

Across the Plain

• The magazine of the Masonic Province of Wiltshire



Winter 2015

*Along the sculptures of the western wall
I watched the moonlight creeping:
It moved as if it hardly moved at all
Inch by inch thinly peeping
Round on the pious figures of freestone, brought
And poised there when the Universe was wrought
To serve its centre, Earth, in mankind's thought.*

Thomas Hardy - Human Shows (1926)

The Director of Ceremonies
A Friend's True Worth

New Masonic Charitable Foundation
What's my next move?

Christmas Greetings to the Wiltshire Masonic Family



The actor Benedict Cumberbatch of Sherlock Holmes fame and currently playing the lead in Hamlet has recently commented on the importance of memories; this after some of the audience persisted in taking photographs during a performance. His serious point was that memories are not the content of a memory card in a digital camera or even the image in an album, rather memories are those precious mental images brought to mind during moments of retrospection which sometimes cause us to smile and laugh out loud and at other times to sigh soulfully and maybe even cringe with slight embarrassment.

Personal memories can be likened to little treasures hidden away in the recesses of our mind, brought out by triggers such as pictures, people or events. How often have we looked at a photograph which has caused us to remember something or someone, evoking a memory. It is said that as we get older our capacity to remember events which happened recently is diminished, whereas our ability to recall events of the past is not, albeit they may be a little hazy. In his editorial on page 10 - Des Morgan reminds us of some of his Christmas memories, I must say they certainly made me think of my Christmas childhood experiences, I wonder if they will have the same effect on you?

The past year has been very busy with visits to a number of our neighbouring Provinces, London, and of course to the Lodges within this wonderful Province. Sally and I have been invited to attend events, lunches, dinners and receptions and we thank you for the kindness you have shown to us. Each of these occasions has resulted in a whole series of new memories and they have all been tucked away but you can rest assured they will constantly be brought to mind.

The Festive season has changed in many ways. First, it starts much sooner than it ever did, commercials urging us to shop in time for Christmas appear in late September, making Christmas a three month experience for some. Second, the main priorities now appear to be parties, more parties and yet even more parties; hence drink and food offers fill our television screens and fill the advertisement columns of our newspapers; and then there are the toys - sadly no longer an apple and an orange, these two words now mean an iPad and a mobile phone contract. Thirdly, the essential message of Christmas, which used to be 'Peace on Earth and goodwill toward men' appears to have been lost and we constantly evidence war and want on an ever increasing scale.

The meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge is the highlight of the Masonic Year and our gathering at Salisbury in October demonstrated all the good things about our Ancient and Honourable Institution. I could not help but notice the goodwill exhibited between friends who had not seen each other since last year, warmly greeting each other and walking off to local hostelrys for a bite to eat, a pint to sup and the opportunity to 'catch up'.

I was delighted to welcome our special guests to Salisbury and it was kind and gracious of you to offer your applause after I had introduced them. It was a great pleasure to be able to confirm that the Province has agreed to sponsor the Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Orchestra through its Friends Association. The talented young people who perform in the orchestra and its other sections are a credit to the County and bring great joy to many people particularly with their concerts at St Laurence School, Bradford-on-Avon. I was also able to announce that we are in discussions with the Dean of Salisbury Cathedral with regard to a special service in 2017.

For members of the Wiltshire Masonic Family the global economic situation has also had an impact. However, I am delighted that the response to our Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Festival and support to local and national charities has been maintained. The generosity displayed by so many persuades me that charity really is the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart and that Freemasons throughout Wiltshire are playing their full part in practising that virtue they profess to admire.

From The Provincial Grand Master

As we fast approach 2017 I would remind you that United Grand Lodge will be providing more information on the plans for the Tercentenary celebrations. We already know that the main event will be a service in London's iconic Royal Albert Hall on 31st October 2017 to which over 5,000 Freemasons and their partners will be invited. This will be followed by a gala ball for 2,500 at Battersea Park.

Our own contribution to the Tercentenary will be a marvellous event in which many more members will be able to participate; the details of which will be communicated to Lodge secretaries. We do plan to hold a dinner to recognise the anniversary and to celebrate the culmination of the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Festival; these plans are well advanced. I do thank all members of the Province who have cheerfully embraced the 300 hours for 300 years initiative, which is being so ably led by Stephen Bridge. Please do take time to view the photographs on page 17 of Brethren 'hard at work' as they make their own personal contribution to the Tercentenary. This event is a wonderful opportunity for Wiltshire Freemasonry to obtain local and regional media coverage.

On 4th June 2016 the Province will hold a Summer Ball at the Civic Centre in Trowbridge. This event will bring together Freemasons and their partners in pleasant surroundings to enjoy good food, fine wine, superb music and wonderful company. I trust you will put the date in your diary, and if your Lodge is not having a Ladies night, why not book a table at the Summer Ball? It is my fervent hope this will become an annual event, becoming the premier Provincial social gathering of the year.

Christmas means different things to many people, for some the Festive Season will be a time of loneliness, parted from family and friends. The noble and honourable sentiments which actuate Freemasons should persuade us to extend the hand of friendship to a friend in need, which may only require us to make a short visit for a glass of something and a chat.

For Sally and myself our Christmas will be spent in the wonderful company of Sarah, our daughter and our grandchildren Isis and Wolfie. I imagine rest will be all but impossible but I know we will have a great deal of fun as a family.

I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and trust the New Year brings you health and happiness.

Sincerely and fraternally as always but particularly at this time of the year.

Philip Bullock



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF
WILTSHIRE
Masonic Samaritan Fund
Health and Care Support

Welcome to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

latest news

Sally Bullock at Zetland Court
Golfers take to the fairways in support of Masonic Samaritan Fund
Spitfire over London raises funds for MSF
Exhibition opens at Freemasons' Hall in London
GIVE AN HOUR
300 hours for 300 years

charities we support

victim support
DOROTHY HOUSE Hospice Care
THE OPEN ROOM CENTRE ABOUT PEOPLE
PROSPECT HOSPICE
Smile Train
Masonic Charitable Foundation
WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Wiltshire Air Ambulance
SPLITZ Support Service
Naomi House children's hospice

social media

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twitter: @wiltspgl

A new improved website was launched by Philip Bullock at Provincial Grand Lodge. With many new features, including clearer images and a new typeface, the viewing experience will be considerably better than before. Enhanced navigation will enable viewers to find their way to the page they want to read.

Designed to be viewed on mobile phones, tablets as well as your PC, the new website is sure to be a hit.

Welcome the Provincial Grand Wardens

The Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to Appoint and Invest his Provincial Grand Wardens.

Gary Dolphin PrSGW

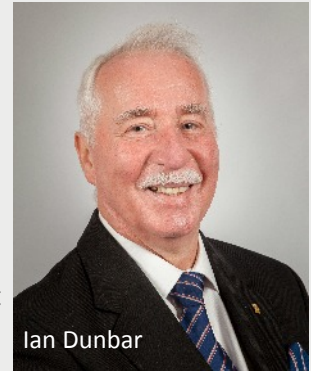
Gary Dolphin, his wife Joy, and their son Paul, moved to Wiltshire in 1991, when Gary was serving as an instructor at the School of Electronic Engineering REME at Arborfield, Nr. Reading.



