



May 2021

There is always something to do....

Wiltshire Freemasons



Pablo Picasso was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, and theatre designer who spent most of his adult life in France. Regarded as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, he is known for co-founding the Cubist movement, the invention of constructed sculpture, the co-invention of collage, and for the wide variety of styles that he helped develop and explore. He is also the author of the quote I am using in this edition of In touch>On line, Picasso said: *"What one does is what counts. Not what one had the intention of doing."*

I am sure you will agree with me when I write the past year has been something else. It's opened my eyes to many things and many people. It's had its ups and downs and ins and outs. And I believe we've all been able to take something from that and grow in our own particular ways. We've overcome obstacles, and set in motion opportunities that can change our own individual lives. It has also convinced me of the relevance of Picasso's words and persuaded me that good intentions will never overshadow good deeds.

I have written previously of my pride in members of the Wiltshire Masonic family who have really performed above and beyond what we might term reasonable in helping their fellow citizens. And today I want to repeat my thanks to every one of our members who has contributed toward the battle against the effects of Covid.

However, while we have concentrated our efforts on combating Covid we must not forget that Cancer and Coronary issues are major contributors to the death toll in the UK. As we come out of this current crisis it is almost certainly going to be the case that some of our members will face their own battles with other issues, and it is important that we are able and ready to support them.

During a recent discussion with Provincial Steward Paul Sharp I was interested to learn about various clinical trials with which he had been involved, in particular those which were designed to measure the effect of raised blood pressure on strokes and heart attacks. This month is May Measurement Month and I am asking every member of the Masonic family to check their blood pressure regularly. It's easy to do, and could save your life.

As you read this edition of **In touch>On line** a number of our Lodges will be preparing to hold their first meeting of the year. In fact in the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May I know of three Lodges which will be meeting under the rule of 6 unless the Masonic Hall has the necessary permission and is able to safely accommodate more than 6, up to a maximum of 30. I wish them well and look forward to receiving a report on the evening's proceedings.

I was pleased to attend another excellent MEET THE OFFICER meeting at which the speaker was Sandy Steele-Davis. When the Province announced in 2020 that they were going to hold a series of MEET THE OFFICER meetings I didn't know quite what to expect. I am sure I am not alone when I say they have been quite informative and exciting, and I am certainly looking forward to hearing from the Provincial Secretary Phil Still on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. If you can, please do join us.



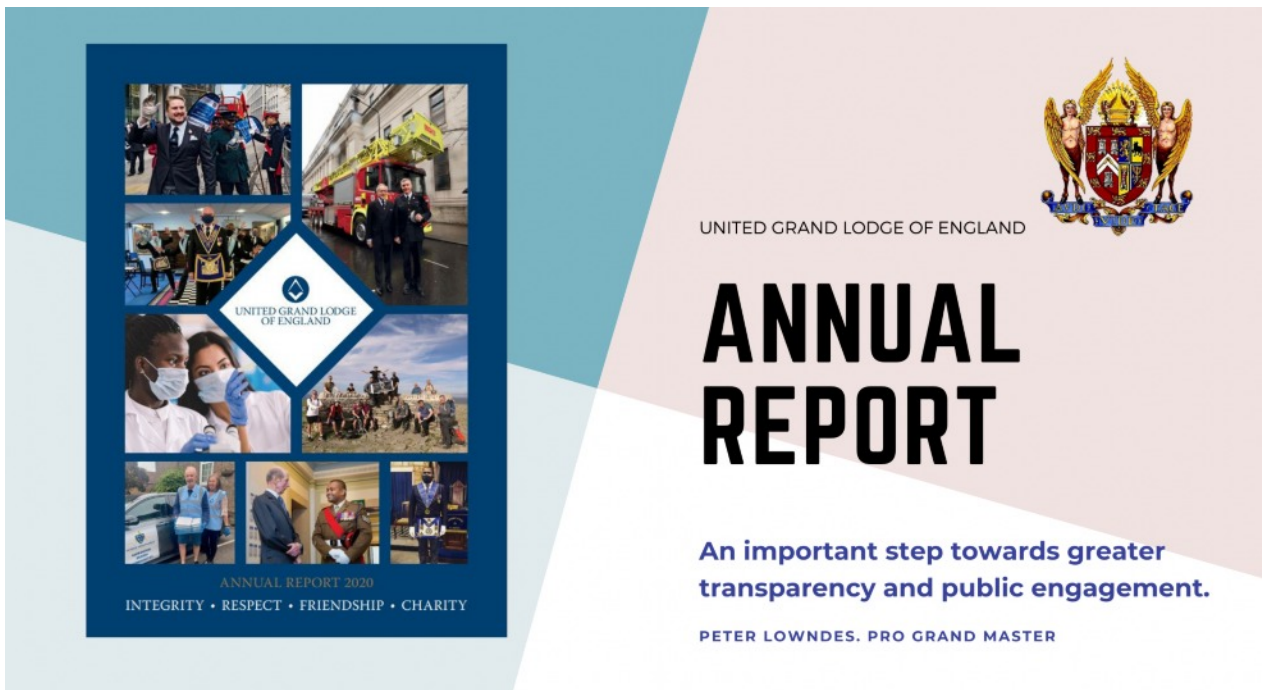
May 2021

### The first Annual Report ....

The news that the UGLE had issued its first Annual Report in over 300 years saw a national media interest to interview the Grand Secretary to discover what has changed to warrant the publication of what is without doubt a well put together corporate brochure.

