

Across the Plain

Online edition

The magazine of Wiltshire Freemasons



Summer 2021

PREPARING FOR THE MEMBERS' PATHWAY

A Recipe for Success

Ingredients:

ATTRACT

ENGAGE

RETRIEVE



The Provincial Grand Master.....



Many Brethren will have been disappointed at the announcement that the so called 'freedom date' was postponed; but as we approach Monday 19th July, the date referenced by the Prime Minister as the 'terminus date' we can look forward to the ending of the 'temporary' social restrictions which were first imposed in March 2020. Freemasons across the country will be dusting down their regalia cases, polishing their shoes, and looking forward to reacquainting themselves with the complexities of Masonic ritual where the terms 'heretofore and hereafter' will be much more welcome than those Covid related phrases which have entered the lexicon of modern day language. I suspect I will not be alone in wishing a hearty goodbye to such terms as 'social distancing' - 'self isolation' and 'increased transmissibility'.

During a welcome respite from writing and answering emails I happened to come across a quote which I thought was very relevant for today. The quote read; *"On your darkest days do not try to see the end of the tunnel by looking far ahead. Focus only on where you are right now. Then carefully take one step at a time, by placing just one foot in front of the other. Before you know it, you will turn that corner."* Having turned the corner, the eager anticipation to return to normality must be considered with the knowledge that we've been here before, only to be thwarted at the moment we thought our release was assured. And for this reason our expectation of a return to an unqualified normality should be characterised by that most Masonic of virtues, I mean caution.

For many of our Brethren the last 18 months will have been the single longest period they will have experienced where there has been no Masonic meetings or activity. For some, especially our more senior members, the contact they have with the Lodge is their primary social interaction, and I am pleased to note that communication has been maintained during the Covid pandemic. During the last few months we have highlighted just how this awful virus has taken its toll on the mental well-being of so many, and we have recognised the dreadful effects of loneliness in our society. I wish to thank every Brother who has taken the time to enquire about the health and well being of a friend or Brother in time of need, and to express the hope that such care and concern will continue as we move out of the Covid restrictions.

I never cease to be amazed at the informative articles penned by W Bro Michael Lee, and this edition of **Across the Plain** contains yet another of his Fred and Charlie 'chats'. The ability to tell a 'good story' requires a very special talent, and Michael certainly demonstrates he is in possession of the gift.

As I pen this article for the Summer edition of **Across the Plain** I am conscious that it will be the fourth edition that has been published 'online'. The decision to not print, and instead to distribute an online version is one of economics. Simply stated, the Province does not have the £3,000 available to fund the printing and distribution costs of the publication. As regular readers of the magazine will know **Across the Plain** is supported by advertisements from several businesses owned by Wiltshire Freemasons. The Covid pandemic materially affected many of the businesses which had a significant impact on the advertising income so vital to the magazine. The editor will be in conversation with current advertisers to gauge the level of support available in the future with regard to the Winter edition of **Across the Plain**

This edition of **Across the Plain** contains the official summons for Provincial Grand Lodge to be held at Trowbridge on Thursday 7th October. I am looking forward to meeting you all and celebrating the promotions and appointments as shown on pages 23,24 and 25, and the pleasant duty of investing Simon Leighfield as Deputy Grand Master, and Phil Still as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

I am also looking forward to welcoming Graham Redman to Wiltshire on 25th August (see page 19) when he will be the presenter of the inaugural Anthony Wilson Memorial Lecture.

Attract, Engage and Retrieve....

In the latest edition of Freemasonry Today, David Staples talks about the two targets he set himself when taking on the role of Chief Executive (Grand Secretary) of the United Grand Lodge of England. The first was to modernise the processes of Freemasonry without impacting its history; no mean feat when you consider the challenges of combining tradition with modernity. While the second was to rehabilitate the image of Freemasonry among the public and a cynical media. Linked to these two ambitions is a genuine desire to increase the membership of Freemasonry.

Colin Cheshire recently wrote about the importance of increasing our membership in Wiltshire. Some Brethren have challenged the need for such action, and have pointed out the danger of admitting 'just anyone' in to the fraternity could be detrimental to what Freemasonry has represented for over 300 years. First let me reassure you that Freemasonry is an organisation that has a purpose in modern society, which other organisations would find difficult to match, and there will be no 'relaxing' of the high standards Wiltshire has always observed with regard to the admission of new members. Secondly, I can confirm that Wiltshire will work with the UGLE to grow Freemasonry to the numbers it had only twenty years ago - that's 250,000 members and not the circa 175,000 we have today. Thirdly, I have established, authorised and set in motion, initiatives which I believe will assist Wiltshire to achieve a target of 2,500 subscribing members in the next five years. These initiatives are designed to ensure the future prosperity of Wiltshire Freemasonry by making our Province one which attracts good men to become Freemasons; a Province which genuinely engages with its members, and a Province which values every Brother. The four strands to achieving the success we all seek for the Province are:-

1. **Attraction** – undertaken by the Membership Team for internet candidates, and by Lodge Secretaries and Lodge Membership Officers for gentlemen introduced by a Lodge member.
2. **Engagement** – undertaken by the Mentoring Team whose role is to work with Lodge Mentors to offer encouragement to the member, and to make sure that any unhappiness is dealt with in a speedy and sensitive way with the principal aim of preserving 'harmony' in the Lodge.
3. **Retrieval** of lapsed members - managed by the Divisional Officers who will make contact with Brethren who have not attended the Lodge for a period of time, and encourage them to return.
4. **Education** - provided by the Learning & Development Team with the aim of introducing new members to the amazing world of Freemasonry, its rich history, its ritual and ceremony; its structure and opportunities; the principles of the Craft, and the part they play in the Lodge and beyond.

Wiltshire has a healthy cohort of men who have been waiting a year or more to join our fraternity. In addition we are receiving new membership enquires on a daily basis. This bodes well for the Province and for the long term future of our Lodges. It is no exaggeration to say that Wiltshire Freemasonry is in a good place, and that with your help and support we can be even better.

Members of **Highworth Lodge No.9009** are being very proactive in communicating with local residents, many of whom are probably unaware a Freemasons Lodge has been part of the town's social fabric for 40 years this year. Consecrated in September 1981, the Lodge will be inviting the public to **MEET THE MASONS** when they host the Provincial display trailer on Saturday 14th August (see Page 26)

Finally, one of the factors in the success of any organisation is the extent to which its members feel happy, and express their happiness to others. In this edition of **Across the Plain**, Provincial Mentor David Little poses the question - Is Your Lodge A Happy Place? I trust it is, because we want the Brethren who form the Lodge to be happy, and to communicate happiness. which will 'prove to the world the happy and beneficial effects of our Ancient and Honourable Institution.

Freemasons need younger members....