Gary Dolphin

Ian Dunbar PrJGW

Although originally from Scotland, Ian lives with Maureen his wife of 28 years and family pet Bella, in Chippenham. Ian retired from a successful business career at the end of January this year.



Ian Dunbar

Initiated into Gooch Lodge No. 1295 in April 1995, Gary became Master of the Lodge in 2005. After completing his year as Master he was appointed Lodge Secretary, an office that he has held for almost 10 years. Gary received a first active appointment as Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works for two years from 2011 to 2013. In addition to Lodge duties, Gary was an inaugural member of the '3Rs' team headed by Sir Ron Stuart-Paul, and is currently a member of the Provincial Communication Team.

In October 2012, at the launch of the MSF 2017 Wiltshire Festival, Gary and other team members produced and presented the '2017 MSF Festival Presentation'. Gary is also a Companion in the Royal Arch, and is currently a Steward in Gooch Chapter No. 1295 in Swindon.

Gary and Joy enjoy nothing more than their time away together, holidaying in their touring caravan. Although a very proud Yorkshire man Gary loves life in his adopted county of Wiltshire, having being married to 'Swindonian' Joy for over 40 years. It's the place he loves to call 'home'.

Gary's hobbies and interests include photography, walking, classic cars and steam railways.

He walks Bella, a Collie Cross, for six miles each day, Maureen jokes that Bella used to have the legs of a Great Dane, but they have now been worn down to those of a Corgi. Ian isn't prepared to discuss the effect on his legs.

As Maureen is still working to keep Ian in the style to which he would like to become accustomed, he has taken over the cooking, and according to Maureen, is gradually increasing his repertoire, but is not yet considered good enough to become a Masterchef contestant.

Initiated into the Vale of Avon Lodge No. 8432 in January 1995, Ian has been Master of the Lodge on three occasions. Provincial appointments include Provincial Grand Steward in 2008 and promotion to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in the following year.

Ian is a member of the Festival 2017 Dining Committee and a member of the Provincial Communication Team.

Ian undertook his first official duty as Provincial Junior Grand Warden only 24 hours after being Invested at Salisbury joining Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Gary Dolphin at Calley Lodge No.7525 for the Installation meeting.

Escorting the Wardens and being at the ready should a discreet prompt be required, will be one of the newly appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies.



Andrew Smith L8388



Colin Davies L8747



Ray Pipe L8435

To Order Brethren by W. Bro Clive Smith PAGDC, PrGDC

The Director of Ceremonies is one of the most senior Offices to which a Brother may aspire, all floor work is under his direction and it is his duty to make sure everything in the Lodge Room is properly organised, seamlessly moving from one phase of the ceremony to another in a manner which creates a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

It is the Director of Ceremonies to whom the Brethren look for guidance and from whom the Master will seek confirmation of his actions. Often assuming the role of Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction, he has the opportunity and privilege to guide future Lodge Officers in the principal ceremonies of the Order. I was once told by a very experienced post holder that the ideal Director of Ceremonies is one who controls, without more than a glance, nod or slight movement of the head or hand; and whose success will be not only recognised by the excellence of the work within the Lodge but by the respect and trust of his fellow Brethren.



Clive Smith

I had six very happy years as my Lodge Director of Ceremonies and Preceptor of Lodge of Instruction. I found the Office very rewarding, although you worry about the content of the ceremony and the duties at the festive board. You don't have time to relax but at the end of the evening you feel very satisfied and pleased with the work carried out by the Officers of the Lodge.

You may be fortunate to be appointed or promoted to Provincial Grand Rank as a Deputy or Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Assistants hold office for one year and the Deputies usually between two and six years. It was one of my proudest moments when I was appointed Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, following in the steps of Bro Michael Bennett. To receive from the Provincial Grand Master an acting Provincial Office is a great honour and to be able to attend Lodges as part of the Provincial Team is a very rewarding experience.

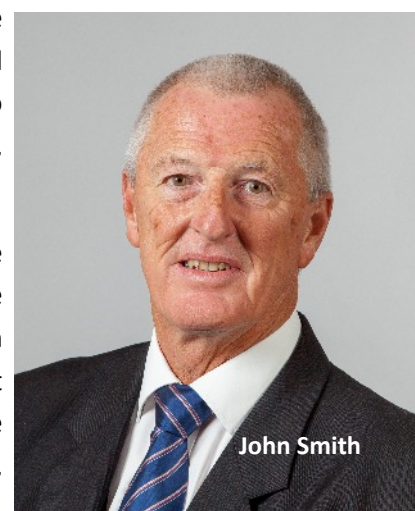
My team consists of two very experienced and committed Deputies in Bro John Smith and Bro David Little, and three Assistants, Bro Andrew Smith, Bro Ray Pipe and Bro Colin Davies. One of us will accompany the Presiding Officer at every Installation Meeting, liaising with the Master and Lodge Director of Ceremonies to establish any variations or



David Little

traditions the Lodge may have and making sure the Presiding Officer and Provincial Grand Wardens are placed in the correct position to deliver the address to the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren.

The Ceremonial highlight of the year is the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, where the Provincial Grand Master Invests the Brethren receiving Provincial Honours on their first Appointment or Promotion. With the attendance of many Provincial Grand Masters, Deputies and Assistants from other Provinces,



John Smith

Grand Officers and Brethren, Provincial Grand Lodge is an event rich in ritual, wonderfully colourful and a stunningly spectacular showcase highlighting the Province - and should not be missed.

All Lodges within our Province have a Director of Ceremonies who enjoys and cares about Masonry and the ceremonies performed in their respective Lodges and long may it continue. On behalf of myself and my team we sincerely thank you for the warm welcome we receive whenever we attend in our Provincial capacity and look forward to visiting in the future. If there is anything about our work you would like to know please do feel free to approach us, we would be so pleased to explain any Provincial protocols and best practice tips and guidelines.

Provincial Grand Lodge in words



The hustle and bustle in the foyer of Salisbury's City Hall as Phil Still and his team set up registration tables, notice boards and signposting, while the communications team erected pop-ups and display units were the first signs that Provincial Grand Lodge had come to town - or in this case to the Cathedral City of Salisbury.

In the auditorium Clive Smith and his team were checking that everything was in order, pacing the floor and measuring each step that the various processions would take on their entry to Provincial Grand Lodge undertaking so much detailed preparation for what is after all the highlight of the Wiltshire Masonic calendar.

David Davies, placing a name card, summons, Provincial magazine and a gift aid envelope on every chair, making sure that no one was missed and most importantly that everyone was seated in the correct order of precedence. The Wisdom of Solomon accompanied by the Patience of Job is a prerequisite for the role of Provincial Grand Secretary.

