

Across the Plain

The magazine of the Masonic Province of Wiltshire



Summer 2020

NHS



STARS

The Provincial Grand Master.....



Recently, while sitting in my office I found myself thinking that if I could have five pounds for each time I have been asked the question, when will we be meeting again - I guess the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Fund would be close to having a few thousand pounds in its account. Such is the level of interest, and dare I say a desire to return to what only four months ago we considered to be 'normal life'. Now the government, and various sage voices are suggesting that post pandemic we will need to recognise and adapt to a 'new normal'. Already we are aware of plans to adapt our town centres to cater for this new way of living, and we are being prepared to accept that events which bring together large groups of people will have to introduce new physical distancing measures. Only recently I read that concerts being planned for July 2021 will be required to demonstrate compliance to rules which a few short weeks ago would have been considered absurd. As I reflected on how a previously unknown virus has changed all of our lives in such a dramatic fashion, I was reminded of Bob Dylan's classical anthem *The times they are a changin...* which he released in January 1964. They certainly are.

Over the past few years we have 'banged the drum' in seeking to challenge the status quo and gently persuade Brethren of the imperative to embrace change within our fraternity; to see change as an opportunity to liberate ourselves from so called traditions which were slowly and inexorably suffocating the life out of Freemasonry. It is sometimes said that necessity is the mother of invention, and today as never before, Freemasonry has been forced to embark on a journey of self discovery in which it must undergo its own renaissance. For of one thing we can be sure is that the prospect of maintaining a semblance of 'the same' has changed irrevocably for Freemasonry, and that our future prosperity, even our survival, depends on each of us working together with one ambition in view, and that is to steer the barque of life over the rough seas of passion without quitting the helm of rectitude.

I am aware that 'words of advice' are being circulated with regard to what may or may not be allowed or required before any attempt is made to meet in a formal manner. Such advice is purely speculative and is made without the approval of the Province or UGLE. While those offering the advice are doing so with the very best of intentions, I would earnestly recommend that we all wait until a formal announcement is made by the proper Masonic authority.

In the newly published UGLE newsletter, aptly titled *First Rising*, the Grand Secretary's office has advised that any resumption on Masonic activity (that's meeting together in a formal environment) will be subject to government guidance, and that changes to allow groups of ten or more people from different households to meet indoors may well provide an opportunity for a gradual lifting of the suspension of Masonic activity. UGLE has previously stated that, as and when the government makes such an announcement, the resumption of meetings will take place fourteen days after the announcement or on the date, if later, on which the government guidance becomes effective. Brethren, please assured that as soon as the Province is made aware of any relevant information, it will be communicated to you through your Lodge secretary.

One matter which I am able to confirm is that there will be no increase in Provincial Grand Lodge subscriptions for 2021, and that they will remain at the 2020 amount. Given that UGLE has already announced a similar measure I am sure this will be well received by you all. It is abundantly clear to me that many of our members are experiencing reductions in their incomes, and that some have even lost their jobs. From statements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is clear that the economy of country is in for a rough ride over the next few months. I have no doubt that this will transmit to Freemasonry, and so it is right and proper that we should seize the initiative and offer assistance to those who from circumstances of unforeseen calamity and misfortune, are reduced to the lowest ebb or poverty and distress. Should urgent help be required, the Provincial Grand Almoner Gary Dolphin will be liaising with your Lodge Almoner, and working with the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) to make sure that every Brother receives the help and support that their circumstances dictate.

We will meet again....

For many of us, elements of Lockdown, physical distancing, self isolation, and shielding, while essential for our own and the nation's health, have proven to be incredibly difficult. I know how much Sally and I have missed seeing our daughter, and our two grandchildren. We have also missed meeting socially with our friends, and of course I have missed the joy of meeting with you, especially at the planned Installation meetings. In conversations with both the Deputy, and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, it is clear that many of you have experienced those self same emotions; but I trust you will see the light at the end of the tunnel now that the Government has lifted some of the restrictions on social interaction. In the most recent edition of the Provincial newsletter [In touch > On line](#), I quoted the words of the song made famous by the late Dame Vera Lynn, who sadly died just a few weeks ago. I am happy to reiterate those words today in the certain knowledge that we will meet again, and quite soon.

**We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day
Keep smiling through, just like you always do
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away**

During this period of the suspension of Masonic activity, I have been cheered and moved by very different contributions made by two Wiltshire Brethren. Lodge of Fidelity No.663, member Paul Robinson's daily **Diary of a Frustrated Mason** has captured the attention of many thousands of Freemasons throughout the country, and it is quite amazing that it has exceeded 100 postings. Although, I am not sure the sainted Mrs Robinson could possibly have room in the lounge for all the raffle prizes Paul has won during Lockdown. The second contribution I want to make reference to is that of the Provincial Grand Chaplain Michael Barratt who has produced a regular **Thought For The Day**. Whatever the extent of our faith, In times of trouble we all need to be reminded that the GAOTU is with us, and that his all seeing eye observes us; and I trust Michael's words have proven to be a source of comfort and of inspiration to you all. I know how much I have enjoyed reading them on both Twitter and Facebook.

