Gary said. *"I am really pleased to have been appointed Almoner and am looking forward to meeting the Lodge Almoners during the next few months. There is a lot to learn and I am fully aware of how important the role is. I have already attended a number of workshops and training sessions with the Masonic Charitable Foundation team, and will be working to make sure that Wiltshire Freemasons, together with their families and dependants receive the very best of care".*

Since the announcement of his appointment Gary has been 'shadowing' his predecessor John King who has and getting to grips with the many issues that the Provincial Almoner has to deal with; almost all of which involve close liaison with the Masonic Charitable Foundation teams in London.



Did you know: Before the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, both Wardens sat in the West, where the Junior Deacon and Inner Guard now sit. The raising and lowering of their respective columns was also authorised as part of the ritual procedure following consideration by the Lodge of Promulgation in 1810.

Have your say!

Have you a question to ask, or is there something you want to know about Freemasonry. Maybe you just want to express a view or make a comment, whatever it is why not write to the Provincial Grand Master?

ATPLetters@pglwilts.org.uk

All letters and emails are subject to editorial control. Regrettably due to space not all letters can be published

Is this for you?

Would you like to play a part in promoting Freemasonry in the Province, can you write media copy? The Communications Team would be pleased to hear from you. pco@pglwilts.org.uk

Barry Cooper's Word Search with a little help from Steve Wrag

In this edition Barry and Steve ask do you know your Lodges?
(ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 22)

IF YOU HAVE A STORY
TO TELL

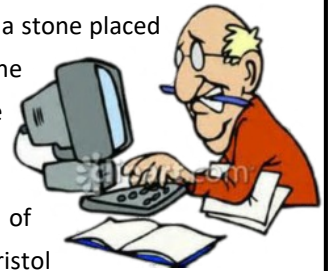
LET US KNOW



editor@pglwilts.org.uk

The Provincial Grand Master replies to your question:

Q. I recently visited a Lodge where the Initiate had a stone placed between his feet. This was immediately before the charity charge. I've never seen this done in Wiltshire



A. From what you have described I am confident you either visited a Lodge in the neighbouring Province of Bristol or a Lodge which used some aspects of Bristol Working. Whichever it was, I trust you were enthralled with the ceremony. It isn't done in Wiltshire, but these little differences contribute to make individual ceremonies unique and interesting. Long may that be the case.

The stone you refer to, is of course the Rough Ashlar, and the candidate's feet are normally 'squared' round the stone, which is rough and unhewn as taken from the quarry; until by the industry and application of the workman it is modelled into a proper form and rendered fit for the hands of the more expert Mason.

The symbolism of the rough and the smooth (or perfect) ashlar has been discussed in great detail by many eminent Freemasons including our very own Michael Lee. I am persuaded that the definition as given by William Preston in his excellent *First lecture of Freemasonry* offers a level of unparalleled clarity. Preston states. *The first (the rough ashlar) is the representation of the brute stone taken from the quarry, which is to be assigned to the apprentices - that by their industry it might be brought into due form and made fit for use. The second is the smooth stone, or polished ashlar, which has been subject to the skill of the more experienced workman and is used by him to adjust his tools.*

Masonic Word Search - set by Barry Cooper of St Edmund Lodge No.4714

R	E	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	C	E	N	S	L
E	E	E	L	E	L	A	N	S	D	O	W	N	E
I	T	Y	T	L	A	Y	O	L	D	Y	A	L	O
Y	I	N	O	R	R	D	T	N	W	V	A	O	P
D	S	O	U	O	N	R	E	V	Y	W	R	W	L
B	B	T	T	L	A	R	N	A	R	E	A	R	A
E	U	N	L	E	A	E	C	A	L	L	E	Y	Y
M	R	W	N	L	L	M	E	T	H	U	E	N	D
L	Y	O	C	V	R	M	R	E	D	R	O	B	E
E	A	D	V	A	S	T	E	R	N	E	N	O	L
O	H	T	R	O	W	H	G	I	H	T	E	Y	L
T	Y	N	N	T	O	M	T	H	E	T	R	O	A
W	H	S	A	R	U	M	R	B	A	O	E	O	Y
N	L	W	I	M	R	R	A	D	N	O	R	D	R

Events and more.....



Brethren, family and friends of Downton Lodge No.9064 were welcomed by Downton Bowls Club for a very special bowls match. The Bowls Club is part of the same Sports & Social Club where the Lodge meet; the result favoured the expert bowlers but everyone agreed the day was super and was topped off by a fabulous cream tea. A raffle raised £240 which will be split equally between the Bowls Club and the Lodge.



Seb and Charlotte Salt organised a fabulous trip to London with the highlight being a visit to 10 Downing Street (Boris wasn't at home) which allowed a number of photographs to be taken outside the famous black door. Derek Gibbens almost certainly won the prize for originality. A tour of the Horse Guards museum, and a superb lunch at the Cavalry and Guards Officers club made this a real day to remember.

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 run from 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. Email Sally on sallybullock30@hotmail.com for further information and to book your place.



GOOD WORKS DO NOT MAKE A MAN GOOD, BUT A GOOD MAN DOES GOOD WORKS.

Knights to remember....

Bodyguard members, past and present, visited the Priory of the Order of Malta and the Knights Templar Preceptory in Valletta, Malta. This presented a wonderful opportunity for the Bodyguard members to get together to renew or make new acquaintances, socialise in the warm Mediterranean climate, explore the historical city, and visit two highly regarded Preceptories. So much warmer than Salisbury!



