



“Calm thi sen and crack on .”

AUGUST 2021 Freedom lies in being bold....

Wiltshire Freemasons



If there is one thing that the recent series of MEET THE OFFICER Zoom events has revealed to me, it is that we have quite a few Yorkshire men in Wiltshire Freemasonry. It’s also true to say that behind many a Wiltshire Freemason there is a Yorkshire lass; I count myself in that group, and I can truly say that you can take the lass out of Yorkshire, but you can’t take Yorkshire out of the lass, which Sally never ceases to impress on me. So in this edition of **In touch>On line** I am very pleased to wish all our white rose supporters, a Happy Yorkshire Day.

Following the recent announcement from the Prime Minister, Masonic meetings across the Province have resumed with hardly any restrictions whatsoever. I know I speak for the Provincial Team when I say how much we are looking forward to supporting our Lodges at their Installation Meeting. From a personal perspective I am also hoping to be able to attend a number of the planned Initiation meetings, particularly those involving the gentlemen who have been supporting the MEET THE OFFICER series of Zoom meetings.

Some Brethren have queried the situation with regard to the wearing of masks or face coverings in meetings, as there appear to be mixed messages ‘flying’ around. The law is quite clear in that it is not mandatory for anyone to wear a face covering other than in certain places, and in enclosed spaces, where it is difficult to maintain social distancing. The message from the UGLE is that we must comply with all legal requirements from time to time in force. Some Masonic Halls have issued guidance requesting Brethren to wear masks, such a policy does not carry the force of law and is only advisory. It is up to individual members to decide whether they wish to attend a meeting masked or unmasked. After everything we have been through, it would be regrettable if face coverings became a point of contention. I am sure that a liberal application of common sense will determine our practices in the Lodge and at the festive board. I am confident that following the guidance issued by the government and the UGLE will see us through the next few weeks, at which point we anticipate a further relaxation in the guidance governing association, social distancing, mask wearing and the need to self isolate, especially if we have been double jabbed.

I was pleased to be able to join Derek Gibbens and thirty plus Lodge Charity Stewards at a Zoom meeting at which members of the Berkshire Masonic Charity made a presentation. This was followed by a superb presentation from Simon Leighfield which was followed by a challenging question and answer session. I was particularly pleased to note the zeal and passion demonstrated by a number of contributors. It really is important that Lodge office holders are not simply ‘placemen’ but that they should be more than able to articulate their views on the subject for which they represent the Brethren of the Lodge.

I was also delighted to join the Communication Team for the seventh and final MEET THE OFFICER meeting when Steve Lee was the guest speaker. I feel sure everyone who has attended the series will agree with me that they have been very worthwhile. Sadly, due to illness the meeting on Wednesday 25th August at which Deputy Grand Secretary Graham Redman was to be the guest speaker has had to be postponed (see page 5).



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Heritage Open Days in Wiltshire....

Wiltshire Freemasons

Bradford on Avon Freemasons will be opening the doors of Wallington Hall on Sunday 12th 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



Devizes Freemasons will welcome visitors to the Masonic Hall in Morris Lane on Saturday 11th September between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

The Brethren are keen to set up a really good event this year given Covid prevented them doing so last year.

The Lodge will be displaying Masonic regalia and historical documents, and an amazing collection of Masonic jewels. In addition there will be tours of the Lodge, which will include talks on the part Freemasons play in the local community.

The Masonic Hall has had as many as 300 members of the public through the doors in the past, and look forward to a high level of interest this year. Paul Robinson of Lodge of Fidelity is co-ordinating this event.

Salisbury Freemasons are entertaining two visits by members of the Salisbury History Festival on Monday 30th August. Jeremy Moody from the Salisbury History Festival said: “As a past member of Salisbury District Council and having lived in Salisbury all my life, I have always admired the Masonic Hall and wondered what the interior looks like.”

Ralph Moore on behalf of Freemasons’ Hall said: “We are looking forward to welcoming members of the Salisbury History Festival and showcasing Freemasonry in the city.”





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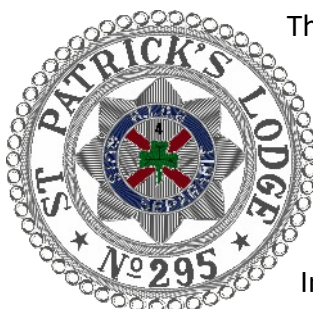
New Covid Rules....

While many Covid-19 restrictions were lifted on Monday 19th July, I am sure it might prove useful to reiterate the UGLE’s stance, which covers both the Craft and Royal Arch.

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.

	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

St Patrick’s Lodge No.295 (Irish Constitution)....



The Brethren of St Pat’s held their first Stated Communication since Covid-19 at Warminster Masonic Hall on Saturday 31st July. The Lodge, which featured in the Summer edition of Across the Plain is associated with the Royal Dragoon Guards which carries the history of four regiments: the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, the 5th Dragoon Guards, the 7th Dragoon Guards, and the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons. All four were raised between 1685 and 1689, when James II and William of Orange fought for the English throne.

