



"Success may require many steps - Progress only requires one."

July 2021

## Take another step, a little longer....



I'm sure I am not alone in feeling a little 'empty' after England's failure to win the Euro 2020 final against Italy. I think it would be too much to describe it as a great game, but it was certainly a nail biting finish with the match being decided on penalties. The Provincial Chaplain Michael Barratt can always be relied on to bring a touch of perspective to such matters in his daily homily. On the Tuesday following the match he wrote *"...losing a football match is small fry compared to the "wildernesses" other people have had to endure in the past "* - and he is quite right. There will be many more football matches to win. Next year the World Cup will dominate the sporting calendar, and England's young team will have the opportunity to shine once more.

I like the quotation at the top of the page, "Success may require many steps - Progress only requires one." The reason I like it is because it more accurately reflects real life which isn't always about success but more about steady and sustainable progress. Taking one step at a time is a good way to describe our Masonic journey.

Progress is what we have been promised with the recent announcement from the Prime Minister that Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted in England. On page 4 of this edition of **In touch>On line** the Provincial Secretary reproduces the guidance from the UGLE, and with the aid of a graphic outlines the changes. While the changes reflect the success of the national vaccination programme which has seen a reduction in hospitalisation and mortality numbers, the message from the government is that we must maintain good hygiene, and comply with all legal requirements from time to time in force. One step at a time will see us through.

Progress and change often go hand in hand, hopefully as a force for good. What we do know is that change can create all sorts of fears in the minds of some of our members. In a recent article Prestonian Lecturer Tony Harvey proposed the suggestion that Lodges *and Brethren* resist change out of fear, or as a result of a misguided belief that "We have always done it this way", when in fact history tells us that this is rarely true. What cannot be denied is that society, that is people living together in a more or less ordered community, has changed over the years. Freemasonry has adapted to reflect many of these societal changes, but as Tony states, not far enough - yet.

The guiding principles of Freemasonry are sacrosanct, but that doesn't mean they can only be expressed in words used centuries ago. Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are indeed the grand principles on which Freemasonry is founded; but 300 years on we can use the words Integrity, Respect, Friendship, and Charity to reflect the self same ideals. Little steps, such as these, denote progress; what we can't do is stand still in an ever moving environment.

I am looking forward to the next **Meeting the Officer** event on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm (via **ZOOM**). The speaker will be Learning Development officer Steve Lee. To book your place contact [pcowiltshire@gmail.com](mailto:pcowiltshire@gmail.com)

Finally, I want to thank the Brethren who took part in the **NHS SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS DAY** on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July. I was greatly impressed by the incredible efforts of the

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Lodges who celebrated the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the NHS in 1948, and honoured the frontline workers of today. Congratulations and .....

## Well done Chaloner Lodge No.2644....

Charity Steward Alfred Fisher reports that Bro Ian Burns was joined by Bro's John Fisher and Brian Amos, members of Chaloner Lodge No.2644 when he presented a cheque for £500 to the Lindsay Leg Club at Spencer's Club, Melksham. The Lodge joined forces with Lodge of Friendship and Unity No.1271 and Broade Forde Lodge No.8547 to support the Leg Club's operations in Bradford on Avon, and Melksham.

The donation will be used to buy a Doppler machine which enables the clinicians to measure blood flow and diagnose any abnormalities. The Lodge is grateful to Bro Barry Hammond who took the photos of the presentation. Master of the Lodge Mark Wallace said: We were happy to support this worthy cause, and trust the donation will enable the Leg Club to purchase this very important piece of equipment.



## Heritage Open Day....

Bradford on Avon Freemasons will be opening the doors of Wallington Hall on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00am to 4.00pm as part of the National Heritage Open Day event. Showcasing Wiltshire Freemasonry and the two Lodges which meet in the town, principal organiser Tony Haffenden has told **In touch > On line** that the Lodges have three aims:

1. Encourage new membership for the BOA Lodges.
2. Recruit new paid users for the upstairs room in Wallington Hall.
3. Provide Hosts for those people with an interest in history to view our lovely old building.

If you can spare an hour or two and would like to be involved with this wonderful project, please contact Tony via email [anthonyhaffenden@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyhaffenden@gmail.com)





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## SERV Wessex - The Blood Runners....

Wiltshire Freemasons

The 'bikers' of SERV Wessex are a familiar site on our roads and Wiltshire Freemasons have been pleased to be able to support this amazing charity. Chairman of SERV Wessex Rob Smith sent us this report on the work of the charity during the Covid crisis and shared some fantastic news about a very important national award which recognises their work.