In to all of this steps the Provincial Grand Master, his eagle eyes darting from left to right, taking in each and every detail, considering his every option, expressing a view, requesting a change but never demanding, just gently suggesting. It is after all the biggest day of his year - it is Provincial Grand Lodge.

Back in the foyer the early arrivals have placed their cases on the tables, perused the list for lunch and taken the opportunity to see where they are seated in the auditorium before heading to the next door theatre for coffee and a sticky Danish pastry.

Adrian Wooster accompanied by his lead apprentice Gary (that's his dad) is setting up his photo booth; with over forty pictures to take he is hoping that everyone will make their way to him as soon as they can, but he knows that's a forlorn hope, and so it proves to be the case, but he did manage to get them all just in time.

Simon and Sheelagh set up shop with lots of goodies but no white gloves - "just can't get them at the right price" - says Simon, but there is a nice scarf for the ladies and a polo shirt available in any colour you choose, mine has arrived in a rather smart shade of red. Sheelagh reckons if they have a size to fit Maurice then there is a size to fit anyone else. I think Maurice could play for England at number seven (I know - anyone could play for England at number seven!)

In walks John King - "where am I putting Teddies for Loving Care?" - Phew, just as well we saved a prime location in the foyer for TLC adjacent to the fabulous new stand built especially for Provincial Grand Lodge by Ian Lever - totally unmissable, illuminated and suitably bright - a real picture and very professional.

There are lots of people milling in the auditorium all being careful not to interrupt Clive's rehearsal as he takes the Provincial team through its paces, there is no doubt you have to be on your toes to meet his exacting standards; it augurs well for the ceremony proper.

The first strains of the organ can be heard as Mike May sets himself up on the specially designed staging, he tells me he will be playing despite rumours that Francis Wakem has been practising hard in the hope he might be asked to perform; Francis has just got to work on that left hand - another lesson perhaps?

Back in the foyer visitors are arriving. Michael Wilks PrGM Hampshire and Isle of Wight who doubtless has parked his motor bike in the specially reserved spots for 'mean machines' and our own John Reid attending his first Provincial Grand Lodge as Grand Superintendent make their way to the Grand Officers' Lounge but can't escape the tender embrace of former boxing champion Eddie Neilson who 'very politely' suggests they may like to part with a couple of pounds for the superb print, Spitfire Over London.

With only minutes to go Clive Smith and his team are 'rounding up' the participants for the processions, panic someone is missing, panic over, he is found - with a smile on his face Clive utters those familiar words "To order Brethren, to receive the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire". Another Provincial Grand Lodge is underway.

Trowbridge Masonic Hall transformed



Recognised as one of the most beautiful aspects of the Trowbridge Masonic Hall Lodge Room, the arch in the East has been carefully refurbished as part of a £40,000 restoration programme. Can anyone accurately translate the Masonic text as shown on the picture - we will give a small prize to the first person who provides the exact answer.

Work undertaken by the contractors was supplemented by members who repaired furniture, checked and treated woodworm, polished candlesticks, painted wand stands and generally made sure everything was 'ship shape' and ready for the new Masonic season.

The dining room, kitchen and other internal areas were given a complete spring clean from top to bottom and the checkered carpet was professionally cleaned before being restored to its place on the Lodge Room floor.

Finally the frontage was weeded before being pressure washed, and the fire door, railings and fence were painted.

We sail the ocean blue and our saucy ship's a beauty

A life on the ocean waves as a member of the crew of HMS Masonic Pinafore may well beckon for budding cabin boy Maurice Lound. Together with fellow mariners and Freemasons Charlie Killick and Keith Loader, he took to the high seas (or so he he believed).

Donning a very fetching life preserver which was certainly a snug fit, Maurice was soon put to work 'bearing' a hand to haul sheets, tie lines and make sure the chafing gear was in place.

Maurice's big moment was running up the burgee, and as it unfurled in the light breeze it was revealed to be the recognised symbol of the Craft, the Square and Compasses.

Skipper Charlie (it is his boat) and Master of Stonehenge Lodge No. 6114 made sure his 'motley crew' paid proper attention to their respective duties and observed all the safety regulations.

After a day sailing in which Charlie, Keith and Maurice journeyed from Exmouth to Dartmouth it was down to the local ale house where stories were exchanged over a refreshing flagon of ale.



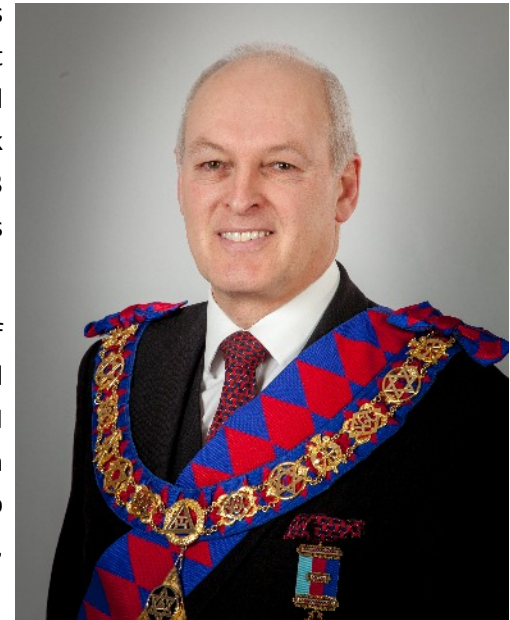
Confirmed landlubbers turned intrepid sailors



The Grand Superintendent E Comp John Reid

It really doesn't seem six months ago that I was joined by so many friends at Melksham when I was Installed as the fourteenth Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Wiltshire. What a truly happy day that was and one which will live in my memory forever. My good friend Philip Bullock mentions the importance of memories in his comments on pages 2 and 3 of this magazine and Des Morgan shares some of his childhood Christmas memories, to which I could add many of my own.

Following my Installation I soon found out what it entails to be the head of this wonderful Order, the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch, and believe me when I say it isn't just about attending Installation meetings. I have been reminded of that wonderful saying 'be careful what you wish for' and I can fully understand the sentiment. But be assured, I have no regrets whatsoever in accepting the Office which I proudly hold, in trust, and which one day will be handed to my successor.



I have not only enjoyed the good company of Companions throughout the Province, it has also been my pleasure and privilege to have represented Wiltshire at other Provincial Convocations and at Supreme Grand Chapter. It is my intention of continuing the close relationships with neighbouring Provinces as developed by my predecessor E Comp David Blanchard.

The success of the Province is not down to one man, and I am delighted to have such a formidable and experienced team supporting me personally and working for the good of every Companion in the Province. At Melksham I was pleased to appoint and Invest E Comp Colin Cheshire as Deputy Grand Superintendent; in doing so I knew that he would bring experience, a sanguine manner and military precision to the role - and he has.

Tony Oke, Simon Ellingham and Paul Vogwell form the important support role so essential for Colin and myself, I know you will give them every encouragement as they work tirelessly on behalf of the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

I am very aware that membership of our Order is reliant upon how we present its merits to Master Masons, we have no right to expect Brethren to join the Holy Royal Arch just because Grand Lodge thinks it's the right thing to do. As we are often reminded, there are other Masonic Orders beyond the Craft and Holy Royal Arch.