Let me also pay tribute to those of you who have undertaken some incredible work on behalf of your Lodge or Masonic Hall. I know of instances where Brethren have been decorating, repairing, updating and generally maintaining the fabric of a much loved Masonic Hall - all, it has to be said without fanfare of any kind. By the way one such undertaking resulted in the Provincial consecration silver being 'discovered' and returned to the Provincial Grand Secretary - a story mentioned by the editor in this copy of Across the Plain.

John Merrett found himself with 'nothing to do' and decided to tidy up the Lodge records. What started as a clean up operation soon turned into a journey of discovery, an appreciation of the history of the Lodge and an ongoing source of information. As John rifled through the pages of the old minute books, the characters in them became alive as they revealed so much of the forgotten past. John shared each one of his discoveries on the Facebook page of Lodge of Fidelity No.663. Thank you John, for what has clearly become a labour of love.

Ian Lever of New Temple Lodge No.8435 has started the process of re-livering the Provincial Display Trailer - yes it did need updating, and I am sure everyone will be delighted with the new graphics and changes to the unit. The Communication Team are hopeful that as Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed or lifted this will allow them to take the unit to Salisbury pre-Christmas.

Well done to the Lodges who put the Provincial Orator to work by inviting him to engage with your members in discussing such varied topics as Masonic Jewels, Aprons, the Furniture, Ornaments and Jewels of the Lodge, and the officers of the Lodge. Congratulations to The Sarsen Club who joined with other NYMC in hosting such luminaries as Dr David Staples, Sir David Wootton, Christine Chapman, and former police officer Mike Neville.

Finally, I want to mention Alex Laird and Alan Colman who during lockdown 'got on their bikes' and between them **visited** every Masonic meeting place in Wiltshire. I really am in admiration of them and their achievement and commend them on their intention to form a Wiltshire Masonic Cycling Club (see page 7). Get your cycle clips ready.

Antient Landmarks.....

The 'First' had gone rather well. 'Lovely 'Charge', Fred. George delivers it beautifully.' Fred agreed - and seeing it was empty silently slid his glass across the bar. Taking the hint admirably, Charlie nodded to the barman. 'Two pints, of St Clements, please, Bill'.

Glasses having clinked, Charlie mused: 'What was actually meant by 'adhering to the ancient landmarks of the Order', Fred? What were the 'ancient landmarks' – surely not official mile-stones to the Masonic Hall?'

Fred simultaneously raised Heavenwards his glass, his eyes and his thoughts - but still managed a polite smile. 'When Modern Grand Lodge was formed in 1717, Charlie, a thirst for knowledge had swept across Europe. London was full of coffee houses, gentlemen's dining clubs, philosophical societies – all seeking the ultimate Truth – whatever that might be. Our Speculative Forefathers therefore spent the first few years trying to answer two basic questions. Firstly what exactly was this 'Speculative Freemasonry' they had just formed and secondly how could it be distinguished from all the other charitable dining clubs around. Sensibly perhaps they looked to the operative masons for guidance.'

Fred sat back, half-closed his eyes and reflected:

'Drawing on one of the oldest surviving Masonic documents in the British Museum (the Halliwell MS of 1390), 'Antient Landmarks' were defined there as the basic guide to a Mason's thoughts, words and actions. Accordingly those operative Landmarks - if they were still considered relevant in 1717 – might perhaps provide 'Modern Grand Lodge' with the moral lessons and fraternal obligations to be taught in the new Speculative rituals?'

'It was suggested that an acceptable Antient Landmark must satisfy two tests: namely that it must have existed in (operative) masonry 'since the time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary' and, secondly, that it was an essential element in the nature of their community and of such importance that Freemasonry would no longer be Freemasonry if it were removed.'

'Modern' Grand Lodge' also recognised the importance of constancy. In James Anderson's General Regulations, first drafted in 1721, No 39 stated firmly that:

'The Grand Lodge has in itself the power to make new regulations (as it sees fit) providing always that the Antient Landmarks be carefully preserved...'

'But which Antient Landmarks? Around 1700 there were many in current use around the country in the various semi-independent operative lodges. Of Halliwell's Charges of 1390 however all lists had five qualifications in common that seemingly passed both the above tests as potential Landmarks of Speculative Freemasonry:

- a. That a Mason professes a belief in God or a Supreme Being or the GAOTU.
- b. That the VSL is an essential and indispensable part of the Lodge, to be open in full view throughout the time the Brethren are at labour.
- c. That a Mason must be male, free-born and of mature age.
- d. That a Mason owes allegiance first to the Sovereign and then to the Craft
- e. That a Mason believes in the immortality of the soul'

Charlie finally broke his attentive silence: 'They all seem pretty reasonable, Fred'

Fred replied: 'Not all Grand Lodges overseas would agree with you, Charlie. Some devised lists of twenty or more landmarks for their individual realms. Many in North America favoured a more explanatory set of ten. Typically these defined a Mason as someone who:

Believes in God, Accepts moral values, Exemplifies honour and integrity Believes in the Brotherhood of Man, Fulfils

his obligations, Practices charity, Exercises Brotherly love . Is committed to his family, Demonstrates Patriotism, and Supports Widows and Orphans.

