



# In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

Stay Alert, Control The Virus, Save Lives



July 2020

We will meet again....



Like many of you I was saddened to hear of the passing of Dame Vera Lynn known to so many as the 'Forces sweetheart.' Dame Vera was a national treasure and her name will forever be associated with such songs as 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square' and 'There'll Always Be an England'. But undoubtedly, her most popular song was 'We'll meet again', and it was a line from the lyrics of this song which HM The Queen quoted in her latest address to the nation. I was thinking of these words when I heard of the sad passing of Bro Steve Wragg (St Edmund Lodge No.4714). Steve, was not only a fine man and Freemason, he was also 'mine host' at the Green

Dragon in Market Lavington, often referred to as the Provincial office. While not a factor in Steve's death, It is a sad fact that Covid 19 has had a significant affect on Freemasons; hardly surprising you might think given that many members are in what are colloquially referred to as 'vulnerable groups'. In a recent edition of First Rising, the newsletter of UGLE, the Deputy Grand Master points out that nearly 200 Brethren have succumbed to this awful virus. I want to assure you that upon our return to normal Masonic activities, we will remember every Brother who has passed to the Grand Lodge Above during the dark days of this pandemic.

I am delighted to hear from Brethren who continue to ask the question - "When will we start Masonic meetings?" This is often coupled with an enquiry as to what changes, if any, will be required in our ceremonies in order to comply with physical distancing guidelines; to which the answer to both questions is the same, we just don't know, moreover, it achieves nothing to speculate what may or may not happen. What I can assure you of is that UGLE is on the case, and a special group is working on proposals to make sure that when we do return to labour, everyone is safe and that our working practises do not put anyone at undue risk.

For many of our members Covid-19 has negatively impacted their finances. Some have been furloughed (a word I never expected to be used in respect of employment) and a few have lost their jobs, and their income. Freemasons are not immune to the economic effects of 'lockdown' and it is for this reason that In the recent edition of First Rising, The MW Grand Master announced that there will not be any increase in Grand Lodge dues, or subscriptions to the MCF for 2021. I am pleased to confirm that similarly there will be no increase in Provincial Grand Lodge subscriptions for the same period. I would also take this opportunity to point out that should any Brother find himself in distress, the Masonic Charitable Foundation may be able to offer assistance, and that your Lodge Almoner should contact the Provincial Almoner Gary Dolphin for further information.

Methuen Lodge No.8692 will be hosting the Prestonian Lecture 2020 on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm. Thanks to the wonder of Zoom, access to the lecture is made very easy, travelling across the Province is not necessary and the timing should not interfere with any other social activities. This is the only Wiltshire presentation of the Prestonian Lecture and I would urge you to please make the effort to support Methuen Lodge and the Prestonian Lecturer W, Bro Boys-Stones.

Talking about lectures and Zoom meetings, recently members of The Sarsen Club were treated to an introduction to the Order of Knights Templar given by Provincial Prior, Richard Micklefield.

Visit the Provincial website [www.pglwilts.org.uk](http://www.pglwilts.org.uk)

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## Prestonian Lecture via Zoom....

Methuen Lodge No.8692 traditionally host the only Wiltshire presentation of the Prestonian Lecture, and this year they will continue to do just that, albeit via the wonder of ZOOM technology. The Lodge invites you to join them to hear W Bro George Boys-Stones deliver the 2020 Prestonian Lecture - entitled **A System of Morality - Aristotle and the making of the ritual.**

Wherever you are located in the Province, Zoom conferencing offers you the opportunity to be at home, sit in your favourite chair, with a cup of tea (or something alcoholic), relax and enjoy the lecture. At the end of the lecture W Bro George Boys-Stones will be delighted to answer questions.

The presentation will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July and will commence at 7.00pm (promptly).