Wiltshire Freemasons



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Highworth Lodge No.9009....

Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result has been described as ‘madness’. The Brethren of Highworth Lodge decided that it is time to do something different in order to make themselves known to a new audience. Having enlisted the support of the Provincial Communication Team, the Lodge undertook a social media campaign, and a targeted leaflet drop inviting local residents **TO MEET THE MASONS.**

On Saturday 14th August (at 7.00am) the Provincial Communication Team will set up a display gazebo in the town’s regular Saturday Market to promote the fortieth anniversary of Freemasonry in the town.

It’s a great initiative by the Lodge and we wish them well as they take the message that Freemasonry welcomes new members.

Swindon & Cricklade Steam Railway....

The Provincial Communication Team will be taking the Display Trailer to the Swindon & Cricklade Railway annual Military Weekend which is due to take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th September 2021. This is always a great event and is usually attended by hundreds of visitors.

Provincial Grand Lodge....

Planning is well underway for the 2021 meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, which this year will move from its home in Salisbury to a new venue - **The Civic Hall, Trowbridge.**

The Summons for the meeting was sent out via the online Summer edition of Across the Plain, and where members were not able to receive an electronic version, Lodge secretaries have ensured the despatch of a hard copy. This year’s meeting will see the Provincial Grand Master invest Simon Leighfield as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and Phil Still as Assistant provincial Grand Master. If you want a reason to attend - the opportunity to witness these ceremonies is well worth the trip. Talking of the trip, Trowbridge is ideally situated in the centre of the Province to make it universally accessible, with great rail and bus links. For Brethren who choose to drive there is ample free parking a short walk from the Civic Hall.

We look forward to welcoming a bumper audience to Trowbridge for the first ‘proper’ Provincial Grand Lodge since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

If members of your Lodge will be attending, why not let us know and let’s do a ‘shout out’ for you. Join members of the Province, at Trowbridge for what promises to be an experience not to be missed. Contact pcowiltshire@gmail.com for further details.



MEET THE MASONS

Highworth Market Square

→ SATURDAY 14th AUGUST ←

About the Freemasons

We are a members' organisation which has thrived for over 200 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

wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

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AUGUST 2021 British Legion - Poppy Appeal....

Wiltshire Freemasons

Wiltshire Freemasons have a long association with the Armed Forces and by default charities which support current and past members of the military. One such charity is the Royal British Legion and their annual Poppy Appeal. During the past year funding for the British Legion has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, allied to this has been the loss of ‘a number ‘veterans who collected on behalf of the charity.



The Royal British Legion has made a country wide appeal for the support of Freemasons to help them in 2021. Wiltshire Freemasons have been asked whether they can provide volunteers to help ‘sell’ Poppies in Marlborough. If you’re a veteran and would like to help raise funds for the Royal British Legion please let the editor know, just email pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Talking of raising funds for the incredible work undertaken by the Royal British Legion; Paul Robinson from Lodge of Fidelity No.663 organised a fundraising event at The Crown, Bishops Cannings to support the Poppy appeal and the centenary of the British Legion. The event featured local musicians who had used The Crown to rehearse in at the end of lockdown. The patrons liked what they heard and returned to listen and have a drink.

The event featured a BBQ with the food being cooked on two BBQs specially made for the occasion by Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) apprentices from the Defence School of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering.

The Anthony Wilson Memorial Lecture....

Very regrettably, and due to illness the Anthony Wilson Memorial Lecture due to be presented by Graham Redman on Wednesday 25th August has had to be postponed. The new date for this event will be published as soon as possible.

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS
 Invite you to
 The Anthony Wilson Memorial Lecture

The Board of General Purposes

presented by
Graham Redman
 Deputy Grand Secretary
 WGLE

Wednesday 25th August
 7.30pm

POSTPONED DUE TO ILLNESS

zoom
 pcowiltshire@gmail.com



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Richard Wright celebrates 40 years....

Not his fortieth birthday, but forty years since he was initiated in to Freemasonry. Richard is a member of White Horse Lodge No.2227 which meets in the town of Westbury which lies in the shadow of the famous White Horse at Bratton Camp. The original Iron Age hillfort defences were built over 2000 years ago (before RW). These earthworks protected a settlement containing round houses, granaries, stores and workshops. The design and construction showed the effectiveness of the hillfort to its enemies. Many congratulations Richard.

Wiltshire Freemasons



Proud to be a
Wiltshire
Freemason

Richard Wright
White Horse Lodge
No.2227



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

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Wiltshire Freemasons

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

Lodge Secretary Special Entered Apprentice package

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

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*£5 trade in offer Call for details

** Pick up points in Cricklade and Devizes



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