



“September a thirty-days long goodbye to summer.”

SEPTEMBER
2021

Wiltshire
Freemasons

I look forward to welcoming you to Trowbridge....



It hardly seems a year ago that I was joined by five Provincial officers at Cricklade for what was the strangest Provincial Grand Lodge I have ever attended, never mind presided over. Thanks to the kindness of Bro Paul Sharp we were able to connect via Zoom to Brethren across the Province and share the unique occasion. This year we will be meeting, not via Zoom but actually in person, and not at Cricklade but in Trowbridge.

“Why are we moving to Trowbridge?” The answer is quite simple and straightforward, and devoid of any ulterior motive. The NHS has booked The City Hall, Salisbury for an extended period well in to 2022 for use as a Covid vaccination hub. The venue is therefore not available to the Province or indeed to any other organisation. However, I am sure that Trowbridge will prove to be a fabulous location, and The Civic the perfect venue.

Following the most recent Government announcement with regard to the relaxation of Covid restrictions, we will not be imposing a mask wearing policy, but should a Brother wish to wear a mask that will be perfectly acceptable. I am sure that some of our members will wish to take a precautionary approach and they should feel perfectly at ease in doing so.

I am certainly looking forward to our annual meeting. In particular I am thrilled to be able to recognise the Brethren receiving a promotion, and to congratulate those Brethren who will be receiving their first Provincial Grand Rank appointment. I know just how important attaining Provincial Grand Rank is for every Brother and I hope that the value of the honour will be recognised by the attendance of those being invested.

Our Province is nothing if not innovative, and this year’s Provincial Grand Lodge meeting will demonstrate just how we ‘think outside of the box’. Bro Paul Sharp will be offering free blood pressure checks; while Bro Mark Newman will be offering you the opportunity to buy a bottle of Gin specially distilled for the Province and branded ‘Middle Chamber’. Having seen the advertising and label proofs, I’m now looking forward to purchasing a couple of bottles and sampling the product. I hope you’ll join me in buying a bottle, if not for yourself, what about for a friend at Christmas? The profit from the sale of the gin will be donated to charity.

I am looking forward to supporting Sarum Lodge No.5137 on Saturday 4 September. The Lodge will be Initiating four candidates at the same meeting, albeit with a ‘calling off’. I often hear it said that doubles (in any degree) are a modern fashion and have no place in Freemasonry today. The editor has printed a very interesting page from the records of Victoria Lodge No.2669 dating back to 1897 (see page 4) which makes for interesting reading.

As we enter the month of September the UGLE will be undertaking a national advertising campaign actively seeking to attract men to masonry. The campaign is intended to create a enormous amount of interest and I am pleased to advise that Wiltshire is poised and ready to respond to any enquiry for information.

Finally, On Bank Holiday Monday I enjoyed meeting members of Salisbury History Festival when they visited Freemasons’ Hall in Crane Street as part of National Heritage week.



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



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Old Boys and Millennials enjoy an evening out....

The Brethren of New Temple Lodge No.8435 have really missed each other during the Covid-19 crisis so they got together to celebrate their return to Freemasonry - it looks as if they made up for lost time as they enjoyed the opportunity to socialise mask free.



Did anyone notice 'Coop's' new hair style?

Sarsen Club night out....

Four club members were joined by Lodge of Fidelity member Paul Robinson at a local restaurant for what certainly looked like a super curry. Well done to Mike Boddy who arranged the evening.





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Sarum Lodge No.5137 doubles up....

Some Lodges resist the idea of doing ‘double’ ceremonies even though the records show that they have always been a part of Lodge life. The Brethren of Sarum Lodge No.5137 recently initiated two gentlemen on the same evening, and are now planning a quadruple event. Some Brethren may perceive this as ‘conveyor belt Masonry’ while others will observe that the Covid-19 virus prevented many excellent candidates from being initiated in 2020 and the first half of 2021. Freemasonry has a backlog of work to do, and it’s only right that exceptional steps should be taken to resolve the impasse, and welcome new Freemasons into the fraternity. It’s certainly not a new or innovative process, as we can see from the records of Victoria Lodge No.2669 dating back to 1897 (see page 4). The Brethren of Sarum Lodge No.5137 invite you to join them on Saturday 4th September for a real Super Saturday.

SARUM LODGE
No. 5137

FOUR INITIATIONS IN ONE DAY.

SUPER SATURDAY,





4th SEPTEMBER 2021
1pm & 3:30pm.

John Merrett jumped for the MCF....



The August edition of **In touch>On line** featured a story on John Merrett, the Director of Ceremonies for Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity No.663. The gist of the story was that despite John (aged 71) being of sound mind he was going to throw himself out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft to raise funds for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. We are pleased to be able to tell you that John completed his jump and thanks to the skill of his instructor and para buddy, and, to everyone’s delight, landed safely. The generosity of his many friends ensured that John raised a substantial sum for his chosen charity. A huge well done John.



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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, Trowbridge**.

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.



Multiple Ceremonies

We thought you may like to read this fascinating account of multiple ceremonies, and emergency meetings being held at the end of the 19th century. Food for thought?

Our Candidates.

