



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

MAY
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons

W Bro Colin Davies PrSGW

31/03/1946 - 14/04/2022



HE LIVED RESPECTED AND DIED REGRETTE

Colin's amazing life will be celebrated at 3.15pm on Wednesday 11th May at the West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington, Nr Devizes, BA14 6HL



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

MAY
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons

Time to say farewell....



It has been said that one of the most difficult decisions that any person will ever face is when to retire from their chosen field. For many the decision on when to stand down is made for them by the expedient of age; for others it can be because of ill health, whereas for me the choice was very much mine and mine alone.

At the end of 2021 I determined that in order to allow my successor the opportunity to lead the Province into Festival it would be circumspect to ask the MW Grand Master to allow me to retire from office a little earlier than my Patent. In the past few weeks, I received confirmation that my request had been granted and the process of selecting and appointing a successor has been initiated by the secretariat at Freemasons' Hall. I know that speculation on the appointment of my successor will abound. However, if life has taught me one thing, it is that the wheels of all bureaucratic organisations turn very slowly. The Pro Grand Master, as is his right, will make an announcement as and when Grand Lodge is ready, and not a moment before. Like you, I look forward to that announcement, and wish my successor all the very best. I will give him my 100% support as he takes Wiltshire into Festival and beyond.

In October 2014 I was immensely proud and honoured to be Invested as the fourteenth Provincial Grand Master for this wonderful Province of Wiltshire. I followed in the steps of very worthy and distinguished Brethren and was proud to be numbered among the rulers of the Craft. As October 2022 approaches, I can look back on the past eight years and be proud of all this Province has achieved in that time.

Having taken the decision to retire on Wednesday 5 October, I will not be presiding at Provincial Grand Lodge. Sadly, this means that I will not have the privilege of investing those Brethren who have received promotion or a first appointment to Provincial Grand Rank. Wherever I am and whatever I am doing my thoughts and best wishes will be with everyone who is being honoured.

When I left the world of work to experience my first retirement, I did not have a plan as such and little did I imagine I would become your Provincial Grand Master. Today, Sally and I start a new retirement phase with a blank sheet of paper. Together we will redesign our life into something new and different, being confident that retirement from my role as Provincial Grand Master does not mean retirement from life. It is a new beginning.

I thank the many friends who have sent letters, cards, and email in which they offer their best wishes for the future. I am deeply touched by the kindness of your words.

I close this short piece with a mention of a quite exceptional Freemason Provincial Senior Grand Warden W Bro Colin Davies was called to the Grand Lodge Above on 14th April. Colin was a proud Freemason who was also an exceptional ritualist. A celebration of Colin's life will be held on Wednesday 11th May at the West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington, Nr Devizes, BA14 6HL (see front page)



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

MAY
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons

Planning for Festival....



Is it really five years ago that we celebrated the outstanding success of our Wiltshire 2017 Festival in support of the Masonic Samaritan Fund?

The Masonic Charitable Foundation was created in 2016 bringing together the work of the four central Masonic charities and, since then, especially throughout 2020/21, it has supported our local Wiltshire communities, charities and Freemasons, with much-needed grants and services.

Fundraising for the MCF is vital to the continuance of its support to us all, and we will shortly be announcing our very own Wiltshire 2028 Festival that aims to raise a significant sum which will make a difference to the lives of Freemasons, their families and those in need in our wider society.

The Communication Team is currently working with the MCF on producing a Festival Launch Brochure that explains why Wiltshire Freemasons should support our Festival 2028 Appeal. The brochure will cover the work of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (particularly in Wiltshire), how we all can get involved and how to donate. I am confident all our Lodges will embrace our 2028 Festival and enjoy every moment along the way to make it a truly memorable period in our lives.

I end my little piece for the May edition by thanking everyone who sent their good wishes to Phil Still and myself on our respective Grand Lodge promotions. We were joined in London by John Reid (promoted), Gary Dolphin, and Chris Robbins (appointed) for what was a very enjoyable day.

Stonehenge Lodge No.6114....

Bro Michael Lee presented the Master Ian Philips with a pair of Batons for the Director of Ceremonies and his Assistant. The evening was made even more special as the Lodge's three Grand Officers were present together for the first time since lockdown.



Michael Lee presents batons to Ian Philips

Phil Still

Michael Lee

Simon Ellingham



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

MAY
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons

Congratulations....



Many congratulations to everyone who has received a letter offering them a promotion or first appointment in Provincial Grand Rank. I know from my time as the Provincial Secretary that preparing offer letters, answering questions and ultimately publishing the list of appointments can take an incredible amount of time, and despite everyone's best efforts there will still be a misspelt name, or an incorrect Lodge number. I trust if you are a recipient of a letter with an error, you will be kind when informing the secretariat, and be assured they will make sure the final draft which appears on the Provincial website is 100% correct.

