



Across the Plain

The magazine of the Masonic Province of Wiltshire



Summer 2015



Celebrating 300 Years



Provincial Grand Lodge Summons

Why meet on a Wednesday?



The Stamp of Approval



The Provincial Grand Master



I am often reminded that time is a precious commodity, whether referring to time spent with loved ones, friends or just quiet time when you can be alone with nothing more than your thoughts. It is also the case that time really does seem to fly, giving truth to that well known Latin phrase '*Tempus Fugit*'

At Lodge Installation meetings, the Presiding Officer will speak to the newly Installed Master entreating him to enjoy his year in office as it will vanish in a heartbeat and, before he knows it, he will be installing his successor. This has been quite forcibly brought home to me with the realisation that it has been a full eight months since I was privileged to be Installed as the fifteenth Provincial Grand Master of this wonderful Province.

Sally and I have enjoyed such wonderful hospitality when we have been invited to attend lunch with each of the three branches of the Masonic Widows' Association, dinner with the sporting sections and White Table receptions with a number of Lodges. In what is a relatively short time I can genuinely say that we have experienced the very best of what it means to be a part of the Wiltshire Masonic Family.

During the past few months I have been invited to shoot clays, albeit I might have missed more than I hit; I have wielded a golf club with a measure of success - according to Bro Merv Johns, but I am yet to prove my ability to 'bowl a wood' or parallel park a caravan; doubtless I might now be invited to do so.

The opportunities afforded to represent the Province and speak about how Wiltshire Freemasons are active supporters of local and national charities, arise all too infrequently, and I am conscious that every occasion should be seized as if it were the last. I have enjoyed meeting representatives, volunteer workers and the recipients of donations made by Lodges and the Freemasons Grand Charity. The actual amount of effort made by Brethren and their families in support of others is very humbling and I congratulate each and every Brother for the contribution you make to improving the lives of others less fortunate than ourselves.

In Wiltshire we are fortunate to have a number of hospices dedicated to the care of those who have a terminal illness. I was extremely privileged to visit two facilities and was particularly impressed with a presentation made by the Chief Executive of Dorothy House which was followed by a tour of the hospice. I was joined by a number of Brethren and we all agreed that our donations were being 'faithfully applied' in providing excellent end of life care in a quite amazing environment.

Whilst not a criteria for giving, it is never far from one's mind that some of the organisations supported by Freemasons might well be utilised by Brethren, their families and friends. The hospice movement is one such organisation, as is the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, and it was a thrill to visit the headquarters and view the new helicopter which has recently been approved for active service. The Air Ambulance is fully funded by voluntary subscriptions and requires three million pounds each year to provide county wide coverage.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Wiltshire Festival. I am delighted with the efforts of all Lodges in supporting the Masonic Samaritan Fund, a

charity which our Communications Team has dubbed 'Your Charity' - and it really is.

May I encourage you to continue holding events, large and small, to work in collaboration with other Lodges but above all, to have fun. We may be moving out of recession but Freemasons are not immune to the hard economic conditions which our country has faced; for some there will always be a need which can only be met by a charity such as the Masonic Samaritan Fund.

Stephen Bridge and his Mentoring team have produced an outstanding presentation designed to help Lodge Mentors. I commend the presentation to you and feel sure every Lodge will find the content helpful.

Many of you will be aware that Peter Winton has recently undergone surgery. I am delighted that Peter is 'on the mend' and will soon be able to resume his duties as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Tercentenary of the formation of Grand Lodge is mentioned by Stephen on page 6. I am sure Brethren will give their full support to the initiatives being proposed to support and celebrate this remarkable anniversary.

I would like to conclude by referring back to my opening remarks about being a member of the Wiltshire Masonic Family. All families have times when things are said and done which cause hurt and sadness, just as they enjoy times of happiness.

My wish is that we will always remember that we have but one aim in view 'to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness'. Harmony within our Lodges is an essential ingredient in ensuring such happiness prevails.

Thus 'May brotherly love and affection ever distinguish us as men and as Masons' - which Brethren, requires us to display gentleness and consideration at all times.

I wish you much happiness as you enjoy yet another fine Wiltshire summer.

With every best wish



In this edition of **Across The Plain** is the Summons for Provincial Grand Lodge. I hope to see as many Brethren as possible in attendance. I offer my hearty congratulations to every Brother who has received a Provincial appointment and look forward to investing you on Thursday 1 October at Salisbury.

The Grand Master HRH the Duke of Kent has honoured the Province by awarding Grand Rank to Bros Stephen Bridge, Simon Ellingham, Frank Fletcher and Andrew Beaumont; while Bros David Blanchard, Philip Powell and Ronald Venn have received promotions. I am sure you will join me in offering heartiest congratulations to them on their preferment.

I have been pleased to appoint Bro Gary Dolphin and Bro Ian Dunbar as Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Warden respectively. Gary and Ian will be Invested at Provincial Grand Lodge in October.

I am sure you will join me in thanking Stephen Bridge APrGM who, at short notice, provided superb support during Peter Winton's absence

Finally, on behalf of the Province, I offer congratulations to Bro John Reid who was Installed as Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Wiltshire at the recent Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation, held in Melksham.

Meet the Sword and Standard Bearers



Lance Andrews AFM is a member of Lodge of Brothers In Arms No 9540 and was appointed Provincial Grand Sword Bearer by the Provincial Grand Master in October 2014. The Sword Bearer has the honour of leading the Provincial Grand Master, Grand Officers and the Provincial Team into the Lodge at Installation meetings and other special occasions. The highlight for the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer year is when he precedes the Provincial Grand Master into the auditorium at Salisbury's City Hall; entering to the strains of the magnificent Provincial Grand March composed by our, late Bro Keith Iles PPrGOrganist and now played so skilfully by Provincial Grand Organist - Mike May.

Carrying the sword is not a task for the fainthearted or weak in arm, as it is quite heavy - next time you see him, ask Lance to show you this wonderful item of Provincial regalia.

The Provincial Grand Standard Bearers

Marcus Reeves a Past Master of Lodge of Remembrance No 4037 meeting in Swindon and Peter Martin, a Past Master of Moonraker Lodge No 8747 which meets in Devizes are the two Provincial Standard Bearers. I am sure you will agree that Installation ceremonies are greatly enhanced when the Provincial Team, with the Sword Bearer and Standard Bearer being led by the Provincial Stewards, process into the Lodge ahead of the Presiding Officer.



