



Royal Arch Newsletter #9

October 2020

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Provincial Information and Communication Officer



GP Committee on Zoom

On Thursday 10th September the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E Comp John Reid was pleased to welcome twenty seven Companions of the Province to the General Purposes Committee Meeting – the first to be held on Zoom.

As you would expect the usual reports were made and lively discussion ensued!

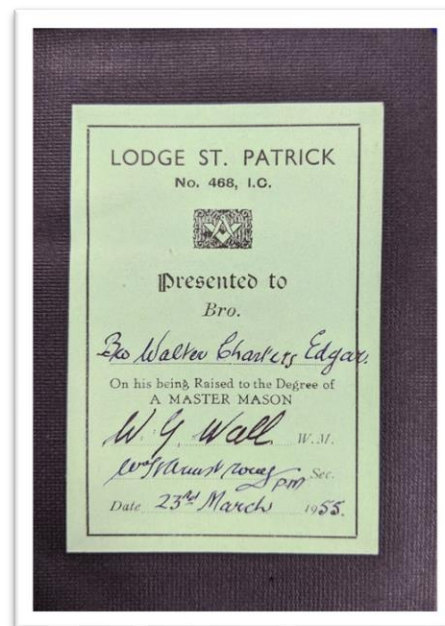
St Edmund Chapter No. 4714 – Installation

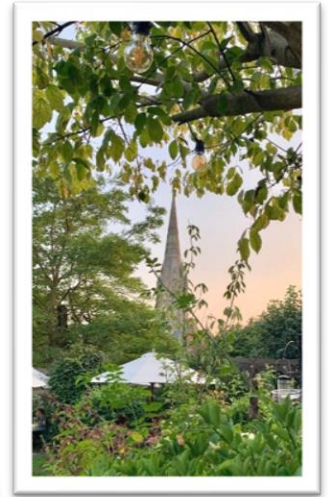
On Thursday 3rd September a dozen Companions of St Edmund Chapter No. 4714 were joined by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for their Installation Meeting at Calne Masonic Hall.

A considerable amount of work had gone into making sure that the Hall was Covid secure and the that the ceremony could be worked with the dignity it deserved, whilst ensuring that social distancing was adhered to. One of the changes that took place was that the incoming Principles each took their obligations on their own individual Volume of the Sacred Law. E Comp. Tom Gerken, the MEZ elect brought a Bible that was presented to his Grandfather on 23rd March 1953 (see right), when he was Raised to the degree of a Master Mason in Lodge St Patrick No. 468, I.C., the youngest of the four Irish lodges in New Zealand.

A great evening was enjoyed by all and the Chapter was spoilt by the MEGS E Comp. John Reid as he delivered all three robe addresses!

Photo taken before the 'rule of six' came into force.

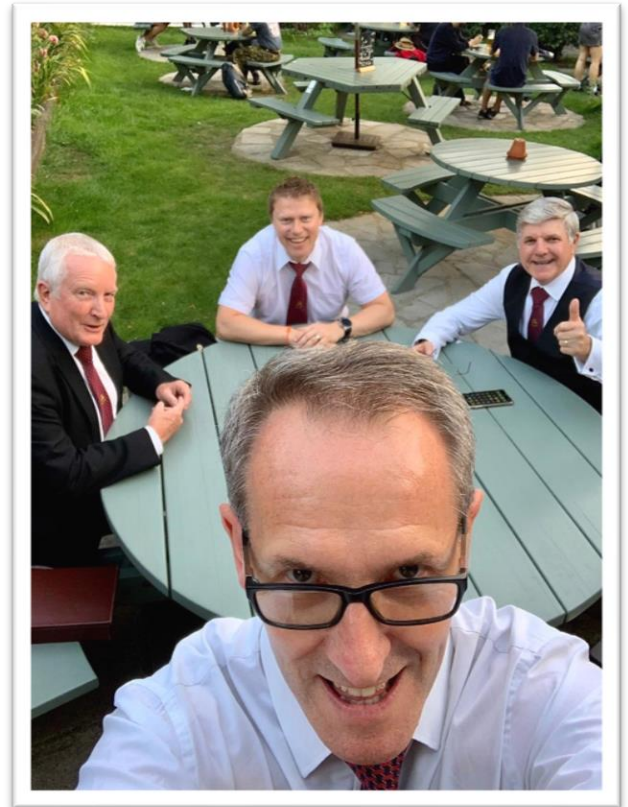




Chapter Elias de Derham No. 586

After making plans for a resumption of activity a change in Government policy meant the members had to think and act fast . . . however the Chapter and the Companions were up to the task.

