



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

In February there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret.



February 2020

Welcome to February....



It has been said that “February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March” - which seems a little unfair given it is the month most associated with love and romance. Who could or would forget that the 14th is Valentine’s Day? It is also the month when people gift teddy bears to their loved ones as a token of love and is celebrated every year on the 10th of February. As you will see from the image at the top right of each page of this month’s newsletter the subject of teddy bears is very relevant, as this year **Teddies For Loving Care** is being re-launched with a vibrant new image, superb promotional support and a brand new range of stunningly attractive teddy bears. There are also new guidelines on how we as a Province promote **Teddies For Loving Care** in the press, news media and in Lodge advertising. As the guidelines are quite detailed, I would ask you to liaise with the Provincial Communication Team before embarking on any promotional activity relating to this superb charity.

I am always pleased to hear from Lodge Secretaries especially when they have good news to impart. Just before Christmas Bro Merv Johns organised a Christmas lunch at the Planks, Swindon, for Highworth Lodge members, their friends (Masonic and otherwise) and families. The event was very well attended and supported by friends from other local Lodges. A raffle held at the event (to be expected if Merv is organising an event) raised over £600 for Motor Neuron Disease research in memory of Bro Terry Roberts a member of Highworth Lodge who died from the illness.

In January Steve Lee and Dave Logan held the first of their **Finding Your Feet** seminars in Salisbury and Swindon. The events were well supported with many of those who attended reporting that the presentations, content, and especially the opportunity to ask questions was a great help as they embarked on their Masonic journey of discovery. The Learning & Development Team continue their programme in February with two sessions entitled **Taking The Next Step** (see page 4)

Sally and I receive many invitations to attend events throughout the Province and were honoured to be invited to the annual lunch of the Chippenham Branch of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association. We also attended a charity evening hosted by The City Lodge No.5955 in Salisbury.

In February I will join members of Gooch Lodge No.1295 as they celebrate an amazing 150 years of Freemasonry in Swindon. I am particularly looking forward to reading an updated history of the Lodge compiled by VW Bro Maurice Leighfield and produced by W Bro Gary Dolphin.

The Communication Team take their work very seriously, as many of you will appreciate, but even I was amazed (and delighted) to see in the first week of January a notice advertising the annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in Salisbury on **Thursday 1st October 2020**.

Lodge of Rectitude No.335 welcome Christine Chapman as their guest speaker for the seventh Rectitude Essay which will be held on **Monday 18th May** (see notice on page 4). Christine is the Grand Master of the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons and I am sure her views on Women’s Freemasonry and the role of the HFAF will prove to be of great interest. I do look forward to welcoming Christine and her Grand Secretary to Wiltshire.

Finally, I can report that a new Provincial tie will be available in April (see page 5) and I trust Brethren will approve of the design and the new material used in its production.

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Make a note of the date....

Okay, we know it's nine months away, but we are often asked to remind Brethren when and where Provincial Grand Lodge will be meeting. So this year, every month from now until October, we are going to promote the annual meeting - after all, it is the most important meeting in the Provincial calendar. If you have never attended Provincial Grand Lodge, why not make it your resolution to do so this year. In fact why not plan a visit with other members of your Lodge, enjoy a leisurely lunch in Salisbury and support your Province at 2.30pm in City Hall on **Thursday 1st October 2020**.



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Is responding to an email difficult?



I guess there isn't a Lodge secretary or dining steward who hasn't on one occasion or another asked this question; in fact as they read this I imagine a wry smile will crease their faces. And yet it is a question worth asking, and who knows perhaps my post bag will be filled with erudite responses. I recall asking a Brother why he hadn't responded to an email from me in respect of a Masters' Dinner. His answer surprised me, as he patiently explained that as he hadn't replied to the invitation extended to him, it was manifestly clear he

wasn't attending the event. It was difficult to fault the logic even though the invitation did specifically include the acronym R.S.V.P. but then perhaps French wasn't his strongest subject. The matter of responding to a Summons, invitation or notification is both a courtesy and an assistance. A courtesy to the sender as they have taken the time to correspond with you, and an assistance, as your attendance or absence might materially affect any planning being undertaken by the event organisers. Finally, e-mail makes responding so easy - please give it a go.