Charlie nodded: '*Comprehensive... but didn't George include most of those in that Charge of his, Fred?*'

Fred laughed: '*Yes, as desirable aims but not as Landmarks, Charlie.*

*Despite the urgency in 1717 to establish any Landmarks and given 300 years for deliberation by 2019 Great Queen Street, dare I say it, might appear somewhat backward in not coming forward with any of its own!**

Charlie chuckled: '*Sitting on their hands to avoid offending an overseas Grand Lodge perhaps?*

Fred smiled: '*While we still wait for Great Queen Street to make a decision perhaps the best description of what it is to be a Freemason in 2019 can still be found in Halliwell's five 'Antient Landmarks' of 600 years ago!*

Glasses were emptied in quiet agreement. '*To Halliwell...See you at the Lol?*'

Editors Note: *Since Michael Lee wrote this article the Grand Registrar has provided the opinion that it is an "Antient Landmark of the Order" that Lodge meetings and the related ceremonies can only take place with all Brethren physically present in a properly tyled Lodge Room. This decision will hopefully explain why a Zoom meeting is an unacceptable alternative to a Regular Meeting.

Are you STEPPING UP?

For many Brethren the suspension of Masonic activity will mean an unexpected, but hopefully, not unwanted additional period in office in their Lodge. Strangely, this does not mean you will be serving an extra year as you may quite innocently presume. The Masonic calendar in respect of such things is quite clear, the defining moment as to when an office holder's tenure is ended is 'the next regular period of election within the Lodge.' Of course, and in the normal course of events, the election would be 'once in every year at a stated period.' However, things are far from normal. Freemasonry, with regard to meeting together, has been formally suspended by the proper Masonic authority based on advice received from HM Government that such meetings would be unlawful. The suspension provides an opportunity for the Principal, and Assistant Officers of the Lodge to brush up on their work for the time when the suspension is lifted and we return to normal.



STEPPING UP 

Sometimes in life you need a little extra help to achieve your goal.

The Learning & Development Team is on hand to provide one to one assistance for a Brother who is Stepping Up to the Chair of his Lodge.

Using WhatsApp, Skype or Zoom, we can help you every step of the way.

Steve Lee | info@pglwilts.org.uk



This month's cover features two NHS stars
Capt Tom Moore and Bro Antonio Pinna

“To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear.” Buddah

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Editor: Des Morgan. editor@pglwiltshire.org.uk

Reviewers: Barry Cooper, Francis Wakem, Steve Lee, Colin Cheshire, Michael Lee.

Images: Adrian Wooster, Gary Dolphin, Phil Elliott. Simon Grove.

Royal Arch Communication Officer: Mark Fuller.

Twitter: [@wiltspgl](https://twitter.com/wiltspgl)

Printed by: Acorn Press Swindon.

info@acornpress.co.uk



Getting on with things...

For many of our more senior Brethren the term physical distancing (a more accurate description of the event than the more commonly used term - social distancing - has been a two edged sword. While on the one hand they know that due to their age and various ailments they are rightly classified as 'vulnerable' - paradoxically they are also part of a group most in need of companionship, especially that of their children, and grandchildren.

Social interaction forms a very important aspect of every relationship, and this is as true for Freemasons as it is for any other society which promotes and fosters friendship among its members. A recent study suggested that the camaraderie enjoyed by Brethren was one of the principal reasons for maintaining their Lodge membership

A negative aspect of 'lockdown' has been the restriction placed on family gatherings. Who would have imagined that in 21st century England it would ever be illegal to 'hug' members of your own family? But, and I'm glad to say, not before time, there is to be a relaxation of the rules of engagement, and from Saturday 4th July you will be able to meet with family and friends. You will be able to spend time indoors or outside with another household, either at home or at a pub or restaurant. If you are outside at a pub, you can meet up to five people from more than two households, but if you are inside the two household rule applies. Social distancing of 1-metre-plus will apply in all cases. Now, I'm not sure who will be policing a strict observance of the rules, but I guess there will be some clandestine hugging and lots of smiling faces.

Sadly, we don't yet know when Freemasonry will revert to what we used to call 'normal activity'. The PrGM has made it clear that he will be guided by UGLE who in turn will follow Government guidelines.

What has been impressive during the 'lockdown' is the incredible work undertaken by Lodges throughout the Province. For some its been about looking after Freemasons and Masonic widows; for others its been providing goodies for care workers, and for many Lodges its been about maintaining connections through the wonder of ZOOM quizzes and online learning.

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.

Words Worth - when a poem means so much....

Lockdown by Richard Noon

I've got the hang of Lockdown, it took me quite a while.
Had it not been so serious, it would have made me smile.
To watch the panic buying and emptying of shelves,
The selfish acts of greedy fools just thinking of themselves.

