



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



“Life moves on and so should we”

February 2021

We have to move forward....

Wiltshire Freemasonry



It's an easy thing to say but not so easy to do, especially when something or someone else controls the agenda. Hopes and expectations have been raised, and then dashed in a matter of days. The end of the tunnel has seemed tantalisingly close, and then the glimmer of light at its end has been extinguished. American author Spencer Johnson penned the words which appear on the banner of this month's **In touch>On line**. When he wrote "Who Moved My Cheese?" he wasn't writing about the Covid pandemic, but I do think his words can be considered relevant to the situation in which we find ourselves today. As many of our members receive their long awaited vaccination let it be the signal to each of us that 'life moves on and so should we.'

I was delighted to attend a Vastern Lodge Discussion Group at which Bro Chris Wall of Clarendon Lodge No.5908 was the guest speaker. Chris chose to speak on a subject which he rightly described as being one of the last taboos in society, Mental Health. He spoke eloquently and with a great deal of passion about Mental Well Being, referencing not only his expert professional knowledge, but also his personal experiences. I am convinced that presentations such as the one given by Chris can only be of great benefit to Brethren who are suffering the anguish of loneliness, and the despair which comes from not knowing what tomorrow might bring. It is to these Brethren, and their families that we must offer help, comfort, and support during the days and months ahead. I know I speak on behalf of David and Simon when I say how grateful we are for the wonderful work being undertaken by Lodge Almoners who are rightly the first point of contact when a Brother is in need of help. .

Talking of almoners ... the Provincial Almoner Gary Dolphin was the guest speaker at the first of a series of meetings organised by the Communication Team and called **Meet The Officer**. Gary, a 'proud Yorkshireman' did himself proud with an excellent presentation on the role of the Almoner and the work of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. It was very good to welcome a number of gentlemen who have applied to be Initiated and are just waiting until we are able to resume meeting. We were also pleased to welcome Les Hutchinson CEO of the Masonic Charitable Foundation who made a surprise visit and provided some valuable insights into the work of the charity. I know many of the attendees were equally surprised and delighted at the extent of the work undertaken by the MCF during the Covid crisis.

At this time of the year I know that many Lodge Treasurers are asking members to pay their annual subscription. In today's difficult times the temptation to delay making a payment may be even greater than normal. Brethren, do not hesitate in coming forward if you have even the slightest of difficulty in making the subscription payment. Your Lodge Treasurer can arrange a personal payment plan to help you, and this can be organised in total confidence.

I was pleased to attend my second meeting of the month to the Vastern Lodge Discussion Group, this time as the guest speaker. I did enjoy talking about my love of Templar Knight Masonry, and thank the many Brethren who took the time to ZOOM in to hear me.

Finally, the next meeting in the **Meet The Officer** series is on Friday 26th February when Provincial Chaplain Michael Barratt will be in the hot seat. (See page 4.)



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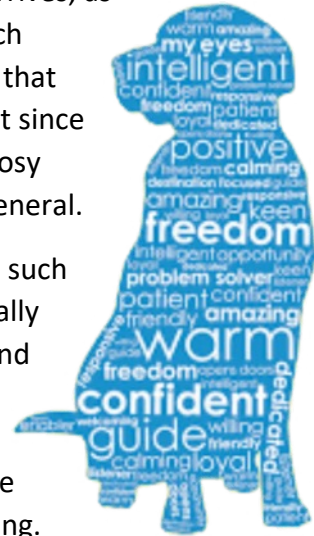
Wiltshire Freemasonry

And they call it puppy love....

Well it was good enough for The Osmonds so it must be okay for the Brethren of Radnor Lodge No.4451 which meets at Crane Street in Salisbury; and it's all to do with Radnor, the guide dog (in training) they have sponsored. We caught up with puppy walker Rob to find out how things are going with Radnor's training programme.

Many puppy walkers have a few sleepless nights when their pup first arrives, as puppies can sometimes be a little unsettled in a new environment which probably (sounds familiar to many dog owners). However, Rob told us that they had no such issues, as Radnor has slept soundly almost every night since he moved in! This is probably because he feels so comfortable in the cosy puppy crate he sleeps in, but also, he seems to be a very calm pup in general.

Rob has been introducing Radnor to some basic obedience commands, such as 'sit', and 'stay', and Radnor is picking things up really quickly, especially when there is a food treat as a reward! Apparently the 'down' command needs a little work, but Radnor is a smart, cheeky, sensitive puppy and is picking things up really quickly and has settled into his new home fantastically. We think that Radnor sounds like a wonderful, bright little puppy who has got off to a great start with the early stages of his training.