On Wednesday 16th September the 'group of six' met to open the Chapter, conduct some much needed business and then close. All was done successfully and more importantly safely before the Companions retired for some socially distant refreshment and to enjoy the view across the beautiful city of Salisbury



06TH JULY 1870

On the 06th July 1870 the Provincial Grand Chapter of Wiltshire came into being. In order to celebrate the 150 years since that momentous day every Companion in the Province should have received a copy of a document giving a brief overview of the last 150 years along with a list of the principal office holders during those years.

But what was going on behind the scenes on the day?

The article below is taken from the North Wilts Herald of 26 March 1870 and gives notice that Samuel Wittey was to be appointed the first Grand Superintendent of the Province.

It is understood that at the unanimous request of all the **Royal Arch** Chapters in Wiltshire, a patent has been granted by the Grand Lodge of England, appointing Companion Saml. Wittey Provincial Grand Superintendent of the **Royal Arch** Masonry for Wiltshire. The installation is expected to take place at Swindon in June next. Brother Wittey, D.P.G.M. of the Freemasons of Wiltshire, was last week presented by the members of the Bradford-on-Avon Lodge of Friendship and Unity, No. 1271, with a handsomely carved "gavel," as a memorial of the dedication of the Lodge in October last. The "gavel" is made of very old oak taken from the ruins of a monastery in the neighbourhood of Bradford.

On 25th June 1870 the North Wilts Herald carried a notice that a Convocation was to be held on Wednesday 06th July at the Goddard Arms Hotel. Tickets, including Dessert were to cost 6s 6d!

WILTSHIRE.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF
ROYAL ARCH MASONS.**

**THE MOST EXCELLENT THE PROVINCIAL
GRAND SUPERINTENDENT COMPANION
SAMUEL WITTEY, M.E.Z. 355.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that
a CONVOCATION will be held at the
GODDARD ARMS HOTEL, SWINDON, on WEDNES-
DAY, JULY 6th, 1870, at Two o'clock with a view to
the Formation of this Provincial Grand Chapter.

The Ceremony of **INSTALLATION, &c.**, of
COMP. SAMUEL WITTEY, M.E.Z. 355, as the **M.E.P.G.**
Superintendent of the Wiltshire Province, will be per-
formed by Companion **JOHN HERVEY**, Grand Scribe
of England.

COMP. SIR DANIEL GOOCH, Bart., M.P., P.G.M.
Berks and Bucks, and P.Z., 355, and other eminent
Companions, have expressed their intention of being
present.

A **BANQUET** will be served at 3.45 p.m. precisely.
Tickets, including Dessert, 6s. 6d.

**HENRY C. TOMBS, P.G.S.,
P.G.S.E., pro tem.**

Wootton Bassett, 18th June, 1870.

Freemasonry in Wiltshire.—Under this title we have from time to time recorded the wide-spreading influence of that important charitable Society, "The Freemasons;" but we have never chronicled with more pleasure any meeting that has taken place than the very interesting one which assembled yesterday at the Goddard Arms Hotel, Swindon, on the occasion of the installation of Companion S. Wittey, M.E.Z., as the Grand Superintendent of **Royal Arch-Masonry** in Wiltshire, under the presidency of Companion John Hervey, the Grand Scribe E. of England. This Order of Masonry is selected from the *élite* of the Craft, and Companion S. Wittey was, at the unanimous petition of the Wiltshire Chapters, several months since, appointed by patent from the Supreme Grand Chapter of England to the office of Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of **Royal Arch** Masonry in Wiltshire, and in which he was yesterday formally inaugurated. There was a good attendance of the Companions from the city of Bath, the County of Dorset, and the adjacent provinces, in addition to the Wiltshire Chapters.