Place your feet together - heel to heel, toe to toe....

To which you may ask - why is this so important? I would suggest that it is only from this position that the next instruction can be given to and be properly understood by the candidate. Invariably the instruction is "turn out your right foot in the form of a square", equally it could be "step off with your left foot". In either case it's much easier to do if you start from a fixed position of 'feet together - heel to heel, toe to toe'. Whichever instruction is given, it should never be necessary for a Deacon to use his Wand of Office to manoeuvre the candidate's feet into the correct position.

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In Touch - On Line...

In Touch - On Line is now available to everyone through the Provincial website. Narrated by Andrew Hargreaves, the Monthly Newsletter can now be listened to as well as read by any Brother who has a computer, tablet, iPad or smart phone. The Communication Team trust that you enjoy listening to the audio version and will encourage others to keep **In Touch - On Line** especially if they find reading a little difficult.

Air Ambulance lands at...

Salisbury - and Radnor Lodge secretary Christopher Egremont was on hand to snap a few images as the Air Ambulance landed in The Elizabeth Gardens.

The yellow and green Bell 429 helicopter is a familiar sight as its skilled pilots deliver specialist paramedics to accident scenes throughout the county.

This year is a particularly special one for Wiltshire Air Ambulance as it celebrates 30 years of operation; and countless lives have been saved since the helicopter began operating in 1990.

Now located in a purpose built site at Semington, Wiltshire Air Ambulance is a registered charity which relies on donations to keep saving lives. It is not funded directly by the Government and receives no National Lottery grants.



TLC
Teddies for
Loving Care
Wiltshire

Is your Lodge supporting TLC?

This year sees the launch of the new TLC logo and later in the year we will receive the first delivery of the new design bears.

We think it safe to say we can guarantee you will love the new 'face' of Eddie the bear, and more importantly we are sure the youngsters who receive a 'teddy bear' will love him too.

As part of the 2020 'we love' **TLC Teddies for Loving Care Wiltshire** campaign, Bro Ian Lever has produced a display card and a TLC money box which has been designed especially to collect any 'loose change' you may have either when you are at the bar or the festive board. Our **Every Penny Counts** campaign collection boxes will be available from 1st February and we hope you will support the important programme of providing teddies to the Province's two general hospitals.

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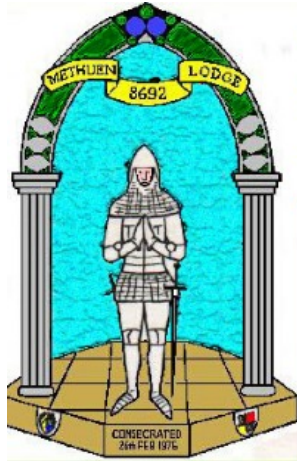
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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Installation and other meetings

Wednesday	Feb	5	Remembrance	Swindon
Wednesday	Feb	19	Innocence & Morality	East Knoyle
Monday	Mar	16	Chaloner	Melksham
Monday	Mar	16	City Lodge	Salisbury
Wednesday	Mar	18	Gooch Lodge	Swindon
Thursday	Mar	19	Fiat Lux	Devizes
Friday	Mar	20	Fidelity	Devizes



METHUEN LODGE QUIZ NIGHT

an evening of fun and friendship
open to friends and family
teams of six only £2 per person

SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2020 • 6.30PM FOR 7.00PM START
MASONIC CENTRE, THE PLANK, SWINDON

W.Bro Sven Feaver on s.feaver@sky.com

Taking The next Step...

Following on from the success of the first two 'Finding Your Feet' events, The Learning & Development Team is preparing to welcome you to Swindon and Salisbury as you think about Taking The Next Step on your Masonic journey of discovery. After two successful Finding Your Feet events Steve Lee, David Logan and the team look forward to welcoming you as you join them at either venue.

