



June 2021

## We salute the men and women of the Armed Forces....

Wiltshire Freemasons



I am sure that many of our members were moved by the the official opening of the British Normandy Memorial to commemorate those who served and died during the liberation of France. Armed Forces serving personnel joined veterans of the Normandy Campaign to mark the 77th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy.

Armed Forces Day takes place on Saturday 26 June with celebrations beginning on Monday 21 June, when the Armed Forces Day flag is raised on buildings and famous landmarks around the country. Showing support for the Armed Forces provides a much valued morale boost for the men and women who serve in the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force. It is an opportunity to honour not only those who still serve our nation, but the veterans and reservists who make up the military family. A veteran is anyone who has served in the HM Armed Forces at any time (including National Servicemen, Regulars and Reserves). Armed Forces Day celebrates their continued role within the military community.

Reserves Day which this year is on 23 June will also provide an opportunity for the country to recognise our Reserve Forces. Reservists give up their spare time to serve in the Reserve Forces, balancing their civilian life with a military career to ensure that should their country require them, they would be ready to serve.

During the past few years I have met Freemasons who are serving Queen and country, and I have enjoyed the company of men who constantly amaze me with interesting stories of their time in uniform. In particular I am constantly surprised how many of our members have achieved so much but have kept their achievements to themselves.

As we come to the end of the Covid-19 restrictions I have been reflecting on how the last 15 months have been the most challenging for our country and society that I can remember. The tragedies experienced by many families will be felt for many years to come and the scars, both visible and invisible will remain for who knows how long. The support we are able to give to friends and family will be key to how quickly we move from a period of darkness and despair to a new dawn of hope and recovery.

It has been said that Freemasonry has been dormant during the pandemic, but this is only partially true insofar as it relates to our actual meetings. Freemasonry as a living , functioning set of values and ideals has not been idle, rather it has been even more active as it has demonstrated the charitable principles of the fraternity. Our members, individually and through their Lodge have continued to engage with local communities, and contributed to our society in so many different ways.

I was recently made aware of the incredible efforts of Bro Curtis Flux, a member of **George Duke of Kent Lodge No.8788** which meets in Swindon. Curtis is a local councillor and community campaigner who during the pandemic organised Covid safe events, provided support and worked to help reduce loneliness and social isolation.



# In touch > On line

## The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

*"The highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country"*



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As a result of his work he was nominated for a Swindon & Wiltshire Health & Social Care Award. I am pleased to confirm that Curtis was the winner of **The Mental Health Award**. His nomination carried the following citation. *"Curtis has delivered over 500 lots of shopping, and over 400 prescriptions for local elderly and vulnerable people, and has raised thousands of pounds for local charities. He also works with and takes calls from local residents with mental health issues and people struggling with loneliness and self isolation."* I think it fair to say that Curtis epitomises what we mean when we say - 'charity it's in a freemason's DNA'.



## Swindon & Wiltshire Health & Social Care Awards



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I am looking forward to the next MEET THE OFFICER meeting at which the speaker will be Provincial Membership Officer Colin Cheshire. I have thoroughly enjoyed the series and I am sure Colin will prove to be an interesting speaker on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. Please do not delay in booking your ZOOM connection.



### Wiltshire Freemasons

invite you to

# MEET THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Bro Colin Cheshire  
Friday 25th June at 7.30pm



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

Incidentally you will notice that on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August the inaugural Anthony Wilson Memorial Lecture will take place. The speaker is the Deputy Grand Secretary of the UGLE VW Bro Graham Redman, and promises to be a wonderful evening. Anthony Wilson described Graham Redman as being: "The first person to whom we turn for authoritative advice on matters of Masonic protocol or the interpretation of the Book of Constitutions." I know there has already been a lot of interest in this event and would urge you to contact the Provincial Communication Team to book your ZOOM link.



