



*"Every November of my boyhood, we put on red poppies and attended patriotic services in remembrance of those who had 'given' their lives.*

NOVEMBER  
2021

Wiltshire Freemasons

### We will remember them....



I am sure we can all recollect the times, when as children we attended church on the Sunday closest to the 11<sup>th</sup> November to remember, and honour the dead of two world wars. For some of us it would have been as members of a uniformed organisation; the Scouts, Cubs, Boys Brigade, Red Cross or St John's Ambulance; while for others it may have been in the uniform of one of the military cadet forces. I can vividly recall church parades where flags were lowered as a lone bugler played the haunting notes of Last Post. This month I will lay a wreath on behalf of Wiltshire Freemasons while Simon Leighfield and Phil Still will do the same at Swindon and Salisbury. I trust that on 11<sup>th</sup> November you will take a moment to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by men and women of our armed forces, not only in the two world wars, but also in the many conflicts since. As you bring to mind the words of The Exhortation written by Robert Binyon - "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them." I will join you in repeating the response "We will remember them."

At Provincial Grand Lodge I appointed and invested Colin Cheshire as the Province's first Grand Membership Officer. Many of you will know that Colin had already started to develop the role in March 2020, and he has gathered together a formidable team to assist him in implementing plans to handle online enquiries promoted from the Internet. I am aware that some Lodges have indicated a reluctance to accept enquiries from the Internet, even to the point of declining to process such enquiries. Such actions are both sad and unacceptable.

On page 2 of this edition of **In touch > On line**, Corsham Lodge No.6616 demonstrates the benefits of welcoming both Internet and Lodge introductions. It isn't an accident that the Lodge has ten Entered Apprentices - to which I would add, that every one of them is as keen as mustard and totally supportive of each other. The reason there are ten new members is because the Lodge embraced the policy of accepting social media enquiries, worked with the membership team, and nurtured the enquirer through a process which ultimately led to them becoming a candidate, then an Initiate, and finally a Lodge member.

On page 3 Colin writes about the real importance of culture in Freemasonry. Perhaps as part of the planning process, the question should be asked, what is the culture within your Lodge, can it be described as kind, just and amiable or is it one where a new member feels apart as opposed to a part of the Lodge?

Attracting new members through the medium of social media is a UGLE policy. It's here to stay, the Province is supporting it, and it follows that Lodges should be processing enquiries from the membership team in exactly the same way they would an enquiry initiated by a member of the Lodge, with internet candidates fitted into the Lodge initiation programme in the order that their applications are received. I look forward to reading of the successes of every Lodge as they welcome new members into their numbers, and continue to Pass and Raise Brethren who have been waiting, in some cases for over a year.



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## Corsham Lodge No.6616....

Twelve Entered Apprentices became ten as two of their number were Passed to the Second Degree. However, the Lodge is due to conduct more Initiations in the very near future which will bring the number of 'newbies' back up to double figures.

It really is quite amazing to see a sea of white aprons in the Lodge, and to be able to say with certainty that these Brethren have proved themselves keen and capable young Freemasons.



All white



Rosettes of blue

Former Lodge Secretary John Deane's son Ollie joined Bill Wright (John's brother-in-law) in becoming the Lodge's new Fellow Craft Freemasons.

You can see just how pleased everyone was to recognise the milestone in their Masonic journey.

For Ollie and Bill the evening will be remembered for being yet another event in the pageant that is the Deane Dynasty. We wish them both the very best for the future.

## Covid 19 Precautions....



The Provincial Grand Secretary has issued the following notice for Lodge secretaries which confirms that the Province follows guidance given by the Government and United Grand Lodge concerning precautions against Covid 19. We have no wish to impose additional or arbitrary restrictions on Masonic Halls but it may be timely to remind brethren that they are not obliged to attend meetings if they feel uncomfortable or concerned. Brethren wishing to wear masks may do so. Please do not attend a meeting if you have any Covid symptoms.

**HANDS** > **FACE** > **SPACE**



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## Growing our membership....

