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The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

"At the end of the day, remind yourself that you did the best you could today."



OCTOBER
2021

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What a day it turned out to be....

It seems only like yesterday but it really was over a week ago that over 200 Wiltshire Freemasons came together at Trowbridge for the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. For some, the choice of Trowbridge as opposed to Salisbury was felt to be a departure from our roots. Nothing could be further from the truth as the Province has a well documented history of setting up shop across the county. Some rough notes from a meeting held in 1777 suggest that the first Provincial Grand Lodge might have met in the city in that year. In 1799 Devizes hosted a Provincial Grand Lodge, as it did in 1825. In 1876 a Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Swindon. Longford Castle, home to Lord Radnor was also used as a venue with 150 Freemasons being entertained on the lawns of the castle; and it was at the Blunsdon House Hotel, Swindon in February 1985 Bro Maurice Leighfield, father of Bro Simon Leighfield, our new Deputy Provincial Grand Master, was installed as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master. This year Trowbridge proved to be a very pleasant venue offering congenial surroundings, accessible parking, local amenities and much more besides.

I have already mentioned my new deputy Simon Leighfield (Gooch Lodge No.1295) and I am looking forward to working with Simon especially as we approach a new period of festival.

I was also delighted to appoint Phil Still (Stonehenge Lodge No.6114) to the office of Assistant Provincial Grand Master. In appointing Simon, and Phil I know that the immediate future of the Province is in safe hands, and that events planned for the coming years will be managed spectacularly well.

Last month I suggested that the Province is nothing if not innovative, and this year's Provincial Grand Lodge foyer displays demonstrated just what I mean. Nicknamed 'Ark Royal' due to its size by Mark Newman, the primary backlit display was 5 metres in length and featured the four principles associated with Freemasonry. Integrity, Respect, Friendship and Charity. A short explanation for each was to be found on the display board.

Sandwiched in the centre of the display, surrounded by a light halo was a colourful image of the proposed Charity Jewel which will feature in our Wiltshire 2028 Festival, and what a glorious design it is. I can safely say that the jewel is very different to anything being produced by any other Province. It really is unique and I am sure it will be the envy of many. I trust Brethren will 'want' to wear the Wiltshire 2028 Festival jewel, so please do keep your eyes and ears open for further news from the Communication Team.

Alongside the Royal Arch display stand were the Wiltshire Air Ambulance volunteers who were on hand to answer any questions on the work of this incredible local charity.

There was a first time appearance for Wiltshire Regalia, your local supplier of 'all things Masonic'. Paul and Wendy Sharp are great supporters of the Province and offer superb merchandise at extremely competitive prices. Finally, a huge thank you to Mark Newman who sold almost half of his stock of Middle Chamber gin. It was certainly the 'go to' location which I'm sure had nothing whatsoever to with the free gin shots on offer.



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Border Lodge No.3129....

Was the worthy winner of The Peter Winton Trophy for 2021, with WM Philip Hawkins receiving the award from PrGM Philip Bullock at Provincial Grand Lodge. In reaching their decision the nominations committee chairman David Davies said: "It was a really difficult choice with so many great bids to consider. But the committee was unanimous in the final decision and The Border Lodge No.3129 was adjudged to have fulfilled all of the objectives to be awarded the Peter Winton Trophy." The following is an extract from the citation on the certificate presented to The Border Lodge No.3129

"The Brethren of The Border Lodge No.3129 have been active in supporting local charities, the church, their widows, and Brethren of other craft lodges/ orders, and in volunteering. The Lodge committed to collecting and delivering prescriptions for vulnerable people in the local community who were isolating. The volunteering efforts covered several activities including providing support at the Salisbury City Hall Vaccine Centre, one day a week for a period of twelve weeks. Brethren also provided marshalling at the Ludgershall Memorial Hall Vaccine Centre, attending every week from February 2020 to the present time with an average of at least two days a week being covered. The Lodge recognised its obligation to the local community and organised a regular litter pick, on a number of Saturday mornings, not only in the immediate local area but also in Tidworth and Bulford. When circumstances permitted the Lodge supported Andover Young Carers by providing the minibus driver to collect the children from their various schools, and delivering them to the Andover Young Carers bungalow in Artists Way, Andover. At the conclusion of the day's activities the children were returned to their homes."



The Master and Brethren of
The Border Lodge No.3129
With the Provincial Grand Master



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Concord Lodge No. 632.....

No 'Super Saturday' for the members of Concord lodge No.632 but there was a great deal of activity at their recent meeting when they welcomed two Initiates into the Lodge and into Freemasonry. Bros Chris Wall of Clarendon Lodge No.5908 and Mike Boddy of Concrpd Lodge No.632 were on hand to make the Lodge's newest members feel at home. What a super evening and congratulations to the Lodge for performing a double ceremony. With over one hundred men waiting to become Wiltshire Freemasons this is certainly the way to help them to become members of our wonderful fraternity. Well done Concord.