After the ceremony of installation, which was very impressively performed by the Grand Scribe E., the Grand Superintendent appointed his officers as follows:—Companion Thomas Chandler, P.Z., to the chair of H.; Companion John Chandler, P.Z., to the chair of J.; Companion H. C. Tombs, Scribe E.; Companion Henry Kinneir, Scribe N.; Companion R. de Lawson, M.E.Z., P.S.; Companion C. W. Wyndham, P.Z., P.S. 1st Assistant; Companion Robert Stokes, P.Z., P.S. 2nd Assistant; Companion William Read, P.Z., Registrar; Companion H. Ward, P.Z., D.C.; Companion S. H. Perman, Sword Bearer; Companion Joseph Wentworth, Standard Bearer; Companions Joseph Burt, E. R. Ings, and Richard Tarrant, Stewards; Companion J. Savory, Janitor; Companion Richard Bradford, P.Z., was unanimously elected Treasurer.

After the business of the meeting was concluded the companions adjourned to an excellent banquet prepared by Companion Westmacott. The usual toasts, which were duly given and responded to, were interspersed with some excellent songs by the Companions.

A liberal supply of champagne, port, sherry and other wines was very handsomely contributed at the cost of the Grand Superintendent.

We cannot conclude without congratulating our fellow-townsmen on the high position which he has attained amongst his Brother Masons, and the flattering circumstances which have attended it.

The very next day, **07th July 1870**, the *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* carried a detailed report of the Convocation.

The ceremony of Installation was reported to have been impressively performed by the Grand Scribe E. It should also be noted that after the 'business of the meeting was concluded the companions adjourned to an excellent banquet . . . A liberal supply of champagne, port, sherry and other wines was very handsomely contributed at the cost of the Grand Superintendent."

Is this a tradition that may make a comeback?

The Officers of Provincial Grand Chapter – 1870

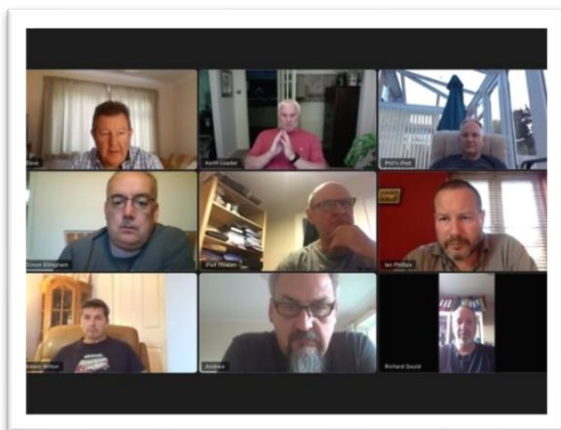
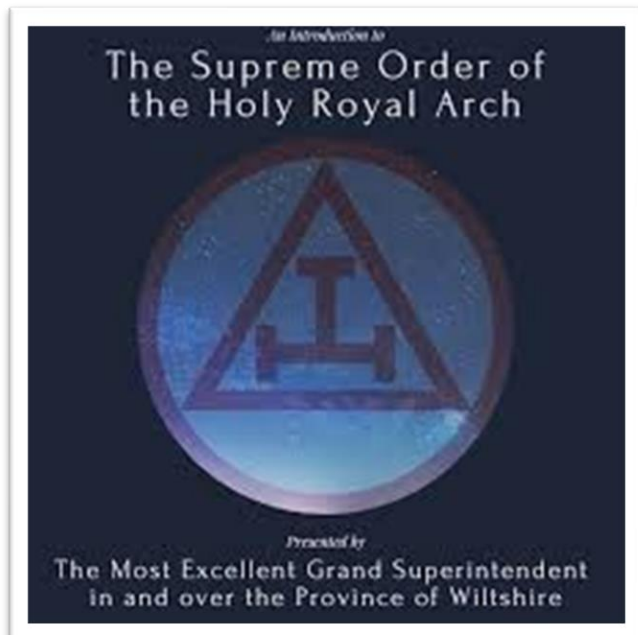
MEGS	Samuel Wittey
H	Thomas Chandler
J	John Chandler
Scribe E	H. C. Tombs
Treasurer	Richard Bradford
Scribe N	Henry Kinneir
Principal Soj	R. de Lawson
1 st Ast Soj	C. W. Wyndham
2 nd Ast Soj	Robert Stokes
Registrar	William Read
DC	H. Ward
Swd Bearer	S. H. Perman
Std Bearer	Joseph Wentworth
Steward	Joseph Burt
Steward	E. R. Ings
Steward	Richard Tarrant
Janitor	J. Savory

An interesting task will be to see if you can spot these Companions on the various Honours Boards around the Province.