The issue we must address is what we have to do to persuade Brethren to join a Chapter and enjoy the completion of their journey in pure Ancient Freemasonry. Let me say from the outset, that attempting to embarrass a Brother into joining the Royal Arch by toasting members of the Holy Royal Arch and then offering an application form to those who remain seated is not something I condone or believe to be right.

In just the same way we seek the best for Craft Freemasonry, we should do the same for the Royal Arch. I take a great deal of pleasure in noting how frequently the First Grand Principal HRH The Duke of Kent uses the pages of Freemasonry Today to promote the work and role of the Royal Arch to such a wide audience.

In 2013 he said "It takes sound judgement to know when a member of the Craft is ready to complete his pure Ancient Masonry" - I completely agree with his remarks and I trust we will all do our very best to recruit Brethren into the Order with these words writ large and never forgotten. While keen to promote to others the joys and pleasures of being a member of the Royal Arch, I really would rather have one volunteer than ten pressed men.

Are you interested in joining a local Chapter ?

The Holy Royal Arch



During the past few months I have had the opportunity to be involved in the development of the new Provincial website and I am pleased to see that Royal Arch has good presence with a number of outstanding features.

I do not propose to 'reveal all' but can highly recommend it to all Companions, especially those who have iPads, tablets and smartphones who doubtless will have loaded the Provincial app before they get to the end of this page. For those of us less skilled in the complexity of computer use, the link is www.pglwilts.org.uk

Whilst on the subject of technology and media, I would like to remind Companions that Provincial Grand Chapter does have a 'twitter' site @pgcwiltshire and you can follow me and other members of the Province on the Royal Arch website Home page. Just to show that anyone can use 'twitter' my twitter address is @Gsuptwiltshire As you would expect, we do have some guidelines for using the Provincial site with the overarching one being - please 'tweet' with care.

In October I was pleased to attend the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at Salisbury. This is the largest gathering of Freemasons in the Province and it was a great joy to see so many Companions in the auditorium of Salisbury's City Hall. I am sure it will not be too long before the Royal Arch convocation will have to find a larger venue to accommodate the increased numbers of members.

Companions, it is only right that I mention of the Festive Season. The message of Christmas is without borders - with its central message being 'peace upon earth and goodwill towards mankind'. As Freemasons we endorse those sentiments and as human beings we should embrace and practise them.

I wish you and your family health and happiness this Christmas and wherever you are and whatever you are doing have a wonderful time.

John Reid



Are you ready to take the next step in pure and Antient Freemasonry?

Are you enjoying your Freemasonry ?

Then why not consider taking the next step in your Masonic journey?

Why should I join a Chapter?

The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch will complete your journey in pure Antient Freemasonry as it is the completion of the Third Degree in Craft Masonry.

Qualification for membership

Membership is open to Freemasons of all faiths who have been a Master Mason for at least four weeks.

Ceremonies

There are two, the Ceremony of Exaltation and the Installation Ceremony, both of which are colourful and moving occasions.

Commitment

Most Chapters meet four times in the year and there is normally a rehearsal prior to the meeting. Every meeting is followed by a Festive Board.

What does it cost?

There is a cost in acquiring the regalia which is unique to Royal Arch, but generally speaking the subscriptions are less than those you might expect to pay in your Craft Lodge.

Interested?

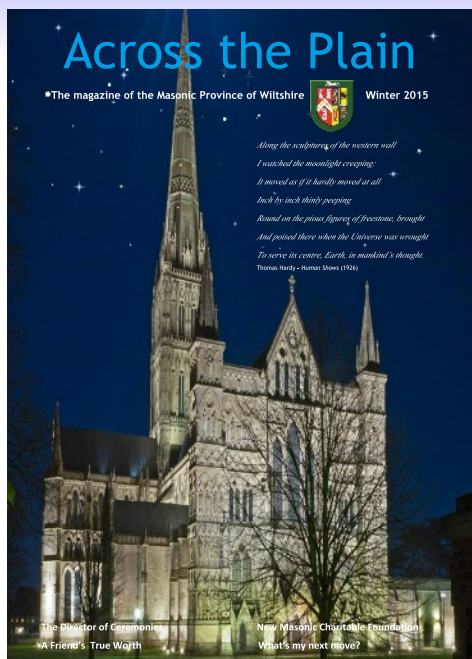
Every Craft Lodge has a Royal Arch representative, who will be able to answer any questions you might have and provide you with a booklet entitled 'Why join the Royal Arch?'

Learn more

To discover more about Royal Arch visit the Provincial website www.pglwilts.org.uk/royal-arch or talk to a Companion in your Lodge.

Talk to your Lodge Royal Arch Representative

Editor's Corner



Our cover picture shows a wonderful view of the Cathedral Church of St Mary, Salisbury - famed for its tower and spire. It is also home to one of the original copies of Magna Carta and is the spiritual home to many Wiltshire Freemasons.

Important information.

Across the Plain is published by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire twice a year, in the winter and summer and is sent by post to the UK address of 2500 Wiltshire Freemasons and Masonic Widows. There is also an on-line version available to view on the Provincial website www.pglwilts.org.uk

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What's not to like about Christmas?

Christmas isn't my favourite time of the year, there, I've said it and in all seriousness I suspect some of our readers will nod their head in agreement and others will accuse me of being an old curmudgeon. Having made such a bold assertion, I suppose I ought to add some meat to the bone and explain why I am not a great lover of the festive season. It would be fair to say that my childhood experience of Christmas was typical of a child of the sixties, a visit to church, carol singing, roast turkey, the Queen's speech and of course Billy Smart's Circus on Boxing Day. I also recall pretending to be awfully grown up drinking Britvic pineapple juice while my mother enjoyed a glass or two of Babycham which mysteriously caused her to giggle.

I had a Cadbury's selection box, containing enough chocolate to last at least until the end of Christmas Day, but which was taken away to be held in safe keeping just in case I couldn't eat my Christmas lunch. I was advised not to read my Hotspur annual too quickly, as it had to last until I could get my hands on my brother's Victor annual. There was no appetite for my sister's Judy or Bunty annual, they really were only for girls.

Presents were practical and by no means extravagant, new football socks, a shirt and a very badly knitted jumper, courtesy of my maiden Aunt Sheila who strangely never married and I never asked her why. One year I had an Ever-Ready black and silver torch and in another neatly wrapped and be-ribboned package I discovered a battery. What fun I had shining the light onto the ceiling, much to the consternation of my three brothers with whom I shared the bedroom.

An apple, an orange, a tin of toffees and a few nuts were always placed strategically in the foot of my stocking or more accurately a woolly sock, wonderful memories which colour my view of today's version of Christmas.

