



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they don't want to hear. *George Orwell*



March 2020

March welcomes dragons and leprechauns....



Welcome to the third month of the year—or, if you were born before 150 B.C., the first! According to the oldest Roman calendars, one year was ten months long, beginning in March and ending in December. It may sound crazy, but you can still see traces of this old system in our modern calendar: because December was the tenth month, it was named for the number ten in Latin (decem), just like September was named for seven (septem). So, what about January and February? They were just two nameless months called “winter,” proving that winter is literally so awful it doesn't even deserve a spot on the calendars.

However, the month of March isn't just about celebrating St David's Day (the 1st) and St. Patrick's Day, (the 17th) it's also the spring equinox (the 20th). For many Freemasons, March is the month when they receive letters from the Provincial Grand Secretary advising them of a promotion or first appointment to Provincial Grand Rank.

In February I visited Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity No.663 when I was able to announce that W Bro Colin Davies (Dapper to his many friends) will be appointed and Invested as the Provincial Senior Grand Warden Lodge in October 2020. I was also delighted to announce that W Bro Foster Telford of Lodge Elias de Derham No.586 will be the Provincial Junior Grand Warden for 2020/21. Colin, and Foster will be Invested at Provincial Grand Lodge in Salisbury on 1st October. I am sure these two appointments will prove to be very popular, and I know that Colin and Foster will do their very best to maintain the high standards which we have come to expect from our Wardens.

As part of the **TLC Teddies for Loving Care Wiltshire** campaign, W 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. **Every Penny Counts** campaign collection boxes are already located in some of our Masonic Halls, and I do



TLC
Teddies for
Loving Care
Wiltshire

hope you will continue to support the important programme of providing teddies to the Province's two general hospitals. I would like to thank Bro Craig Nicholson of Vastern Lodge No.8977 who approached the Provincial Communication Officer with the idea for the card and money box. I am reminded of the words of Alfred Nobel who said “*If I have a thousand ideas and only one turns out to be good, I am satisfied*”. I encourage any Brother who has an 'idea' to share it.

I was particularly pleased to attend two very special events in Swindon. The first being the centenary celebration of Lodge of Remembrance No.4037, and the second, the 150th anniversary of Gooch Lodge No.1295. Such occasions bear eloquent testimony to the longevity of Freemasonry in the town and to the pride modern day Freemasons have for their history. I was most impressed to read a comment made in 1920 and reproduced in the latest booklet on the history of Gooch Lodge prepared and published by Lodge secretary W Bro Gary Dolphin; “*History of the Lodge? Sorry Worshipful Master, I would have helped you if I could, but the fact of the matter is, we have no history.*” On behalf of the Province, I would like to acknowledge the work of all Lodges secretaries who do so much to make sure that our history is recorded and preserved for future generations.

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We are not apologising...

Instead we are reminding 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 the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, why not plan to do so this year. In fact why not make a day of it, and attend with other members of your Lodge, enjoy a leisurely lunch, take in the sights and sounds of Salisbury and support your Province at 2.30pm in City Hall on **Thursday 1st October 2020**.



The Peter Winton Trophy...



Is your Lodge doing something 'special' this year? Something which promotes Freemasonry in your local community, something which makes your Lodge a contender for **The Peter Winton Trophy**. The Nomination Form is available on-line, visit the Provincial website www.pglwilts.org.uk and click on The Peter Winton Trophy picture

Challenging the status quo...

Last month we included a short piece with the title '**Place your feet together - heel to heel, toe to toe**' - and it evoked quite a lot of comment. Sometimes articles are written with a genuine hope that they will encourage Brethren to question why things are done the way they are. We simply must get away from the well worn mantra of - "We have always done it this way", and abandon the default position, that it must always be done this way. Why would you not change something, if it could be seen that a change might actually be helpful in doing something better? The instruction '**Place your feet together - heel to heel, toe to toe**' was picked up by many readers as being helpful especially in the First Degree ceremony. Brethren with a military or uniformed service background were particularly keen to reinforce the point, that from this position the instruction to "turn out your right foot in the form of a square" or "step off with your left foot" is much easier to accomplish. Why not give it a try - '**feet together - heel to heel, toe to toe**'.

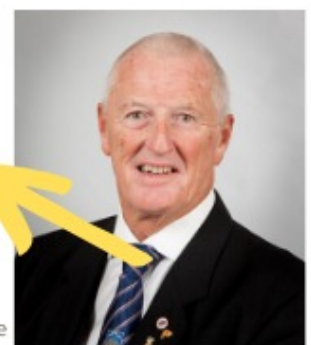


Annual meeting of Secretaries and Directors of Ceremonies

CHIPPENHAM MASONIC HALL

Friday 15th May 2020
7.00pm

hot buffet available for which a small charge will be made





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News from Ludgershall....

Brethren from Border Lodge No. 3129 and Forget Me Not Lodge No.9035 joined forces and donated £500 each to Lewis Lloyd as part of his fundraising efforts to buy a much needed sports wheelchair.



Stephen Smith Border Lodge No 3129 presents a cheque to Lewis Lloyd

Lewis is a member of the Southern area wheelchair basket ball team and plays at a high standard. As a teenager he had outgrown his original chair and the new one cost upwards of twelve thousand pounds.