Thirteen Candidates have been Initiated, Passed, and Raised during our First Worshipful Master's term of office. The following is a list showing the dates of the various Ceremonies:—

	1 ^o	2 ^o	3 ^o
Bro. John Hodgson	Sept. 20, 1897.	Nov. 17, 1897.*	Dec. 22, 1897.*
„ John W. Calverley	Oct. 18, 1897.	Nov. 17, 1897.*	Dec. 22, 1897.*
„ John W. Ackroyd	Oct. 18, 1897.	Nov. 17, 1897.*	Dec. 22, 1897.*
„ George Bearder	Nov. 15, 1897.	Feb. 21, 1898.	Mar. 21, 1898.
„ Chas. W. Wood	Nov. 15, 1897.	Feb. 21, 1898.	Apl. 25, 1898.*
„ Chas. Crowther	Dec. 20, 1897.	Mar. 9, 1898.*	May 16, 1898.
„ James Tipping	Dec. 20, 1897.	Mar. 9, 1898.*	May 23, 1898.*
„ Chas. W. Thackeray	Jan. 17, 1898.	Mar. 9, 1898.*	June 22, 1898.*
„ James Leach	Apl. 18, 1898.	June 20, 1898.	July 18, 1898.
„ Walter Boyes	Apl. 18, 1898.	June 20, 1898.	July 18, 1898.
„ Whitby Norton	Apl. 25, 1898.*	June 20, 1898.	July 25, 1898.*
„ Robert Sugden	May 23, 1898.*	June 22, 1898.*	Aug. 15, 1898.
„ Frank B. Pickles	July 25, 1898.*	Sept. 19, 1898.	Oct. 17, 1898.

* Emergency Meetings.



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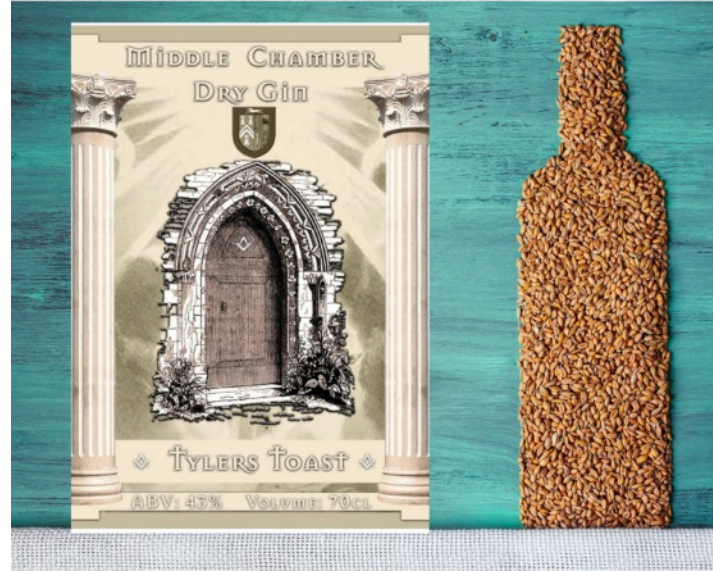
Wiltshire Freemasons

Try something a little different....

Middle Chamber Dry Gin really is different. Produced by a local distillery Middle Chamber Dry Gin is made exclusively for the Province of Wiltshire.

Profit from the sale of Middle Chamber Gin will be donated to charity, and is another example of how fundraising can be fun.

Mark Newman will be at Provincial Grand Lodge in Trowbridge where he will be delighted to introduce you to the ‘Tylers’s Toast’ the first of what we hope will be a series of different flavour Gins.



Crane Street opens the doors and welcomes....



On Monday 30th August the doors of Freemasons’ Hall Salisbury were thrown open to welcome members of Salisbury History Festival.

Lodge members were joined by the Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock to answer questions posed by the visitors, who were delighted to be able to view the Lodge Room, and be given an overview of what Freemasonry is and what Freemasons do.

Masonic Hall secretary Ralph Moore said: “We were pleased to be able to showcase Freemasonry in Salisbury and to welcome members of the History Festival to view our wonderful Masonic Hall.

Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock said: “Well done Salisbury for putting on such a good show. It is clear that Freemasonry is vibrant and very much a part of the City’s rich heritage, and I am so thrilled that members of the History Festival enjoyed their visit.”

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.



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The Peter Winton Trophy....

Deputy PrGM David Davies reminds us that as we fast approach the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, so we also reach the time we have to decide which Lodge will follow in the tracks of Corsham Lodge No.6616 in being awarded the prestigious Peter Winton Trophy.

Has your Lodge made a special contribution to the local community? Have you done something amazing to promote Wiltshire Freemasonry? Is your Lodge a contender for the cup? Tell us why your Lodge deserves to be crowned the winner of the Peter Winton Trophy for 2021. Email: pcowiltshire@gmail.com



Wiltshire Freemasons

THE PETER WINTON TROPHY 2021



HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION?

pcowiltshire@gmail.com



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ONS

Mervyn Johns....

One of the most recognisable faces in Wiltshire Freemasonry, famed not for his ritual, but for his skill and tenacity in maximising the amount of money collected for charity. Merv’s raffles are not just extraordinary, they have become legendary, and if a cause needs supporting he is the ‘go to man’. As a founding member of the Wiltshire Masonic Golf Society, Merv has helped oversee the growth of the annual golf day into what has become one of the Province’s best supported social events. Currently Master of Lodge of Rectitude No.335 he will become Master of Highworth Lodge No.9009 in September.



Proud to be a
Wiltshire
Freemason

Mervyn Johns
Highworth Lodge
No.9009

