



# In touch > On line

## The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

*It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, Toys in every store. But the prettiest sight to see is the holly that will be on your own front door*



DECEMBER  
2021

Wiltshire  
Freemasons

### It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas....



In the early December newsletter I referred to one of my favourite pieces of seasonal music, the quite superb 'In the Bleak Mid Winter' written by Christina Rossetti as a poem but more commonly performed as a Christmas carol. I have been following Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity No.663 on twitter as each day they publish a popular Christmas song. The songs chosen are so well known and I have enjoyed listening to them.

As I pen these words, I am aware that a number of countries throughout western Europe have imposed restrictions on the movement of the population, compulsory vaccination, and even vaccination passports. Omicron is yet another word to add to the lexicon of Covid. My hope is that this new variant does not spoil your enjoyment of Christmas. It is with this in mind that I found myself taking strength and comfort in these words written by Eric Sevareid who was an American author and CBS news journalist. "Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves." I believe it is really important that amidst the cacophony of noise which assails our senses and influences our behaviours, we should take time to reflect on the wonder of Christmas and its real meaning.

The subject of 'God' was one which entered my email box during the year. It is self evident that Freemasons are required to express a genuine belief in the Supreme Being and His revealed will, and that will is revealed in the Volume of the Sacred Law. As we approach this time of Christmas with all its tinsel and glitter we should never forget the real meaning of Christmas. It's not just about the giving of presents, over indulging or even gathering around a Christmas tree to sing carols and seasonal songs. The spirit of Christmas is surely encompassed in the message of the angels, 'Peace on the earth, goodwill toward all men.'

Visiting the branches of the WMWA is always a pleasure and having joined the ladies at Chippenham in November, Sally and I were delighted to join the Provincial Almoner Gary Dolphin, and Joy, together with John and Val King for the Christmas lunch of the Salisbury branch. We were made very welcome and enjoyed meeting old friends.

A recent innovation by the 'new' Provincial Secretary has proved to be a great success. I am referring to his inspired idea to hold, not one, but multiple ZOOM meetings for Lodge secretaries. The meetings have resulted in almost every Lodge being represented by the secretary or his assistant. The change of format, whereby a specific topic is discussed (with opportunity for questions and a little divergence) has proven to be popular, and Rob advises me that similarly styled meetings will take place in the new year. Please do feel free to suggest topics you would like to be discussed in this very important forum.

For Sally and myself, Christmas 2021 will be spent with our daughter and grandchildren, followed by a post Christmas visit to visit friends and family in Yorkshire. For some this Christmas will be a time to reflect on the joys of times past. I am equally sure that for many of you the opportunity to spend precious time with your loved ones will be very special. We wish you a joyful Christmas, with the hope that 2022 will truly be a happy New Year.



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### A warm Sarum welcome....



Members of Sarum Lodge No.5137  
and Boscombe Lodge No.2158

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, Sarum Lodge No. 5137 welcomed the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Boscombe Lodge No.2158 on the occasion of their annual visit to Salisbury.

As has become the tradition of the Lodge, a member of Sarum Lodge proposed a toast to "Happy Memories." The toast itself originated in the 1940s when two brothers, Wyons and Algie Mauleverer, were members of Boscombe Lodge.

Wyons was a vicar, and when he moved to Salisbury to take up the living as vicar of St Francis Church he became a joining member of Sarum Lodge. In 1942 Wyons was installed in the chair of Sarum. At the same time his brother Algie was Worshipful Master of Boscombe Lodge, and an invitation was made, and Algie, together with his two wardens made the trip to Salisbury for the Installation ceremony.

A route planner will tell you that the distance between the two lodge buildings is 28.8 Miles, and that the journey today should take some forty seven minutes. However, back in 1942, with restrictions on travel and the rationing of fuel, such a journey would have taken a significant part of the day, and it is unlikely that the three visitors would have returned home that evening.

Despite this, the visit was reciprocated, and this has been repeated by both lodges ever since. Boscombe lodge visiting Salisbury for their December meeting and Sarum travelling to Boscombe Lodge for their St Georges day meeting in April.

The friendships that has been formed in that time are an enduring part of the relationship between the lodges, and long may those friendships, and the visits continue.

Although this toast classed as a "non Masonic" toast, and certainly is not "fired" it sums up many of the values of Freemasonry that we value so highly. Particularly the bond of friendship

### What are the Covid rules today?

The United Grand Lodge of England and Supreme Grand Chapter continue to recommend that Freemasons wear face coverings at Masonic meetings, unless exempt. Members remain encouraged to undertake a lateral flow test, prior to attending any Masonic meeting. From 15<sup>th</sup> December certain venues will be required to check that visitors show their NHS Covid Pass. It is not anticipated that this legal requirement will apply to venues for Masonic meetings.

Freemasons attending Masonic meetings must follow the law and must also follow any requirements imposed by their venue. UGLE remains of the view that those lodges and chapters that wish to meet should be enabled and encouraged to do so. Notwithstanding this, no individual should be coerced into attending and members should feel free to distance during meetings should they so desire.



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### Fiat Lux raise £800 for Poppy Appeal....