The visiting Knights resplendent in their Malta 2019 tops showing the bodyguard's 'Bumble Bee' which were specially commissioned for the visit.

Anno Lucis....

Or, as we are reminded, the Year of Masonic Light, which we are told precedes the Christian era by 4,000 years - but does it? Equally importantly do the letters A. L. Really refer to Anno Lucis at all? Two questions which can be answered quite simply, and better still the answers are not that controversial.

The explanation for the date can be found in the chronology prepared by Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656) which were to be found published in many English bibles from 1701 - it should be noted that Ussher himself never gave permission for his chronology to be published. According to Ussher the date of the Nativity (colloquially Christmas) occurred 4,004 years after the creation of the world. Other learned scholars and theologians put the date of the Nativity some four years earlier; while the Jewish chronology puts the creation of the world at 3760 BC.

Modern science, using advanced systems of measurement and analysis to date the rocks in Earth's ever-changing crust, as well as the rocks in Earth's neighbours, such as the moon and visiting meteorites, methods not known to the historians, theologians and wise men of old, suggests the solar system (the Earth as we know it) is approximately 4.543 billion years old, with an error range of 50 million years. So perhaps we ought not to take our Anno Lucis date too seriously.

Oh, and by the way, some Masonic commentators have suggested A.L. stands for Anno Latomorum, meaning the year of Freemasonry. What do you think? Please let us know, editor@pglwilts.org.uk

As a Registered Mental Health Nurse I am acutely aware of how the topic of mental health and mental illness continues to be dominated by taboo, incredible stigma and for many, defined by images perpetuated by the Hollywood movie, such as 'One flew over the cuckoo's nest' which has sustained a wholly inappropriate mythical perceptive relevance.

Mental Ill health can be particularly attributed to common conditions such as stress, grief, depression and anxiety, as well as neurodegenerative conditions such as Parkinson's disease and Dementia. As a male dominated fraternity we should take heed of the current alarming statistics.

- Suicide is the leading cause of death for men in the UK aged 20-40
- Successful suicide incidence is greater in later life (50-90) than other age groups. Older adults with depression are at increased risk of suicide and are more likely than younger adults to complete suicide.
- 38% of people living with dementia are men.
- The number of older men living alone in the UK is expected to rise from 911,000 to 1.5 million by 2030.

As with many mental health statistics, it is difficult to know if mental health figures represent what is truly happening. This is because official statistics only tell us about mental health problems that have been reported or admitted to, and not the many cases that go unreported and undiagnosed. However, this uncertainty may rightly lead us to conclude that some of our Brethren within the Province, of any age, are possibly currently experiencing emotional difficulties or are very likely to do so in the future.

The Province possesses an excellent track record in promoting and supporting men's health. However, at Lodge level, the notion of a Brother's well-being being the sole responsibility of the Lodge Almoner is both naïve and limited.

A collective effort in ensuring 'brotherly love' and 'relief' amongst those experiencing mental ill being should be a conjoined Lodge effort as our fraternity offers many advantages and platforms for recovery for those affected. I suspect the main difficulty for many is knowing what to say and what to do.

The first step reminds me of the working tools of an entered apprentice which I was fortunate to deliver recently. Mainly the role of 'the chisel'. Increasing our education and understanding on such matters is key to eliminating stigma, increasing knowledge but also making any conversation less scary for both involved.

My own initial tips and advice would be as follows:

1. **Express concern and say you can help** Letting someone know you're worried is a good way to open up a conversation – it shows you care about the person, have time for them and that they do not have to avoid things with you.
2. **Reassure them** The first time someone mentions their worries is a big step. It's good to recognise this and reassure them. Let them know you're there to listen when they need to talk.
3. **Offer your time to listen** Listening is an important skill. Ask open questions that start with "how", "what", "where" or "when". This can help people open up.
4. **Act as you usually do together** Do what you usually do – behaving differently can make someone feel more isolated. Do not be afraid to offer kind words or physical contact. A hug can help a lot.
5. **Be patient** You will not always know the full story. There may be reasons why they have found it difficult to ask for help. Just being there can be helpful for someone who may want to open up later.
6. **Offer practical help** Little acts of kindness – like offering to do the shopping, looking after children or pets, or offering to go to professional appointments with the person you're helping – can help. Find out what works for them.

Help and support: The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) offer a **Counselling Careline** which is a free and confidential support service for people experiencing depression, anxiety, stress and other conditions affecting their mental well-being. **0800 035 6090** You never need to be alone, just pick up the phone and dial the number!




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Barry Cooper's

Quiz Answers
From page 18

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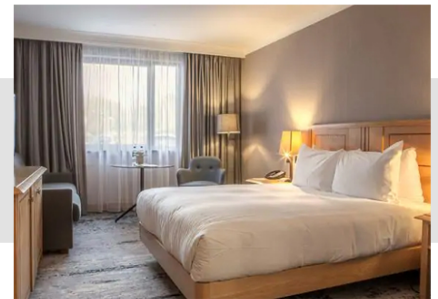
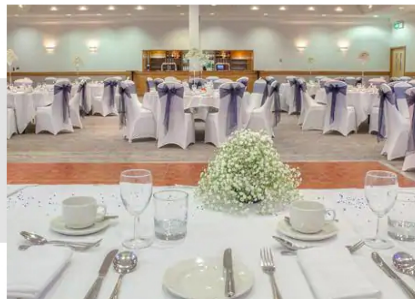
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