To register to hear the 2020 Prestonian Lecture simply email : [pcowiltshire@gmail.com](mailto:pcowiltshire@gmail.com)



"Smart people learn from everything and everyone"

**METHUEN LODGE NO.8692**

**THE 2020 PRESTONIAN LECTURE**

*W.Bro George Boys-Stones PAGDC*


**A System of Morality**  
*Aristotle and the making of the ritual*

7.00pm Sunday 12th July

Zoom webinar followed by an interactive session

E.mail: [pcowiltshire@gmail.com](mailto:pcowiltshire@gmail.com)

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE TO HEAR THIS PRESENTATION



Visit the Provincial website [www.pglwilts.org.uk](http://www.pglwilts.org.uk)





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## Chippenham Freemasons Continue Good Work....

Brethren from Vale of Avon Lodge No. 8432 and Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No. 626 are continuing to work together as 'Chippenham Freemasons' to support the workers who care for some of the most vulnerable in our community at this difficult and challenging time.

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On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June we visited The Old Vicarage Nursing Home to deliver a range of morale boosting goodies for the staff, and on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June we took a number of visors and even more goodies to Laurieston Care Home.

So far Chippenham Freemasons have supported six local care/nursing homes delivering over 300 full face visors (made by St Joseph's RC School) to keep staff and residents safe and over £1,100 worth of morale boosting goodies, just to say thank you, and to remind the staff of the self evident truth of the statement **Charity it's in a freemason's DNA.**

Without the support of the Lodge members it would not be possible to make such a difference.

Some comments from our last two visits:

"Wow . . . you are stars!"

"This is the first help we have received; we thought we had been forgotten about."

"Your members are fantastic. It means so much you are thinking about us."

### To donate £5 text COVID19 to 70500

Follow the link in the text reply and complete your details and the lodge/chapter to be credited. Donors will receive a follow-up text asking them to allow Gift Aid to be applied to their donation. Members are encouraged to respond to this text as this will also allow for the donation to be credited to the individual, their Lodge and their Province.

Visit the Provincial website [www.pglwilts.org.uk](http://www.pglwilts.org.uk)



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## No such thing as a free coffee....



Moonraker Lodge Almoner Peter Martin has written to **In touch > On line** to let us know how members of the Lodge reacted when their weekly coffee meeting was affected by the Covid-19 crisis. It had become the custom among some Brethren of Moonraker Lodge to meet each week on a Tuesday, at around 10.00 am to enjoy a coffee, and maybe a muffin, at a café in Devizes. Sadly Covid-19 put a stop to this very social activity, but thankfully not entirely as the weekly coffee mornings have continued albeit in a 'virtual format' using Zoom. The technicalities of the Zoom system were allegedly beyond most of the members, but everyone is able to join the session thanks to the efforts of Social Secretary Brian Turnbull.

One of the regular attendees proposed, that as there is no such thing in life as a free coffee, each Brother joining the virtual Zoom cafe might care to volunteer to 'cough up' £2 in lieu of a coffee, with all proceeds being for Wiltshire's very own 'Teddies for Loving Care'. After ten weeks, the Lodge coffee morning has raised the magnificent sum of £200. What a fabulous amount, and how typical of Devizes Freemasons to practise that virtue they profess to admire - clearly they have embraced the message of which Wiltshire Freemasons are justly proud - **Charity it's in a Freemason's DNA.**

## Twitter accounts....

Brethren are reminded that when using a Lodge, club, or a Twitter account which can clearly be identified as being from a Freemason, it should not be used to demonstrate support or condemnation of any political or religious organisation, or cause, and should only be used to convey truly Masonic matters. This may require a reappraisal of which accounts a Lodge follows/likes.

## Provincial Church Service....

The Provincial Communication Officer for the Holy Royal Arch, Mark Fuller has confirmed that this years' annual church service, scheduled for October has become yet another victim of the Covid-19 crisis. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, John Reid, and The Provincial Grand Master, Philip Bullock having considered the essential precautionary measures necessary to ensure the safety and well being of Companions, and Brethren and their families, have concluded that it would be impractical to hold a service.



Can you venture a guess as to what these are used for

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