It comes as no surprise that the primary justification for the production of the report is to confirm the UGLE's commitment to modernisation, transparency and normalization

Wiltshire Freemasons



**Modernisation** is a word we know well. In fact everyone of us has lived through a period of incredible change where something is adapted to modern needs or habits, typically by installing modern equipment or adopting modern ideas or methods. Thank goodness our Lodge Secretaries don't have to use a quill pen, or make up their own ink. The PC and printer are the modern equivalents, and I think it fair to say most, if not all secretaries would not function as effectively and efficiently without modern equipment.

**Transparency** is another area addressed in the Annual Report, and it is surely in everyone's interest that sunlight is allowed to shine its golden rays on our fraternity. What cannot be denied is that Freemasonry has been exemplary in actively opening itself to investigation for well over 50 years and more by way of press releases, television, radio appearances, and social media. It has also used its charitable arm to provide multi million pound charitable donations to worthy causes and registered charities.

**Normalisation** means 'the process of bringing or returning something to a normal condition or state' which might lead some to ask *What is Freemasonry's normal condition or state?* To reassure members that what they may perceive is happening, is not happening, the CEO has made clear he has "never sought to change Freemasons' Hall into a clone of so many faceless corporations." To read the full report go to : [www.ugle.org.uk/about-us/annual-report](http://www.ugle.org.uk/about-us/annual-report)



May 2021

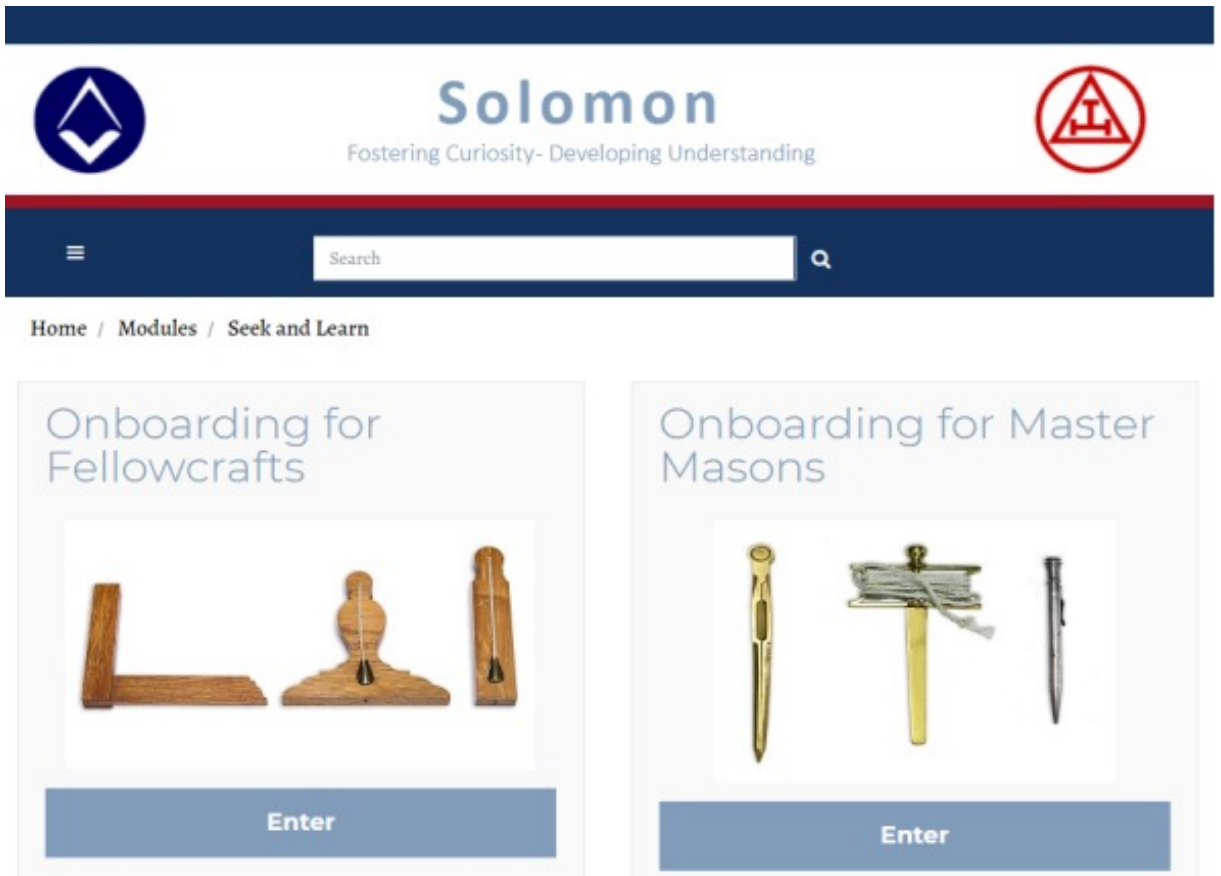
### 'Onboarding' for Fellow Craft and Master Masons.