June 2021

## Bro Curtis Flux...

The editor caught up with Bro Curtis Flux (a member of George Duke of Kent Lodge No.8788) just after he was announced as a winner in the Swindon & Wiltshire Health & Social Care Awards. Curtis was announced as the winner of **The Mental Health Award** which highlighted the amazing work he undertook setting up Covid-19 related support for individuals within the local Swindon community he represents as a local councillor. The sponsors of the Mental Health Award said: "Curtis is a worthy winner. The pandemic has brought about one of the most challenging years in the care sector as well as the effects of loneliness and isolation; and it's people like Curtis that support mental health in such a big way is why we wanted to sponsor this category."

## Proud to be a Wiltshire Freemason

**Curtis Flux**  
**George Duke of Kent Lodge**  
**No.8788**



Wiltshire Freemasons



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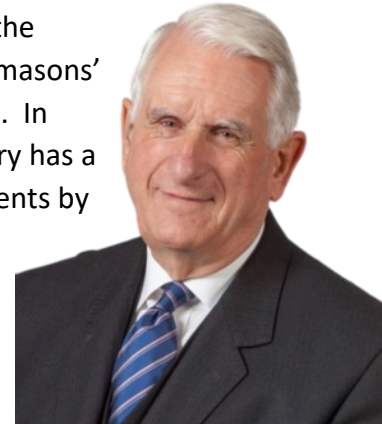


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## Focus on the future ....

Wiltshire Freemasons

The focus of everyone connected with English Freemasonry is on the future, and that's as true for the people who operate out of Freemasons' Hall in London as it is for those who are found in the 47 Provinces. In Wiltshire our ambition is predicated on the belief that Freemasonry has a bright future, a future which includes a greater participation in events by current members, and the opportunity for new members to experience the benefits of being a Freemason. And there are benefits, both tangible and intangible; indeed for those acquainted with the Long Closing in the first degree the words spoken towards the end of the piece confirm this: *"you may prove to the world the happy and beneficial effects of our Ancient and Honourable Institution."*



But Freemasons are not known for spelling out what are the benefits of being a member, instead we mumble some vague words about camaraderie, learning, charity and having a good time. While perfectly valid in their own right, they can hardly be said to be riveting or inviting to the prospective Freemason, and yet they work quite well. In fact, in my new role as Provincial Membership Officer I have witnessed all of these words (and more) being used to inform an enquiring gentlemen as to what Freemasonry is and what it has to offer him.

Our Lodge structure is very special and offers a new Freemason an immediate unique identifier which will remain with him for his entire Masonic life, little wonder Freemasonry is home from home for former military personnel. Given that our regalia has changed little in 300 years it never ceases to amaze me when I see the look of pride on the faces of our newer members as they tie on their aprons, and put on their white gloves.

There remain other challenges, one of which is to make sure that all members have a real understanding of Freemasonry's core and distinctive values, and that they can clearly articulate and demonstrate them to a wider audience.

The work undertaken by the UGLE Membership Working Party has identified common issues and opportunities regarding membership matters, and these have been identified and included in a special report on membership in the Summer edition of **Across the Plain**. Some would say that's the easy part, and they would probably be right. The difficult part, and it's always difficult, is doing something to address the issues and making the most of the opportunities. I am delighted to be able to say that programmes and actions to attract new members and enhance the enjoyment of Wiltshire Freemasonry for new and existing members are currently being put into operation.

The Provincial Grand Master is a long time campaigner for a more 'joined up approach' to membership and is pleased to promote the twin aims of attracting and engaging members. What he has made clear, and UGLE supports him 100% is that we cannot and must not trade the values and traditions that have served Freemasonry so well for over 300 years in order to obtain a quick fix solution to member numbers. I am in total agreement with him.



# WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

Invite you to the inaugural

## Anthony Wilson Memorial Lecture



# 'The Board of General Purposes'

Presented by

**Graham Redman**

Deputy Grand Secretary UGLE

**Wednesday 25th August**

**7.30pm**



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

By kind permission of Mrs Victoria Wilson





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is that of bearing arms for one's country"*



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