Blood Bikes share £8,000

The Provincial Grand Master, and the Provincial Grand Secretary each welcomed a volunteer rider from SERV Wessex, and Severn Freewheelers who operate the distinctive Blood Bike service for the two general hospitals in Salisbury, and Swindon.



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Charity - it's from the heart, but it's in our DNA?

When we first become Freemasons we are treated to a wonderful charge, often referred to as the 'Charity Charge' - It is also referred to as the Charge in the North East Corner.

The wording of the Charge is very interesting especially with regard to the beneficiaries of a Freemason's charity. The charge makes it very clear on whose behalf *"we awaken the charitable feelings of every newly made Brother."* It's on the 'member's behalf' a statement which reminds us that charity really does begin at home. That is not to suggest that the exercise of charity should not be more widespread - of course it should be, after all we are reminded in the Charge After Initiation *"that a Freemason's charity should know no bounds save those of prudence."*

Wiltshire Freemasons created the phrase '**charity it's in a freemason's DNA**' which acknowledges the truth contained in the Charge, *"charity, doubtless it has often been felt and practised by you."* This short phrase underlines a very important point, which is that we welcome into Freemasonry, men of a charitable nature. with the hope that they will become even more charitable. Which is a great way to tell you how Freemasons are.....

Helping to beat Covid....

When Phil Still received a call from the NHS asking whether Salisbury Freemasons could provide volunteers to assist the vaccination programme at City Hall, it took him all of sixty seconds to say yes. That's because Phil knew that finding volunteers for such a worthy cause would pose no problem whatsoever, and he was right. Freemasons from Lodges meeting in Salisbury and the immediate area will provide essential support two days every week for the next five weeks - that is real commitment, and it surely serves to confirm what we mean when we say '**charity it's in a freemason's DNA**'

Tim takes his leave and begins a new journey....



The Eggelmeijers
Tim, Zelda, Iris
and the newest member Robyn

Stonehenge Lodge member Bro Tim Eggelmeijer, his wife Iris and their two daughters Zelda and Robyn are embarking on a new journey and moving to Sweden.

Much has happened in 2020 to persuade Tim and his wife that now is the right time to pursue their long held dream and undertake a last adventure to make a life for their young family in Sweden.

Tim remembers the day he first visited Stonehenge Lodge, and the impact it made on him, which convinced him he should become a joining member. The Lodge welcomed Tim and his family, and he in turn became a much loved and valued member of the Lodge.

He leaves Wiltshire (but not the Masonic family) with the best wishes of us all, but let's leave the last words to Tim: *"This is a see you later, not a good bye."*



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Another great opportunity....

It's the turn of Provincial Chaplain Michael Barratt to take centre stage in the second of the series **Meet The Officer**. Michael will be joining the Vastern Lodge Discussion Group on Friday 26th February when he will share with you his love of astronomy, an affection for the game of chess, and his travails on the golf course. Along the way we will discover why he became a Freemason, and what persuaded his decision to become a licensed lay minister.

Wiltshire Freemasonry

Wiltshire Freemasons
invite you to

MEET THE PROVINCIAL CHAPLAIN

Zoom
Friday 26th February 7.30pm

email: pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Bro Michael Barratt
Provincial Chaplain

email: pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Elias de Derham help Louis....

Having climbed Mt Kilimanjaro to raise money towards his son Louis education, the Lodge supported Bro Daniel Hillier's efforts with a donation of £1,000 to The Victoria Education Centre, Poole. The Centre is part of the national charity Livability and works with children and young adults to achieve independence and confidence with high quality education, therapy and care.

Bro Derek Brown the Lodge Charity Steward explained how places at the Victoria Centre are highly sought after, and that Bro Hillier was thrilled when he was told that his son Louis had secured a much coveted place. The Lodge will certainly be keeping an eye on Louis' progress.