This is the edited text of an article that appeared in The Times on Saturday 24th April 2021 about Freemasonry and the drive for younger members. Judge for yourself whether the article gives a positive view of Freemasonry, Comments to pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Set in their ways for 300 years, the Freemasons are opening a Lodge aimed at young people to combat a slump in membership. Having once boasted as many as half a million brothers in the years after the war — including Sir Winston Churchill and the Duke of Edinburgh — membership has fallen to 192,818.

The Lodge, which will open this year, will be run entirely by young members with the three leading positions — secretary, treasurer and director of the ceremony — to be men under 35. Its activities will have an emphasis on environmental and mental health initiatives. It will also hold more social events than other traditional lodges.

Although about 65 per cent of Freemasons are between the ages of 50 and 80, its recent polling suggests that people under 34 are the most positive towards the organisation.

Known for its arcane rituals and handshakes, the body is undertaking a campaign aimed at casting off its shadowy image in the hope that greater transparency will entice more to join. A university scheme with 3,500 members is already under way but the new Lodge, which was announced in the fraternity's first annual report, due to be published next week, will specifically look to draw young professionals.

The audited accounts, seen by The Times, show the Freemasons hold more than £75 million in fixed assets, including a London property portfolio worth £58 million. Among its real estate holdings are a West End nightclub and several shops and restaurants. The accounts also shed light on the organisation's founding principle of mutual aid and charitable giving. Last year it raised more than £42 million for charity, with 10 per cent dispensed to members who had fallen on hard times and the rest to non-masonic charities.

This summer Freemasons' Hall, the London headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England, will open its bar and café to the public for the first time. The organisation has spent £150,000 refurbishing the art deco interior. David Staples, 46, the grand secretary who is the driving force behind the Freemasons' new ethos of transparency, said he hoped that people would come and "have a drink with a Freemason". He added that bringing passing footfall into the building would give people "something they actually want but at the same time allows them to see Freemasons being Freemasons".

Though Freemasons emphasise the inclusivity of the fraternity, certain stipulations are demanded of prospective brothers. Applicants are expected to have a religious belief, though it does not matter which one. They must be of good character, aged 18 or over and be proposed by two members. They must be male, although there are two separate female-only Grand Lodges.

Applicants will be called to their local lodge for interview. Members form an investigative committee to conduct background checks on applicants. If they are found to be of good character, they will proceed through three symbolic degrees, each of which involves a different initiation ceremony. These take place at the lodge and require initiates to perform in an allegorical play based on the biblical story of Solomon's Temple.

The unorthodox handshakes, which many associate with the group, form part of the ceremony. Freemasons are required to take an oath not to reveal the handshake to the public.

The third degree is the final stage before becoming a full member. The ceremony involves close questioning, which is where the expression "giving someone the third degree" originates.

Onboarding for Fellow Craft and Master Masons.



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

Richard Wright is the Province's 'Solomon' champion and he recently attended a number of webinars explaining how Solomon is evolving and improving as an online learning resource and how it is making daily advancement in Masonic knowledge a reality in the Craft and Royal Arch.

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

Onboarding for Entered Apprentices.

At every Freemason's initiation a commitment is made to try and make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge, and perhaps learn something about the history of the organisation or perhaps develop confidence. Solomon is just the tool for every Freemason to do just this.

It is a course of four week's duration. It will take no more than 2-3 hours per week. It is intended for brethren who have recently undertaken their initiation ceremony (say in the last couple of years under the current circumstances), though more experienced Freemasons are welcome to join.

To enrol on the module, go to: <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/course/view.php?id=130>



You need to sign in first. Don't forget to scroll down to the **Enrol me** button to enter the module.

Alternatively, sign into Solomon as usual. Go to the **Home** page, scroll down and select **All modules** and then select **Onboarding for Entered Apprentices** from the pull-down menu in **Seek and Learn** by pressing the appropriate triangle.

All the material is made available to you when you enrol, Though the course started "officially" on Wednesday 9th June 2021 with an introductory webinar, please don't worry as joining instructions will be e-mailed to you when you enrol, and further information is available in the module itself.

Wiltshire Search and Rescue....

Wiltshire Search and Rescue is the busiest team of volunteers that you have **never** heard of.

It was Formed in 2000, due to there being a need in the Wiltshire community to be able to field an organised team who are trained in search and rescue techniques, able to work alongside the emergency services, and be deployed without requiring supervision - other than an initial briefing from the police. The team has developed into the highly professional and motivated team who are trained to the very highest standards.



Wiltshire Search and Rescue is an entirely voluntary organisation that is

called upon by Wiltshire Police to search for high risk, missing and vulnerable people when there is an immediate threat to life. People they look for include children, the elderly, people with dementia, and despondent people who might be at serious risk of harming themselves. Their primary aim is to locate a missing person, administer any life-saving medical assistance that may be required and recover them to a place of safety.

The team also have a fully equipped water search and flood rescue team that are trained to DEFRA standards. The team has over 90 operational and support members who were called out by Wiltshire Police 175 times last year - volunteering in excess of 25,000 operational and training hours last year alone.

Wiltshire Search and Rescue were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2011, Wiltshire Police Chief Constable's Certificate of Appreciation in 2013 and again in 2018.

In addition to their normal operations, the team volunteered many, many hours with local NHS Hospital Trusts, assisting with portering, administration and management duties. Their vehicles and drivers were also tasked with transporting vital medical equipment and PPE between NHS Trust sites and conveying test samples to laboratories as required.

Under normal circumstances Wiltshire Search and Rescue conduct a vigorous campaign of face-to-face fundraising throughout the year. This includes the marshalling of events, attending outdoor events such as steam rallies, firework parties and village fetes and very importantly, supermarket collections.

During the COVID-19 pandemic however, they have been unable to continue with any of the above fundraising events - while callouts increased and their commitment to assisting Wiltshire NHS Trusts have put extra pressure on our finances. This year they have had to look outside their usual fundraising activities to ensure that the volunteers have the correct safety equipment and PPE and to maintain operational capability.

Wiltshire Search and Rescue have been fortunate to receive financial support from several Masonic Lodges in Wiltshire in the past with very generous contributions from the Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No.626; Calley Lodge No.7525 and Border Lodge No.3129 donating in excess of £1000 this year alone.



This month's cover reflects the importance of having a plan, and the Members' Pathway is a plan.

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

Important information.

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The need to talk about membership.....

The big conversation has changed from "Have you had both jobs?" to "Have you read the recent article on Freemasonry in the Daily Telegraph magazine?" If you haven't read it, I do recommend it to you, it's an illuminating experience.

The article centres on the important subjects of change and membership; topics covered extensively in this edition of **Across the Plain**. The UGLE has been very clear in stating that Freemasonry is a members' organisation, and as such views its present and future as being predicated on having new members filling the vacancies created by, among other things, deaths, resignations, and exclusions.

Ten years ago membership of English Freemasonry stood at 200,000 whereas today it is less than 175,000. The UGLE has recognised that this is not a good situation in which to be, and has commissioned surveys to identify various ways to address the problem. The aim is not only to halt the decline but also to examine what must be done to reverse the situation, and more importantly to grow the fraternity.

