



# In touch > On line

## The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil."

APRIL  
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons

### April showers bring forth flowers....



I am sure that like me you have been following the twenty four hour news bulletins describing the invasion of Ukraine by Russian armed forces. The horrific devastation and destruction in the city of Kyiv is a world away from the sights and sounds of the Wiltshire countryside where cattle graze the green grass and late spring lambs gambol in the fields without a care in the world. Trees are in bud, and a host, of golden daffodils can be seen fluttering and dancing in the breeze, tossing their heads in sprightly dance. In Ukraine the picture is so very different.

Freemasons throughout England and Wales, including our very own Province have responded to the UKRAINE2022 Ukraine Crisis Appeal which has now reached over £350,000. Incidentally, if you have made a personal donation to the appeal and received a 'thank you' from the Just Giving Team, let me assure you that your donation is ring fenced for UKRAINE 2022 and will not be used to support other causes.

I am very aware that there are, and will be, different viewpoints on the situation in Ukraine, particularly with regard to the government's decision to welcome tens of thousands of Ukrainian refugees into the UK. Freemasons are taught to respect different opinions or opposing convictions and to respect a Brother's point of view, even when it is at odds with our own. One of the ways in which views are made known and discussed is through social media. It will come as no surprise to know that the UGLE and the Province has published a policy governing the use of social media and offered guidelines on acceptable content. In rare circumstances when posts on Facebook or Twitter have justified intervention, I have asked the Provincial Communication Officer to offer words of advice. I thank those Brethren who have recognised such action as being for the good of Freemasonry in general and their Lodge in particular, and to prevent Freemasonry from being brought into disrepute.

April is as good a month as any to share some good news, and it really is a pleasure to be able to announce the names of Brethren being promoted or appointed to Provincial Grand Rank. I am assured by the Provincial Secretary that letters have been posted together with a very special provincial regalia offer from our friends at Wiltshire Regalia.

I am particularly pleased to have been able to announce that Bro Ian Lever of New Temple Lodge No.8435 will be the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and Bro Alan Colman of Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 will be the Provincial Junior Grand Warden. Both appointments will be effective from Thursday 6 October 2022. I feel sure you will join with me in congratulating them on the news of their appointment.

I am also absolutely delighted to be able to congratulate Bro John Reid, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent on his promotion to Grand Sword Bearer, Simon Leighfield to Past Grand Sword Bearer, and Phil Still to Past Senior Grand Deacon.

Finally, congratulations to Gary Dolphin, and Chris Robbins on receiving well deserved first appointments to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.



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## Making a daily advancement....



This edition of **In touch>On line** is an unashamed advertisement for the Learning & Development Team and the work they are doing with The Mentoring, and Membership Teams. From the outset of our Masonic journey we are exhorted to study the liberal arts and sciences, and to extend our researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science, thus enabling us to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. That knowledge grows exponentially. The more we know, the greater our ability to learn, and the faster that we expand our knowledge base.

I am often reminded of the words of the Provincial Communication Officer who prefaces his appeal for audience participation by saying there is no such thing as a foolish question, to which could be added - and no man becomes a fool until he has stopped asking questions. With this thought fresh in my mind I was delighted to hear that attendees at the two recent Learning & Development sessions asked many questions of the presenting team.

I was also really pleased to hear that St Aldhelm Lodge no.2888 held a Q&A session at their March regular meeting. By all accounts the questions asked were all very relevant and demonstrated a genuine desire for knowledge; and the answers were well received. I recommend this to your Lodge. If you have 20 minutes to spare it's a very good way of making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. It also strikes me as being more like the catechetical, or in more familiar terms, by question and answer, the method of instruction used by our ancient Brethren in the Lectures.

Recently I have also attended a few Initiation ceremonies and have been very impressed with the quality of men offering themselves as candidates for Freemasonry. It is all too easy to forget that men coming into Freemasonry today are far better informed about the organisation than we were when we were Initiated; which makes them more inquisitive and eager to learn more about Freemasonry, the Lodge, the symbolism and the structure of our Order. Please do help them by encouraging them to read the excellent booklets prepared by the Learning & Development Team and to view SOLOMON on the UGLE website

I must confess that attending a Lodge to witness the Installation of a new Master is always a wonderful and uplifting experience. It is a ceremony which never fails to impress me, especially as it demonstrates the skill of the Installing Master. Likewise, having watched the new Master being placed in the Chair, it is amazing to see the dawning of the realisation that having taken his place as the man in charge, the remainder of the meeting is now under his direct control and that all he has to manage the Lodge is a gavel. I'm sure it's at this point he mentally retraces his steps and recalls that moment when he was asked "Can you, my worthy Brother, undertake the Mastership of this Lodge on these qualifications?" It really is a rite of passage, and while a daunting experience, it's amazing how quickly the new Master adapts to the role and grows in stature with each meeting.

And please remember the words of the presiding officer - **enjoy your year.**



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## Learning & Development Courses...

Having attended the first two Learning & Development Team's courses for 2022, I really can say it was a marvellous experience. It's always good to see events such as these being so well supported with a mix of Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and Master Masons. I was also pleased to be able to chat with a number of Lodge Mentors who attended the morning session.