But now the tide is turning, the headline in the Sun
Proclaims the heroes of the day and selfless deeds they've done.
No more the wealthy film star spending millions on a dress.
They're telling of the courage shown by staff of our NHS.

The fundraising for charity to help to bear the cost,
The tragedy of nurses and the doctors we have lost.
The loss of partners, friends and kin, the heartache, loss and pain,
The sleepless nights, the loneliness, the tears like falling rain.

Pray when it's all blown over, we're meeting face to face,
The smiles of thanks for good deeds done, relief the battle's won,
With time for laughter, love and fun, the world's a better place.

Yet, something fundamental is sweeping o'er the land
Communities are caring, folks lending helping hands.
It's like a wartime spirit when neighbours got along.
Yes times they are a changing, as in Bob Dylan's song.

A crisis like the one we're in does make us pause for thought,
Consider our priorities and lessons we were taught,
To care for one another, to just pick up the phone
And offer words of friendship so they don't feel alone.

No doubt this cruel virus which causes so much pain
Was conjured up by Lucifer. The devil rides again.
He thrives on greed and apathy, belief that he's retired.
This time the force of good will win. his wicked plan's backfired.

It's stirred us into action. We all know what to do.
By setting an example good deeds will see us through.

Are you a budding poet? and can you write a rhyme? Do you have the inclination? and do you have the time? Why not send your poem to:- editor@pglwilts.org.uk

It's time to check the bike, and don the lycra....

And join the **WILTSHIRE MASONIC CYCLING CLUB**.
Whether you are a keen cycle rider or just a social cyclist who would like to meet other like minded Freemasons who share a passion for cycling.

Are you are interested in Swimming, Running, Triathlons, or just enjoying a leisurely social cycle. The Province's newest club could be just the ticket.

The **WILTSHIRE MASONIC CYCLING CLUB** is the brainchild of Alan Colman and Alex Laird and in this edition of Across the Plain you can see photos of their cycling extravaganza during 'lockdown'.

Contact [Alan Colman](#) or [Alex Laird](#), who will arrange some guided rides taking in some of our Masonic Halls, and Lodge venues; and probably a coffee or pint along the way.





The Grand Superintendent



The annual Convocation Of Provincial Grand Chapter was a victim of the Covid-19 crisis and the decision of Supreme Grand Chapter to suspend all Masonic activities until mid July, and in line with national government rules. I think it safe to say, that while completely alien to our natural sense of wanting to meet together, we accept that the decision made by the Rulers was correct and in the best interest of Companions throughout England and Wales. This does allow me the opportunity of publishing the address I had intended to present at Melksham.

Companions I greet you all well. Unfortunately due to the unprecedented, difficult and challenging circumstances, we are currently faced with Covid-19 virus causing the suspension of all masonic activities. I am sure like me you are missing the camaraderie and companionship we all enjoy as members of the Royal Arch.

As our convocations have been suspended we have immediately turned to social media to keep in contact with one another. Information technology has provided the conduit for our daily advancement in masonic knowledge, and while this may be a dormant period for us, it provides an excellent opportunity to enhance our knowledge in all things masonic, even brushing up or learning a new piece of ritual.

Here I acknowledge the commitment of two Companions - Excellent Companions Michael Lee Past Deputy Grand Superintendent and Mark Fuller the Provincial Grand Registrar and Communications Officer who have both contributed greatly in providing us with copious amounts of interesting Masonic facts, and thought provoking material. Excellent Companion Michael's "Fred and Charlie" papers now have a large following. These can be viewed via Solomon (which can be accessed through the UGLE website) and at www.pglwilts.com Both sites are a must view for both Craft and Royal Arch referencing.

Mark has provided us and his followers across Twitter with numerous enlightening Royal Arch articles, editing and producing our very informative quarterly newsletter. Continuing through the year to cover and report on all of our important events; within our Chapters, charitable presentations and social events, a huge undertaking and keeping the Royal Arch at the forefront of our minds.

In mentioning charity, over the last 12 months we have supported Victim Support Wiltshire, Springboard Pre-School at Chippenham and Wylde Valley Disabled Children's Charity. Companions I cannot thank you enough for your continued generosity enabling the Province to support these deserving charities which are child and young adult biased. We shall continue to support such charities again this year, especially through our Children at Christmas initiative.

During these quite strange times it is important that we continue to stay in contact with the each other, providing support and assistance where needed. John Deane and his team at Corsham (delivering food parcels etc.) are a true example of how we as an organisation portray ourselves, caring for our fellow beings. I know there are many other members contributing in many valuable and appreciative ways. However please let's not forget those members who have not attended our meetings for some time. It's so important they are not forgotten; who knows they may be in desperate need of our assistance. By communicating with them now in these uncertain times by just having that conversation or an offer of assistance may just be the catalyst that brings them back to enjoy the Companionship of the Order, but most importantly we need to know they are safe and well.