The Provincial Banner, carried by the Standard Bearer, was made by a team of dedicated workers from Warminster Masonic Regalia. The Banner captures in glorious colour what is probably the most iconic of Wiltshire landmarks, The Henge, more typically known as 'Stonehenge' Its structure speaks to us of permanence and stability and the rising sun's rays remind us that, in Freemasonry, the sun rises in the East to open and enliven the day. The green grass symbolises the Downs as embodied in that tract of land known as Salisbury Plain of which such a great part of the Province is made up. The 3D effect of the stones was achieved by using a technique called 'Appliqué' in which a layer of fabric is placed over another and stitched in place. The visually stunning sun's rays were created by a considerable amount of hand stitching.

Provincial Administration - the Secretariat

It is said that all organisations need a well oiled administrative machine to ensure all runs as it should. Provincial Grand Lodge is no exception. The key members of the team supporting the Provincial Grand Master are led by David Davies, the Provincial Grand Secretary, ably assisted by Phil Still, the Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary.



David Davies

David and Phil are the primary points of contact between Grand Lodge, other Provinces and Districts, the Wiltshire Masonic family and The Provincial Grand Master. The Secretariat is responsible for ensuring the smooth and efficient running of the Province which includes the Herculean task of keeping all Provincial records up to date for which they have access to the UGLE database.



Phil Still

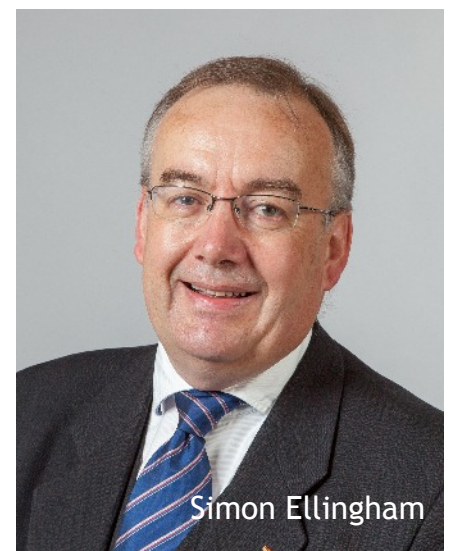
No organisation the size of Provincial Grand Lodge could manage its financial affairs without the expert assistance of a Treasurer and Wiltshire is fortunate to have Simon Ellingham as its Provincial Grand Treasurer. A qualified Chartered Accountant in private practice, Simon succeeded long-serving Geoffrey Snelgrove when elected in 2011. The role of Provincial Grand Registrar is primarily to keep all membership records up to date, a task which is much easier following the computerisation of member details - can you imagine the work undertaken by former Registrar David Henery who began the process of change from manual to computer records during his ten year tenure of the post? David's successor is John Badger who shares the same love of computer technology and has the same fascination for studying and preparing analytical data - an essential characteristic for a Registrar.



John Badger

Some Provincial roles, are by their very nature, 'jobs' as well as an office. Continuity is a very important feature and post holders will normally be appointed and remain in position for a number of years.

In addition to their regular administrative duties the team will also be seen supporting members of the 'Chain Gang' at Installation meetings throughout the Province.



Simon Ellingham

Editor's Note - If you have the time and a skill which you would like to use in assisting the Provincial Team, contact the Provincial Grand Secretary for an informal chat about how you can help. All photographs taken by W Bro Adrian Wooster ©

Celebrating 300 Years W. Bro Stephen Bridge JGD, APrGM

Of Grand Lodge

The year 1717 saw the first meeting of Grand Lodge, or at least what was to develop into Grand Lodge, and in 2017 we will be celebrating the 300th anniversary.

On a national level the main event will take place in London at the Royal Albert Hall (RAH) on 31st October 2017 and this will be the culmination of the events held throughout the year in the Provinces and Districts.

Regionally (we are Region 9) there is a plan for a Masonic banner to move through the South West Provinces and it is hoped that it will attract support from the Brethren and a great deal of community and media attention.

As the Province is actively supporting the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Festival, it did not seem appropriate to ask Lodges to make another large financial commitment in respect of the Tercentenary. Consequently it was decided to ask each Lodge to commit to giving at least 300 hours of members' time in assisting their local community. This approach, based on the gift of time rather than cash, has added benefits. It will assist in raising our profile within our local communities and thus transparency, openness and potentially recruitment; it will reinforce the concept of Freemasons providing practical support in addition to the more traditional financial support role.

It has been interesting to see how some Lodges have been in contact with those charities which they already support and have found a very positive reaction to the suggestion that they take on a specific project such as planting some bulbs for a playgroup or sheltered accommodation to help brighten their surroundings.

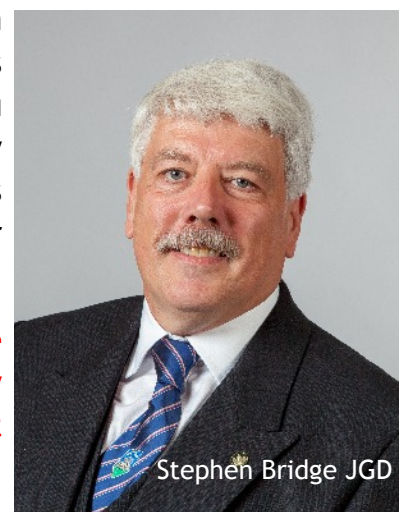
I am also delighted to hear from Lodges who are working together to make a difference; one such example is the proposal that several Lodges tackle the overgrown areas of a local churchyard where a number of Freemasons' graves are overgrown with brambles.

Additionally we will be asking Lodges to take part in more 'public facing' events such as white tables and Lodge open days, connected with the celebrations.

Whilst there should not be undue focus on the target, these types of community assistance can really help push the 'hours total' along - if just ten members agree to turn up for a gardening or similar commitment on a Saturday between 0900 hrs and 1200 hrs you are already 10% of the way there.

It is also important that we have some fun into the bargain, and I am sure we will receive some very positive feedback from our members who have done something of this ilk. I anticipate that many of you will have a thoroughly enjoyable time while contributing so positively to the community in which you live and work and in the process strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual respect with your Brethren in Freemasonry.

Editor's Note - If you have an idea as to how your Lodge can celebrate the Tercentenary of Grand Lodge, please do let your Lodge Secretary know. Every idea is worth exploring and who knows, your idea might be 'just the one' to make a difference.



