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The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"September a thirty-days long goodbye to summer."

SEPTEMBER
2021

Wiltshire Freemasons

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

SPECIAL EDITION

Wiltshire Freemasons

www.wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2021



The Civic | Trowbridge



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As October beckons, so we anticipate....



the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, and I must say that I am really looking forward to welcoming you with the words “Brethren, assist me to open this Provincial Grand Lodge.” I believe Trowbridge will prove to be an ideal location and **The Civic** the perfect venue. All we need to make it a great success is **YOU**.

To gauge just how important this meeting is to the Province, the editor has moved me to page 2, and he is quite right to do so.

I am thrilled to be able to congratulate the Brethren receiving a Provincial promotion, and to recognise 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 trust 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. Mark tells me that it tastes absolutely superb with lemonade or tonic water. 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 was privileged to attend Sarum Lodge No.5137 on Saturday 4 September. The Lodge performed two double Initiation ceremonies at the same meeting. In doing so they welcomed four new members into the Craft. It really was a wonderful day, and I offer my heartiest congratulations to Connah, Eric, Wesley, and Jack as they start their Masonic journey in the cathedral city of Salisbury.

What has greatly impressed me is the energy being expended on facilitating Initiation ceremonies in order to be able to welcome so many good men into Wiltshire Freemasonry. We may not be able to Initiate 100 new Masons on one day as our friends in Buckinghamshire did just recently; but we can undertake ceremonies using emergency meetings, and we can emulate the good work as demonstrated by Sarum Lodge members.

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

Talking of the team, I congratulate them on being the first point of contact for the many enquiries the Province receives through the internet. It is also the case that many of the men enquiring about Freemasonry maintain contact with the team, something which provides continuity and a degree of comfort to the applicants. After all mentoring doesn’t just start when a man becomes a Mason.



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The fabulous four make an entrance.....

The Brethren of Sarum Lodge No.5137 were really on top form for Super Saturday.

Initiating four young men into Freemasonry isn't new, even in Wiltshire (just ask Lodge of fidelity No.663) but performing two doubles on the same day is still very different to what could be described as the usual way of doing things.

Some Lodges resist the idea of doing 'double' ceremonies even though the records show that they have always been a part of Lodge life, and 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.

Wiltshire Freemasonry has a backlog of good candidates to welcome into the Order, and it's only right that exceptional steps should be taken to resolve the impasse. It's certainly not a new or innovative process. Neither is it derogatory to the new Initiates, who to a man have made it clear that they are thrilled to have been received into the Craft during the Covid-19 crisis. The Provincial Grand Master attended the quadruple Initiation ceremony and said: "I was simply amazed at how the Lodge managed the process. Each of the new members was treated with enormous respect, and the look on each face told me that they were all thrilled to have played a key role in Sarum's Super Saturday."



The Lodge members welcomed Bro Connah Towers, Bro Eric Mamphey, Bro Wesley Hepburn, and Bro Jack Keates, and didn't they look the part in their new aprons.



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Attract; Engage; Retrieve....

The United Grand Lodge of England is very clear in its view that Freemasons are part of a members’ organisation, and the issue of membership remains at the heart of their strategic thinking. Indeed, the Deputy Grand Master has made it quite clear that the ultimate focus of the UGLE is “on attracting new members.”

The UGLE Communications directorate has produced a new, informative leaflet intriguingly titled Members’ Pathway level 1, which will be sent to all members in the next edition of FMT.

As part of the new Pathway experience the Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes has stated that we are no longer to use the words recruit / recruitment and instead should use the word “**attract / attraction**” in all literature. The aim of this requirement is to create a real sense of ‘alignment’ with a consistent and coherent approach *that is vital if an organisation is to translate ambition into action, and to communicate effectively with one voice.* (Words in italic by Geoffrey Dearing - President of The Board of General Purposes)

A leaflet explaining the primary elements of the revised Members’ Pathway will be included in next month’s FMT.