The revised Members' Pathway programme is an excellent guide to best practice, and is designed to help in 'Attracting Members - Growing Lodges'. It sets out very clearly the ingredients required and explains the method needed to bring them together in a Recipe for Success.

We often talk about the need to embrace change, and we all know that change can often be difficult to accept. However, change is not only inevitable, it is absolutely essential to the growth of Freemasonry and to its survival.

Modernisation of our systems, the way in which the 'mechanics' of Freemasonry work is constantly evolving to meet legislative and social requirements. But what of its members? We simply cannot stand still and hope for the best - that is just not an option.

The language used in The Telegraph Magazine will 'jar' with many members. But it is important to recognise that journalists are not known for their generosity of spirit, and there is little to be gained from 'shooting the messenger'. The best course open to us, is to cheerfully embrace the changes and look to a brighter future for Freemasonry.

Note from the editor: Articles appearing in the Monthly Newsletter or Across the Plain have a number of purposes, to inform, to educate, to entertain and to challenge. Not every piece written will meet with universal approbation but neither are they intended to offend. The editor is delighted to receive your views



The Grand Superintendent....



During what I refer to as 'quiet moments' I reflect on events of the past week or month; often just bringing to mind a comment made by a Companion during a general conversation or at a meeting. I am always delighted when the comments are complimentary, and as you can imagine I am less enamoured if the comment is less than generous or of a critical nature. However, that is not to say that I am unhappy to be challenged on any issue related to Freemasonry especially when it refers to the Royal Arch. In fact I positively welcome challenge and constructive criticism, and my 'door is always open' should a Companion wish to ask a question or make an observation which they feel will benefit the Province.

An area of concern to me is Social Media. In particular Twitter and Facebook, both of which the Province actively uses. It's not only politicians and English cricketers who have discovered, to their cost, that there is no such thing as a 'truly private post' or that items placed on Social Media channels can be recovered and produced when required like a rabbit from a magician's hat. It is for this reason that the UGLE and the Province have issued clear guidelines on what is acceptable to place on either site, and more importantly what is not. Sometimes the lines can be blurred when re-tweeting or 'liking' someone else's post, especially when the item you re-tweet or like has been posted by a Masonic source. In some circumstances you may be asked to amend or delete a post which the Province considers inappropriate. Please be assured that if you are ever asked to do so it is for good reason, and a swift compliance will always be appreciated. Contrary to some comments I have heard, the Province is not acting as a censor but rather as a moderator. Bringing Freemasonry into disrepute is something which can be done unintentionally, better by far to avoid doing so by compliance with the guidelines, and if you are ever unsure just ask the Communication Officer.

The Prime Minister has recently announced that the country is moving out of Covid-19 restrictions, which means we can soon return to 'normal' Masonic activity. With this in mind my thoughts have turned to how the Province can improve the understanding and appreciation of Royal Arch Masonry in Wiltshire. I appreciate that for the Royal Arch to be successful it has to provide a different and enjoyable experience for members of the Craft. In today's fast moving environment it simply isn't enough to talk about 'taking one more step' or 'completing a journey' - cliches which we all use but which fail to ignite real interest or explain the unique relationship between the Craft and the Royal Arch. We simply cannot sell the Royal Arch to prospective Companions without a convincing proposition as to why they should consider joining. Putting it another way, we need a USP - a unique selling point. The question we have to answer is quite simple 'What is it?' My team is focussed on making the Royal Arch attractive to the new Master Mason while at the same time engaging with more mature Brethren to discover what we need to do to encourage their participation in our Order.

I congratulate E Comp Colin Cheshire on his appointment as the first Provincial Grand Membership Officer in the Craft. I know that the PrGM is committed to develop new and innovative ways to attract good men to Freemasonry. He is also determined to make sure that members remain engaged and encouraged to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. My wish is to see a substantial increase in the number of Wiltshire Craft Freemasons joining the Royal Arch. I am not persuaded that the Royal Arch should expend energy on trying to reduce the age of Companions - it's not within our ambit to influence such a situation - we have to cut our suit according to the cloth we have. I am constantly being told that young people are constrained in progressing their Masonic careers by other commitments, work and family being the front runners. Occasionally I hear the cost of membership being cited as a reason for young Brethren leaving the Craft, which if true would lead me to conclude that asking them to join the Royal Arch with its additional financial requirement would be the height of foolishness.

Just prior to the first lockdown the Pro Grand Master and Pro First Grand Principal Peter Lowndes expressed the view that every Master Mason should join the Holy Royal Arch, even to the point where he made it very clear that while he is not in any way against Craft members joining appendant Orders, he reiterated his firm belief that Royal Arch should be the first priority; and who am I to disagree?

This is where you belong....



Well done Companions - it's good to see you back in action



www.pglwilts.org.uk/royal-arch/royal-arch-news/

Fred knew of an excellent walk around a nearby golf course. He also knew of an excellent pub strategically placed along its route – although the two facts were not necessarily connected. Given that 'the science' now permitted greater freedom to roam, a bright Summer's morning (and pink chits from their wives) were all that was necessary to convert purposeful intent into healthy reality.

The coastal golf course – a 'links' really – was bounded by a delightfully open stretch of wide and sandy beach. With certain inevitability as they stepped out from the shelter of a copse on to the shore a sudden gust blew up and the particles stung cheeks with the ferocity of a swarm of irritated bees. Freemasons are hardy chaps so, ignoring this downside, they gloried in the warm sun, in the fresh briny air and in their only company - a surprisingly lively bird life. They could see a pair of noisy oystercatchers, a squadron of sanderlings scurrying along the shoreline looking for ...whatever sanderlings look for, some inquisitive herring gulls – and the odd crow fossicking amongst the flotsam.

As they sat in the shelter of a high dune assessing the fastest route to the pub, Fred enquired a propos nothing at all: 'Tell me, Charlie, what is Freemasonry?'

Charlie, startled, had assumed Fred above all people knew the answer to that one so he began to chant about a system of morality, veiled in allegory, etc... but was cut off by an emphatic 'No Charlie, what does Freemasonry actually mean to you? When friends ask you what it's all about what do you tell them, eh?'

Charlie thought for a moment: 'Well, I tell 'em I've made several good friends I can really rely on, that we have some lively social events, there's a great team spirit from acting out our little rituals, we can have a jolly good chat over dinner and it's followed by a bit of fun... and we also do a lot for charity with our raffles.....and the subs are less than half the cost of this golf club. What's not to like?'

Fred pointed out that half a dozen social clubs could say pretty much the same thing. Why then was Freemasonry any different?

Charlie thought for a bit. 'Well, Fred, surely I don't have to tell you, we also have all that Masonic tradition behind us.'

