



July 2021

Talking and listening, both are important....



Every year in July, Samaritans branches in the UK hold local events to raise awareness that Samaritans are here to listen to anyone who's struggling to cope, at any time of the day or night. Whether it's a virtual chitchat, or a picnic in the park, **Talk to Us** is one of the ways the Samaritans raise public awareness that they are always here – for anyone who needs someone to listen, 24/7, without judgement or pressure.

Talking and listening are essential life skills. The ability to talk in order to communicate and exchange ideas and information, to negotiate with others, to express feelings and emotions, allows human beings to function well in the world and to be full and active members of society. Communication, to be effective, requires the ability to listen, to understand and to make sense of what is heard. On the personal level, when we listen, we give attention to the other person in such a way as to allow them to feel heard, understood and therefore respected.

Listening is often something we take for granted. It is common that people often hear what is being said but hearing is a lot different to listening. To listen, we need to make a conscious effort not to just hear what people are saying but to take it in, digest it and understand. Not only does listening enhance your ability to understand better and make you a better communicator, it also makes the experience of speaking to you more enjoyable to other people. Active listening doesn't come naturally to us. It is something that we need to make a conscious effort to do. It takes practice and can be difficult to master. Active listening is what it says on the tin; it is fully concentrating on what is being said, digesting it without pre-judgement rather than hearing the general message.

Communication is key in most aspects of life, whether that be with friends, family or Freemasons. A lot of negative issues can be created or exacerbated through poor communication channels. Especially during times of social isolation during COVID-19 it is as important as ever to be engaging with people. If you know of a Brother who is alone or just in need of a friendly voice or a listening ear why not make the effort, pick up the phone or knock on his door and say "Hello". You may be just the tonic he needs.

Talking of listening, I was able to join over 48 Brethren for the latest Zoom meeting in the Meet The Officer series of talks organised by the Provincial Communication Team. It never ceases to amaze me what incredible lives many of our members have lived; and Colin Cheshire's is no exception. Having 'died' twice he went on to have a successful military career, represented Great Britain in fullbore rifle shooting, and a wonderful Masonic career. I am told that there will be one more opportunity to Meet the Officer, but it seems we are all going to have to wait a few more days before we discover the identity of the speaker. What I do know is that I will be attending, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I want to thank the Brethren who are 'raising the flag' for the **NHS SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS DAY** on Monday 5th July, which is of course, the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the NHS in 1948. Congratulations and well done.

Wiltshire Freemasons



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

"Now more than ever we need to talk to each other,
and to listen to each other."



July 2021

Welcome to the very modern Freemasons....

Mitch Bryan (Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355) appeared alongside Chief Executive Officer Dr David Staples for an article titled **Out with the old boys network... in with the millennials and vegans**. In the article Mitch talks about how he encountered hostility from older members at meetings. He told journalist Joe Shute "They all sit back and might do a bit of tutting and stuff." Mitch likens his detractors to an 'old guard', and one which you will get in any institution and any club'. He confirms he was attracted to the Masonic ideal of self improvement and a search for wider meaning and belonging in Freemasonry, as well as a myth and mystery that resonates among a generation raised on Harry Potter.

The article was published in **The Telegraph Magazine** dated 26th June 2021.

Wiltshire Freemasons



Out with the
old boys'
network...



in with the
millennials
and vegans

Chief Executive of the UGLE David Staples points out that he has rewritten the guiding principles of *Freemasonry* to appeal to a younger audience, invited transgender members to join, and opened up the organisation to modern scrutiny."

The article makes it clear that the modern-day version of Freemasonry that the UGLE wishes to present is ethnically diverse, split across genders, and tolerant of all - one markedly different to its reputation as the preserve of middle aged men.

David Staples says the response to his modernising agenda among members has been overwhelmingly positive. Throwing open the doors of Masonic institutions is, he says, blowing away the cobwebs, and rehabilitating them in the public eye.

This is from an article commissioned by the UGLE and published in the Daily Telegraph Magazine dated 26th June 2021



July 2021

The Anthony Wilson Memorial Lecture....

On Wednesday 25th 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." Over 200 people from across the world have registered their intention to attend the meeting, and I would urge you to contact the Provincial Communication Team to book your ZOOM link.

Wiltshire Freemasons



**Proud to be a
Wiltshire
Freemason**

**Barry Jordan-Davis
City Lodge
No.5955**



July 2021

Covid Isolation Lodge No.19....

As we look forward to a full resumption of Masonic activity we can reflect on how UGLE might have adapted the opening of the Lodge under lockdown protocols.

- WM:** The situation of the Tyler?
- JW:** Outside the door of the lodge.
- WM:** His duty?
- JW:** Being armed with a two metre sword to see off all coughers.
- WM:** The situation of the Inner Guard?
- SW:** Within the entrance of the lodge.
- WM:** His duty?
- SW:** To admit the uninfected on proof, receive the candidates duly masked and obey the commands of the Junior Doctor.
- WM:** The situation of the JD.
- JW:** Two metres distant from the SW.
- WM:** His duty?
- JW:** To carry all soap of the WM from the SW to the JW, and see their hands are properly cleaned.
- WM:** The situation of the SD?
- SW:** Two metres to the right of the WM.
- WM:** His duty?
- SW:** To bear the soap of the WM to the SW and await the hand washing of the JD.
- WM:** Bro JW, your place in the Lodge?
- JW:** In the S.
- WM:** Why are you placed there?
- JW:** To mark the position of the soap. To call Brethren from soap to sink, and sink to towel, that clean hands are the result
- WM:** Bro SW, your place in the lodge?
- SW:** In the W.
- WM:** Why are you placed there?
- SW:** To ensure that brethren are masked, tested, and regularly clean the lodge by the command of the WM, having seen that everyone remains exactly 2m apart from each other.
- WM:** Bro IPM, the M's place.
- IPM:** In the E.
- WM:** Why is he placed there?
- IPM:** As the virus came from the E, leading us to isolation, so the WM is placed there to make sure all vulnerable Freemasons are duly shielded, commanding them to stay at home, protect our Lodges and save lives.
- WM:** Brethren, the isolation lodge being duly sanitized, let us remain 2 metres apart, duly isolated and wait for a vaccine to arrive.
- ALL:** So mote it be.

And so say all of us.

Wiltshire Freemasons



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

By kind permission of Mrs Victoria Wilson



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and to listen to each other."*



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Wiltshire Freemasons

WILTSHIRE REGALIA

T: 01793 840073 E: orders@wiltregalia.co.uk

Lodge Secretary Special Entered Apprentice package

Make your new Lodge member or initiate feel part of your Lodge and welcome them with this great offer.

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*£5 trade in offer Call for details

** Pick up points in Cricklade and Devizes



Steptronic Shoes

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MEET THE MASONS

Highworth Market Square

SATURDAY 14th AUGUST

About the Freemasons

We are a members' organisation which has thrived for over 300 years. We have no political connections, we have members of all ages, races, religions, cultures and backgrounds. Freemasons have met in Highworth for over 40 years and currently meet in the North View Community Centre.

Our Principles

- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Friendship
- ✓ Charity