Stephen Bridge JGD



Freemasons at War 1914-18

W. Bro Kevin Logan PrGStwd

Lodge of Remembrance No 4037

We left off our retrospective of the Great War by considering the part played by Swindon Freemasons. In this issue I have moved to the West of the Province to Devizes, Trowbridge, Melksham, Bradford-on-Avon and Warminster.

Allen Llewellyn Palmer

Lodge of Concord No 632. Initiated: 19 February 1903, Passed: 22 October 1903 and Raised: 21 January 1904, Died December 1916.

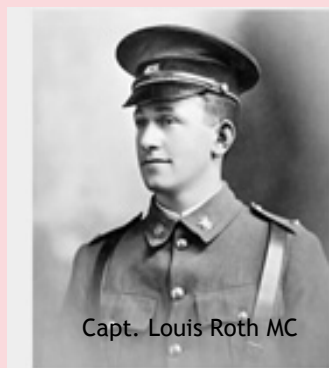
A Lieutenant in the 14th Hussars, he is mentioned on De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour. His father, George Llewellyn Palmer was also an active Wiltshire Freemason.

Luther William Dancey

Chaloner Lodge No 2644. Initiated: 19 February 1912, Passed: 6 April 1912 Raised: 16 September 1912 and killed in action August 1917. He was a Rifleman in the London Rifle Brigade. His name is on the Menin Gate.

Louis Roth MC

Longleat Lodge No 1478. Initiated: 16 January 1918, Passed: 20 February 1918 killed in action August 1918. Brother Roth was a Captain in the Australian Pioneers and is buried at the Tincourt New British cemetery in France.



Clarence Pond

Longleat Lodge No 1478. Initiated: 3 April 1918, Killed in action June 1918. According to CWGC records he was in the Australian infantry.

William Edwin Jenkins

Lodge of Friendship and Unity No 1271. Initiated: 8 January 1913, Passed: 12 February 1913. Raised: 19 March 1913. A Captain in the Northumberland Fusiliers he was killed in action in October 1915.

One of the most amazing tributes honouring the fallen of World War 1 was visited by over five million people, many from across the World. The major art installation '*Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*' at the Tower of London, marked one hundred years since the first full day of Britain's involvement in the First World War.



Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies progressively filled the Tower's famous moat between 17 July and 11 November 2014. Each poppy represented a British military fatality during the war. The poppies encircled the iconic landmark, creating not only a spectacular display visible from all around the Tower but also a location for personal reflection. The scale of the installation was intended to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary and create a powerful visual commemoration.

All of the poppies which made up the installation were sold, raising millions of pounds which were shared equally amongst six service charities.

Did you visit the Tower of London to view the poppies, would you like to share your experience?

Why not send us your memories and favourite picture for inclusion in the next edition of *Across The Plain*.



Welcome to the Grand Superintendent

Melksham welcomed the great and the good of Royal Arch Masonry to the Assembly Hall on Saturday 16 May when E Comp John Reid was Installed as the fifteenth Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Wiltshire.

The Annual Convocation held under the banners of Lansdowne Chapter, Chapter of Harmony and Chapter of Friendship and Unity, was attended by Grand Superintendents and other Provincial representatives from across the region. Presiding Officer, E Comp George Pipon Francis, Second Grand Principal, a regular and welcome visitor to Wiltshire, obligated and Invested Excellent Comp John Reid as the fifteenth Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Wiltshire.

On an occasion interlaced with grand ceremony and solemn ritual, E Comp John welcomed the many Companions who had travelled from far and wide to witness this very special occasion and to support him as he was Installed as Grand Superintendent. He pledged himself to continue and uphold the principles of pure and Antient Masonry.

Companions, It is my great pleasure to write to you for the first time as your Grand Superintendent.

It is a great honour and privilege to be asked by the First Grand Principal to lead and take the Province forward. My journey through Pure Antient Masonry has been most rewarding and I thank the Brethren and Companions who have encouraged and guided me along the way; many of you are here today, and not just from this wonderful Province of ours.

I cannot let this moment pass without making special mention and thanking the Most Excellent Second Grand Principal and his team for their attendance here today, giving their time and providing us with such a spectacle of first class ceremonial which I am sure will live long in our memories.

It would be remiss of me not to mention and thank Excellent Companions Malcolm Lane and Kenneth Benford for their participation in my Installation,

Companions this is a very special day not only for me, but for all the Companions who I have just had the immense pleasure to appoint to and promote in Provincial Grand Rank. I am sure you do not need reminding that the Provincial honour you have received today is not given lightly, by right, or time served; you have earned that accolade for the contribution and commitment you have made to your Chapters.



Are you interested in joining a local Chapter ?

Grand Superintendent's Address



It does not stop there; it carries an expectation that you will continue to support your Chapters and the Province in promoting Royal Arch Masonry in your Craft Lodges and encourage Master Masons to consider completing their journey in Pure Antient Masonry by becoming members of this Supreme Degree.

I also congratulate those Companions who were recently appointed to Supreme Grand Chapter rank, in particular Excellent Companion Philip Bullock who was appointed to the active rank of Assistant Grand Sojourner and Excellent Companion Simon Ellingham to Past Grand Standard Bearer, both richly deserved appointments.

Companions, you have heard from the Provincial Grand Registrar that the Province of Wiltshire is in the enviable position of having a net gain in our membership. This is a good position from which to move forward and to continue to promote this wonderful Order. The majority of Chapters are reporting they have Candidates for exaltation, but our success should not make us complacent, rather it should spur us to promote our Order and encourage new members to complete their journey in Pure Antient Masonry. It is my intention during this next year for the Executive to develop a number of lectures that will enable the younger Companions to fully understand the ritual and the hidden meaning it contains.

Companions, when the opportunity arises I encourage you to visit Chapters. You will be well received by the Companions, and I guarantee you will enjoy the evening, make lasting friendships whilst making a daily advancement in your Masonic knowledge.

As you already know Companions, for such a small Province we are extremely generous in our charitable giving; our previous support to the Macmillan Nurses and the Royal College of Surgeons bears this out. However, we have not supported a major charity for some eighteen months. I would like to think that, collectively through our Chapters, we would be able to make a sizeable donation and present a cheque to the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master in support of the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Festival at our Annual Convocation in May 2017. The newly appointed Provincial Grand Charity Steward will be sending further details to your Chapter Scribe.