I sometimes feel we have lost the essence of Christmas, that feeling which can best be described as spiritual and social, going to church, singing Carols and recognising the true meaning of Christmas; entertaining friends and distant relatives. It's not that Christmas today is any more commercial than it has ever been, although we maybe kid ourselves that is the case with winsome thoughts of yesteryear. Still, no one loves a Scrooge or a bah humbug - so putting aside such thoughts I wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Des Morgan



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Saltire is delighted to have been named Domestic Heating Contractor of the Year at the H&V News Awards 2015. The company beat off stiff competition from around the UK to grab the coveted title in April.



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Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Festival

Peter Winton PGSwdB, DPrGM

The really good news is that the ongoing success of the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Wiltshire Festival has been due to the huge efforts of so many people. Whether it's an individual or Lodge donation, the fact remains, that to raise a single pound requires someone to do something, and you have now raised just over £600,000 - well done.

The ingenuity of Lodge committees who devise such events as sheep racing - barbecues - garden parties - lunches - sporting dinners - afternoon teas - hog roasts - music soirees, to name but a few, is a constant source of amazement to me. But, I thank each and every one of you for everything you do.

We have a target, no surprise there, which we hope to meet; it is a big sum, £750,000 and yet I have every confidence that we will reach the target and who knows we may even beat it by a few pounds!

While the target is important, as the money raised will ensure the Masonic Samaritan Fund can continue to do great work on our behalf, it is also important that whatever route we use to raise money, we should have fun fundraising. And from what I have seen on my travels around the Province it is clear that everyone is having fun.

I am aware that some Lodges have incurred huge expense in updating and refurbishing Masonic buildings, while others have been concerned about their ability to provide ongoing support for other charities; let me assure you that there are no penalties for failing to meet Lodge targets. One of the most incredible aspects of Freemasonry is the way in which other Lodges 'take up the slack' and they do so because they know that if circumstances were different others would offer to help them.

I am delighted to tell you that our new Provincial Website has two pages dedicated to the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Wiltshire Festival. To view them please visit www.pglwilts.org.uk and view the pages under Charity. There is also a column which shows graphically the progress made to date. Thank you for all your efforts in support of the Festival

Peter Winton



Chairman - Samaritan Fund 2017 Wiltshire Festival



Masonic Widows' Association - News

The ladies of the Swindon Branch welcomed Sally Bullock to their September meeting at the Masonic Centre.

Sally demonstrated some of the techniques used by flower arrangers to get the very best results when making floral arrangements. The presentation included tips on how to cut stems to ensure the flowers lasted as long as possible and how to arrange different types of flowers such as dahlias, roses and sunflowers in various shaped vases and baskets. It wasn't just cut flowers from the garden either; as Sally arranged a bunch of flowers bought from a local supermarket into an attractive arrangement. With Christmas just around the corner, Sally finished her presentation with some ideas for Christmas decorations, including a table decoration and a coffee table arrangement.

Everyone enjoyed the event, after a cup of tea and biscuits the morning concluded with a raffle of the floral arrangements. Sally will be hosting two Christmas wreath making events in December, for details see page 16.

Members of the three branches of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association travelled to Nailsea on 27th October where they enjoyed a regional meeting followed by lunch.

If you want to know more about the Association please contact editor@pglwilts.org.uk and we will pass your details to the relevant Branch Secretary.

Wiltshire SCLeY Lines Bro Nicholas Day Christmas Lodge No. 2512

The existence of Ley Lines was first suggested in 1921 by the amateur archaeologist Alfred Watkins, whose book *The Old Straight Track* brought the alignments to the attention of the wider public. He described them thus:

Ley lines are hypothetical alignments of a number of places of geographical interest, such as ancient monuments and megaliths.

One of the largest Leys in England, the so-called St. Michael's Ley, is aligned along the Sun's path on the 8th of May (the Spring festival of St. Michael); it runs from Great Yarmouth in the East, through Devizes to Penzance in the South-West and passes through several megalithic sites including Avebury/Silbury and Glastonbury. St. Michael's Ley also forms the hypotenuse of a perfect right-angled triangle (accurate to within 1/1000th part) of enormous proportions, defined by probably the most sacred of English sites, Stonehenge.

Dr Solomon King (renowned Masonic Surveyor) was the first 'respectable' person to recognise geometry in the ancient Wiltshire landscape. In 1930, he noticed the geometric alignment between Stonehenge, Grovely Castle and Old Sarum (the site where the original Salisbury Cathedral was built) and, whilst sojourning at the Lodge of Fidelity in Devizes, uncovered a surprising connection between early Masonic Lodges in Wiltshire.

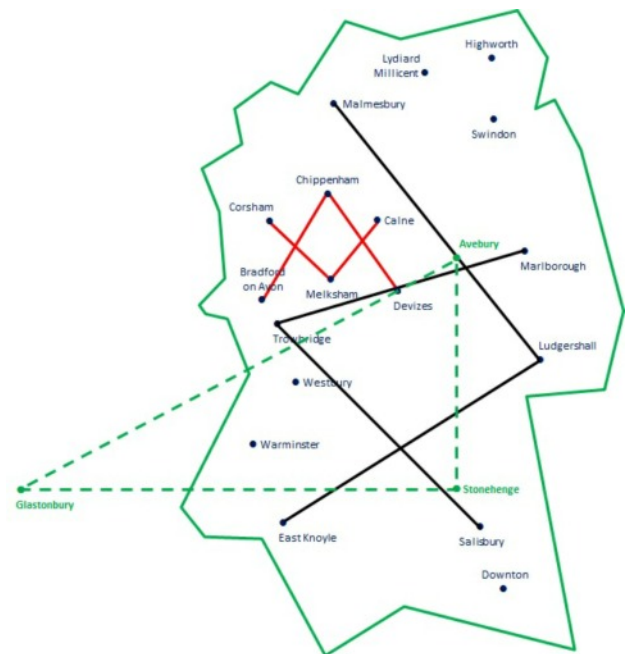
Six of the earliest Lodges consecrated in Wiltshire (pre-1930) were located at points that formed a perfect alignment to the Square and Compasses – Devizes, Chippenham & Bradford-on-Avon (on the Square) with Corsham, Melksham & Calne (on the Compasses).

King, being better enabled to distinguish and appreciate the connection of our whole system, and recognising the relative dependency of its several parts, called this grouped alignment a **SCLE Y**.

Many years later, King's grandson, Bro Joe King (Lodge of Masonic Research) continued the work and discovered a much larger Scley, linking early lodges at Salisbury, Trowbridge and Marlborough (on the Square) with Lodges at Malmesbury, Ludgershall and East Knoyle (on the Compasses). Although rotated by 90° to the smaller, North-West Scley, it is still clearly visible on the map today.

These extremely significant findings show that the early Wiltshire Masons were aware of both astronomy and geometry, and combined them deliberately into the location and construction of their Masonic Lodges. At the same time as this astonishing revelation we may yet discover how many more Masonic Scleys may have been introduced along pre-existing alignments. It is important to know the origin of all markers in a Scley in order to accurately determine its origin and purpose.