Brethren for Fiat Lux Lodge No.9773  
at Julia's House, Devizes

Members of Fiat Lux Lodge No 9773 Devizes gathered to present a cheque for £500 to Julia's House Children's Hospice in the town. The hospices located in Corfe Mullen, Dorset and Devizes, Wiltshire, care for life limiting conditions either in house or homes throughout Dorset and Wiltshire. The money was raised from the sale of a Masonic horse brass based on an original Victorian design.

It was presented on this occasion not only as a fundraiser but in remembrance of those lost

through Covid. The square and compasses symbol is hinged within an outer frame depicting a forget-me-not flower in the centre. This delicate flower has a history of legend and a symbolism. The emblem is still worn in Newfoundland on the 1st July Remembrance Day, but since 1921 in most parts of the world it has been replaced by the poppy. In Germany during the years between WWI and WW2 the forget-me-not emblem in the form of a lapel pin was a standard symbol used by many charitable organisations. During WW2, Freemasonry having been outlawed in Germany, a legend grew about the forget-get-me-not lapel pin being worn by Freemasons as a point of recognition. This is most unlikely as it would not have been safe to wear such an emblem in public.

### How should we pay for 'Christmas Boxes'?

It's a great question and one which is very relevant for this time of the year, and it's also a thorny question because the answer might not sit too comfortably with some Brethren. The first thing to remember is that funds collected for charity can only be used for charities. It seems so obvious a statement, but often the lines are blurred, hence the recommendation from the Province that the first step to validating whether or not a charity passes the test is to look for a Registered Charity number. It's also worth bearing in mind that a 'good cause' is also worthy of a Freemason's charity.

Providing 'Christmas boxes' for Lodge widows, or flowers at funerals, though laudable and in the best of Masonic tradition, are not charity purposes in law. As such they cannot and must not be paid for out of any charity fund. The cost of such items should be paid from the general funds of the Lodge or out of a non-charity fund (is your Alms fund a non-charity fund?) or from collections which are not designated for a particular charity or charity fund. The important point to consider is that whatever the occasion it is essential that any claim on a Brother's finances is prefaced with an unambiguous announcement as to what the proceeds will be used for.

Clarifying the status of the various accounts/funds administered by the Lodge, each of which should be kept separate and distinct, will only help to make sure that financial matters are managed properly and with due regard to the law.





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### Border Lodge No.3129....

A very special evening for the Lodge and Bro John Spicer.



The Lodge presents a Rose Bowl to Bro John Spicer (centre stage) on his having completed a remarkable 17 years as Lodge Secretary.

### An event to look forward to in 2022.....

**Open To The Skies** is an open air concert featuring the Central Band of The Royal Air Force, and is being held at Bowood House & Gardens (between Calne and Chippenham) on Sunday 24 July 2022. **Teddies For Loving Care (Wiltshire)**, Julia's House, and Wiltshire Air Ambulance are among the nominated charities who will benefit from the concert. Wiltshire Freemasons, can buy discounted tickets up until 31 January 2022.

Wiltshire Freemasons

**OPEN TO THE SKIES** at **BOWOOD House & Gardens**  
Between Calne and Chippenham, Wiltshire

**SUNDAY 24 JULY 2022**

- THE CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE  
by kind permission of the Air Force Board of the Defence Council
- BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL FLIGHT  
Subject to weather conditions
- RAF FALCONS PARACHUTE DISPLAY TEAM
- FIREWORK DISPLAY

**BUY TICKETS FROM**  
[www.opentotheskies.co.uk](http://www.opentotheskies.co.uk)



# WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS



## Provincial Officers' Dinner

Wives and  
Partners

05  
02  
22



BOOK NOW

The Corn Exchange - Devizes

Saturday 5 February 2022 at 7.30pm

Guest speaker: Professor Allan Johns

Foster Telford | 15 Wessex Road | Bulbridge | Wilton | SP2 0LW

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



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## So, what has the MCF ever done for Wiltshire?

A real 'Life of Brian' question that is answered by this amazing graphic from Provincial Charity Steward Derek Gibbens and Provincial Almoner Gary Dolphin.

Our impact 2020/21

## SUPPORTING Wiltshire

through a challenging year,

**35** disadvantaged and vulnerable  
Freemasons or their families  
supported with grants totalling

**£160,398**



Masonic  
Charitable Foundation



**£74,759**

was awarded to help  
**cover the costs of  
everyday living**



**7**

people accessed our  
**free and confidential  
counselling service**



**£65,522**

was provided to  
**support health,  
care and wellbeing**



**£20,117**

was given to help **support  
the education** of children  
and young people

In partnership with local  
Freemasons, we gave

**£122,584 in grants**

to help continue the work of  
**26 charities** in Wiltshire.

Of these, **5** charities were  
in need of support as a result  
of **COVID-19**.

Nationally, Freemasonry gave an incredible  
**£51M in charitable support** and funding  
to communities across England, Wales, the  
Channel Isles and overseas. Of this, **£20.5M**  
**was awarded through 6,571 grants** by the  
MCF. **Over £4.7M** of the MCF's funding was  
provided to **individuals and communities**  
**struggling through the impact**  
of **COVID-19**.

Read our  
full Impact  
Report!

Scan the QR  
code using your  
phone camera