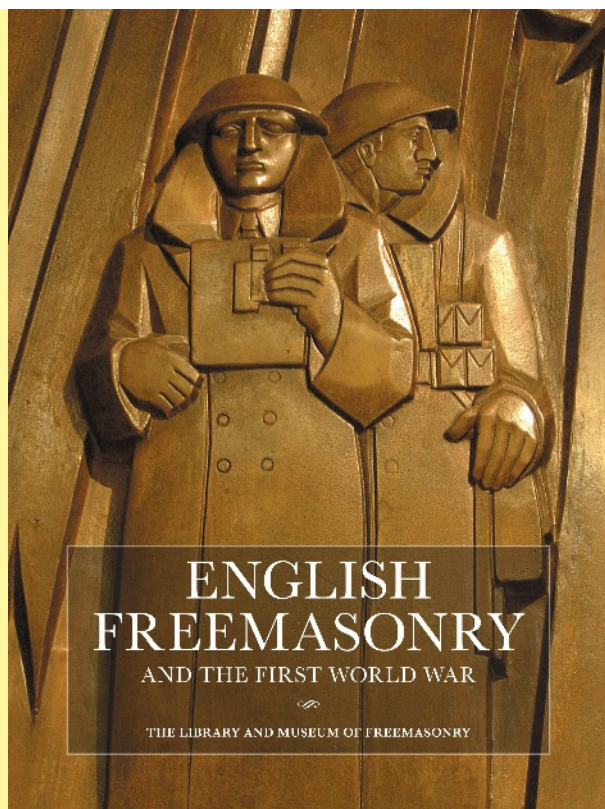
I pay tribute to Excellent Companion David Blanchard, our Past Grand Superintendent, who has guided us over the last seven years with great dignity and distinction; he leaves the Province in good heart and I wish him well in his retirement from office and look forward to his company in the very near future. I thank the Executive and outgoing Provincial Officers on his behalf for their support and commitment over the last twelve months; their attendance at Provincial functions and Chapter Installations has not only enhanced these occasions but is very much appreciated by all of the Companions within the Province.

Companions, I thank each and every one of you for the support I have received in the many years I have held a Provincial Office and for your expression of congratulations and good wishes on my appointment to this office. I look forward to serving this wonderful Province of ours and meeting with you all in your own Chapters during the coming year.

Melksham - May 2015

Talk to your Lodge Royal Arch Representative

Editor's Corner



Cover page: By kind permission of Director of The Library and Museum of Freemasonry - London

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It hardly seems eight months ago that we said a fond farewell to one Provincial Grand Master and welcomed our new one; but here we are, getting ready for PGL at Salisbury in October and amazingly the world has not come to an end and Pure and Antient Freemasonry continues to thrive in Wiltshire.

I make mention of this only to prove that change is not always a bad thing and when managed well it can be a force for good. When announcing his retirement in 2013 Bro Francis Wakem was adamant that the succession programme would result in a seamless transition between his departure and Philip Bullock's arrival. Due in no small part to their close relationship, the plan worked.

In Masonic terms a year is almost like the blink of an eye - or as every new Master is told - a heartbeat. Little wonder that change of any sort is often described as being like an elephant gestation period (which is 640 days or 22 months). Come to think about it, perhaps this description is too generous!

All joking aside, the main constraint to change is 'ourselves' - yes, we inhibit change. Whether it be in the form a meeting takes, the appointment of officers, even the progression of younger Brethren, there is always someone who wants to 'have their say' in the process. Did any of us join Freemasonry to be part of a clique, schism or worse? I don't think so.

In the last edition of ATP Tony Rayner wrote - "*The male ego is the source of almost every conflict in Masonry*". I suspect, if we were being honest we would have to agree with him. However, it doesn't have to be like this; a dollop of common sense mixed with a pinch of compromise, diluted with a pint of the milk of human kindness, carefully prepared with brotherly love and affection will result in the most pleasing of results. And who can reject the invitation to reconcile a difference over a cup of tea and a piece of cake, in order that we can work together with that love and harmony which should at all times characterise Freemasons.

Shouldn't we all seek to be agents of change in a fast changing world, that not being detrimental to ourselves or connections? Surely it's a question worth asking.

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Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Festival

Peter Winton PGSwdB, DPrGM

Having reached the mid-point in our Festival it is only right that we take a little time to reflect on where we are in terms of achievement. However, there is more than one way to calculate success and while the financial target is important, it is not the only indicator and dare I say, it most certainly is not the most important.

In terms of financial success the Province has already committed £550,000 to the Masonic Samaritan Fund, which by any measure is quite an astounding amount from a relatively small Province and I thank each and every member for achieving so much in so short a time. I am confident that we will meet our target of £750,000 and I look forward to hearing from Lodge Charity Stewards with details of planned activities through 2015 and beyond.

If the financial achievement is astounding, I am bound to say that the atmosphere of generosity in our Lodges coupled with the many and diverse ways money is being raised leads me to conclude that the Brethren are having a lot of fun in fundraising. That delights me as much if not more than the actual monetary target achieved - for it speaks to the very core of our fraternity and the grand design of being happy.

During the next few years there will be significant changes in the way the four Masonic Charities operate. What will not change is the need amongst Freemasons, their families and dependants for support and care in time of great need. Your donations will ensure that ongoing support and care is always available.

The Provincial Communications Team has produced a first class presentation to highlight the progress made and the journey we have still to travel if we are to reach our target by October 2017. I commend it to you and hope you will find time to welcome the team into your Lodge during the next few months.



Masonic Widows' Association - News

The Swindon branch of the MWA meets on the second Tuesday in the month from September until April at the Masonic Hall in Swindon. During the past year they have enjoyed a presentation by Southern Electricity advising how to save money, a slide show on Antarctica and Hawaii and a talk by a member of the Fire Brigade. In May members will be having a summer lunch, in June, a strawberry and cream tea and in July a coach trip to Sidmouth.

Calne Masonic hall was the venue for a Charity Evening hosted by St Edmund Lodge No 4714 at which twelve members of the Chippenham Branch of the MWA were guests of the Lodge. A fine time was enjoyed by all present and a remarkable sum of £700 was raised. The Chippenham branch of the MWA meets on the last Tuesday in the month at various locations including Calne, Melksham and Chippenham Masonic Hall.

The South of the Province has a very active branch of the MWA which meets on the second Friday of each month at Salisbury Masonic Hall, Crane Street, Salisbury. In February they welcomed Ann Orr, a local solicitor who reminded members of the importance of writing a Will. A visit to Bournemouth in May was enjoyed by twelve members who finished their trip with a gastronomic delight - fish and chips from Harry Ramsden's. A fitting end to a wonderful day.