Fred's response was swift: 'But Grand Lodge and Province tell us that recruiting and retention is held back by Lodge 'dinosaurs' insisting on maintaining those old Lodge customs. If Freemasonry is to survive, we're told, we must move with the times as Freemasonry's future is in the younger generation. To recruit and retain we must appeal to the new, not stay with the old. So, Charlie, surely old lodge practises must steadily fade, year by year.'

Charlie asked shrewdly: 'Local lodge customs may need to change but all the old Masonic traditions still remain, don't they?'

'Tell me Charlie, does your generation believe in a Supreme Being or an After Life?'

'A few do. Most don't. You can't prove there is one, can't prove there isn't'.

'Does your generation study the Bible?'

'I suspect never, Fred. The days are too full. Far too much to do. My wife and I read very little – I don't even have time to scan a daily paper – just pick up the news from my mobile phone. Some may not even have a Bible in the house.'

'Does your generation attend church...even if only occasionally?'

Another Fred and Charlie conversation from the pen of Michael Lee....

'No, week-ends are far too busy. Sundays are bonding days with the kids. See so little of them during the week. Try to support the young lad in his Sunday soccer team and then drive the wee lass to her ballet.'

'But, Charlie, you took your Obligation on the Lodge Bible. If you don't read its pages, if you didn't have R.E. classes at school and you don't attend Church on a Sunday how can anyone possibly claim that Bible is the divine source of his morality let alone Freemasonry's? In what possible way can that Bible be sacred?'

'Look, Fred, we lead a decent family life, we pay our way, make sure the kids know right and wrong, help the neighbours, visit the 'oldies' each month and I don't womanise in the office either – the wife would kill me anyway. I think we lead a Christian life without all the religious bits'.

'Can you sing the National Anthem, Charlie?'

'I know the words to the first verse, Fred – and I can stand to attention when singing them. I respect the Queen – a great lady - and her close family members. Like many young chaps I have been known to question paying for all the cousins and hangers on though. Anyway, Fred, why all these personal questions?'

'I was just musing, Charlie, just musing. Grand Lodge says [Principles No 8] that to become a Freemason under UGLE the principles of the Antient Landmarks, customs and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed – and please note the word strictly.'

'What landmarks are they, Fred?'

“That a Mason professes a belief in God or the Supreme Being or the GAOTU.

That the VSL is an essential and indispensable part of the Lodge, to be open in full view throughout the time the Brethren are at labour.

That a Mason must be male, free-born, and of mature age.

That a Mason owes allegiance first to the Sovereign and then to the Craft

That a Mason believes in the immortality of the soul”

'Most accept all that stuff, Fred.'

'But, Charlie, do you? Look, if you're not entirely sure about the Supreme Being or an After Life and if your morality isn't guided by a VSL then as such you've immediately failed three of Grand Lodge's principal tests for being a true Freemason. Aren't you really just a social member of a dining club - albeit one with vague Masonic connections?'

Charlie's silence all the way to the pub became him well.

Fred smiled quietly to himself. Charlie was a splendid young man who, without blowing his own trumpet, worked widely and quietly for his local community – sometime school governor, parish councillor, neighbourhood watch, cricket coach...he occasionally felt he rarely spent an evening at home. Fred assessed that, being so outward looking, he could become an excellent Freemason.

Until now though his real life had been in one universe and his Freemasonry in quite another. Charlie hadn't yet realised that to be a true Freemason the two universes needed to become just the one – and that only he could unite them.

Another Fred and Charlie conversation from the pen of Michael Lee....

On arrival at the old-fashioned 'Gulls and Buoys' pub Fred was relieved to see that all this deep thinking hadn't affected Charlie's thirst in any way, shape or form. Charlie's first pint off the wood had long disappeared even before Fred was ready to settle back and take that first sip. What it was to be young!

After a long silence appreciating the beer – the landlord knew his stuff and kept a good drop – Charlie looked anxiously across at Fred.

'Fred, I want to be more than a social member. I'm not really sure why but Freemasonry is becoming very special to me. What more should, what more can, I do?'

Fred nodded appreciatively. Charlie was taking that first vital step in Freemasonry. He had now realised he wanted to be part of that deeper something that he sensed only Speculative Freemasonry could offer – and it was time to do something about it.

'Charlie, all the words of the ritual that you so painstakingly learn have to be properly understood. It's the slow understanding and constant practise of its precepts – not the faultless repetition – that really matters to a Freemason. Then when you've reflected on what the words are saying to you – and our Lodge of Instruction can help you a little here – you'll want to apply their guidance to your real-life too. Freemasonry won't then be confined to just the Lodge night each month – it'll be there today, tomorrow and all the other days in between as well.'

Fred took a long sip – that beer was quite excellent – and added:

'Like so many others before you, Charlie, after a while you may well find that almost imperceptibly you've come to accept all those Landmarks of our Order that are troubling you at the moment. That's our hope and, happily, that's also been our experience.'

Fred valued Charlie and his friendship very highly. Through some hard questions he hoped he'd encouraged Charlie to think a little more deeply about what so far Charlie had just paid lip-service to – what Freemasonry really stood for and what was expected from a true Freemason.

Fred sensed he may well have succeeded.

Welcome to the very modern Freemasons...

Mitch Bryan helps launch - Welcome to the very modern Freemasons....



Mitch Bryan (Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355) appeared alongside Chief Executive Officer Dr David Staples and was interviewed by journalist Joe Shute for an article titled **Out with the old boys network... in with the millennials and vegans**. The article was published in **The Telegraph Magazine** dated 26th June.

Communications Director of the UGLE Michelle Worvell tweeted: "Fantastic feature in the Telegraph News on the United Grand Lodge of England and Freemasonry - thank you to all who helped with the article. Slowly turning the tide of negative perception to the reality of what Freemasonry really stands for."

If you have an opinion and would like to comment on the Daily Telegraph Magazine article please send your email to pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Just about everyone, and I really do mean everyone is talking about membership. Whether it's about Lodge membership; club membership; or society membership; it has become the subject of choice, probably just beaten into second place by the question "Have you had your jabs?"

The recently published Annual Report (which I'm sure everyone has read) demonstrates how everyone connected with English Freemasonry is focused on membership, and just to be sure let me assure you that the term 'everyone' really does include Freemasons in Wiltshire.



In the latest edition of Freemasonry Today the Deputy Grand Master (guest editing in place of the Grand Secretary) reminds us that *"We must ensure that Freemasonry enhances its reputation as a thriving organisation that people aspire to join, and broaden our membership across all age groups."*

Given that for many years Freemasonry has been the subject of much ill informed comment and misrepresentation you may be surprised to read the Deputy Grand Master mentions *"enhancing its reputation."* However, he is quite right to do so as it is quite apparent from research undertaken by the UGLE that the public perception of Freemasonry is nothing like as negative as a minority would have us believe. In fact I am sure you would be surprised to know how many men are genuinely interested in becoming a Wiltshire Freemason. Currently the Province has over 125 gentlemen waiting to be initiated and this figure is growing day by day. I believe these figures amply demonstrate that Wiltshire Freemasonry is a *"thriving organisation that people aspire to join."*

So how is Wiltshire working towards its twin goals of attracting and managing new members across all age groups?