Why is the MEMBERS’ PATHWAY important?

The updated Members’ Pathway contains practical ideas drawn from the experience and successes of Lodges over recent years in engaging members, ensuring meetings are well planned and enjoyed by all, stemming losses and growing memberships.

It should be the catalyst to help re-build our Lodges and re-engage our membership capitalising on the great PR Freemasonry has received because of the incredible community support provided, for example, during the Covid crisis.

It will allow us to showcase all that is great about Freemasonry, demonstrating how we champion our values of **Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity.**

It will also help to answer questions such as:

- Who might be curious about/interested in Freemasonry?
- How do we present Freemasonry to prospective members?
- How do we support new and existing members, so all meetings are enjoyable, expectations met and they remain actively involved?

UGLE answers those tricky questions....

What is Freemasonry: Do you have to believe in God to be a member? So many questions, all of which are answered by the UGLE in a new section on the Provincial website under ABOUT US > UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND > UGLE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS or just click on the link <https://tinyurl.com/yfr8zjw7>



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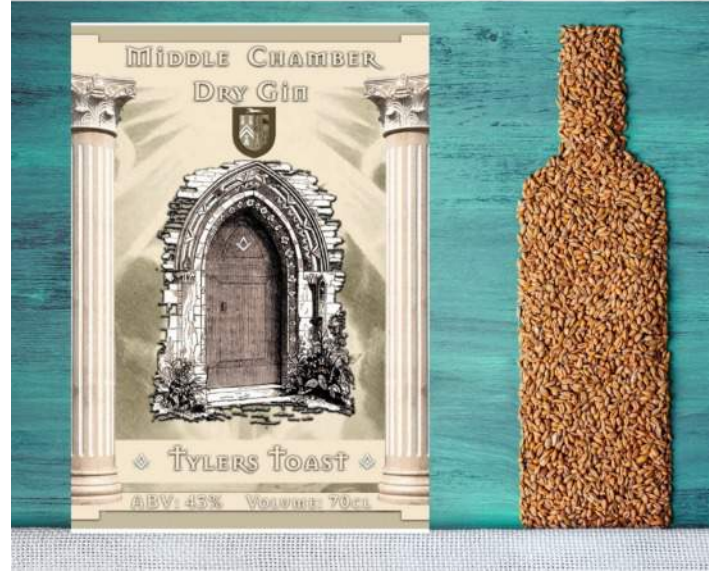
Wiltshire Freemasons

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.



Morris Lane opens the doors and welcomes....

The Lodges meeting in Morris Lane, Devizes welcomed visitors as part of the National Heritage Open Day scheme. The event was a great success with visitors being ‘wowed’ by the beautiful Lodge Room, intrigued by the magnificent jewel collection on show, and mesmerised by the illuminating talks by Bro Les Welling. Well done everyone.





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Adrian Wheeler....

Initiated into Freemasonry, Adrian is currently Master of Lodge of Harry C Preater Lodge No.8204 and a very proud Provincial Grand Steward. As a member of the Swindon Masonic Association board of directors, Adrian is a key figure in planning the strategic direction of the Centre, its financial integrity, and how it will be developed for future generations of Swindon Freemasons. Speaking with your editor, Adrian said: “ I am committed to making sure that the Swindon Masonic Centre provides the proper service levels to each of our Craft Lodges and the Orders beyond the Craft who depend on The Planks as their principal meeting location.”



Proud to be a
Wiltshire
Freemason

Adrian Wheeler
Harry C Preater Lodge
No.8204

CALLING ACTIVE PROVINCIAL OFFICERS AND
BRETHREN BEING PROMOTED OR APPOINTED

Thursday 7th October
PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
TROWBRIDGE



WE NEED YOUR PHOTO
FOR THE 2022 EDITION OF
THE WILTSHIRE REFERENCE BOOK.

Bro Adrian Wooster will be taking
photographs from 10.00am


pcowiltshire@gmail.com