



*"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

## Thank you for remembering ....



I wonder whether like me you detected a higher level of energy in the singing of the national anthem at the end of the service of Remembrance held in London last Sunday. Some commentators have suggested that this was the nation showing its great respect for her Majesty The Queen, who for medical reasons was unable to attend the service. Her absence, only the seventh time she has missed the Cenotaph ceremony during her long reign, has encouraged speculation as to her health, and to whether she will be able to continue with her normal round of duties. At this point I took a metaphorical step backwards to reflect on the fact that the Queen has reigned over us for nearly seventy years; having succeeded to the Throne on the 6 February, 1952 on the death of her father, King George. I am certain that you will join me in wishing her Majesty a speedy relief to her suffering - land long may she reign over us.

It is also right that I mention the Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent who attended the service at the Cenotaph, but did so as an observer from a Foreign Office balcony, leaving his equerry to lay his wreath on his behalf. Finally, a huge thank you to the Lodges that played a part in remembrance services across the Province. (See page 4).

In my Provincial Grand Lodge speech, I referred to the new position of Provincial Grand Membership Officer, and had much pleasure in appointing Colin Cheshire to the office. Some secretaries have asked whether they can now appoint and invest a Lodge membership officer. Those of you who attended Provincial Grand Lodge will recall that I made the position very clear. A Lodge may appoint a membership officer, but the Brother nominated cannot be collared until he has attended a training course organised by the Learning & Development Team; these courses are planned to start in the second quarter of 2022. However, let me take this opportunity to thank all the Lodges who are working with Colin and his team to process the 100 plus men who have completed a Form P and who are keen to be made Freemasons. These candidates for Freemasonry join the 150 enquiries the Province has received since January of this year.

Sally and I were delighted to join members of the Chippenham branch of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association as they celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The foundations for the association were laid by Bro Andy Bell with the formation of the Swindon branch. You can read more about the association in this edition of **In touch > On line** (see page 2).

The Province continues to encourage Brethren to take full advantage of the Covid-19 vaccination programme. In particular I would urge any Brother who has not yet received the first two 'jabs' to give serious consideration to making an appointment to get them, and for those who have had two jabs, please do respond to the invitation to receive your booster jab. The Covid-19 virus has not vanished, it is still a very real threat to the health of many, including our members. I fully respect the right of a Brother to make his own decision with regard to the benefits of vaccination, equally I fully understand the concerns of those who feel unable to return to their Lodges at this time. It is not for the Province or a Brother to pass judgement on another's choices. What we must do is respect differing viewpoints.



*"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

### A reason to celebrate....

When an organisation's mission statement reads 'To offer friendship, encouragement, support, and comfort' you just know the end product must be a genuine force for good. And so it was that Andy Bell joined Philip Bullock and Francis Wakem for a twentieth anniversary celebratory lunch organised by members of the Chippenham branch of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association. The lunch was held at Calne Masonic Hall with catering provided by Andrew and Frances Evans. (See pictures on Page 3).

Reflecting on the moment when the late Brian Edwick asked him to start a Masonic Widows Association, Andy was quick to acknowledge that he undertook the task with a degree of trepidation. However, following the successful launch of the Swindon branch in the previous year, he approached Veronica Mannings and Clare Gainey with a lot more confidence, and after a preparatory meeting he sent invitations to 108 widows with over 40 attending the first meeting. Acknowledging that much has changed in Chippenham over the past two decades, Andy pointed out how the Association has been ever present during that time. The first chairman, Veronica Mannings, maintains her close connection as President, and new chairman Sylvia Sutton continues to inspire the Association.

Francis Wakem succeeded Brian Edwick as Provincial Grand Master, and quickly determined that before making any big changes he would 'see how the land lies' - a very astute move on his part. There was a great deal of organic change taking place in Freemasonry but Francis determined that the Widows Associations should continue pretty much as they had been set up. In what he described as 'unadulterated waffle' when comparing his speech to Andy's 'stylish eloquence', Francis looked back at the very rewarding years of the branch in which as part of the Wiltshire Masonic Family, branch members attended the church service, Provincial Grand Lodge, social gatherings and of course the hugely successful Salisbury Cathedral evensong in 2017.