SERV Wessex provide a free delivery service to the NHS in Hampshire, East Dorset and South Wiltshire. The Charity normally provides an out of hours service weekdays from 19:00 to 06:00 and a 24hrs on bank holidays and weekends, transporting blood, platelets, urgent medical samples and equipment. It also supports the work of the Hampshire Air Ambulance.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020 SERV Wessex increased their daytime service supporting the NHS during the Covid - 19 crisis. They have provided a full service to date, working with Hospital Pharmacies to deliver urgent medication for vulnerable patients who were shielding. They have also been supporting Pathology departments with urgent sample transportation. This has given the NHS access to their committed and highly trained volunteers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the NHS going back to normal service, SERV Wessex are now only providing a booked daily service in line with other Blood Bike groups across the UK and have reverted to an out of hours service.

The majority of service is provided by volunteers using their own vehicles and covering all their own costs including fuel as they do not raise enough funds to provide a fully charity fleet for volunteers to use. During 2020 their volunteers covered over 266,000 miles and completed over 4000 jobs, which included over 3170 medication deliveries to the community. Since the start of 2021 the volunteers have completed over 94,000 miles and completed 1800 jobs free to the NHS.

The charity has recently been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Rob told *In touch > On line*: "We are very proud and humbled by this fabulous award, which is a testament to, and recognition of, the great work of our volunteers in supporting NHS hospitals and the community at all times of the day and night."

This prestigious National Honour recognises outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged to be of the highest standard. It is the highest award a voluntary group in the UK can receive and is recognised as the MBE for volunteer groups.

The charity will receive a certificate signed by HM The Queen and be presented with an engraved crystal later in the year by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire. SERV Wessex will receive a slightly modified crystal with the words 'with special recognition - Covid 19' included in the engraving.

Rob ends his article with a heartfelt thank you and writes that SERV Wessex is extremely grateful for the support of Wiltshire Freemasons, and would like to thank all Lodge members for the outstanding work you all do in supporting charities in the community.





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## New Covid Rules....

The Provincial Grand Secretary Phil Still has asked that the text of the following note is made available to members of Wiltshire Lodges. In particular he asks that Brethren be mindful of points 2, 3 and 4. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your Lodge secretary.

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on 12th July, I believe it will be useful if I reiterate UGLE's stance, which will continue to apply when restrictions are eased in England from 19th July.

1. In holding Lodge and Chapter meetings it is essential that Brethren and Companions comply with all legal requirements from time to time in force.
2. Provided that they do so, it is not UGLE's policy to impose restrictions on meeting beyond those required by the law.
3. No pressure must be applied to anyone either to attend or refrain from attending meetings.
4. The same principle applies to the wearing of face coverings, which should be regarded as a matter of personal choice.
5. The use of the modifications to the ceremonies, introduced in the summer of 2020 to enable ceremonies to be performed, should cease as soon as is practicable, except where local legal requirements are imposed in relation to such matters as social distancing.
6. The ceremony of Raising (and of Exaltation in the Royal Arch) is once again permitted.
7. It is nonetheless sensible to ensure that a candidate for any degree, and in particular that of initiation, is made aware that the ceremony he will undergo will involve a measure of physical contact, so that he can make his own decision as to whether to proceed with it at this time.

8. Regulations 5 to 11 of the Temporary Emergency Measures for Covid-19 remain in force, to the extent that they are needed, until 31 December 2021, or such earlier date as the Grand Master or the Pro Grand Master on his behalf shall direct. The Pro Grand Master has directed that Regulations 1 to 4 shall cease to apply from 19 July 2021 except in relation to the unexpired period of a suspension already notified in accordance with them.

-  **VACCINE PASSPORTS**  
No longer legally required - but will be up to individual venues
-  **RULE OF SIX**  
Scrapped - no legal limits on social contact
-  **WEDDINGS/FUNERALS**  
No limit on numbers
-  **NIGHTCLUBS**  
No restrictions - can reopen for first time since pandemic began
-  **SPORTS EVENTS**  
No restriction on numbers - meaning stadiums can be full
-  **FACE MASKS**  
No longer mandatory - but companies can make them compulsory
-  **PUBS**  
No need to scan QR code on entry and can order at the bar
-  **ONE-METRE RULE**  
Scrapped in law - meaning restaurants won't have to space tables
-  **WORKING FROM HOME**  
WFH message will end - but employers can continue if they choose
-  **CARE HOMES**  
Cap on only five visitors will be scrapped