First, the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Executive have identified that attraction, engagement, retrieval and education are the essential ingredients in delivering the objective of building membership and ensuring the long term sustainability of our Lodges. To support the delivery process the Province has created a Membership Team, a Mentoring Team, and a Learning and Development Team. While each team has specific responsibilities the successful delivery of the objective will very much depend on their ability to work together, and to work with Lodges.

As the newly appointed Provincial Membership Officer it is the role of my team to develop programmes and initiatives to attract new members, and to process first level enquiries from men wishing to become Wiltshire Freemasons. I hasten to add that the brief of the Membership Team only covers enquiries made through the UGLE and Provincial websites, and any other social media outlet. Introductions made by an existing member to their Lodge remain a matter for the Lodge, although the team is always happy to assist in the membership process if required. The team applies the practices and principles of the UGLE **PATHWAY** scheme which outlines a process to identify men who may be interested in Freemasonry (but not yet a member) and to guide them along a pre-determined pathway to become a committed Freemason. This integrated approach demonstrates that UGLE, Provincial and Lodge initiatives operate in mutual support of each other.

The final part of the linkage in growing the Province is in the area of Retrieval, that is 'holding on to what we already have' which means making contact with lapsed members and those Brethren who for various reasons are not attending Lodge meetings. Current estimates suggest the number of Brethren who fall in to this category exceed 300 which approximates to 16% of the subscribing membership. The Province's Divisional Officers have been charged with managing this initiative and will be working with secretaries, mentors and almoners with a view to understanding the many and varied reasons for 'absent Brethren.'



This may seem an odd question, but ask yourself, is it so odd? After all it's a question frequently asked about the workplace, where no one would want to work if everyone is miserable and constantly looking at the time to see when they can escape!

In fact studies have shown that when employees are happier at work, 85% say they take more initiative; 73% say they are better collaborators; and 48% care more about their work. Effective leaders who understand the correlation between higher levels of engagement, happiness, and productivity, facilitate movement in the right direction--and have people feel good about it. So, if it's good enough for the workplace, surely it must be good for your Lodge, and if your

Lodge is a 'happy Lodge' it will almost certainly be a Lodge where men want to be. And isn't that what you want for your Lodge?

The Greek philosopher Aristotle said "Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence." As Freemasons we are encouraged to have but one aim in view, to please each other and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness. I think it's a fair conclusion that Socrates and Freemasons have something in common - the belief that 'happiness' matters.

Be emotionally supportive. Everyone wants to know that they are appreciated. Encourage a Brother to move through the Lodge at their own pace and not to get caught up in the imagined race to the chair. Find a way to tell them how much they mean to the Lodge and how they can play a part in the life of the Lodge. Be caring and compassionate in all your dealings. Just being there for a Brother, whether they're having a major life struggle or just being concerned about their ability to remember ritual, may be the best thing you can do to make them happier.

Be a good listener. One easy way to make somebody feel appreciated and validated is to simply hear them out. Try to understand their thoughts and be in their shoes. Ask thoughtful questions, don't interrupt, and if you don't understand something, say something instead of playing along. You may have a Brother who feels like he doesn't get enough attention and who really needs a kind ear, and you can make that person happier by being there and making an effort to really listen.

Be understanding. New members come from an environment where everything possible is done to make sure they are happy at work. Happiness in life is a basic human aspiration and, thus, they expect and want to experience a happy atmosphere in their Lodge. I am sure our readers will agree that happiness in the Lodge is essential to success, entirely possible to foster, and well worth the investment and effort.

“HAPPINESS IS NOT SOMETHING READY MADE. IT COMES FROM YOUR OWN ACTIONS.” DALAI LAMA

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

Equally, we must recognise that expecting good men to wait for many months before they can become part of Wiltshire Freemasonry is not a sustainable proposition. Reducing the time between their initial enquiry and their reception in to a Lodge is not traducing a principled tradition, rather it is acknowledging the reality of the way in which life is lived today.



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t 01225 805080



Have your say!

Have you a question to ask, or is there something you want to know about Freemasonry. Maybe you just want to express a view or make a comment, whatever it is why not write to the Provincial Grand Master?

ATPLetters@pglwilts.org.uk

All letters and emails are subject to editorial control. Regrettably due to space not all letters can be published

Is this for you?

Would you like to play a part in promoting Freemasonry in the Province, can you write media copy? The Communications Team would be pleased to hear from you. pc0@pglwilts.org.uk

Barry Cooper's Word Search

As many of you doubtless will have noticed, there is no quiz in this edition of the magazine.

But don't worry Barry is designing a fiendishly difficult quiz for **In touch On line**

IF YOU HAVE A STORY
TO TELL
LET US KNOW



editor@pglwilts.org.uk

The Provincial Grand Master replies to your question:

Q. I have recently attended a meeting which was held under a special 'Dispensation' from the Province. As a newcomer to Freemasonry I was intrigued by the wording of the dispensation which was beautifully read by the Lodge Secretary. What is a dispensation and why is it needed.?



A. First, a huge thank you for your question, and for the kind words about your Secretary's reading of the dispensation. The wording of the dispensation might be regarded by some of our members as being a little archaic, but I believe the use of such legalistic language affords the dispensation the gravitas that it rightly deserves; after all it is a very special document. I am always impressed with the solemnity employed by a Lodge secretary.

Dispensations are requested by Lodge secretaries and, subject to the reason given for the application may be issued, either by the Grand Master or the Provincial Grand Master. The most common reasons for a dispensation being requested is for the holding of a meeting on a day which differs from the regular date, or at a place different to that stated in the Lodge by-laws.

During the Covid-19 pandemic dispensations have been requested which allow for a Master to be elected, and installed on the same date; also to allow a candidate for membership to be proposed, balloted for and Initiated on the same evening (this has generally been allowed under rule 160 BoC.)

As a general rule, a dispensation should be read immediately before the proceeding which it authorises. The exception being when the dispensation authorises the holding of the meeting itself - whether on a different date or at a different place or as an emergency meeting - which must be read immediately **after** the Lodge has been opened and **before** any business is transacted.

A dispensation is simply a means of permitting or regularising something that is normally forbidden by the Rules in the Book of Constitutions. There is no general power to grant a dispensation and may therefore only be permitted if a particular rule in the BoC allows it. What is clear is that the application for a dispensation must be clear as to for what purpose it is being sought.

Frequently a Lodge may wish to apply the rules in a way which meets a certain set of expectations and attempt to use a dispensation to facilitate such a desire. It is without doubt a dangerous course to take especially as it can have serious consequences. A good example is that which has occurred recently. A Lodge wished to invest a number of officers that for good reason were unable to be present at the Installation ceremony. In normal circumstances the Master would be asked if it was his wish to invest the absent officers on a future occasion (there is actually no requirement for this, other than with respect to the two Wardens) and this would take place at the next **regular** meeting. It would be improper to invest officers at an emergency meeting and as such a dispensation to do so should not be applied for.