Following his appointment as Provincial Grand Membership Officer, Colin Cheshire spoke to the editor about his plans to implement the newly revised Members' Pathway programme, albeit with a distinctive Wiltshire flavour. This is an extract of the interview:-

Taking its lead from the UGLE, the Provincial Membership Team in conjunction with the Communication Team has adopted a policy of attracting men to Freemasonry as opposed to one of recruitment. You may well ask what is the difference? In basic terms we see attraction as being more about drawing people into asking about Freemasonry; its origins, what it is, why it exists and what Freemasons really do. By contrast recruitment is considered more aggressive in its nature. Just think about the way companies go about seeking (recruiting) employees, developing recruiting strategies, producing dynamic advertisements, offering amazing remuneration packages and additional benefits.

Attraction requires us to do some of these things, but above all it is incumbent on us to offer a reason why a man would choose to become a Freemason as opposed to a Rotarian or Lion. We must ask ourselves what Freemasonry stands for. What do we expect from our members and what motivates them to come to Lodge and actively participate in the work of the Lodge and the Province? What we stand for can really make a difference. It can be the distinguishing factor in a man's decision-making process.

Culture is a huge part of any organisation and can make or break it. It's one of the many aspects that can attract, engage and secure membership. The focus has shifted from that of simply being a Freemason to seeking a sense of belonging, purpose and development. But we need to be aware that with this generation, it's all about authenticity and they're very likely to spot if we're pretending to be something we're not.

I think we would all agree that there is something organic about success in any aspect of an organisation. By organic I mean there are certain fundamentals that have seeped deep into their cultures that cannot be engineered into existence. There are ways they think and opportunities they enable as a result of core philosophies, purposes and passions that inform everything they do. Such organisations become magnets for new members because people are attracted to who they are, why they exist and what they do. We want Wiltshire Freemasonry to be such an organisation. We want men to want to become Wiltshire Freemasons. We want them to want to belong.

Although the words are far from modern, the meaning of the exhortation in the First Degree Long Closing is as relevant today as it has ever been. "By a kind, just, amiable, and virtuous deportment, you may prove to the world the happy and beneficial effects of our Ancient and honourable Institution." Organisations like this are irresistible.

Their 'brand' is well-known because word of mouth has spread...organically. People feel compelled to talk about them. They have built a reputation of such note that individuals who don't even belong to it are willing to evangelise for them. When non-Masons speak well of Freemasonry we know that we have raised a superstructure perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder.



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## Fiat Lux Lodge No.9773.....

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A very proud Lodge having Just Initiated two men into Wiltshire Freemasonry

Fiat Lux translates into 'Let There Be Light' which is a great name for one of Wiltshire's daylight Lodges which meets in the market town of Devizes. The Lodge is only seventeen years old and largely consists of joining members.

Prior to this meeting the Lodge had only two Initiates, so you can imagine how thrilled the Lodge was to be able to welcome not one but two new members, both Initiates, on the same day.

## Church Service....

The Provincial church service was held at St Mary's Church, Calne on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October. It was the final time that Rev Bob Kennaway would officiate as he will be retiring before next year's service. Bro Rev Dr John Railton preached the sermon, while Bro Michael Barratt led the prayers. There were readings from Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock, and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Reid.

Prior to the service, the Royal Arch hosted Sunday lunch, prepared by Andrew and Frances Evans, at Calne Masonic Hall.



Photo by John Deane



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## Who can vote?



It's a question often asked by new and younger Brethren, especially from the few Lodges who restrict access to what are sometimes referred to as General Purposes Committees, or Past Masters meetings.

The answer to the question comes in two parts. The first is to affirm the right of EVERY Brother, irrespective of seniority or experience to vote on all propositions brought before the Lodge.

A Lodge cannot have a By Law which contradicts the Book of Constitutions or which restricts a Brother's right to a full participation in all matters concerning the Lodge, other than in accordance with the provision of Rule 145 BoC. This caveat makes clear that unless a Brother is in default in the payment of his subscription (and that for a specified time), he enjoys the untrammelled rights of every other Brother in the Lodge.