Philip Bullock spoke about the importance of the whole Masonic Family and of the part played by the three branches of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association in fulfilling the stated aims of the organisation. In today's modern world we know that words are important and it is right that friendship, encouragement, support, and comfort feature in the vocabulary of every member of the Association; but more importantly that the words translate into action. The Chippenham branch has certainly benefited from inspiring leadership, a committed team ethos, and an energetic membership. The Association has benefited from the participation of three wonderful Provincial Almoners, Andy Bell, John King, and now Gary Dolphin. Each has brought new ideas and that is as it should be. Equally each has been mindful of the independent nature of each branch. We live in a changing world and change is a reality of life. Andy Bell said that the past twenty years has gone by in what he himself describes as 'a flash'. He is right, and my wish, and that of the Province is that the Association will continue - from generation to generation.

The Provincial Grand Master was invited to plant a tree in the grounds of the Masonic Hall, which will serve to remind future generations of this landmark event in the history of the Association.



*"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

## Images from Chippenham....

Just a few of the photographs from the Masonic Widows Association (Chippenham Branch) celebratory lunch.





*"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

## A huge thank you....

To everyone who joined in a service of Remembrance near to where you live or work. Freemasons were out in force across the Province. Arthur Hanslip was at Melksham; Salisbury was attended by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Phil Still, joined by Carole Still and accompanied by an entourage which included Provincial Junior Warden Foster Telford. Jamie Osborn and Colin Preece were also at Salisbury, while John Torley (St Pat's No.295 (IC)) was at Horse Guards in London, as was Steve Perry of Vastern Lodge No.8977 who was marching with members of the Royal Air Force. A special mention for Bro Phil Redmond's son Michael who read the Roll of Honour at Royal Wootton Bassett.



Arthur Hanslip



John Torley

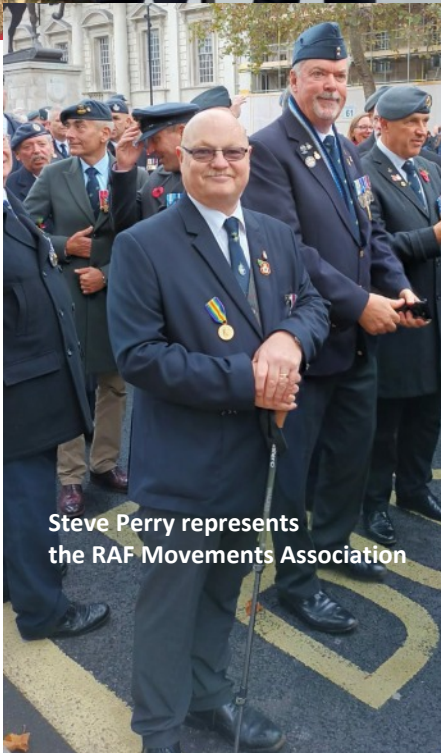


Colin Preece

Jamie Osborn



Assistant Provincial Grand Master Phil Still leads the parade at Salisbury.



Steve Perry represents the RAF Movements Association



*"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

## 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)

## Another super new logo....



Calley Lodge No.7525 have recently commissioned talented artist Georgia Wilkinson to refresh their Lodge logo. Like many logos it had been copied so many times that it was losing some of its definition and really did need some tender loving care so Lodge secretary Michael Farrow approached the communication team for some assistance.

Georgia has produced a vastly improved representation of the logo which features the Calley family coat of arms.

Major General Thomas Calley was initiated into Freemasonry in Apollo University Lodge, Oxford. He was Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire from 1927 to 1932, and a founder of Pleydell Lodge No.4687.



# In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



*"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

## WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS



Provincial  
Officers'  
Dinner

05  
02  
22



The Corn Exchange - Devizes  
Saturday 5 February 2022 at 7.30pm

Guest speaker: Professor Allan Johns

Foster Telford I 5 Wessex Road I Bulbridge I Wilton I SP2 0LW

E.mail: [foster-telford@outlook.com](mailto:foster-telford@outlook.com)