The Importance of Mentoring

W. Bro Stephen Bridge JGD, APrGM, PrGMentor

I am sure it has not escaped the attention of Brethren that the Province has been busy developing a comprehensive mentoring programme, designed specifically to assist Lodge Mentors and those Brethren who have been identified as Personal Mentors within their Lodges. The mentoring programme builds on the excellent work done by the 3Rs Group and seeks to give Lodge Mentors clarity around their role, responsibilities and duties while also giving them access to the resources required to make their role truly effective and relevant. We want to see mentoring become an essential aspect of Freemasonry at all levels.

In January, over 25 Brethren attended the first Mentoring seminar at Calne Masonic Hall. The audience received a comprehensive presentation that outlined what must be done to retain and develop the enthusiasm of our members in Freemasonry. Following the presentation, every attendee was presented with a Mentors' Handbook, a USB containing a wealth of supporting material, together with a special lapel pin which confirmed their role as Mentor within the Lodge and in the Province. The next Mentoring seminar is scheduled to take place early in September and, following feedback from Lodge Mentors, the Mentoring Team is hard at work putting together a series of presentations, concentrating on subjects of specific interest.

Mentoring is not just for those young in service, but something that helps us recruit and retain members while also increasing the enjoyment and Masonic understanding and education for all.

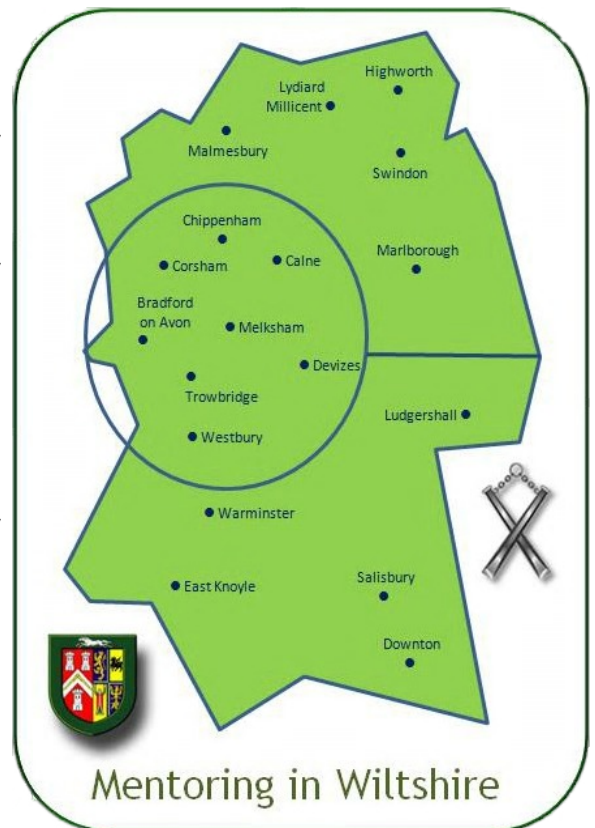
With that in mind, Visiting Officers will take an essential role in embedding mentoring in their respective Lodges and in our culture. As with anything new, some Brethren will embrace it fully, others may need a little reassurance and unfortunately, some will probably view it as an imposition which they can either ignore or resist.

Lodge Visiting Officers, will use their considerable Masonic experience and hopefully wider view and understanding of the 'bigger issues' facing Masonry, to encourage, support and challenge in a way that is tailored particularly to the Lodge and its membership.

It is hoped that, with Visiting Officer guidance, Lodges will recognise the potential of mentoring and cheerfully embrace and incorporate its principles into all aspects of their work.

Every Lodge in Wiltshire has a Mentoring Liaison Officer (MLO) allocated to it and your MLO is your first point of contact in the Mentoring Team. The three MLOs each cover a region; Kevin Logan - North, David Little - South and Richard Wright - West (see diagram above).

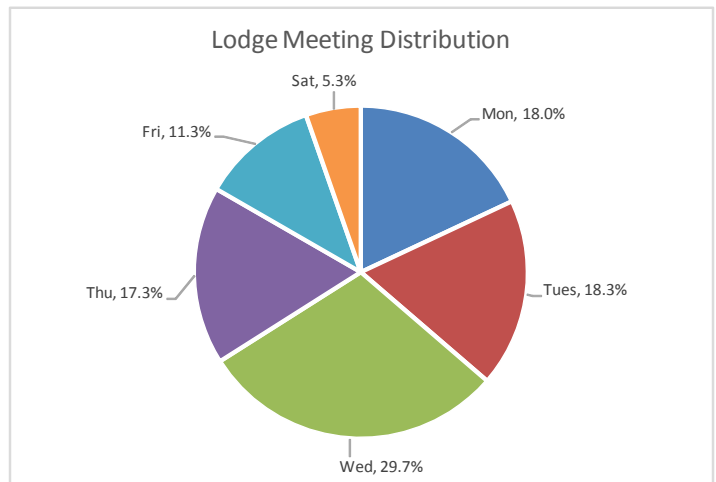
The Province is particularly fortunate in having Kevin Logan and David Little delivering the programme, as both are professional trainers. Visiting Officers can rest assured that the courses will be well organised and presented, thereby ensuring that an attendee's time is well spent.



Why is Wednesday so popular?

W. Bro Kevin Logan explains

Excluding those Lodges that meet on the variable 'Last Working Day' of the month (i.e. Lodge of Agriculture and Wiltshire Masters), the distribution of Lodge Meetings across the Wiltshire Masonic calendar throws up an interesting anomaly. Nearly one-third of all Lodge Meetings take place on a Wednesday; almost the same percentage as Friday, Saturday and Monday combined. Also, more than a quarter of all Wiltshire's Masonic Lodges meet on a Wednesday.



Why is this ?

In our modern shopping era, with stores opening ever-longer hours every day, we may have forgotten a slower age, when stores were not just closed on Sundays, but also had a half-day closing each week - typically on a Wednesday. Half-day closing was not just a tradition, it was required by Law and was regulated by the local Council. The 'Shop Hours Act, 1904' gave local Councils the power to require a single half-day closing, but only when two-thirds of the local retailers agreed to the proposal. Not all shops had to close though; exemptions applied to those that sold perishable food, medicines or newspapers and, curiously, aircraft supplies. Each Council could also set its own exemptions; for example, *The Times* reported that the City of London had chosen to exempt umbrella dealers from the half-day closing act.