For some it's difficult times that bring people together but Companions, for us that should never be the case, so I ask each Chapter to focus on re-engagement, to implement a strategy that best suits your members to maintain contact with our non-attende. We all know the longer a member is absent the harder it is for him to return.

gives you the address you never heard....



So now is a good time to plan for the future, and it is most pleasing to know there are a number of candidates waiting to be exalted. Our ceremonies when well performed are rewarding and invigorating, whilst ensuring a most memorable evening for both candidates and members. I am heartened to see much of the ritual is now being shared not only by the Companions on the floor but in some Chapters by the Three Principals. On each occasion I have had the pleasure to witness this, the ritual has been exceptional and brings another dimension to our meetings. Companions, quality has to be central to the Province's future. We are the custodians of our Chapters, we are the foundation and building blocks for the future, so the standards we establish today will be the standards our new members will live up to in the future.

I congratulate all those who have been appointed and promoted in Provincial Grand Chapter and remind you there is the expectation as ambassadors of the Royal Arch that you will continue to support and encourage the newer members to take part in our ceremonies whilst guiding them to, and through the Principals Chairs. Not forgetting wherever possible to promote the Holy Royal Arch within your Craft Lodges.

To the newly appointed active Provincial Officers when we are able to resume our meetings I encourage you to fully embrace the year of your appointment by supporting the Provincial Executive at Installations, Fraternal Visits and Special Convocations. Only then will you fully appreciate and enjoy the honour you have received.

I acknowledge the loyalty and support that I have received from the outgoing team of Provincial Officers, whether it be standing in whenever called upon to support our chapters, assisting the Province in ceremonies of exaltation, lectures, Talking Heads, Your Chapter in Camera, the list goes on Companions. I am truly grateful for their commitment, as are the individual Chapters on nights of Installation.

Companions, the Province continues to run smoothly due to the tireless work undertaken by the Provincial Executive. Much of their work goes un-noticed as does the work of the Chapter Scribes, Treasurers, Directors of Ceremonies, Almoners and Charity Stewards. These are important offices which bring with them huge responsibilities in the administration, welfare and ceremonial aspects of our order. As Companions let us lighten their burden – respond to the summons, send an apology where necessary, commit to the office you have accepted by attending all rehearsals and meetings, ensure dues are paid in a timely fashion. Let the Almoner know of those who may be requiring assistance. Companions I am sure you will agree, as Freemasons and Companions this is just common decency, respect and commitment not only for each other, but more importantly, for those Companions who hold these important offices who ensure the Chapters run in conformity with the Regulations and By-laws ensuring our continued enjoyment of the Royal Arch.

I am sure you will join with me in congratulating our 3rd Provincial Grand Principal Excellent Companion Mark Lovell on his appointment in Grand Chapter to Past Grand Standard Bearer. I couple this with Excellent Companion Colin Cheshire our Deputy Grand Superintendent who in Grand Lodge was promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon: both richly deserved honours.

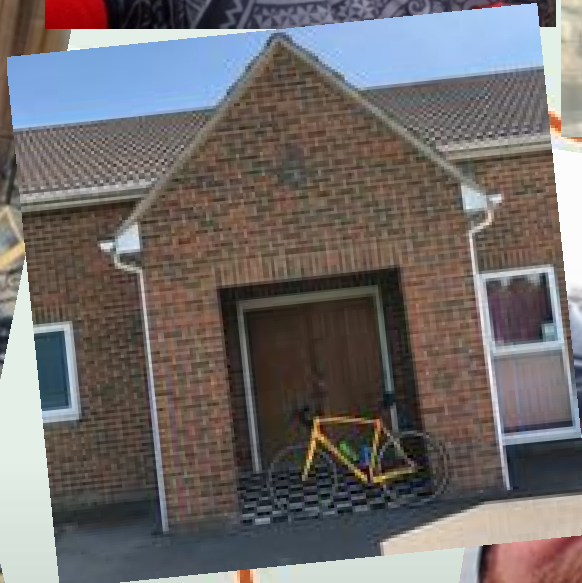
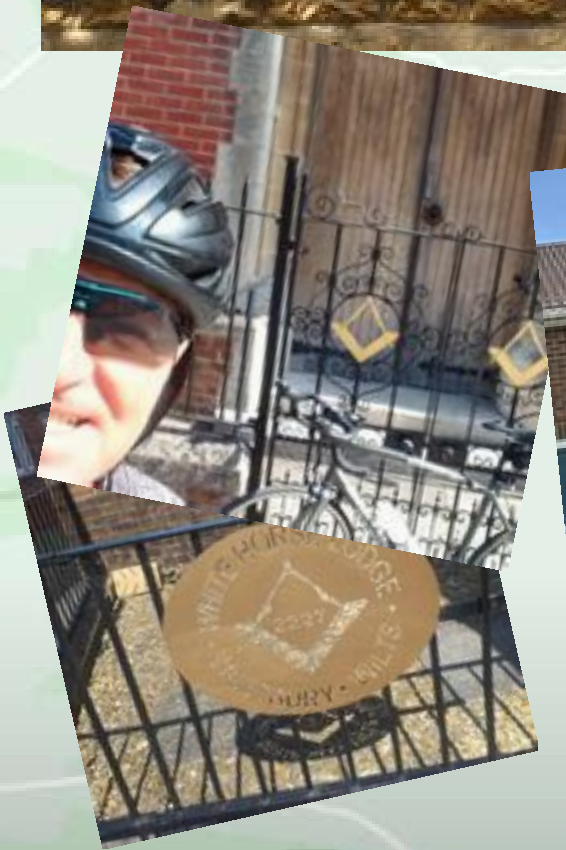
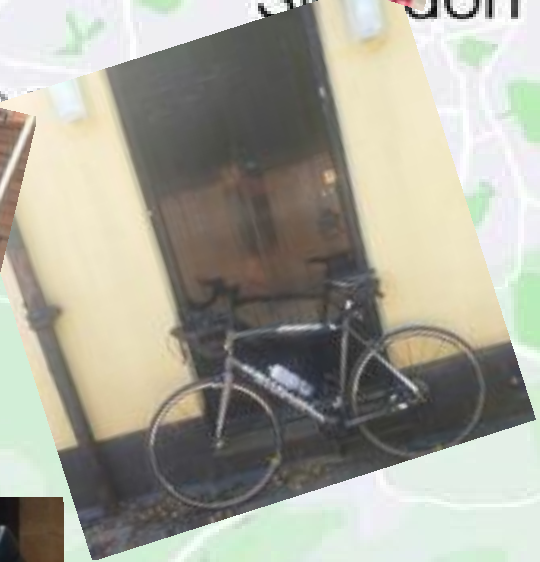
I cannot end without mentioning the continued support we receive from the Craft; as always I acknowledge my grateful thanks to the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master in support of Royal Arch and the continued collaboration with the Craft Executive in promoting the Holy Royal Arch as we are the natural complement to the Craft, that in-dissoluble link that binds both Craft and Royal Arch together.