TAKING THE NEXT STEP
WILL YOU FILL THE SHOES?

Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

<p>Saturday 15th February 10.00am Salisbury</p>	<p>email Steve Lee 8204@pglwilts.org.uk</p>	<p>Saturday 22nd February 10.00am Swindon</p>
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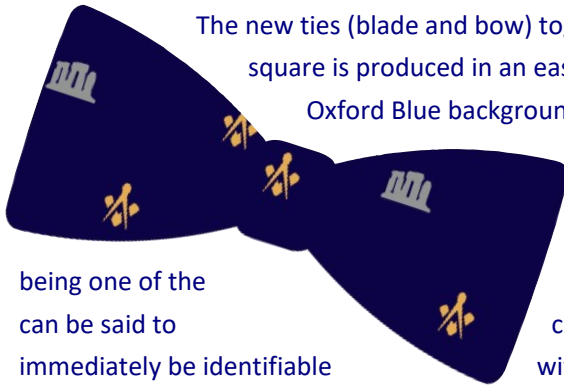
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A bold new look for 2020



When I was asked to research designing and sourcing a new tie I must confess I did ask the question which I knew some of our Brethren would ask, which was, do we really need a new tie? I also knew that no matter what I thought or what is written in this article there will always be some who say no we don't. But are they right? Did you know that the Province has had its

present tie for eight years, which in Masonic terms might be an insignificant period of time, but in marketing speak it's positively antediluvian (that really is ancient). On a more prosaic note, It is also the case that we have no stock of the 'old' tie and our current supplier has ceased trading which 'persuaded' us to consider our options for the future.



The new ties (blade and bow) together with a new pocket square is produced in an easy to tie weave. The Oxford Blue background feature two iconic

being one of the can be said to immediately be identifiable

symbols. The first, the stones of Stonehenge, can justly lay claim to few classic images which characterise Wiltshire and with our Province.

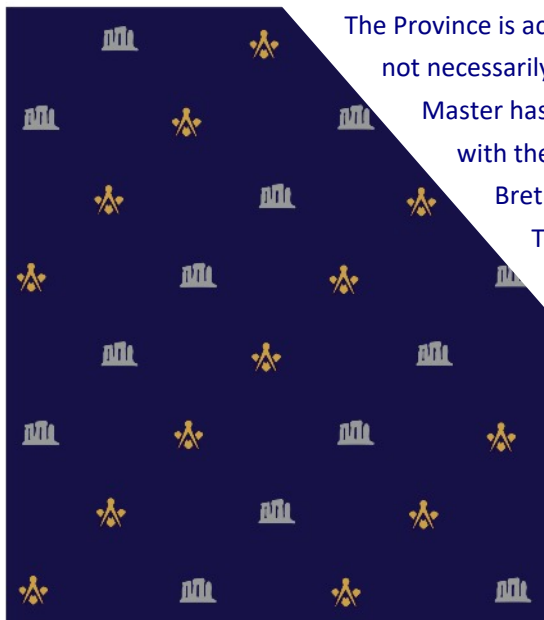
For Freemasons the Square and Compasses in their many and varied forms represent who we are and what we represent, and it for this reason they share star billing with the stones of Stonehenge on both ties and the pocket square. We are sure they which will guarantee instant recognition, and if not will undoubtedly evoke an enquiry which will enable you to proudly speak about the twin heritage of county and fraternity.



The Province is acutely aware that for many Brethren buying a new tie is not necessarily high on their agenda, as such the Provincial Grand Master has stated the 'old' tie can be worn for as long as you wish with the 'new' tie being optional. However, he hopes that Brethren will eventually choose to wear the 'new' tie.

The blade tie and pocket square will retail for £10 each and the bow tie will cost £15. Initial orders can be placed through your Lodge Secretary with first supplies being anticipated to arrive towards the end of March and be available from early April.

We anticipate setting up an online ordering service which will be accessible through the Provincial website. A small post and packaging charge will be made for this service. Please place your order as soon as you can.



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