The second is to confirm that a Lodge, if authorised by its by-laws, may appoint a Committee of its members for the purpose of considering and reporting upon proposals for membership of the Lodge. The Lodge by resolution may specifically refer any other matter to such Committee (or other Committee specially appointed in open Lodge) for consideration and report, or with power to act within such limits as the Lodge may define, but no Committee can be invested with any general executive powers. Any Committee may submit to the Lodge for consideration any matter which it may deem to be for the benefit of the Lodge.

The important words here are 'consider, and report' - the role of the committee is to act in an advisory capacity as opposed to an executive one. The BoC makes it quite clear that "no Committee can be invested with any general executive powers."

You will recall that in the Charge after Initiation, the new made Brother is reminded that he must demonstrate a 'ready acquiescence in all votes and resolutions passed by a majority of the Brethren.' This phrase alone should guide our thoughts to the fact that voting cannot be the sole preserve of the senior Brethren. To allow this to be the case would be to leave decision making to a minority and not a majority of the membership. It would also send the wrong message to the new member, whether he be an Initiate or a joining member, and probably raise a question in his mind - "Do I really belong?"

The Provincial Grand Master hopes that Lodges will adopt an open door policy to Committee membership by allowing every subscribing Brother to play a full part in the activities of the Lodge.

Which only leaves the need to explain the situation with regard to Honorary Members. While undoubtedly a huge honour, the granting of Honorary Membership (especially for a former subscribing member) does come with a sting in the tail. An Honorary Member has no vote in the affairs of the Lodge and should be as cautious about volunteering advice as he would be if he were a visitor. It's always best to wait to be asked.



# In touch > On line

## The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



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### INSTALLATION AND OTHER MEETINGS

Monday	Nov	3	Broade Forde Lodge	8547	Bradford-on-Avon
Wednesday	Nov	10	Lodge of Friendship & Unity	1271	Bradford-on-Avon
Tuesday	Nov	23	Pleydell Lodge	4687	Swindon
Saturday	Nov	27	St Patrick's Lodge (IC)	295	Warminster

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm**. This event will take place using ZOOM and the link is available from [pcowiltshire@gmail.com](mailto: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.



Methuen Lodge No.8692  
Vastern Lodge No.8977



Invite you to meet

**Dr. John Wade PAGDC**

Prestonian Lecturer 2009

**Being a Prestonian Lecturer**



**SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER**

**7.00pm**

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

### A super new logo....

Corsham Lodge No.6616 decided their logo needed an 'upgrade' so former Lodge secretary John Deane researched the history of the design. With a little help from a friend, and considerable patience, the Lodge has produced a vastly improved representation of the logo which features elements of the Methuen family coat of arms.





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## Radnor is one!

Sponsored by  
Radnor Lodge No.4451

It's been a whole year since Radnor was born – what an amazing year it's been and it's already almost time for the next stage of their exciting life-changing journey.

We're sure you'll join us in wishing Radnor a very happy birthday, and we thank you for being part of their story.



Wiltshire Freemasons

### A Grand gesture?

What a GRAND gesture - a £1,000 pound donation from Lodge of Good Fellowship No.8388 for the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Foundation. A beaming Simon Leighfield DepPrGM assured the Lodge the donation was gratefully received, and will be faithfully applied.