He had personally embarked on a fundraising adventure, doing a 20K sponsored wheelchair push around Charlton lakes in Andover, which raised more than £4k. Both the Ludgershall Lodges thought Lewis's appeal to be a most deserving cause to support, not least because

of the incredible effort he was making to support himself.

City Lodge No.5955 donates £1,000....

Following a moving account of how his grandson Alfie lives with Haemophilia A, David Aldridge and the Brethren of The City Lodge No.5955 made a donation of £1000 to the Haemophilia Society.

Haemophilia A is a bleeding disorder where a protein made by the body to help make the blood clot is either partly or completely missing. In Alfie's case he has less than 1% clotting factor. This is a genetic condition, which in around two thirds of cases there is a family history. However, for a third of families there is no history of a bleeding disorder.

Sadly, some of these families fall under suspicion of abuse, having to prove to relatives, friends or social workers that the bruising is a medical symptom, not a sign of violence. For these families it can be a traumatic and lonely time.

With the right treatment and care, people with Haemophilia A can lead a fulfilled and healthy life. Over the last few weeks Alfie's parents have been learning to inject their son, and this has now become part of his and their daily routine. The Haemophilia Society campaign for better treatment for children just like Alfie, and are a source of information and support, and raise awareness of bleeding disorders. The Haemophilia Society also work on campaigns such as 'bruised not abused', raising awareness to schools, medical practices, social workers etc and pushing for early diagnosis of bleeding disorders. David's family are very grateful to the Haemophilia Society and the local Haemophilia Centre for their support over the last few months and are delighted the Lodge has made this donation which will help them carry out their important work



W Bro David Aldridge with Alfie and Claire were joined by The Provincial Grand Master when they received a cheque from W Bro Kevin Tedd

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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

Monday	Mar	2	Executive Committee	Devizes
Wednesday	Mar	11	Q C Meeting UGLE	London
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

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ROYAL ARCH

25 April - Swindon
TBC - Salisbury

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL MASTER MASONS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ROYAL ARCH

Join the Communication Team

The Provincial Communication Team is looking for keen and committed people to promote Freemasonry. Developing and managing Lodge social media sites, producing a Lodge newsletter and helping to get stuff into local newspapers. Do you think you've got what it takes - contact pcowiltshire@gmail.com



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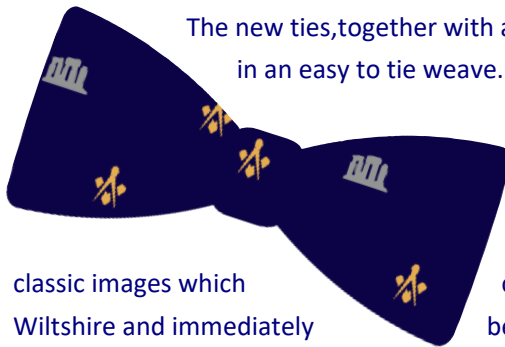


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Tie sales are in line with expectation.....

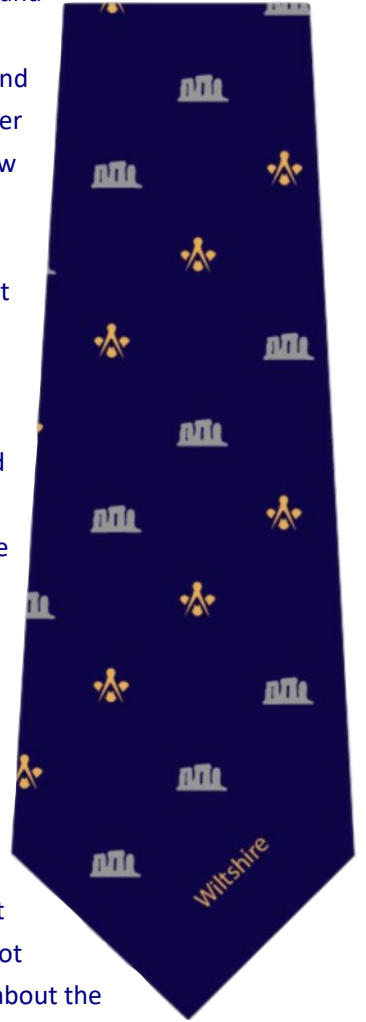


When last month I wrote that some of our Brethren would ask, "do we really need a new tie?" I did so from a fairly defensive position. My fears have proven to be totally unfounded with orders for the new ties and pocket square exceeding my expectations by a considerable margin. Judging by your response and the comments we have received, it seems that after eight years the time was just right to introduce a new design. Orders from Lodges and individuals have been arriving at Integer Park, Cricklade Nr Swindon where the Communication Team has been processing them in anticipation of the first stock arriving at the end of March. Please be assured that your cheque will not be cashed until your order is fulfilled.



The new ties, together with a new pocket square is produced in an easy to tie weave. The Oxford Blue background feature two iconic symbols. The first, the stones of Stonehenge, can justly lay claim to being one of the few classic images which Wiltshire and immediately can be said to characterise be identifiable 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 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. However, he hopes that Brethren will eventually choose to wear the 'new' tie

The tie and pocket square will retail for £10 each, while the bow tie will cost £15. The first batch of ties is anticipated to arrive towards the end of March and be available from early April.

You can now place your order by post or **ONLINE** through the Provincial website, where there is an order form and details of what to do and how to make payment.

Please go to www.pglwilts.org.uk

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