You are never too old to complete your journey in Pure Antient Masonry

We have many Master Masons in Wiltshire who may think it is too late for them to join The Royal Arch – engage them in a conversation and see what happens . . .



Embracing Zoom

Like many businesses and individuals we have had to think a little differently if we wanted to keep the Royal Arch in Wiltshire as visible as possible during the times of limited meetings and social distancing.

As a result a 15 minute 'scripted conversation' was put together to give some background to the Royal Arch and this was publicised to Craft Lodges. It wasn't long before the Province was asked to deliver the first of these presentations. After the 'conversation' has taken place a discussion is encouraged and an open question and answer session takes place.

So far we have delivered to eight Craft Lodges as well as The Sarsen Club.

If your Craft Lodge is looking to do something different we can help. We can also arrange and facilitate the zoom virtual meeting application if needed.

All you need to do is contact Mark Fuller using the details on page 1.

Any One For A Drink?

An ancient wooden plaque celebrating three centuries of friendship between Montrose and France has been restored to its former glory.

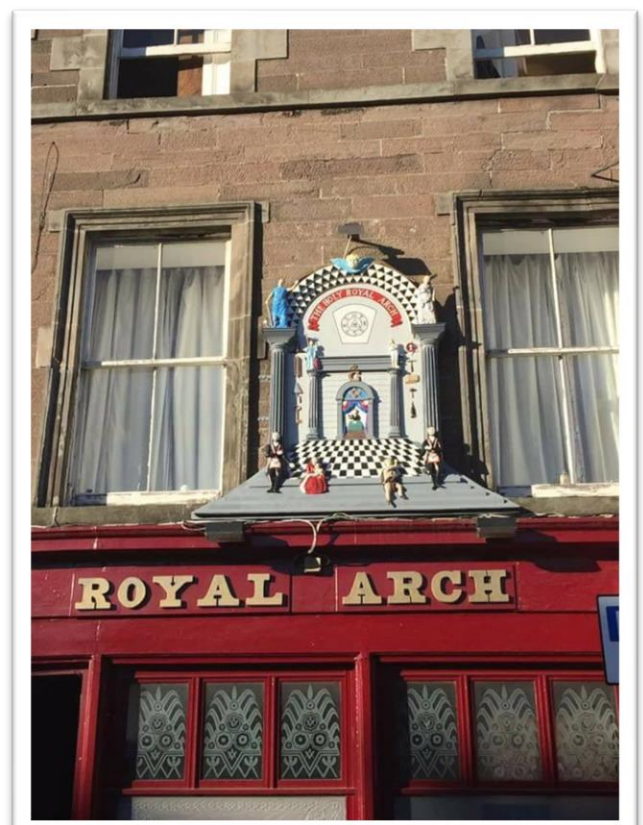
The Holy Royal Arch sign has been a landmark in the Angus town since the 18th Century and is listed as a monument by Historic Environment Scotland.

The carved curiosity – described of being of national significance – was erected above what is now the Royal Arch Bar in Montrose High Street by the captains of French sailing ships.

The Gallic mariners were Freemasons and used the building – then a coffee house – for meetings.

When the premises became a public house, the owners kept the sign and called the pub the Royal Arch.

From - thecourier.co.uk





Twitter Update

After a successful series of daily advancements published on Twitter which attracted a lot of attention it was decided to run a similar theme again.

Entitled "Royal Arch QI" – the QI standing for Quite Interesting – the first two posts looked at the jewels of Thomas Harper and his apprentice John P. Acklam.

If you look closely you can see their jewels being worn by members of the Province!

Thomas Harper was a jeweller, furniture maker and signatory to the Articles of Union in 1813; his jewels are very popular and highly collectable.

Harper's origins remain obscure: we know nothing about where he was born or where he grew up. His first appearance in the historical record is because of his Freemasonry. We know that he was by 1774 a member of Lodge of the Antients, No. 190, in Charlestown, South Carolina. It is believed he probably first became a mason in 1761 in Bristol before setting sail for the American colonies.

A loyalist, Harper returned in 1781 with his wife and child, moving to London and setting himself up as a silversmith. He registered his mark at Goldsmith's Hall and soon distinguished himself as a jeweller, rising to eminence in the City and acting as Master of the Turner's Company in 1798, 1813 and 1829.