Finally I thank each and every one of you for your support over the past year and as always look forward to meeting you all when safe to do so, in the knowledge that the Holy Royal Arch in Wiltshire is a most appealing Order in which to belong. I thank you all for your Companionship and trust the TTALGMH will keep you safe and be with you all.

What did you do during lockdown?....



Wootton Bassett



Avebury

Alan and Alex went on a bike ride...



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Teddies for Loving Care...

A new image....

A new TLC bear will be launched in the final quarter of this year which seemed the perfect time to design a new image for the rear section of the Provincial Display Unit.

Having moved the unit to Ian Lever's premises and stripping the existing 'wrap' attention turned to designing the new panels. They had to be eye catching but nice!

After a lot of discussion (there's always a discussion) about colour combinations, supplementary images, and whether a driver following the trailer would find the design too distracting, we agreed on this one. What do you think?

Would your Lodge like to support Teddies for Loving Care . Contact info@pglwilts.org.uk or speak to your Lodge Charity Steward.



Bringing comfort to children in distress

Teddies for Loving Care

Supported by local Freemasons

wiltshire freemasons

www.pglwilts.org.uk info@pglwilts.org.uk [@wiltspgl](https://twitter.com/wiltspgl)

Five years ago while on a family trip to Wiltshire little Charlotte Naylor a 2 year old from West Lothian in Scotland, was taken ill and admitted to Swindon's Great Western Hospital. After being treated in the accident and emergency department, she was transferred to the RESUS ward for further treatment. Clearly distressed, Charlotte was very frightened, and in her mother's words 'inconsolable'.



Charlotte Naylor - aged 7

One of the ward receptionists gave Charlotte a TLC teddy bear this had an immediate effect and helped to calm her down.

Charlotte's mum Emma described herself as "a mum who was shaking and scared about losing her baby girl." Thankfully Charlotte quickly recovered and returned home to Scotland tightly cuddling her new TLC teddy. Emma said, "We honestly can't thank your organisation enough."

Today Charlotte, now aged 7 is a bright 'bonny' young girl enjoying life at home in Livingston, West Lothian.

Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock sent this message to Emma and her daughter Charlotte. "While we were delighted to hear that you visited the beautiful house and gardens at Lydiard Park, Swindon. I was so sorry to read that it was marked by you having to make an unscheduled visit to the town's Great Western Hospital as a result of Charlotte's fall. However, I am delighted to read that Charlotte has made a full recovery from her fall and that she and her TLC teddy bear remember, with affection, her friends 'down South'."

Wiltshire Freemasons donate TLC teddy bears to the two general hospitals in the County (Swindon and Salisbury, and in fourteen years has provided over 80,000 bears; which means that 80,000 children, and some 'grown ups' have received a cherished friend for life.

The Sarsen Club...