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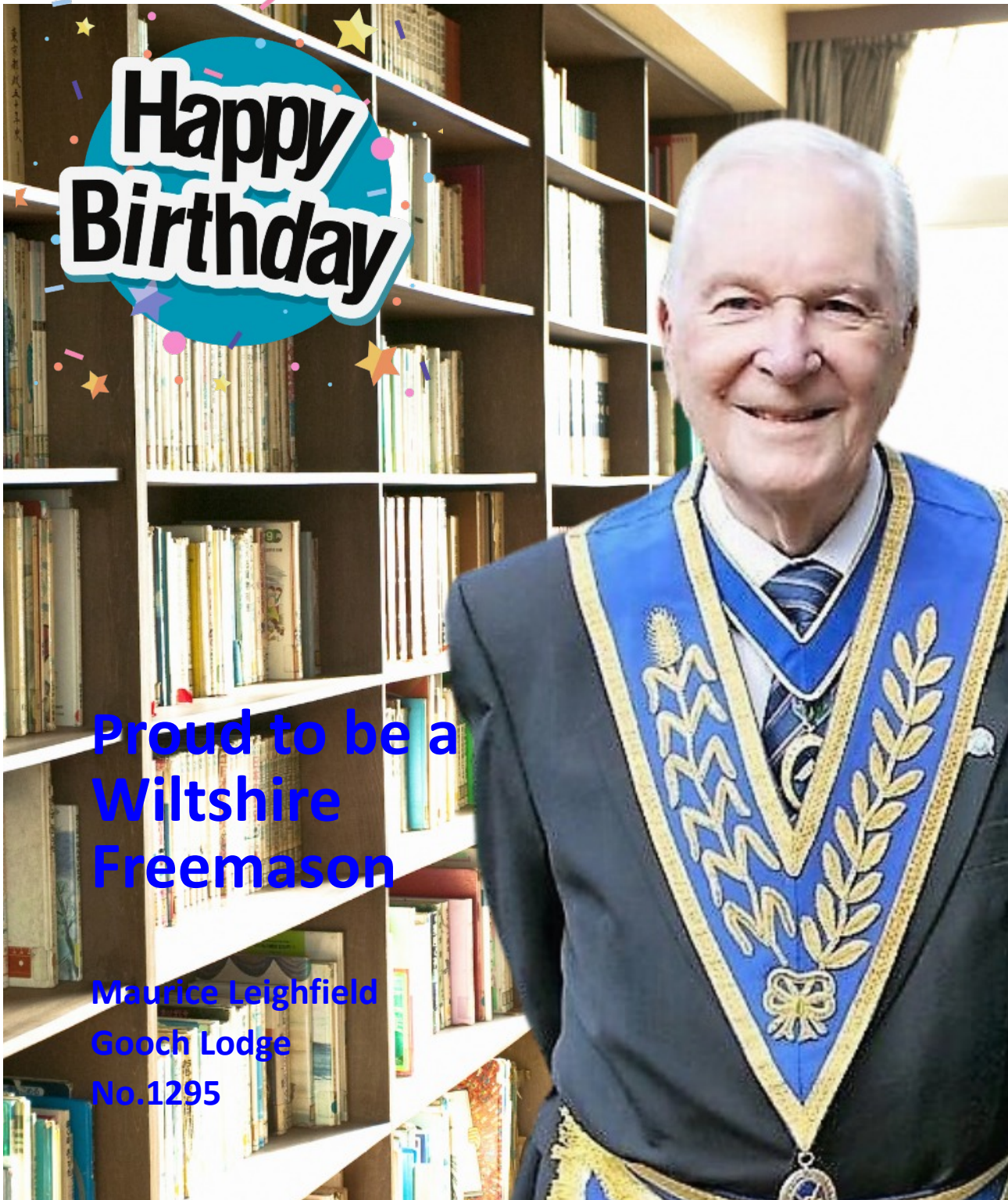


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## VW Bro Maurice Leighfield **PGSwdB**, **PDPPrGM**....

Today we feature one of the more senior members of the Province. VW Bro Maurice Leighfield, who has enjoyed an illustrious journey in Freemasonry; and recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. While the focus of attention from the United Grand Lodge of England might be on the millennials, today, **In touch > On line** acknowledges the incredible service given to our Province by the 'Old Guard' who have made sure the principles and tenets of Freemasonry have been transmitted unpolluted through their Lodge from generation to generation.

Wiltshire Freemasons



**Proud to be a  
Wiltshire  
Freemason**

**Maurice Leighfield  
Gooch Lodge  
No.1295**





# WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

Invite you to the inaugural

## Anthony Wilson Memorial Lecture



# 'The Board of General Purposes'

Presented by

**Graham Redman**

Deputy Grand Secretary UGLE

**Wednesday 25th August**

**7.30pm**



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

By kind permission of Mrs Victoria Wilson



# In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

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