It is chiefly as a jeweller that Harper is remembered today. He made jewellery for several livery companies, but his principal output was in masonic jewels of all kinds. These are exceptionally fine and have become the most sought-after of all masonic jewels, instantly recognisable by his maker's mark featuring his initials 'TH' on the reverse. His shop was in Fleet Street and he later moved to nearby Arundel Street.

Harper also had a very talented apprentice in the person of John P. Acklam whose masonic jewels are also becoming more sought after. Acklam sold his jewels and regalia from 138 The Strand (the advert below is from March 1837) which is now a trendy coffee shop!



FREEMASONRY.
J. P. A C K L A M,
MASONIC JEWEL AND CLOTHING MANUFACTURER,

RESPECTFULLY solicits the Orders and Patronage of the Craft. He has always ready on sale a collection of Jewels and Clothing, for Craft, Royal Arch Masonry, and Knight Templars, &c. As he is the real maker, and every article is manufactured on his premises, and under his personal inspection, the Fraternity may rely on being furnished in precise conformity with the authorised Constitutions of the different Orders.
138, Strand, opposite Catharine Street.

Victim Support Donation

Over the last few years the province has been pleased to make a number of donations to Victim Support (Wiltshire) to ensure that the valuable work they do can continue. On 21st September E Comp. Andrew Tiffin, Provincial Charity Steward, was pleased to make a donation of £500 on behalf of the Companions of the Province. The money was raised as part of the Children at Christmas initiative which actively support young people throughout the Province.

Francis Wakem, Volunteer Ambassador stated “all colleagues at Victim Support (Wiltshire) are delighted with the fantastic news of the most generous donation of £500.00 from the members of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Wiltshire.

May I reiterate personal words I have used on many occasions ... words which come from the heart ... your invaluable and generous support has conveyed emotional support and encouragement to our staff and volunteer teams and through them to the members of our Wiltshire Community; to the family and friends and all those touched by the trauma - the distress - of the individual concerned.

The core funding for Victim Support (Wiltshire) is provided by the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). We have to look for local support – such as that provided by your members - to enhance our service delivery, to allow us flexibility in the way we can assess needs and assist us in purchasing relevant items to supplement the emotional support we offer ... these items make a massive difference to the victims and their families recovery from crime, traumatic events and other forms of harmful behaviour – these invaluable resources are not provided for in our funding from the PCC.

In expressing her thanks for the very kind and generous donation from the members of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Wiltshire, Julie Boyle, Operations Manager for Victim Support (Wiltshire) added, “the donation from your members will enable us to purchase items we can provide to the children and young people of the victims we are supporting. These items are offered to young people who are often also negatively impacted by the events which have taken place. As an example, one such initiative is ‘Worry Eaters’; these are soft monster toys with ‘zips’ as mouths who ‘swallow’ children’s worries. The hope is that ‘Worry Eaters’ and other initiatives will provide a focus enabling families, following our guidance, to create a talking point enabling them to work through what is happening and to see how they can best move forward together.”

Julie continued, “We are witnessing an escalation in the instances of antisocial behaviour and ‘hate crimes’; we faced an unprecedented challenge during the ‘lock down’. Whilst we are all slowly emerging from the extended period of social isolation we are witnessing further instances of personal issues by families and their young children. Due to us taking precautionary measures and to be extra-cautious in a bid to protect our beneficiaries as well as our staff and volunteer teams as a result of coronavirus, we are still unable to meet people face to face. So now, more than ever, the ability for us to provide additional support through provision of these items is so very important in enhancing the support we provide remotely.

Your generous donation will assist us to make a positive difference for those we support and in turn children and young people.”