Your progress in Masonry is indeed, marked by the position of the Square and Compasses. To discover more about Scley lines please go to page 15



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A Lodge's connections with Swindon Town FC



Think of some of Swindon Town Football Club's all-time great players, and the names Don Rogers, John Trollope, Colin Calderwood and John Moncur might spring to mind. However, long before any of those players ever kicked a football around the County Ground, Harold Fleming was the toast of the club. He was also a Freemason having been Initiated into the Lodge of Remembrance No. 4037 on 3 May 1922. Kevin Logan writes about Fleming and Dai Jones another famous 'Town' player who once played for Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United.

Harold Fleming joined Swindon Town FC in 1907, and over the next 17 years he scored an amazing 203 goals in 322 games. His glowing career was only sidelined by the advent of World War One, when he temporarily became a PE instructor. Fleming remains the only Swindon player to have represented England at senior level while still playing for the club - gaining 11 caps between 1909 and 1914.



A recently discovered film from the 1920s depicts a footballing masterclass from Fleming at the County Ground, with one notable scene showing Fleming demonstrating his 'Triangular Game' technique designed to enable a player to keep possession of the ball.

As one of Swindon's most famous sons, Fleming Way in the town centre is named after him, and a bronze statue in his image stands proudly in the foyer of the County Ground. During his career, he even had a style of football boot named after him. Edgar "Dick" Blount (b. 5 June 1879), Initiated on 23 November 1920, was a schoolteacher at Clarence Street School in Swindon. He became a football referee and was Assistant Secretary of Swindon Town Football Club in the late 1940s, in 1932 Dick Blount was Installed as the 13th Master of the Lodge of Remembrance. No. 4037.

David Gwilym Jones (b. 10 June 1914) was Initiated into Lodge of Friendship & Sincerity No .472 (Dorset) and joined the Lodge of Remembrance on 2 October 1946, becoming the 43rd Master in 1962. 'Dai' Jones was a Welsh footballer (winger turned midfielder) who started his career with Newport County before being signed for Spurs in 1931. He played for Cardiff, Wigan Athletic and Manchester United (one game) before transferring to Swindon Town in June 1938. He played 17 times for Swindon before finishing his playing career with Cheltenham Town in 1939.

Some of the charities supported by Wiltshire Freemasons



Questions and Answers W.Bro Barry Cooper

Have your say

Is there something you want to know about Freemasonry, a question you have always wanted to ask or a comment you wished to make; why not write to the Provincial Grand Master.

All correspondence will be acknowledged and your email or letter may be printed in Across The Plain.

Letters and emails are subject to editorial oversight. Send your email to :-

editor@pglwilts.org.uk

Christmas Carols

(Anagrams)

- Sweet gherkin
- Linen tights
- I acknowledge song
- Hid healthy novelty
- A shrewd speech withheld
- Aware my angina
- Watches him stir
- Tory howled jot

Answers on page 21

Find the following words

- CANOPY
- CIRCUMFERENCE
- CORN
- DELIVERANCE
- EXUBERANCE
- FOREFATHERS
- INTEGRITY
- JEPHTHA
- MIRACULOUS
- POMEGRANATES
- PROOFS
- WINDING
- STAIRCASE
- WAGES

The Provincial Grand Master Replies -

Q. Our Lodge always holds a Christmas party and we have a typically festive Christmas dinner with all the seasonal trimmings; in addition we sing Christmas carols, exchange cards and even gifts. I wonder if we should do this, especially if it causes offence to Brethren who are not Christians.



A. I really am glad that you have thought about this, but worry not as my experience is that any suggestion a non Christian Brother would be offended with your Lodge celebrating Christmas is very wide of the mark. In fact, research suggests that many members of other faith groups are very relaxed about Christian festivals and often participate in them, although not in the religious element. Freemasonry is home to Brethren of many faiths and we welcome the diversity each one offers; I wonder if we should do more to celebrate their important festivals in much the same way as we do St George's Day, St David's Day, Burns Night and of course St Patrick's Day?

Did you spot our 'spoof' Christmas article on page 13? Whilst it is perfectly true there are Ley Lines which run through Wiltshire the article is just a piece of fun.

Masonic Word Search - Thanks to Barry Cooper of St Edmund Lodge No. 4714 for setting the word search and Christmas Carols (anagrams).



Make a wreath



Sally Bullock invites you to join her and make a Christmas Wreath plus a festive table decoration which will be the envy of family and friends on Sunday 6th December at

Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street, Salisbury and on Sunday 13th December at The Masonic Centre, The Planks, Swindon. The day's events begin at 10.00 am and finish at 3.00 pm.

Sally will show you how to use all your artistic and creative talent to make a festive cane star, a Christmas wreath and a table decoration which will be the envy of your friends and family.

The cost of £25 includes all the materials you will need to make your festive decorations - base, ties, cones, ribbon, wires, cane and some baubles and decorative pieces.

If you have a particular item you wish to incorporate in your decoration, please bring it to the session.

Larger sizes of the cane star may incur a slightly higher cost depending on choice.

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own packed lunch.

For more information call Sally on **01380 813625**

New pop up stand

The Province has taken delivery of three new eye catching pop up display units, which were on view at the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in Salisbury.

Each of the units has been designed to make a visual impact and encourage viewers to ask questions about Freemasonry.

They will feature at events throughout the Province and will be available to Lodges holding open days and social events.

Designed and produced by Ian Lever of Highworth Lodge No. 9009 the new pop ups incorporate a mix of traditional and modern elements, each pop up offers an invitation to talk about Freemasonry and discover who we are and what we do.

Philip Bullock said - "I am sure our new pop ups will create public interest in Freemasonry whenever they are seen"

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The Sarsen Clubs, located in the South, Centre and North of the Province have been formed to give young Freemasons in Wiltshire a means to meet and socialise with Brethren of similar age. Membership of the Clubs is open to any Freemason under 40 years of age and whose Lodge, place of work or home is situated in the Province.

Whilst the Clubs' 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 involvement and develops their knowledge of the fraternity, the Provincial Mentoring Programme is closely associated with the work of the Sarsen Clubs and offers support to the Clubs' activities.

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 - on sarsenclub@pglwilts.org.uk or follow them on twitter @SarsenClub

Celebrating our Tercentenary 300 hours for 300 years



Longleat Lodge No 1478

Longleat Lodge No. 1478 Members George Jolley (right) and Phil Henry (left) knew exactly what was needed when they saw the state of a nearby path; so equipped with the appropriate tools and protective clothing they set about clearing the path, making it a nicer, safer place for people to walk and enjoy.

Moonraker Lodge No. 8747 Stalwart Geoff Grant is a man with a heart of gold and it came as no surprise to hear that he undertook the task of cleaning a neighbour's garden and driveway.

Master of the Lodge - Adrian Watts described Geoff as the perfect ambassador for Freemasonry - "a man who goes about his work quietly and without fuss, always seeking to be a help to others".

Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Stephen Bridge said - "Geoff has certainly made an impact with his personal commitment to the **300 Hours for 300 Years** initiative, what's more it's great to see and hear of how other Lodges are embracing the opportunity to practise that virtue which they profess to admire; and what better way than in helping the community in which they live and work"

Stonehenge Lodge No. 6114 A real Wiltshire Masonic family effort from Stonehenge Lodge No. 6114 as members each gave three hours helping the Winterbourne villagers on their community day clean up on Saturday 12th September 2015. That's 36 hours banked for the Lodge. The Parish Council were so pleased they wrote to the Lodge thanking them for the much valued help given in the recently held community day in the Parish. The Parish Council reported at its meeting last week that the event was a roaring success. And invited the Lodge to help out at their next community day in November. Of course they said yes and we look forward to their report.



Stonehenge Lodge No 6114

Taking the next step? W Bro Michael Lee CBE. PAGDC

There comes a time in the life of every new Craft Mason when a representative of 'another Order' will approach you and suggest, most enthusiastically, that this is just the right moment for you to join his Order. He will doubtless assure you *it is fun, you will enjoy it, it's inexpensive and there are only four meetings a year*. He may be motivated by your best interests but on the other hand he may be motivated by a rather desperate need to get a candidate, *any* candidate, for a Lodge or Chapter that has fallen on hard times.

If you already have a busy home or professional life you certainly won't want to be chivvied into making a hasty decision. The first and key question is always - should you join any? The old advice remains the best advice: join *none* until you are firmly settled into and thoroughly enjoying your Craft Lodge ceremonies. When you and your partner are content for you to expand your Masonic horizons then it may be worth probing a little further.

What might be the implications?

- a. Are you *certain* you have the spare time, money and mental energy to take on an additional commitment?
- b. Could a decision be influenced by possible changes in your family responsibilities, in your work pattern or its location? With the need for yet more six o'clock attendances, will these extra dates in the diary add to your happiness or merely increase your family stress levels?
- c. In the additional Orders the time taken to the Chair can be surprisingly brief. If you have already entered into the Craft progression, might a conflict of interest arise? If you are not a particularly strong ritualist will taking office in a new Order, where you will be expected to play your part and not be a passenger, prejudice the heavy demands which face you in your Craft Master's Year from both the practise of ritual and Lodge visiting?

You have ticked the boxes and decided the time is right. Now comes the Big Question - '*Which of the additional Orders should I choose?*' Within Wiltshire a new Master Mason is eligible to join a limited number of other Orders, included on the Provincial website under the title 'Orders beyond the Craft.'

The Holy Royal Arch, often called Chapter, meets in twelve locations around the Province and is indissolubly linked to Craft Masonry, being recognised as such by the constitutions of Freemasonry. The Grand Master in effect governs the Holy Royal Arch as well as the Craft. Grand Lodge considers that if you wish to complete your knowledge of the Craft and gain a fuller understanding of the Third Degree then membership of the Royal Arch is to be strongly encouraged. It forms a beautiful, absorbing and morally satisfying conclusion to the Craft. For more information you can talk to your Lodge Royal Arch Representative whose name is listed in the Provincial Year Book and can be found on the Lodge Summons.

New Master Masons can also apply to become a Mark Master Mason, join the Ancient and Accepted Rite (more commonly referred to as Rose Croix) or the Order of the Secret Monitor. All four can act as gateways to even more Masonic Orders.

As you can see the possibilities appear endless. Should you decide that joining other Orders is perhaps not for you, do not be concerned. The most important thing is that you are comfortable with and enjoy the Freemasonry you have already chosen. However you can be assured that, if you do decide to enter any Order beyond the Craft, each one is enjoyable and tells an interesting story of strong moral principle. Most importantly you will meet in them like-minded men offering excellent company. I hope such membership will become a source of great blessing and life-long good fellowship.

Note: Michael Lee is a retired Royal Air Force Officer, married to Hazel they have a son and a daughter and live in the Salisbury area. In 1977 Michael was awarded the *OBE* and advanced to *CBE* in 1980, he was awarded the Ecclesiastical Order of St Osmond in respect of his work for Salisbury Cathedral which included 26 years as Chairman of the visitors committee. Chief among Michael's many Masonic honours was being appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent of the Holy Royal Arch.

News in brief



Members of the Wiltshire Masonic Bowls Association travelled to Rushden Bowls Club in Northampton to take part in the annual Masonic Annual Charity Event (MACE). Led by President Bob Roberts-

Phare, wife Ann and Phil Brown and Andy Grey, the Wiltshire team triumphed and were rewarded for their magnificent effort with a superb engraved plate. Well done Wiltshire on a fine victory.



The victorious Wiltshire Masonic Bowls team



Philip Bullock presents the ladies prize to Lisa Steer

Golfers from across the Province turned out in force to support the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Festival. On one of the best days of the summer over eighty golfers played the 18 hole Wrag Barn Golf Club at Sevenhampton Nr. Swindon. The Open Tournament has established itself as an annual fixture and members of the committee have confirmed the event will return to Wrag Barn in 2016. Provincial Grand Master, Philip Bullock was on hand to present the prizes.

Ian Priest confirms that the Province will be supporting the Wiltshire Swindon Youth Orchestra in 2016. This is a new venture for the Province and Ian is confident that it will strike the right note with the Brethren. Ian is delighted to confirm that he has managed to secure 'match funding' for this project with Grand Lodge. In addition, members of Lodge of Agriculture No. 9090 have pledged their support and donated £500.



Philip Bullock is delighted to announce that The Grand Charity has made generous donations to Dorothy House Hospice, Salisbury Hospice Charity and Prospect Hospice. In announcing the donations Philip said, "The incredible work of the hospice movement is supported by Freemasons and their families throughout the Province and we welcome the additional help given by The Grand Charity which will be gratefully received and faithfully applied"



The Pro Grand Master has announced the proposed formation of the Masonic Charitable Foundation which will be one of the largest charities in the country and will rely on the generosity of Freemasonry for its funds. It is anticipated that the Masonic Charitable Foundation will begin making grants from 1 April 2016.

A Friend's True Worth a truly amazing story by Bro Leslie Welling

Friends are people with whom we can laugh, cry and ultimately depend on with the utmost degree of faith, the sort of person who helps us through the hardships and struggles in life.

I have many friends in the Masonic fraternity, but one who I always remember also served with me in the army. In my Royal Green Jackets Company at that time was a Corporal Rex Champion, a Guernsey lad who also boxed for the battalion, while I was a small, skinny 18 year old, Rex was a big, tough but likeable guy with a heart of gold. He looked after the new lads and made sure that the older hands did not take advantage of the new recruits. In January 1965, the Battalion was posted to



Penang, a small island just off the west coast of Malaya where, for over four years, British armed forces personnel were engaged in a critical but little publicised jungle war on the vast island of Borneo defending the fledgling states of Sarawak, Sabah and oil-rich Brunei, all of whom wished to maintain their Commonwealth links.