Richard Wright (White Horse Lodge No.2227) is the Province's 'Solomon' champion and he has recently attended a number of webinars explaining how Solomon is evolving and improving as an online learning resource and is making daily advancement a reality in the Craft and Royal Arch.

Onboarding modules have recently been launched for Fellow Craft Freemasons and Master Masons. These are induction modules ideal for those who have recently been passed or raised. Designed as self learning programmes for completion over a four week period, the modules include papers, videos and quizzes. They are intended to make learning fun and 'badges' can be earned for completion of the modules. The material is also ideal for Mentors (and others) for delivery at a Lodge of Instruction or on a one-to-one basis. Mentors are encouraged to make junior Brethren aware of the modules and support the use of them. Both modules are accessible in the 'Seek and Learn' section of Solomon ([ugle.org.uk](http://ugle.org.uk))

**Onboarding** defined - The action or process of integrating a new employee (*member*) into an organisation. or familiarising a new customer or client (*member*) with one's products or services.

Wiltshire Freemasons



To get to know more about Solomon and to learn how Soloman can help to develop your understanding of all things Freemasonry talk to your Lodge Mentor. He will know what you need to do to connect to this wonderful library of really useful information; and once you've signed up you can browse the modules and discover everything you need to know to make that essential daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.





May 2021

## A great picture....

In the last edition of **In touch>Online** we looked at a 'new' word used by Provincial Chaplain, Michael Barratt, the word was 'acronymically' a terrific thirteen letter word, and I asked readers to let me know what it meant. Thank you for all your replies. The answer to the question is that acronymically refers to when *a word is formed by combining the initial letters of a multipart name, such as UGLE from United Grand Lodge of England or by combining the initial letters or parts of a series of words, such as radar from radio detecting and ranging.*

In a recent Thought For The Day, Michael provided a wonderful picture of the night sky. He mentioned two chocolate bars - what were they? Answers to [pcowiltshire@gmail.com](mailto:pcowiltshire@gmail.com)

## Super Fast Response....

When Bro Hedley (Ed) Coombs a member of Pleydell Lodge No.4687 wanted to know more about his father's Masonic career he asked the Provincial Communication Team to help him.

An email to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Provincial Communication Officer was the start of a super fast response from the secretary of Panmure lodge No.723 which is based in Aldershot. Barry Rowlands really did 'pull out all the stops' and was able to provide Ed with a comprehensive account of his father's service to the Lodge and Hants & IoW Freemasonry. What a thrill it was for Bro Ed to discover his father **W. Bro. John W H Coombs** was the 844<sup>th</sup> Brother to become a member of Panmure Lodge No.723, and the 651<sup>st</sup> to be initiated into the Lodge on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1952. Ed's father served the Lodge for 19 years occupying the following offices: - Stwd 1959-61, IG 1962, JD 1963, SD 1964, JW 1965, SW 1966/67, WM 1968.



Steve Smith (WM) on the left and David Kyte (Charity Steward) of Border Lodge No.3129 present a cheque to the Wiltshire Search and rescue team.

Bro Ed Coombs and his wife Sue are great supporters and fundraisers for Wiltshire Search and Rescue. Ed has just completed an article on the work of the charity for the summer edition of **Across the Plain**.

The team has received financial support from several Masonic Lodges in Wiltshire in the past with very generous contributions from the Lansdowne Lodge of Unity, Calley Lodge and Border Lodge donating in excess of £1,000 this year alone.

## Sarsen Club Chairman features in UGLE video....



Mitch Bryan (Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355) appeared alongside Chief Executive Officer Dr David Staples and was interviewed by journalist Jess King for a video which appeared on [www.mailplus.co.uk](http://www.mailplus.co.uk)

The video is titled - *Modernising the Masons: Can the secret society square its traditions with the 21<sup>st</sup> century?*



# In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

*"Raised blood pressure #1 cause of strokes and heart attacks"*



May 2021

Wiltshire Freemasons



## Wiltshire Freemasons

invite you to

### MEET THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Bro Phil Still

zoom Friday 28th May at 7.30pm

email: [pcowiltshire@gmail.com](mailto:pcowiltshire@gmail.com)



## Proud to be a Wiltshire Freemason

Mark Neilson

Gooch Lodge

No.1295







# In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

"Raised blood pressure #1 cause of strokes and heart attacks"



May 2021

Wiltshire Freemasons

## WILTSHIRE REGALIA

Masonic offer direct from  
**STEPTRONIC®**  
ENGLAND

- Premium polished calf leather upper
  - Super soft sheepskin lining
  - Premium eyelet lace up
  - Cushioned & perforated insoles
  - 100% natural rubber soles
  - Wider G fit
- \*while stocks last

### Factor

~~£120.00~~

£99.99



### Faro

~~£120.00~~

£99.99



T: 01793 840073

E: [orders@wiltsregalia.co.uk](mailto:orders@wiltsregalia.co.uk)