A quick look at Wiltshire records show that the first three Wiltshire Lodges consecrated after the Act came into force, all chose to meet on a Wednesday (Border, Lodge of Remembrance and Radnor). It is no coincidence either, that the Craft saw an influx of retailers and shop-keepers into their membership in the same 25 year period. The Lodge of Remembrance's Declaration Books record many Butchers, Bakers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Grocers, Jewellers and Outfitters who joined in this period and thereafter.

The United Grand Lodge of England meets in Quarterly Communication on the second Wednesday in March, June, September and December and the Annual Investiture, which is followed by the Grand Festival, is also held on a Wednesday, the last Wednesday in April.

So, if you've ever wanted to know why the Lodge of Remembrance No 4037 holds its Installation Ceremony at 4:30 pm on a cold Wednesday afternoon in February - now you know why.

Editor's Note: If you have an interesting story about your Lodge, why it meets when it does, or why it meets where it does, let us know. A story about your Lodge could be featured in the Winter 2015 edition of *Across The Plain*.

Questions and Answers

W. Bro Barry Cooper

Have your say

If there is something you want to know about Freemasonry, a question you have wanted to ask or a comment you wish to make, why not write to the Provincial Grand Master.

Letters and emails are subject to editorial control. Send your email to ATPLetters@pglwilts.org.uk

Would you like to play a part in promoting Freemasonry in the Province?

The Communications Team would be pleased to hear from you.

Find the Masonic word or phrase (Anagram)

1. Lead the mutiny
2. decode greens
3. trolley dipper
4. do them proper
5. national list
6. trusts in men
7. forenames
8. entices ex
9. fatherland pill
10. ghost him

Answers page 22

APPRENTICE
 ARCHITECTURE
 CHISEL
 GEOMETRICIAN
 SOLICITATION
 ANNOINTED
 WORTHILY
 TONGUE
 GAVEL
 IPM 1295
 LIGHT
 SQUARE
 PILLAR
 LIBERTY

Find these fourteen words

The Provincial Grand Master replies :

Q. A Brother recently admonished me for not holding a salute when I was speaking to the Master - what is the correct procedure?



A. This is a fairly regular issue in many Lodges and so it is timely to address the matter. In the course of the administrative business of a Lodge, it will be necessary to address the Master or the Lodge; a Brother should always start by saluting the Master and if he has only a few words to say - hold the salute throughout. However, if the Brother making a report is offering more than a single sentence it is perfectly correct to salute at the beginning and end of his remarks. The same principle applies when speaking to either of the Wardens.

No one should ever be made to feel ill at ease when speaking in the Lodge. A regular attendance at Lodge of Instruction will always be helpful in overcoming any issues.

Masonic Word Search - Thanks to Bro Barry Cooper of St Edmund Lodge No 4714 for setting the word search.

N	U	E	N	F	N	Y	Y	N	I	X	A	E	T	Z
G	O	F	J	M	D	L	O	Q	Z	R	C	C	O	O
A	Y	I	C	H	I	S	E	L	C	F	B	I	N	T
V	N	Y	T	H	I	A	S	H	F	U	Y	T	G	H
E	V	N	T	A	L	J	I	U	S	O	S	N	U	X
L	O	R	O	J	T	T	H	L	F	V	C	E	E	U
J	O	G	J	I	E	I	S	V	A	Q	J	R	N	J
W	O	R	O	C	N	Q	C	Y	P	S	G	P	V	Q
X	M	C	T	D	U	T	A	I	I	T	J	P	I	J
Q	I	U	J	A	I	L	E	A	L	L	H	A	A	M
Q	R	W	R	O	G	S	P	D	L	O	I	G	O	Y
E	E	E	N	A	I	M	E	N	A	R	S	A	I	X
O	O	L	I	B	E	R	T	Y	R	E	F	A	T	L
F	W	A	G	C	V	V	N	S	U	L	G	A	R	Q
N	A	I	C	I	R	T	E	M	O	E	G	F	M	Q

A warm welcome to all our new members

355	Michael Bengé	2888	Chris Branford White	6114	Alan Walton	8747	Edward Fielding
355	Jose Solera	2888	Arthur Grun	6616	William Steen	8747	George Laville
586	Ronald Johnstone	3129	Paul Bilbao	6616	Joseph Bradwell	8747	Ian Rex
586	Matthew Pallas	3129	Darren Madden	6616	Craig Genery	8747	Gary Elliott
632	Michael Keene	4037	Ian Panting	6616	Justin Scutt	8788	Gareth Blue
632	Neil Warne	4037	Anthony Tuttlebee	7525	Gregory Webb	8788	Gary Marsh
632	Nicholas Wood	4037	Simon Gower	7525	Gregory Campbell	8788	Gary New
663	Ian Gould	4037	Paul Kirwan	7525	David Plotkin	8788	Victor Moss
663	Peter Hatt	4451	Simon Piggott	7525	James Stevens	8977	Simon Burley
1271	Christopher Pickard	4451	Gurdip Shergill	7525	Paul Titheradge	9009	Tony Jackson
1271	Martin Pickard	4687	Philip Cook	8204	Nicholas Hussey	9009	Robert Johns
1295	Peter Atkinson	4687	James Mitchell	8204	Alexander Corbett	9009	William Hogg
1295	Phillip Day	4687	Oliver Balmer	8388	Craig Wall	9035	Anthony Davies
1295	David Dunbar	4687	Craig Baycroft	8388	Anthony Higham	9035	Martyn Dean
1295	Michael Kimber	4687	Richard De'Witt	8388	Peter Mulingani	9035	Steven Harrild-Jones
1295	Philip Wood	4687	Leslie Lloyd	8432	Gary Price	9035	Stuart Thurgood
1478	James Beggs	4714	Anthony Lewis	8432	Richard Barrett-Gray	9035	Kevin Bett
1478	Kelvin Gray	4714	Johnathon Brock	8432	Peter Hill	9064	Gary Crocker
1478	Simon Hill	4714	Andrew Dobson	8435	Daniel Leather	9064	Steven Price
1533	Derek Barnes	4714	Stephen Wikkens	8435	Simon Hall	9064	Craig Beeson
2227	Paul Pike	5908	Roderick Jeffrey	8435	Charles Hambidge	9090	Nicholas Walter
2227	Andrew Alexander	5955	Mark Hoppe	8620	Peter Ward	9090	Matthew Wood
2227	David McCance	5955	Roger Hawker	8620	Andrew Martin	9090	Winston Lee
2227	Leonard Noke	5955	Pawel Majewski	8620	Stephen Upton	9540	Kevin Gregory
2644	Paul Taylor	5955	Daniel Perkins	8692	Jason Stanley	9540	Russell Kenyon
2644	Michael Hughes	5955	Roger Perris	8718	Rodney Symes	9540	Mark Taylor
2644	Colin James	6114	Ian Phillips	8747	Brian Turnbull	9540	Norman Webster
2644	Andrew Mumford	6114	William Wyatt	8747	Jacob Friett	9540	John Calder
						9540	Nicholas Borritt



The Sarsen Club has been founded to give young Freemasons in Wiltshire a means to meet and socialise with Brethren of similar age.