On our first tour of Borneo, Rex was based in Kuching looking after our Sioux helicopters as part of the air platoon. I remained with D Company at a place in the jungle called Tepoi, close to the Indonesian border. When we returned to Penang, Rex continued to help run the air platoon and at the same time became a mentor for many an aspiring boxer. We completed a second six month tour, this time in Sabah, and I did not see him again until 1967 when I was posted to the Regimental Information Team at The Rifle Depot, Winchester. Early in 1968, the Team went to the Channel Islands on a Keeping the Army in the Public Eye tour and Rex, who was also at the depot awaiting discharge, being a Guernsey lad, came with us and ensured we had a great time on both Jersey and Guernsey.

Rex left the Army shortly after our return to become a Police Officer on Guernsey and we lost touch.

In May this year, my wife, Sue, and I decided to take a holiday in Guernsey and on the off chance, I contacted the Provincial Grand Secretary of the Guernsey Province, Bro. A J Innes to ask if anyone knew Rex and if so, how I might contact him. I didn't even know if he was still in Guernsey. Bro Innes put me in touch with Bro Kevin O'Kane who knew Rex and was able to confirm he was not only a well respected Freemason but that he had also been Master of the Victor Carey Lodge in 1996 and 2006; he belonged to Fidelis Chapter 6892, Guernsey & Alderney Lodge of Installed Masters and Knights Templar. Rex and I arranged to meet at the quayside in Guernsey, I hadn't seen him since 1968 so was looking forward to meeting him again.

Sue and I caught the ferry "Liberation" from Poole to Guernsey, Rex and his wife, Val, were at the quayside to meet us. Despite the years which had passed, I recognised him straight away. Rex had suffered a stroke and it was difficult for him to remember much of the past; however, we soon got chatting and the memories came flooding (well, in dribs and drabs) back. It doesn't matter how much time goes by, a friend is someone who, even after numerous years, you can still talk with just as if it was yesterday.

Rex and Val were wonderful, taking time to show us the sights of Guernsey. While I did not have the opportunity to attend a lodge meeting, Rex did take us to the Masonic Hall at St Martins. We had a fantastic few days reminiscing over old times. It was an absolute delight to meet up again and we will always remember their kindness and patience with two tourists who wanted to see everything.

A person meets many people in life, but there are only some who leave a lasting impression in our minds: one of these is my friend Rex.

The Masonic family is a wonderful fraternity and it was due to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Guernsey and Bro. Kevin O'Kane that I was able to renew my friendship with my good friend Rex Champion.

for your diary.....

Be Proud - Be Loud

If you're out and about next summer watch out for the Provincial Display Stand - its newly designed back cloth featuring a unique Square and Compasses image is set to attract attention and contribute to our policy of being proud and being loud.

Can you spare some time to help erect or man the Provincial Display Stand at one of our events; or if you are organising an event where the Provincial Display Stand would be usefully featured, please contact the Communication Team pco@pglwilts.org.uk or call Mike Wilson on **07753 602171** All offers of help will be welcome.

Grand Summer Ball 2016

If you enjoy a good party with fine food, superb company and wonderful music, the sort you really can dance to, make a date in your diary Saturday 4 June 2016 at the Civic Centre, Trowbridge. Details from Phil Still

Tercentenary Lunch 2017

Early notice of the Provincial Tercentenary Lunch to be held at the Civic Centre, Trowbridge on 23 September 2017. Places will be limited and early booking is recommended.

Christmas Carols (Anagrams)

Sweet Gherkin	= We Three Kings	A shrewd speech withheld	= While Shepherds watched
Linen Tights	= Silent Night	Aware my angina	= Away in a Manger
I acknowledge song	= Good King Wencelas	Watches him stir	= White Christmas
Hid healthy novelty	= The Holly and the Ivy	Tory howled jot	= Joy to the World

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“ ... and enjoy the conversation at the dinner table ”

Spotlight - Freemasons and entertainment

London provides a wide range of visitor attractions, none more popular than Freemasons' Hall, the headquarters of English (and Welsh) Freemasonry. Located in Great Queen Street not far from London's famous Covent Garden and Drury Lane, the iconic building is not only a great spectacle in its own right but is also home to The Library and Museum of Freemasonry a cornucopia of Masonic heritage and a must visit destination for every Freemason. Masonic merchandise is always available in the Letchworth on-site shop.

During the 1700s, as Freemasonry grew in popularity, it began to attract new members from increasingly diverse social backgrounds. Masonic lodges had always attracted men whose work could take them anywhere in the country, such as mariners and merchants, who would find security and friendship within the fraternity. The stage was no different and throughout the 1700s, there are many examples of members of the theatrical or musical professions enjoying or seeking membership of lodges. The 1800s saw the development of "class lodges", which were lodges for men with a common interest, background or occupation.

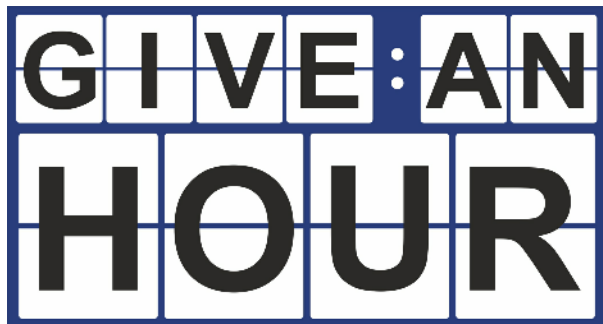
In its new exhibition, Spotlight: Freemasons and Entertainment, the Library and Museum has exhibits from over twenty lodges associated with theatre, music and entertainment from lodges for Victorian pantomime stars in London's Drury Lane to musical hall Bohemians in Birkenhead.

An exhibition really worth taking the time to visit.



Tercentenary news - W Bro Stephen Bridge JGD, AsstPrGM

What a great start we have made to our Tercentenary celebrations I have been delighted to receive so many messages of support for the 300 hours for 300 years initiative, and thank you to all for the wonderful work you have done so far. Whilst the national celebration of the Tercentenary is scheduled to take place at London's iconic Royal Albert Hall there will be regional and local events to mark this amazing anniversary. As a student of history I am always wary of anniversaries on the basis that sometimes there can be a tendency to over hype the occasion, but 300 years of Pure and Antient Freemasonry united under one governing body is a very good reason to have a party; which we will do on 23 September 2017.



The Province of Wiltshire is part of a region which also includes our friends from Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall and the Channel Islands; and I am the Provincial Grand Master's representative on the Tercentenary organising committee. One of the most exciting events planned for the region is the carrying of a banner from Land's End to Freemasons' Hall in the very heart of London. Travelling through each of the region's Provinces, I am sure Wiltshire Brethren will encourage the banner carriers along the route.

I referred to the work already undertaken by individuals and Lodges; on page 17 you will have read of the exploits of Stonehenge Lodge, Longleat Lodge and Moonraker Lodge member Geoff Grant. The industry of members and equally importantly their family is to be applauded - thank you so much for everything you do.

'Giving An Hour' to your local community is one way we demonstrate the beating heart of Freemasonry - Charity

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