For those Brethren that have been offered an active role in Provincial Grand Lodge they will have noticed a gentle reminder of the expectation of the Provincial team. There are a number of events during the year at which an active officer's attendance is required. These include the Provincial Church Service, the active officer's dinner, and Festival events. It should surely go without saying that Provincial Grand Lodge, which is always held on the first Thursday in October, is a date every active officer, indeed every Wiltshire Freemason, should put in their diary. These events are additional to supporting the Presiding officer and the Wardens at Installation meetings.

By the way - if you really want to impress, what about treating yourself to new regalia?



T: 01793 840073
E: mail@wiltsregalia.co.uk

Both Dressed & Undressed Regalia as per image:
Offer until 30th May 2022



RRP £144.99

£119.99

FREE Collection from: Corsham, Devizes or Cricklade.
Delivery £4.99

WILTSHIRE REGALIA.CO.UK



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

MAY
2022

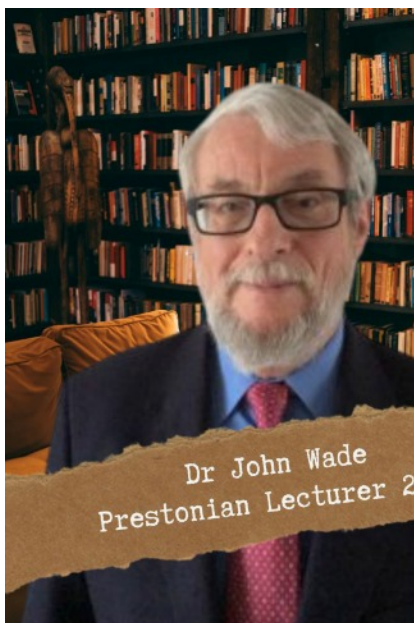
Wiltshire
Freemasons

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



Follow the rules....

I was looking through the By-Laws of one of our Lodges when I came across the following quotation. "Without laws and regulations, no body of men can long exist, with comfort to themselves or reputation among others." Now it might be said that some rules are nothing more than old habits that people are afraid to change; and for others, if there are to be rules, they must be articulable and defensible, like etiquette.

In Freemasonry we agree that we will be bound by the rules as set out in our Lodge By Laws, the Constitutions of Freemasonry and above all the content of the Volume of the Sacred Law. And yet, we do appear to spend an inordinate amount of time trying to circumvent the rules. I am often asked whether it is permissible to do something which is not quite within the letter of the law; generally the request is prefaced with the claim that there is a need to be flexible (i.e. break a rule).

Rules, such as can be found in the Lodge by-Laws and that require Proposals, especially relating to financial matter, and which must appear on the Lodge Summons, are neither excessive or overly bureaucratic. In fact they serve an important purpose, namely to ensure all members are in possession of the knowledge to enable them to make an informed decision on any subsequent vote or ballot. That is surely the essence of fairness.



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

MAY
2022
Wiltshire Freemasons

Clarendon Lodge No.5908...

Clarendon Lodge has been a supporter of the Wessex MS Society for twenty years, donating the proceeds raised from events organised by Bro Graham Greenhill. Even though some of the fundraising events were cancelled due to the pandemic, they were able to raise £549.20 with extra generous donations from the Brethren.

The Lodge has also distributed £2000, raised through the joint Lodge of instruction with Concord Lodge No.632. This money was presented at an evening in the Lodge, to the four youth organisations each receiving £500. The 1st Hilperton Scout Group, The 6th Trowbridge Group, The 1st Trowbridge Girl Guide group and The Trowbridge and District youth Band.





In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

MAY
2022

Wiltshire
Freemasons

Easter cheer for youngsters....

As part of the Radnor Lodge No.4451 Centenary, the members wanted to do something for the local community.

The Brethren were happy to buy a large stock of Easter Eggs, that have been duly delivered to the John McNeill Opportunity Centre, and Exeter House in Salisbury.

Both of these centres do excellent work looking after children and we are sure that Salisbury Freemasons have helped to put a smile on some faces today.



Calley Lodge No.7525 supports

At the December meeting of Calley Lodge No.7525 in Swindon, a commemorative box, made by Bro Paul Rowcliffe, was auctioned in aid of BLESMA, the British Limbless Ex-Serviceman's Association. BLESMA does not receive any government funding and depends on the generous support of organisations such as the Freemasons to fund their work as the only national Armed Forces Charity that supports limbless veterans for the duration of their lives.



Bro Paul Rowcliffe - Calley Lodge No.7525

After a few of the members got together the box reached an amazing price of £400. The night's raffle raised nearly £300 which was added to the amount raised in the auction.

This allowed the Lodge to make a superb donation of £700 to this very worthy charity which was received on behalf of BLESMA by Mr Pat Donnachie.