Membership of the Club is open to any Freemason under 50 years of age and whose Lodge, place of work or home is situated in the Province.

Primarily the Club's role is to organise and host events of a social or Masonically educational nature and for younger Freemasons to meet each other in an environment which encourages their involvement and develops their knowledge of the fraternity.

The Sarsen Club will proactively work to encourage and support an active participation in Lodge meetings and in wider Freemasonry; promote openness and pride in our membership of the Craft and stress the important role Freemasonry plays in a contemporary modern Society.

To find out more about the activities of The Sarsen Club please contact David or Mark - the club's e-mail address is sarsenclub@pglwilts.org.uk

I'm a Steward - so what now? By Paul Connor PAGDC, PPrGSec

Having been Initiated into Freemasonry the newly made Mason soon finds himself being appointed to his first office, that being a Steward of the Lodge. It is the first step in the Masonic journey during which he will gain knowledge and achieve self improvement, not in the material sense but in the intellectual, moral and philosophical sense.

It is a journey that can be immensely rewarding albeit frustrating when answers to questions cannot easily be found. The journey, like any other requires preparation, guidance and information to ensure you are travelling in the right direction.

The role of Lodge Steward may at first appear to be just associated with mundane tasks such as attending to brethren at the festive board - nothing could be further from the truth. It is true that one of the duties of a Steward is "to see that the tables are properly furnished and that every brother is properly provided for" - however, this is not a bad thing, for it teaches us to work with humility and dignity when serving others, essential qualifications for all of us.

In the egalitarian world of Freemasonry one would be hard pressed to find a past Master of a Lodge who has not served the Lodge as a Steward.

When investing a Steward with the collar and jewel of their office, which is the *Cornucopia* or 'horn of plenty' the master will also remind the member that he is 'to assist the Deacons and other officers in performing their respective duties'. The year or two serving as a Steward of the Lodge should be one of the most rewarding in a Masonic career, for then commences the process of learning the ritual and understanding the meaning of our beautiful ceremonies. A Steward should consider themselves the 'first' understudy for each of the other offices. Pic. Steward's Collar Jewel.



Which brings me nicely back to my reference to the appointment of a Steward being the start or first step in the Masonic journey. A journey which centres on the continual development of one's knowledge, character and interpersonal skills through self actualisation. The newly made Freemason is encouraged to 'Make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge' and this is achieved by studying, questioning and learning; not only the words of our ceremonies but also the principles they seek to underscore - courtesy, respect and concern for others less fortunate than ourselves.

In Wiltshire, help for new Freemasons is available through the Mentoring Scheme (featured on page 13) and mentioned by the Provincial Grand Master in his opening comments.

Paul Connor PAGDC has enjoyed a distinguished career in Freemasonry having been Master of Lodge of Loyalty No 1533 in 2000, a Founder Member of Fiat Lux Lodge No 9773 and subsequently Master in 2007. Paul was Provincial Grand Secretary for six years between 2007 and 2013 and was appointed Divisional Officer (South) in 2014.

In 1999 Paul published 'The Steward' a booklet which he hoped would be useful to the junior members of Lodge of Loyalty No 1533. The imperative to write the booklet was his concern that new members needed a contact within the Lodge to answer questions and offer assurance. Perhaps the forerunner of the Lodge Mentor.





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The Stamp of Approval by W. Bro Martin Brown PAGDC

With the encouragement of my father, like many others of my age, I started collecting postage stamps as a child - a popular pastime since shortly after the issue of the first Penny Black in 1840. It certainly helped with my understanding of Geography and History. Many years later, after I had been initiated into Freemasonry, I came across the Masonic Philatelic Club (www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk) and this renewed my interest in stamp collecting. My themed collection now consists of numerous Masonic covers, over ninety 'pure' Masonic stamps and over four hundred and fifty stamps illustrating Freemasonry in general.



Many readers may recall seeing a stamp from 1946 to commemorate the end of the Second World War, part of a series often called "the Victory Stamps". King George VI was a Past Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and, if you look at it carefully with your 'Masonic hat' on, you will find many things pertaining to the Craft. The Square and Compasses in the Second Degree, the Deacons' Dove and Olive Branch, the Charity Steward's Trowel together with the Wall (the intended structure).

It is quite surprising what connections can be made between a stamp and a phrase from the ritual (e.g. one or other of the working tools). In addition, there are stamps that depict known Freemasons (e.g. Sportsmen, Politicians, Musicians) or even objects recognised by the fraternity (e.g. the Forget-me-not flower).



From the end of the Second World War, Freemasons have very rarely displayed their Regalia in public. However, there are stamps from the Caribbean showing prominent Freemasons in full regalia. There are also many stamps showing Masonic buildings and other Masonic symbols which can easily be recognised in our Lodges, such as the Square and Compasses and the Square pavement.



Since 1973, when a stamp was issued to commemorate the bi-centenary of the Grand Orient, France has produced Masonic stamps, but only one stamp is from the organisation presently recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England. Other French stamps include ones for Lady Masons and others for an International mixed Freemasons Organisation.

There are even stamps that are anti-Masonic in nature, especially those issued in Nazi Germany under Hitler and Spain under Franco. There is a well-known set of four anti-Masonry stamps issued by Serbia, one of which is shown opposite. However, since the fall the 'Iron Curtain', Lodges have reformed in many of these countries and stamps have been issued to commemorate them.



Editor's Note - Should any Lodge wish to receive an illustrated talk on Masonic stamps by W Bro Martin Brown, he is more than willing, subject to availability, to present at your Lodge. Included in his talk is a section entitled Freemasons on stamps and ideas regarding Wiltshire Lodge names. It's a fascinating subject and a fun way to learn more about the history and heritage of Freemasonry.