During the 'lockdown' members of The Sarsen Club have joined together with other young Freemasons and new Masons' Clubs to hold a number of **Young Masons inter-Club Virtual Social** events. Their latest guest was former Detective Chief Inspector Mike Neville, late of New Scotland Yard who gave a fascinating talk entitled *Masonry, Music, Murder and Mayhem*. The Sarsen Club jointly organises events which have presentations from Dr David Staples, CEO United Grand Lodge of England and Sir David Wootton Assistant Grand Master; a lecture by Dr Vicky Carroll director of the Museum of Freemasonry and informative talks by Christine Chapman, MW Grand Master HFAF; Provincial Prior Richard Micklefield, and our very own John Reid, Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Wiltshire.

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What are they?

It's a rare privilege, and not every Freemason gets the opportunity to attend the Consecration of a new Lodge, not least because the process of forming a new Lodge is not without its own protocol and cost. Someone once said it probably takes less time to be made a Saint, although I fancy they were exaggerating just a little bit. The last new Lodge to be consecrated in Wiltshire was Fiat Lux Lodge No.9773 and the ceremony was held on 12th February 2004. The presiding officer was RW Bro Digby Woods PPrGM (Berkshire) and the items below are the consecration vessels.



Congratulations Steve...

Steve Lee



Deputy Provincial Grand Master MMM

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t 01225 805080



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

As many of you doubtless will have noticed, there is no quiz in this edition of the magazine.

But don't worry Barry is designing a fiendishly difficult quiz for **In touch On line**

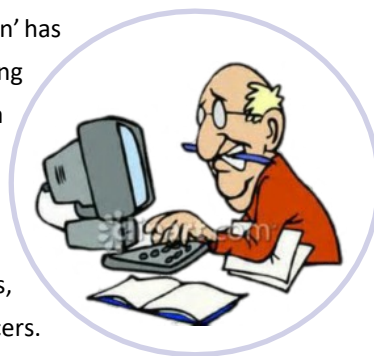
IF YOU HAVE A STORY
TO TELL
LET US KNOW



editor@pglwilts.org.uk

The Provincial Grand Master replies to your question:

Q. I think one of the best things about 'lockdown' has been the opportunity to hear some interesting lectures, presentations and discussions on a wide variety of subjects. A number of the discussion groups have enabled me to get a clearer understanding of some of the symbols of Freemasonry such as the Tracing Boards, Aprons, Jewels and the role of the Lodge officers.



Very interesting stuff which we don't often hear about.

A. First let me say how pleased I am that you have found a positive in the period in which normal Masonic activity has been suspended, and while you haven't asked a question, I would like to respond to your observation. I have been amazed how Lodges have used 'lockdown' to the benefit of their members, whether that has been through quizzes and social activities, or through an engagement with the Learning and Development Team. I also know the Provincial Orator has been very busy delivering talks and encouraging discussion groups across the Province. In Wiltshire, I am pleased to say that our members have been very keen to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. I congratulate everyone involved.

Secondly, I know that many Freemasons are desperate to know more about the origin of 'things' we find in a Lodge Room, as opposed to being told what they may or may not represent. Indeed one comment that was made to me concerned the aprons we wear in Lodge; the Brother was amazed to discover that at one point in Masonic history there was only a plain white apron worn by Freemasons.

The Lodge Tracing Boards have always held an attraction for me, and I was pleased to hear that a number of Lodges have discussed the modern day Tracing Board's origins from charcoal and chalk, through to floor cloths and carpets, onto the magnificent works of art produced by John Harris.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master is very supportive of the Learning and Development Team led by Steve Lee who has been working with Gary Dolphin and Andrew Hargreaves developing a number of thumb nail Mp4 videos. I am sure they will feature in future training sessions. One of the things that David Davies and I are immensely proud of is the way in which the team has worked together to produce these simple but effective tools to help young Freemasons, and those who are progressing through the Lodge officer ranks. Apart our very own Preceptor's Page on the Provincial website we urge all of our members to visit <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/course/view.php?id=79>