St Patrick's Lodge 295 is the oldest Travelling Military Lodge in existence and one of only two known surviving Military Lodges which maintain an Ambulatory (or Travelling) Military Warrant. Of the two it is unique in that "St Pat's" still travels with the Regiment to which it was originally warranted.

The warrant was issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland to the 1st (Irish) Horse (John Brown's Horse) on St John's Day in June 1758 whilst the regiment was stationed in Ireland. As a result of regimental amalgamations the Lodge is now warranted within "The Royal Dragoon Guards" a British Army cavalry regiment stationed in Warminster which is equipped and roled as Armoured Cavalry. They are currently awaiting delivery of their latest mount, the British Army's newest vehicle AJAX.

In 2005 The Royal Dragoon Guards deployed on the first of two successful tours in Southern Iraq, being based in Shaibah Logistics Base near Basrah. During this tour, the Warrant of the Lodge travelled in the Quartermasters baggage (as was ancient custom) and four meetings were held at the Shaibah Logistics Base 10 Km outside Basrah chaired by a Senior Past Master in the absence of the reigning Master. It is believed that these were the first Masonic meetings to have taken place in Iraq since the late 60's when Sadaam Hussein took power.

These meetings were well attended and as many of the Brethren of the Lodge were stationed away from the main base, Brethren from other Constitutions often stepped into some of the offices to enable meetings to take place. On various occasions Brethren from the German, Australian, Scottish, English and even a Brother from a Lodge in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland sat in Lodge and substituted for Brethren absent due to their various operational commitments.

For the last 10 years the Regiment has been stationed in Catterick, N Yorkshire with the Lodge meeting in Richmond by kind permission of the Province of Yorkshire North and East Ridings. The RDG moved to Warminster in November 2020, and in accordance with our warrant so did the Lodge. We now look forward to a long and happy Masonic tour of duty within the Province of Wiltshire. The Lodge had last met within Wiltshire in 1996 - 2000 when we were "hosted" by Border Lodge in Ludgershall.

The Lodge exists primarily for past and present members of the RDG, its antecedent regiments and attached arms of all ranks although others are admitted on a case by case basis. We still retain our original warrant which is of course on display at all of our meetings as our "licence" to operate as a Masonic Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Our meetings, or as we call it "Stated Communications" are scheduled for the last Saturday of every month except December starting at 1200hrs midday. The Grand Lodge of Ireland is in full amity with UGLE and it is by the kind permission of UGLE that we are allowed to meet in England wherever the RDG are serving. There is therefore no issue with inter visitation and we would be delighted to welcome all Brethren to our Lodge Communications where we are sure that you will see something vaguely familiar done in quite a different way and we can assure you of true Irish style craic at our Festive Board afterwards. We will leave it to you Brethren, to spot the differences.

ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE

The Provincial Church Service will take place on Sunday 24th October at 3.00pm

(Subject to Government and Covid-19 restrictions)

KEEP THE DATE FREE

The primary function of a Masonic Lodge and the Craft is to train its members to a proper understanding of the truths its ritual and ceremonies are intended to teach.

The truth of this statement is supported by no less an authority than the Book of Constitutions and can be determined by reference to the third of the Antient Charges, a summary of which every Installed Master is required to give his 'unqualified assent' and to support. The Charge reads: A Lodge is a place where freemasons assemble to work and to instruct themselves in the mysteries and antient science. As you might expect, following a candidates initiation and having been restored to the blessing of material light we immediately set the candidate on a journey of discovery. The learning or education process starts very quickly.



The presentation of the working tools allows the importance of education to be further reinforced, with the chisel pointing out the advantages of education, by which means alone we are rendered fit members of regularly organised Society.

For the operative Mason the economic advantages of education were clear and obvious. As he progressed through his apprenticeship and developed new skills, so his value to an employer increased as did his earnings power. But there were also social benefits. As the apprentice became more skilled in his trade he found himself welcomed into a new strata of the fraternity of which he had become a member.

The speculative Freemason is encouraged from his first day as an Entered Apprentice to make himself acquainted with the principles of Moral Truth and Virtue, and is recommended to study more especially such of the liberal Arts and Sciences as may lie within the compass of his attainment. The purpose of the study is also pointed out; it is to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

As a Fellow Craft Freemason he is permitted to extend his resources into the hidden mysteries of nature and science. While the beautiful words of the third degree tell us all we need to know about the value of education when we are invited to reflect on our mortality and receive instruction on how to die.

Education is a powerful agent of change, and contributes to social stability and drives long-term economic growth. A distinguished Mason, once observed, "The lack of educational work in the average lodge is the principal reason for the lack of interest and the consequent poor attendance in Masonry over which spokesmen have been wringing their hands for at least a century". This quote should cause us to pause and think about the importance and value of Masonic education within the Craft, It should also persuade us to think about why this important aspect of Freemasonry has been so badly overlooked.

This leads to the all important question, "Why has this situation come about?" As you can imagine there is no easy answer. We, as a Fraternity, have reached the point where few of our members, especially new members, have even the faintest idea of why they are Freemasons, let alone, have any real knowledge about our history and heritage. The truth of the matter is that we have come to depend on the ritual as the basis for Masonic knowledge. Whereas ritual, while it has a place, is no substitute for education.

The ritual has an important place in the life of the person who is becoming a Mason. But, learning ritual is not the same as studying the history and meaning of Freemasonry. So, we tend to be far more comfortable in working the Degrees than in working with the candidate to teach him what our beautiful Craft is all about. Has this always been so? The answer, of course, is no, but we have drifted so far away from true knowledge within our Fraternity that now it is very difficult to try to turn the tide. But we are going to have to do that very thing if we are to reverse the trend of diminishing numbers of Freemasons as opposed to a loss of members.



WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

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Deputy Grand Secretary UGLE

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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2021

Civic Centre | Trowbridge



Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England



RW Bro Philip S.A Bullock

Provincial Grand Master

VW Bro David M Davies **PGSwdB**

Deputy Provincial Grand Master

W Bro Simon R Leighfield **PSGD**

Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Dear Sir and Brother

July 2020

By command of the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held in the Auditorium, Civic Centre Trowbridge under the Banners of Calley Lodge, No.7525, Methuen Lodge, No.8692, and Vastern Lodge, No.8977 on **Thursday 7th October 2021 at 2:30 pm.**

All Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers, Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the Province are summoned to attend.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

44 Swallowmead

Salisbury

Philip J Still, **PAGDC**

SP2 8JD

Provincial Grand Secretary

Tel. 01722 413021

Brethren are to wear dark Lounge Suits, Morning Dress or Uniform with full dress Regalia (no gauntlets) and are requested to be in their seats in the Auditorium by **2:15pm**. It is the hope of the Provincial Grand Master that members wear the Provincial Tie.