THE STRONG BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD

Diane Clements - Director of the Library and Museum Freemasons' Hall

Wiltshire was an important location for military training and convalescence during the First World War and many Wiltshire Lodges welcomed visiting troops during those years. Elias de Derham Lodge No 586 decided in November 1915 that "the cost of entertaining Military Brethren visiting the Lodge on their own initiative shall be paid out of the Lodge funds". The Lodge regularly entertained between 30 and 40 visitors.

The Masonic newspapers of that time, which continued to be published on a weekly basis throughout the war, were conscious of the contribution being made by overseas troops and took every opportunity to feature articles about them. In 1916 it was reported that the New Zealand Expeditionary Force had set up a Masonic Association which held a series of meetings on the Western Front "within the range of the guns". These were social meetings rather than Lodge meetings. This Association then set up branches wherever New Zealand troops were located which included twelve branches in England and also Egypt and Palestine. The Association facilitated visits by its members to Lodges in England, including, presumably, Lodges in Wiltshire, and also provided supporting information for New Zealand candidates initiated into English Lodges. Towards the end of the war, the Provincial Grand Registrar noted how this had all cemented the "strong bond of brotherhood"

In 1914 the British Red Cross and the Order of St John pooled their resources and set up over 3,000 temporary or auxiliary hospitals across the country. The buildings used varied widely, ranging from town halls and schools to large and small private houses. There were thirty or so auxiliary hospitals in Wiltshire including Longford Castle, the scene of a pre-war Provincial meeting. Freemasons across the country set up hospital visiting schemes. In London, the "Ministration Bureau" established by the London Rank Association (as it then was) mapped London into districts and a sub-committee of three brethren was appointed to each hospital. They then regularly visited brethren who were there as patients. There was a particular emphasis on colonial brethren who were unlikely to have any family nearby. The District Grand Secretary of Newfoundland wrote to the Association to thank them for this scheme. His letter was published in *The Freemason* in January 1917 and it gives a good idea of what was involved,

"A member of the Avalon Lodge who has returned home informs me that the second day he was at Wandsworth he was visited by Bro Larkin of the London Rank Association, who was most kind in his attentions, kept him liberally supplied with cigars, cigarettes and other luxuries, and when he and another brother, a member of the Clift Lodge, were convalescent, invited them to spend a weekend at his home". It might perhaps not be what we might expect in a hospital visit today but it was certainly welcome at the time!

For more about the First World War see *English Freemasonry and the First World War*, written by the Library and Museum of Freemasonry and published by Lewis Masonic. It can be purchased on line from www.letchworthshop.co.uk

Diane Clements has been Director of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry at Freemasons' Hall since 1999. Working with a team of dedicated professional curators, librarians and archivists, Diane has supervised the creation of an electronic catalogue of the collections' books, objects and archives which is available on the Library and Museum's website.

Are You Sitting Comfortably? W. Bro Philip Burgess MD, FRCS

Then we will begin. It is often said that haemorrhoids, commonly referred to as 'piles' are sent by the devil to torment humanity. Haemorrhoids are an enlargement of normally occurring haemorrhoidal 'cushions' in the anal canal which can enlarge acutely or over a periods of time resulting in local pain and bleeding.

The first mention of haemorrhoids was in 1700 BC in Egyptian papyrus, offering a Masonic treatment of acacia leaves, ground, triturated and cooked together, smeared on a strip of fine linen and placed in the anus. If your eyes are watering at the thought - read on.

In 460 BC the Hippocratic corpus discusses a treatment similar to modern rubber band ligation: and haemorrhoids you may treat by transfixing them with a needle and tying them with very thick and woollen thread, for application, and do not forment until they drop off'

In medieval times, haemorrhoids were also known as Saint Fiacre's curse after a sixth-century saint who apparently developed them while ploughing. The first use of the word 'haemorrhoid' in English occurs in 1398, derived from the Old French 'emorroides'

Haemorrhoids have been responsible for the outcome of many historical events. Napoleon was suffering from painful haemorrhoids whilst trying to command his army at Waterloo. An acute attack of piles stopped him riding his horse and supervising his troops.

Conservative treatment is to increase dietary fibre, use topical agents and suppositories, a combination of barrier cream such as petroleum jelly or zinc oxide, an analgesic agent such as lidocaine, and a vasoconstrictor such as epinephrine. If conservative measures fail, a number of options are available including rubber band ligation in which elastic bands are applied onto an internal haemorrhoid.

Sclerotherapy involves the injection of a sclerosing agent, such as phenol, into the haemorrhoid. These techniques cause the haemorrhoids to shrivel up. A number of cauterization methods have also been tried. The old operating theatre in Berwick on Tweed historically had an antique brazier with tongs for this purpose. This barbaric treatment was said to be very effective with 'few patients returning for another treatment'

Surgical interventions include excisional haemorrhoidectomy. Doppler guided, transanal haemorrhoidal dearterialisation is a new minimally invasive treatment using an ultrasound Doppler to locate accurately the arterial blood inflow the vessels are then tied. Stapled haemorrhoidectomy, is an alternative option.

The basic message is that there are several options in the management of haemorrhoids. It is preferable however not to get them in the first place, so Brethren it's a high fibre diet and eat your greens.

One final note, painless rectal bleeding requires urgent referral for investigation of the colon; if you develop haemorrhoids, ensure you are referred to a specialist who is able to offer the full range of treatments.



News in Brief and dates for your diary

Be Proud - Be Loud

If you're out and about this summer watch out for the Provincial Display Stand - it is designed to attract attention and contribute to our policy of 'being proud and being loud' and will be in Trowbridge for the Wiltshire Armed Forces and Veterans Celebrations weekend 27-28 June. If you have a few hours to spare and can help to erect or man the Display Stand please contact the Provincial Communications Officer pco@pglwilts.org.uk Mike Wilson on 07753602171

Ruling Masters Dinner

The Provincial Grand Master invites all Ruling Masters to join him and the Provincial Executive for dinner at the Calne Masonic Hall on Saturday 5th September.

Provincial Church Service

The Provincial Church Service will be held at St Mary The Virgin Church, Calne on Sunday 25 October. A very special invitation is extended to all 'would be' choristers to sing at the service. Contact - pco@pglwilts.org.uk

Answers to 'Find the Masonic Word' page 15

lead the mutiny - untimely death.

trolley dipper - properly tiled.

national list = Installation.

forenames = Freemason.

fatherland pill = left hand pillar.

decode greens - second degree.

do them proper - proper method

trusts in men - instruments

entices ex = existence

ghost him = Most High



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