Solomon
solomon

Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge 2020 -21

Provincial Grand Master - RW Bro Philip S.A Bullock

Deputy Provincial Grand Master - VW Bro David M Davies PGSwdB

Assistant Provincial Grand Master - W Bro Simon R Leighfield PJGD

Provincial Senior Grand Warden	W Bro Colin J Davies	9773
Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Foster R Telford	586
Provincial Grand Chaplain	W Bro Michael F Barratt PPrSGW	5137
Provincial Grand Treasurer	W Bro Christopher J Robbins PPrSGW	1478
Provincial Grand Registrar	W Bro John O Badger PAGDC	626
Provincial Grand Secretary	W Bro Philip J Still PAGDC	6114
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro John R Smith PAGDC	1295
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Nigel J Bates	1533
Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro A L (Sandy) Steele-Davis PPrJGW	8435
Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Barry Jordan-Davis PPrJGW	5955
Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Ian W Lever	8435
Provincial Grand Almoner	W Bro Gary Dolphin PPrSGW	1295
Provincial Grand Charity Steward	W Bro Derek K Gibbens	586
Provincial Grand Orator	W Bro Des Morgan PAGDC	335
Provincial Grand Mentor	W Bro David Little PAGStB	9064
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Gordon E Lindsay	8692
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Marcus G Reeves	4037
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Mark A Whitmarsh	1295
Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Clive L Emerson	9064
Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Robert G Walker	8435
Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Michael K Wills	9587
Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary	W Bro Robert J Evans PPrSGD	1478
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Michael JD Forster	9540
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Christopher J Linham	8620
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Michael J Pearce	626
Provincial Grand Organist	Bro Gary E Cook	632
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Peter WA Bint	1295
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Paul A Robinson	663
Provincial Grand Pursuivant	W Bro Kevin J Tedd	5955
Provincial Grand Steward	W Bro Robert A Betchley	9587
Provincial Grand Steward	Bro Mitchell L Bryan	355
Provincial Grand Steward	W Bro Alex Laird	2227
Provincial Grand Steward	Bro Paul A Sharp	1295
Provincial Grand Steward	W Bro Leslie R Welling	9773
Provincial Grand Steward	Bro Adrian R Wheeler	8204
Provincial Grand Tyler	W Bro Stephen J Smith	3129
Divisional Coordinating Officer	W Bro Colin CC Cheshire, <i>OBE</i> PJGD	632
Provincial Divisional Officer (North)	W Bro Ian A Dunbar PAGStB	8432
Provincial Divisional Officer (Central)	W Bro Dr David J Reed PPrSGW	4037
Provincial Divisional Officer (South)	W Bro David F Henery PJGD	8692
Provincial Divisional Mentor (North)	W Bro Alan Colman PPrSGD	355
Provincial Divisional Mentor (Central)	W Bro Richard D Wright PPrSGW	2227
Provincial Divisional Mentor (South)	W Bro Foster R Telford PrJGW	586

Promotions 2020 -2021....

Past Provincial	Senior Grand Warden	W Bro Christopher B Dawe	626
Past Provincial	Senior Grand Warden	W Bro Geoffery H Grant	9773
Past Provincial	Senior Grand Warden	W Bro Peter M Harper	9090
Past Provincial	Senior Grand Warden	W Bro Peter F Wood	9035
Past Provincial	Senior Grand Warden	W Bro Richard D Wright	2227
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Stuart M Burrell	8547
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Peter G Gale	9090
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Clive G Hackett	5955
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Steven D Hocking	8435
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Michael G James	9773
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Jeremy RL Jarvis	8388
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Alan Salkeld	9035
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Sebastian J Salt	5955
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro William F Shrewsbury	9035
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Christopher R Sibley	663
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Gary Smith	6616
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Ronald E Stiles	5955
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Michael P Swanton	9090
Past Provincial	Grand Registrar	W Bro John Burgess	8388
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Robert E Bullen	663
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Terence R Davis	355
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro G (Brandon) Harman	8388
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Paul Jones	355
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Terence McCann	8204
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Kevin M O'Daly	4714
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Stephen RW Rayment	9035
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Brian J Tracey	8692
Past Provincial	Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Lindsay A Young	1478
Past Provincial	Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro David M Clover	2888
Past Provincial	Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro David T Edwards	8718
Past Provincial	Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro Neil A Miller	9090
Past Provincial	Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro Simon J Natelson-Carter	4451
Past Provincial	Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro Robert T Wiltshire	4714
Past Provincial	Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro David G Logan	8388
Past Provincial	Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Bryan J Piper	8620
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Steven J Davis	9548
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Deacon	Bro John M Place	9090
Past Provincial	Assistant Grand Director Ceremonies	W Bro John HV Cadby	632
Past Provincial	Grand Pursuivant	W Bro Ryan B Hartley	5908

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See advert on page 12

Appointments 2020 - 2021....

Past Provincial	Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Robert K Gabbott	663
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro I (Philip) Lever	9587
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Peter WM Watt	9035
Past Provincial	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro David J Aldridge	5955
Past Provincial	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Robert M Fear	9090
Past Provincial	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Peter M Gee	4037
Past Provincial	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Terence O Hemmings	9009
Past Provincial	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro John G Jenkins	8718
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Keith Acreman	5955
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Paul N Billett	2227
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Mark A Cox	8747
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro David E Glaholm	9548
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Adrian P Mayo	632
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro John P Moorehouse	2227
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Simon L Powell	4714
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Brian WD Turnbull	8747
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Robert A Youngs	4687

Appointments under Rule 69a:

Past Provincial	Senior Grand Warden	W Bro A (Tony) Sugdon PPrGReg (Yorks N&ER)	2227
Past Provincial	Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro John R Willis PPrAGReg (Surrey)	2644
Past Provincial	Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Roger CP McBride (London)	9064

Many congratulations to every Brother who has been appointed to serve the Province in an active officer, promoted, or received a first appointment. I am often asked on what basis appointment and promotion in Provincial Rank is conferred, to which the answer is simple; it's on an individual's merits.



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WILTSHIRE

It's cancelled for 2020

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Salisbury on Thursday 1st October





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