Finding Your Feet was the first in a series of three, and the team was back in action on the following Saturday to present a workshop for Lodge Deacons. Leaving the relative anonymity of a seat in Lodge and watching proceedings, to becoming an active participant as an officer of the Lodge, is a huge step to take. The Deacons' Workshop helps the Brother taking on his first active role or moving forward in the Lodge. The emphasis was on explaining the role of ceremonial within the Lodge room, accompanied by practical advice and the opportunity to ask questions on the Deacon's role.

Please make a note of the following courses and, if you are able to attend, complete the online registration form for the course you wish to attend..

### **Preparing for the Chair** – Salisbury – Saturday 2 April at 10.00am

Intended audience – Deacons/Wardens/Masters Elect

On-line registration form - <https://bit.ly/3414WiR>

This course is designed to prepare a Brother for the office of Master. It offers practical advice and examples of best practice. It also offers general guidance on how to prepare for the Chair of the Lodge, with particular emphasis on what is required of the Brother before taking office and what to expect during the Installation and Festive Board.

The course also introduces the Brother to the duties and responsibilities of the Principal Officers both inside and outside of the Lodge, and provides guidance, suggestions and examples on how to approach the learning of ritual, etiquette, Lodge protocols, the officers of the Lodge, Masonic regalia, and the place of Provincial and Grand Lodge in the Order.

### **The Lodge Membership Officer** - various dates and locations.

All sessions start at 10.00am and are anticipated to finish within 90 minutes

Intended audience - Appointed and nominated Lodge Membership Officers

On-line registration form - <https://bit.ly/3qwUc4f> or visit the Provincial website

Attendance at any of the scheduled events qualifies the brother to wear the collar of a Lodge Membership Officer.

Saturday 23 April Freemasons' Hall Salisbury

Saturday 30 April Masonic Hall Trowbridge

Saturday 7 May Integer Park Cricklade Nr. Swindon





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### WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS LODGE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER



- What is a Lodge Membership Officer?
- What does he have to do?
- Do you want to be a Lodge Membership Officer?

### DISCOVER THE ANSWERS

**23** April 2022

**Freemasons' Hall  
Salisbury**

Book your place online: <https://bit.ly/3qwUc4f>

**30** April 2022

**Masonic Hall  
Trowbridge**

Book your place online: <https://bit.ly/3qwUc4f>

**7** May 2022

**Integer Park  
Cricklade Nr Swindon**

Book your place online: <https://bit.ly/3qwUc4f>

**Sessions start at 10.00am and are scheduled to finish at 11.30am**

**Book online** <https://bit.ly/3qwUc4f>

To wear the collar of a Lodge Membership Officer you must have first attended an induction course

Produced and provided by the Provincial Learning and Development Team





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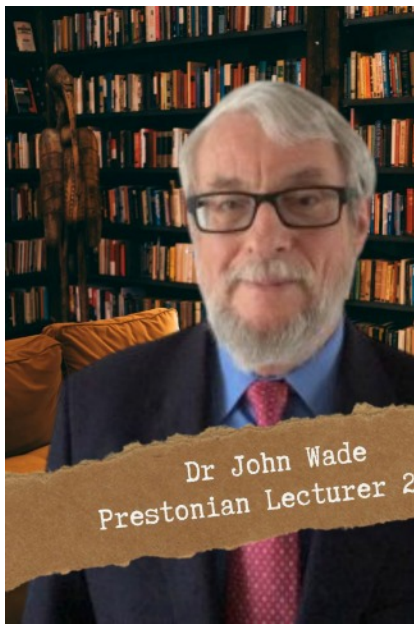
Wiltshire Freemasons  
APRIL 2022

## The Rectitude Essay....

The tenth Rectitude Essay is being presented 'LIVE' (not by ZOOM) by Dr John Wade (The 2009 Prestonian Lecturer) who will be making a welcome return to Wiltshire.

Dr Wade's subject is 'Eighteenth Century Masonic Medical Doctors in Scotland and America' and promises to be a veritable journey of discovery.

The meeting is a 'regular' Lodge meeting of Lodge of Rectitude No.335 held at Corsham, Wiltshire. Guests will be made very welcome and the Lodge Tyles at 4.15pm



Dr John Wade  
Prestonian Lecturer 2009



Lodge of Rectitude No.335

THE RECTITUDE ESSAY  
PRESENTED BY

**Dr. John Wade**

Prestonian Lecturer 2009



'Eighteenth Century Masonic  
Doctors in Scotland and America'

**Monday 16th May 2022**

**4.15pm**

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

## What super events....

The first of the Learning & Development Team's 2022 programme of events was attended by over 30 Brethren in Swindon on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. The second event, for Brethren preparing to hold office as a Deacon, was also held in Swindon on the following weekend.



An attentive audience at Swindon for the first **Finding Your Feet**





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Some of the pictures from the Province....

Lots of activity in Swindon where nine Craft Lodges meet.



A new member for Gooch Lodge No.1295



A warm welcome for the new Senior Warden



A new member for New Temple Lodge No.8435



A warm welcome for the new Junior Warden





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Welcome to new members across the Province....