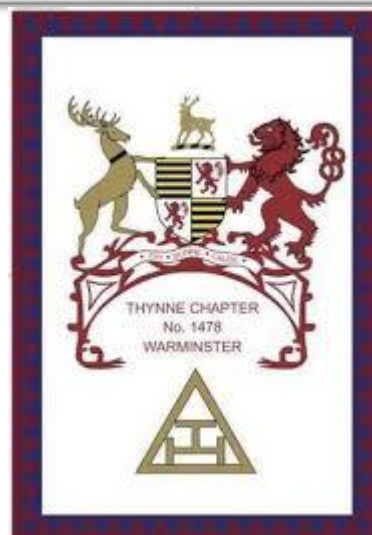
Well Done Companions



Provincial Diary

Tue 6 Oct 2020	St Aldhelm	2888
Tue 6 Oct 2020	Rectitude	335
Thu 8 Oct 2020	Border	3129
Tue 13 Oct 2020	Methuen	1533
Wed 14 Oct 2020	Wiltshire	355
Fri 23 Oct 2020	Highworth	9009
Mon 26 Oct 2020	Concord	632
Tue 3 Nov 2020	Stonehenge	6114
Tue 10 Nov 2020	Agriculture	9090
Fri 13 Nov 2020	Harmony	663
Wed 18 Nov 2020	Elias	586
Wed 18 Nov 2020	F & U	1271
Thu 19 Nov 2020	Gooch	1295
Mon 23 Nov 2020	Lansdowne	626
Mon 23 Nov 2020	Concord	632
Thu 26 Nov 2020	Thynne	1478
Tues 1 Dec 2020	St Aldhelm	2888
Thu 3 Dec 2020	St Edmund	4714
Tue 9 Dec 2020	Methuen	1533
Wed 9 Dec 2020	Wiltshire	355

Installation Meeting



Thynne Chapter No. 1478 Installation

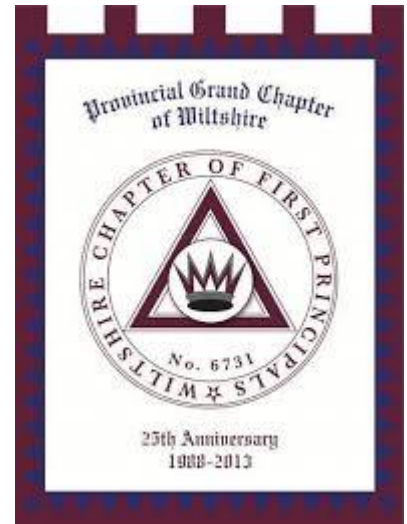
The 'keep calm and carry on' spirit was evident at Thynne Chapter No. 1478 on Thursday 24th September when a 'group of six' successfully met to complete the Installation Convocation.

Provincial Convocation

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent presided over a very different form of Annual Provincial Convocation on 24th September as six Companions met to complete the outstanding business of the Province.

E Comp. John Reid, MEGS described it as "Quicker than double quick time, 17 minutes, very strange without our members & good friends from surrounding Provinces."





Wiltshire Chapter of First Principals No. 6731

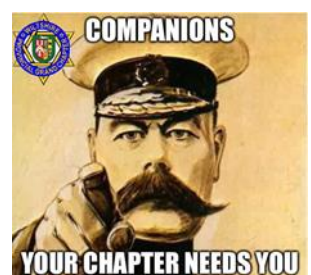
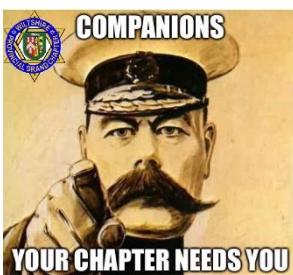
Wiltshire Chapter of First Principals No 6731 - Installation Convocation. A great example of the adaptability of the Companions as the rule of six was complied with.

Stonehenge Chapter No. 6114 Installation Convocation

The long delayed Installation Convocation of Stonehenge Chapter was held on 1 September some 6 months after the incoming Principals had been elected to their respective offices. The Salisbury Masonic Centre was very different to previous times with additional Health and Safety measures in place, masks worn, temperatures taken and the Convocation taking place in the dining room downstairs. There was also a limit of 18 Companions being able to attend the Convocation which meant that the Provincial team were unable to support the Chapter in their usual numbers.

E Comp Martin Plastow was Installed as First Principal by E Comp Michael Barrett, Martin then Installed E Comp Christian Mabey as Second Principal and Christian then Installed E Comp Bert Keeling as Third Principal with the Officers being appointed and invested by the Principals for what promises to be a very unusual year.

Many thanks to E Comps Colin Cheshire and Andrew Tiffin for representing the Province so ably and to the directors of the Salisbury Masonic Association for setting up the building so that we could conduct the Installation.





Border Chapter No. 3129

Thursday 08th October saw another Wiltshire Chapter embrace the challenge of the 'rule of six' when Border Chapter No. 3129 met in Ludgershall to attend to the business of Installation.



Are you ready to complete your journey in pure Antient Masonry ?



Step 1. Entered Apprentice



Step 2. Fellowcraft



Step 3. Master Mason



Step 4. Companion