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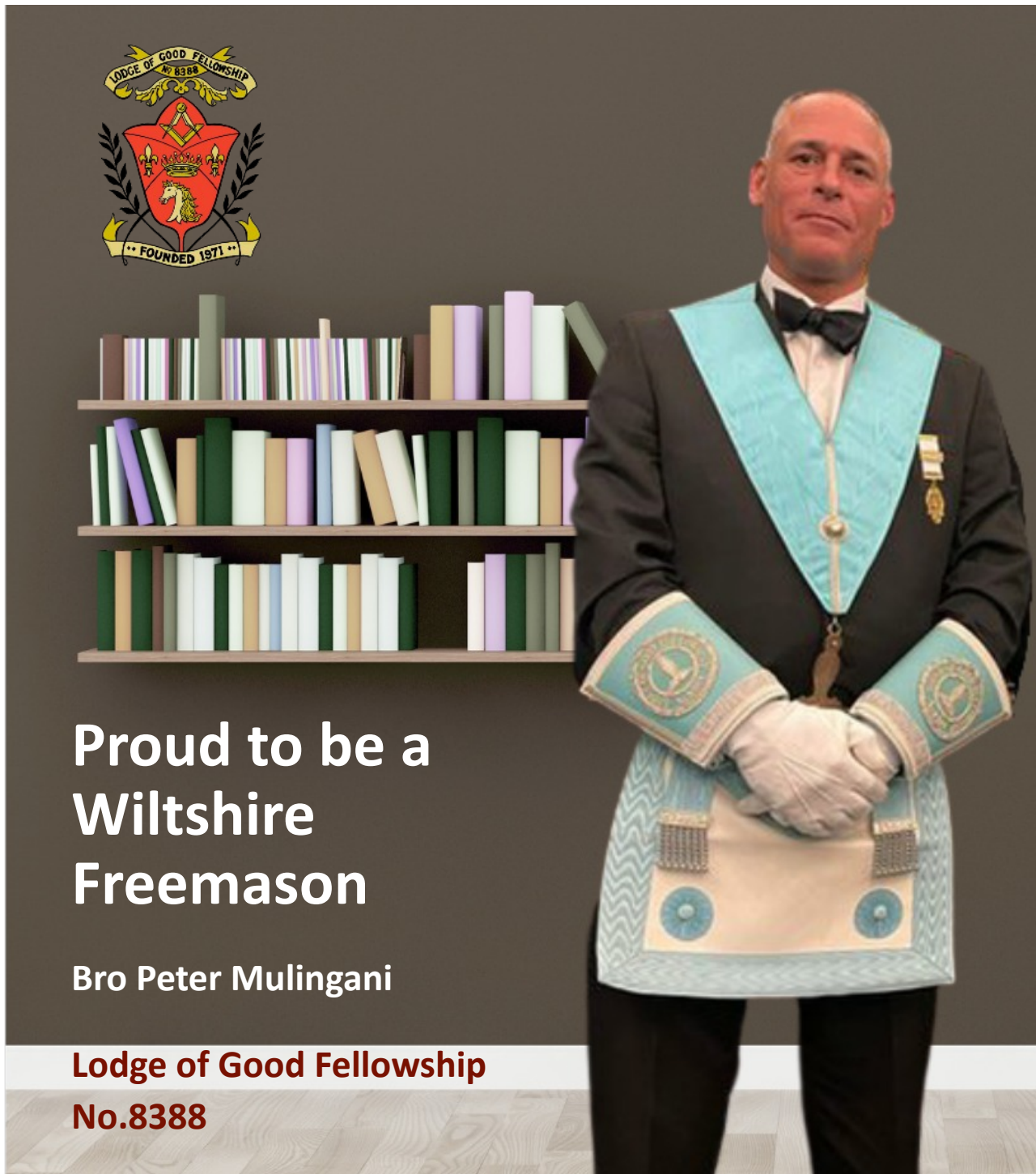
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## Lodge of Good Fellowship No.8388....

At the October meeting of the Lodge Bro Craig Wall was Installed as Master of the Lodge by his predecessor before receiving the Address to the Master by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield. The newly Installed Master then appointed and invested his Wardens, SW Bro Peter Mulingani, and JW Bro Nick Bidmead.

One of the lovely features of Wiltshire Freemasonry is the fact that at every Installation ceremony a member of the Provincial Executive, accompanied by a retinue of Provincial Officers attends the meeting. It certainly adds lustre to a superb event.



Proud to be a  
Wiltshire  
Freemason

Bro Peter Mulingani

**Lodge of Good Fellowship  
No.8388**