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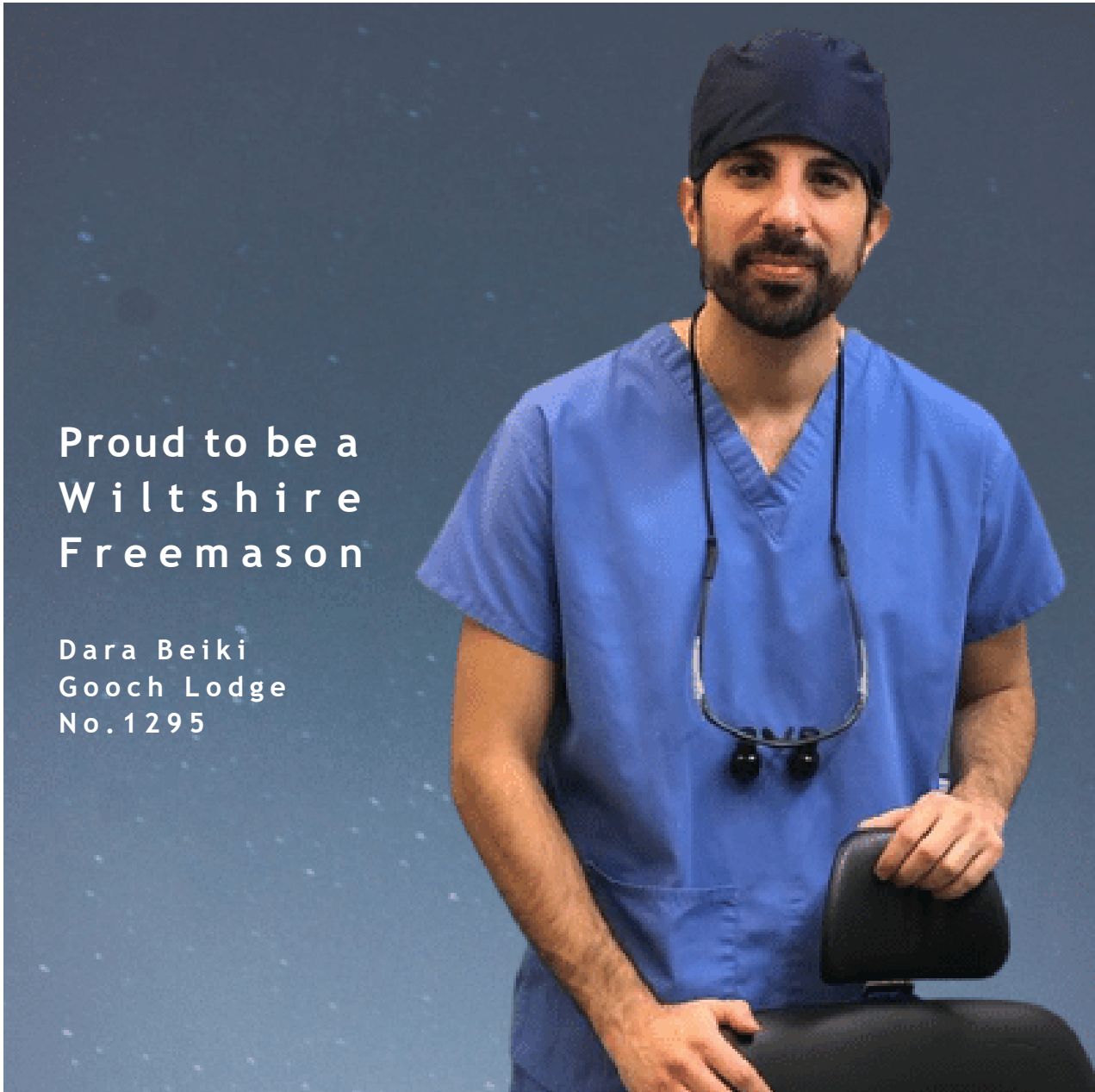
A nice man from Nice....

The cultural capital of the French Riviera, set on the Baie des Anges. The deep blue waters of the Cote d'Azur are the dramatic backdrop for elegant Nice, where you can breathe in the fresh Mediterranean air as you stroll the famous Promenade des Anglais, be charmed by the quaint streets of Old Town, or get a panoramic view of the whole city from atop Castle Hill. Indulge in classic Provençal dishes and wines in one of the city’s cafes or bustling brasseries.

The city’s most famous former resident was artist Henri Matisse, but today we feature another former resident, Wiltshire Freemason Dara Beikie who was initiated into Lodge “Les Batisseurs de Cheops under the constitution of Memphis-Mizraim. The ritual Dara first learned was established by French generals during the Napoleons 1798 Egyptian campaign.

Dara moved to Swindon where his parents, and brother Dastan were living, and is now settled in the town. Not being able to find a French Lodge proved no problem to Dara and in 2018 he was welcomed as a joining member of Gooch Lodge No.1295

Wiltshire Freemasonry



Proud to be a
Wiltshire
Freemason

Dara Beiki
Gooch Lodge
No.1295