Chris Wall

Mike Boddy



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Middle Chamber Gin....

It will come as no surprise to read that the first sales of Wiltshire's very own Middle Chamber Dry Gin was a great success with over 50 bottles being sold at Provincial Grand Lodge. A number of the Provinces' Masonic Halls have also agreed to stock Middle Chamber in their bar - so when you next order a G&T please insist on the Tylers Toast with lemonade or tonic water.

Mark Newman, who came up with the idea of producing a gin for charity, has clearly made an impact at Freemasons' Hall in London with the Grand Secretary purchasing 6 bottles.

To discover more about Middle Chamber Gin and to place an order email:
mail@wiltsregalia.co.uk or call 01793 840073



What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Armed Forces Covenant is more than just a mere promise. It is a pledge that as Freemasons, and as citizens we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives. Plans are well advanced for the Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock to sign the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of all Wiltshire Freemasons.

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Can I wear the collar?

How many times have you been approached by a harassed Director of Ceremonies and asked to help out by occupying a Lodge officer's chair due to their absence? Having accepted the question arises - should you wear the collar of the office or is it correct not to? The answer is one of etiquette and courtesy as opposed to being mandated in the BoC and can be found on page 19 of Graham Redman's excellent book on Masonic Etiquette. A Brother standing in for an Officer of a Lodge who is absent should wear the collar and jewel of that office, even if he is a visitor; but if the Officer is present, the stand-in must not take over his collar, but be dressed according to his own rank or office."

Who can act as a Warden?

In short the answer might surprise you. First we need to take account of Rule 116 BoC which tells us that "the Master shall appoint his Wardens and other Officers." We are not told what qualifications the Wardens and other Officers must have to be considered for office. However, logic and common sense tell us that it would almost certainly be inappropriate, unwise and highly unlikely for the Master of a Lodge to appoint a Brother below the rank of a Master Mason to be a principal or assistant officer of the Lodge. In fact some might say it would be a very brave (or foolish) Master who suggested otherwise. Michael Lee's excellent paper titled 'The Master Proposes - The Lodge Disposes' is worth reading

But what do you do when there is no Warden or Deacon present? Can you ask a Fellow Craft to act as a Warden, or an Entered Apprentice to act as a Deacon? Yes you can. The recent Covid restrictions (the rule of six) give an insight as to how and why a situation might occur which would necessitate this action.

Every Lodge meeting must be quorate, and the number which determines a quorum is five, but what makes up the five? Two must be members of the Lodge and one must be an Installed Master (*but not necessarily a member of the Lodge*) there is no guidance within the BoC as to the status of the other two. However, you will recall that in a lecture (not the BoC) we are made aware that five hold a Lodge, the WM, his two Wardens and a Fellow Craft. The five who hold a Lodge are not the same as make it quorate.

The caveat is the acting officer cannot officiate in a degree for which he is not qualified.

No Master - what do we do?

First thing to remember is - don't panic. The BoC has the answer. In the absence of the Master in office, a Past Master who is a subscribing member of the Lodge can take his place and conduct all the business of the Lodge. In the event that there is no subscribing member who is an Installed Master, a non subscribing Installed Master can open and close the Lodge and conduct a degree ceremony, but the business of the Lodge is conducted by the Senior Warden or should he also be absent, the Junior Warden. In the unlikely event that there is no Installed Master present (either a subscribing member or visitor) the meeting must be abandoned. (Rule 119.)



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INSTALLATION AND OTHER MEETINGS

Tues	Oct	19	White Horse Lodge	2227	Westbury
Mon	Oct	25	Lodge of Good Fellowship	8388	Marlborough
Wed	Oct	27	Radnor Lodge	4451	Salisbury
Fri	Oct	29	Lodge of Agriculture	9090	Corsham



St Patrick's Lodge No.295 (IC)



For the opportunity to experience a ceremony so different from anything you are likely to see in a Wiltshire Lodge, why not book in to St Patrick's Lodge No.295 (IC) Installation meeting on Saturday 30th October at 12.00 noon. If the ceremony's different, wait until you get to the festive board. For an experience you'll not forget Email: John Torley 295secretary@gmail.com



BOOK NOW



Methuen Lodge No.8692
Vastern Lodge No.8977



Dr. John Wade PAGDC
Prestonian Lecturer 2009

Being a Prestonian Lecturer



SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER
7.00pm

Contact - pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Meet the Prestonian Lecturer....

It's not often you get the opportunity to hear a Prestonian Lecture for a second time. The traditional hosts for the Prestonian Lecture, Methuen Lodge No.8692, has joined forces with Vastern Lodge No.8977 and invited W Bro Dr John Wade, the lecturer of 2009, to once again visit Wiltshire on **Sunday 5th December at 7.00pm**. This event will take place using ZOOM and the link is available from pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Dr Wade will not be reprising his 2009 lecture (it was titled 'Go and do thou likewise') but will tell us what it means to be a Prestonian Lecturer.



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