Luncheon (12:00 noon for 12:30pm) will be available in the **Usher Suite**, for Brethren and their Masonic Guests, subject to seats being available. **Lunch is £28.00 per head**, which includes wine.

Remittance please with your booking (giving name, initials, rank, and any dietary requirements) should be sent as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 3rd September 2021** to R Evans Esq, 1 The Grove Portway Warminster BA12 8QL. Cheques to be made payable to '**Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire**'.

The Provincial Committee will meet at **The Masonic Hall, Chippenham** at **7.00pm** on **Friday 10th September 2021** to receive the accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, to consider the disposal of funds and to transact any other Masonic business.

Business of Provincial Grand Lodge

1. To open Provincial Grand Lodge
2. The RW Provincial Grand Master will be saluted according to ancient form
3. The RW Provincial Grand Master will greet our guests
4. The Roll of Provincial Officers will be called
5. The Minutes of the Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held at Cricklade on Friday 16th October 2020 will be submitted for approval
6. The Roll of Lodges will be called
7. In Memoriam
8. To receive the Provincial Grand Treasurer's accounts
9. To receive the report of the Provincial Committee held on 10th September 2021
10. To receive the report of the Provincial Grand Registrar
11. Wiltshire Association reports
12. To elect a Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year, W Bro Christopher J Robbins is nominated
13. To elect two Brethren to serve on the Audit Committee for the ensuing year. W Bro Keith RS Surry FCA PAGDC, and W Bro Clive G Hackett are nominated
14. The RW Provincial Grand Master will appoint, obligate, and invest W Bro Simon R Leighfield PSGD as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire
15. The RW Provincial Grand Master will appoint, obligate, and invest W Bro Philip J Still PAGDC as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire
16. To elect two Brethren to serve as Wiltshire representative members of the Masonic Charitable Foundation for the ensuing year. W Bro Gary Dolphin, and W Bro Derek K Gibbens are nominated
17. The RW Provincial Grand Master will appoint and invest the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year
18. The Provincial Grand Officers will be saluted
19. The RW Provincial Grand Master will invite three Lodges to host Provincial Grand Lodge on Thursday 6th October 2022
20. The RW Provincial Grand Master will address the Brethren
21. To attend to any other Masonic Business
22. To close Provincial Grand Lodge
23. Closing Ode during which Alms (in aid of the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Foundation) will be received

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge 2021-22

Provincial Grand Master	RW Bro Philip S.A Bullock
Deputy Provincial Grand Master	W Bro Simon R Leighfield PSGD
Assistant Provincial Grand Master	W Bro Philip J Still PAGDC



Provincial Senior Grand Warden	W Bro Colin J Davies	9773
Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Foster R Telford	586
Provincial Grand Chaplain	W Bro Michael F Barratt PPrSGW	5137
Provincial Grand Treasurer	W Bro Christopher J Robbins PPrSGW	1478
Provincial Grand Registrar	W Bro John O Badger PAGDC	626
Provincial Grand Secretary	W Bro Robert J Evans	1478
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro John R Smith PAGDC	1295
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Nigel J Bates	1533
Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro A L (Sandy) Steele-Davis PPrJGW	8435
Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Barry Jordan-Davis PPrJGW	5955
Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Ian W Lever	8435
Provincial Grand Almoner	W Bro Gary Dolphin PPrSGW	1295
Provincial Grand Charity Steward	W Bro Derek K Gibbens	586
Provincial Grand Membership Officer	W Bro Colin Cheshire <i>OBE</i> , PJGD	632
Provincial Grand Communication Officer	W Bro Des Morgan PAGDC	335
Provincial Grand Orator	W Bro Des Morgan PAGDC	335
Provincial Grand Mentor	W Bro David Little PAGStB	9064
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Gordon E Lindsay	8692
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Marcus G Reeves	4037
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Mark A Whitmarsh	1295
Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Clive L Emerson	9064
Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Robert G Walker	8435
Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Michael K Wills	9587
Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary	W Bro John Deane PPrJGW	6616
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Michael J Pearce	626
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Christopher J Linham	8620
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Michael JD Forster	9540
Provincial Grand Organist	Bro Gary E Cook	632
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Peter WA Bint	1295
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Paul A Robinson	663
Provincial Grand Pursuivant	W Bro Kevin J Tedd	5955
Provincial Grand Steward	W Bro Alex Laird	2227
Provincial Grand Steward	W Bro Adrian Wheeler	8204
Provincial Grand Steward	Bro Mitchell Bryan	355
Provincial Grand Steward	Bro Paul A Sharp	1295
Provincial Grand Steward	W Bro Robert A Betchley	9587
Provincial Grand Steward	W Bro Leslie R Welling	9773
Provincial Grand Tyler	W Bro Stephen J Smith	3129

Provincial Promotions 2021 -2022....

Many congratulations to every Brother who has been appointed to serve the Province in an active officer, promoted, or received a first appointment. I am often asked on what basis appointment and promotion in Provincial Rank is conferred, to which the answer is simple; it's on an individual's merits.

Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden	W Bro David WA Clarke	2888
Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden	W Bro Ian D Gibson	5955
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Richard Andrews	9035
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Graham A Cooper	8435
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro John R Deane	6616
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Alfred HJ Fisher	2644
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Daniel W Gibbon	4037
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Peter D Martin	8747
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Mike WA Mitchell	4687
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro James A Newton	8747
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro John F Nicholas	8547
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Hilton M Richards	388
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro David Rowland	5955
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Thomas CA Walton	977
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Christopher C Waters	586
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro John G Wilmer	4037
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	W Bro Kimberley D Alley	6616
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	W Bro Michael J Bracken	8977
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	W Bro Clive Fowler	9587
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	Bro Norman PD Gulliver	8718
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	W Bro Allan T Johns	8692
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	W Bro Hugh EM Johnson	8747
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro David J Barrie	4037
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro David J Bevan	9064
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Robert H Charles	4687
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro William Fergus	5908
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro David MR Fielding	2644
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro William EG Hicks	663
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Nigel I Manfield	8620
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Grahame E Peers	9090
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Raymond P Pipe	8435
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Adrian J Road	632
Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro David RC Harbutt	1271
Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works	W Bro Anthony W Land	9548
Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Robert J Siddall	9540
Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro Andrew P Smith	8388
Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	W Bro James R Whitehead	3129
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	Bro Ronald M Chambers	4037
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Arthur WJ Lawrence	6114
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Leslie Miskimmin	1478
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	Bro Philip B Austin	8747
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	Bro Richard Crook	5955
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	Bro Ian Mace	2888

Provincial Appointments 2021 - 2022....

Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Philip J Brown	9773
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro David V Hughes	1295
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Alan R Lester	4687
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Mark R Manning	632
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Derek R Phillips	5905
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Adrian F Watts	8747
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Darren Astley	7525
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Christopher Chivers	8788
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Shaun Dowdell	8435
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Gerald N Hedderwick	8692
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Gregor S McGregor	5955
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Richard A Scarlett	9009
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Robert C Barrow	4037
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Kevin R Bird	3129
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Julian R Maughan	9035
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Keith McEvoy	4714
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Robin C Neave	9064
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Paul M Rumming	626
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	W Bro Richard E Thomas	586
Past Provincial Grand Pursuivant	W Bro Scott Hall	9587
Past Provincial Grand Pursuivant	W Bro Brian Weedon	1478
Appointments under Rule 69a:		
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Anthony W Batchelor	1533
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	W Bro Stephen Gaulter	2888

The Provincial Grand Master has approved the appointment of the following Brethren to provide support to the Provincial Executive. The Provincial Grand Master requests that Lodge Secretaries, and officers, give their full support to the various teams as they undertake the duties of their important task.

Divisional Officers:

Divisional Officer (North)	W Bro David Reed PPrSGW	4037
Divisional Officer (Central)	W Bro Barry Jordan-Davis PPrJGW, PrDGDC	5955
Divisional Officer (South)	W Bro David F Henery PJGD	8692

Provincial Membership Team:

North	W Bro Michael Bracken <i>MBE</i> , PPrGReg,	8977
North	W Bro Andrew Entwistle PPrSGD	8692
Central	W Bro Mark Fuller PPrAGDC (Glos)	8432
South	W Bro Luke Facey PPrGSuptWks	4451
South	W Bro Alex Laird PrGStwd	2227

Divisional Mentors:

Divisional Mentor (North)	W Bro Alan Colman PPrSGD	355
Divisional Mentor (Central)	W Bro Richard D Wright PPrSGW	2227
Divisional Mentor (South)	W Bro Foster R Telford PrJGW	586

Learning & Development:

W Bro Steve Lee PPrSGW	8204
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MEET THE MASONS

Highworth Market Square



SATURDAY 14th AUGUST

About the Freemasons

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

Our Principles

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

Freemasons celebrate NHS Frontline Workers Day....

Just how did Wiltshire Freemasons celebrate NHS Frontline Workers Day - well you might just be surprised. From start to finish Lodges from across the Province offered their own tribute to the NHS. And it started with the unfurling of the UGLE banner....



Brethren of The City Lodge No. 5955 presented staff at the Salisbury Hospice with a cheque for £1350 together with a bumper 'Pamper Hamper' as a part of the national celebrations recognising the NHS Social Care and Front Line Workers Day.

The cheque was presented by the Worshipful Master Kevin Tedd, who was accompanied by Lodge members Bros. Barry Jordan-Davis, Malcolm Broster, Ian Gibson and Sebastian Salt.



Freemasons celebrate NHS Frontline Workers Day....

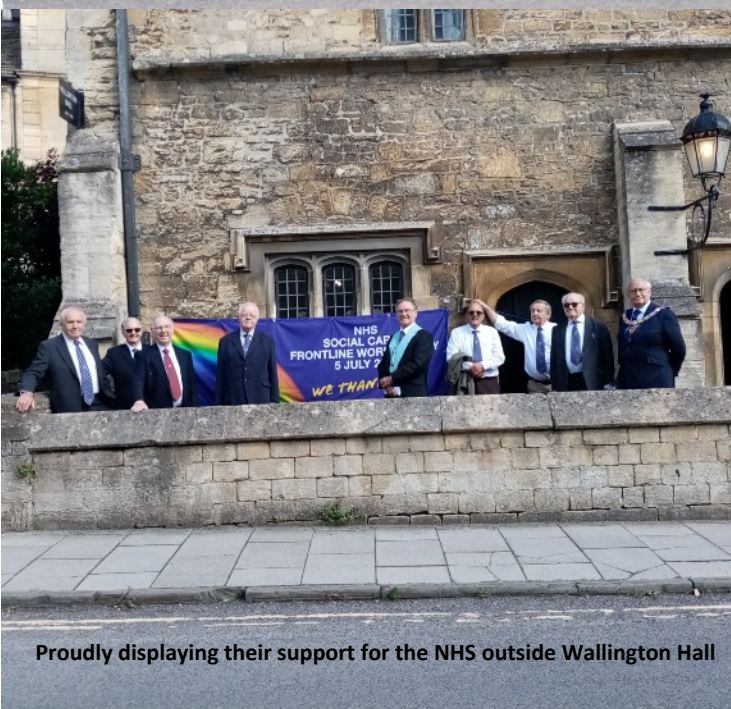
On the day Her Majesty The Queen awarded the George cross to the National Health Service, Wiltshire Freemasons were out in force honouring the NHS Frontline Workers.

The Provincial Grand Master visited Bradford-on-Avon to join Brethren from Lodge of Friendship & Unity No.1271 Broade Forde Lodge No.8547 to unfurl the NHS banner on the Wallington Hall. Following this Lodge members crossed the McKeever Bridge to St Margaret's Hall where they presented a Doppler to clinicians of The Leg Club.

The Leg Club is for patients registered with Bradford on Avon, St Damian's and Winsley Health Centre, who have leg problems which could include varicose veins, skin tears, eczema, leg ulcers, and pain.



The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock joins Bro Tony Brinkworth and members of Lodge of Friendship & Unity No.1271, and Broade Forde Lodge No.8540 on their visit to the Leg Club at St Margaret's Hall



Proudly displaying their support for the NHS outside Wallington Hall



The Provincial Grand Master is joined by W.M Tony Brinkworth

Freemasons celebrate NHS Frontline Workers Day....

Wiltshire Freemasons from Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No.626 and Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432 which meet in Chippenham visited the town's local hospital, and the Chippenham Ambulance Station to say a big **Thank You** to the local heroes who have done so much for our community over the last fifteen months. The Brethren also presented staff with a variety of goodies. Included in the packs were packets of Heroes, a very fitting 'sweet' tribute to the NHS frontline workers. W Bro Mark Fuller said "This was a great opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of those people who do so much for the community in Chippenham and the surrounding areas. It was fantastic to see how much this small gesture meant to them. It has also been brilliant to be part of the wider Masonic effort to recognise this day." Douglas Blair, Managing Director, Wiltshire Health Care commented "thanks for the donations you dropped around today at Chippenham Hospital. Sorry I could not be with you."



Freemasons celebrate NHS Frontline Workers Day....

Corsham Lodge No.6616 can always be relied upon to go the extra mile, and they certainly put every effort into making the NHS Frontline Workers Day one to be remembered . Sixty bottles of Prosecco, and boxes of chocolate, what could possibly be a better sign of the high esteem in which local NHS staff are held.

The bottles were labelled, the car boot filled, and off the Master went to make his two important deliveries. First off was The Porch Surgery in Corsham, soon to be followed by The Box Surgery at, yes you guessed it, the delightful village of Box.



Freemasons celebrate NHS Frontline Workers Day...





MEET THE OFFICER

STEVE LEE

PCOWILTSHIRE@GMAIL.COM



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30TH
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