



# In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

*"In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different." alive."*



JUNE  
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons

There is still so much to do....



I am often asked to comment on the direction in which Freemasonry appears to be travelling in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and am always keen to dispel any notion that the fraternity of which I am proud to be a member is in danger of imploding or becoming a pastiche of Rotary or The Lions. I generally counter the latter by pointing out that Freemasonry is much older than these two very laudable organisations; as for the former, I'm never sure why anyone would think Freemasonry could fail suddenly or dramatically.

We are a well-established organisation with a sound base. Equally, we have a management team which recognises the need for change albeit, to quote the Grand Master, "we do change, carefully and after due consideration - to meet the challenges of the times".

I am not a great fan of the phrase 'to make Freemasonry relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century' - simply because it is almost impossible to quantify relevance in an objective manner, whereas it is easy to base relevance on opinion or subjective information. The incoming Pro Grand Master is on record as saying "We shall resist the temptation to embrace faddish management and organisational theories." This statement leads me to conclude that the United Grand Lodge of England is clear on how it sees the future of Freemasonry.

In the first instance, it is recognised that "We are a members' organisation and we must ultimately focus on attracting new members and ensuring that all members enjoy their Freemasonry." I believe the first aim might prove to be the easier of the two to achieve, while the second really does require more thought.

Secondly, the UGLE is focused on developing and enhancing the organisation's reputation. In a recent note, this point was reinforced. "To cement our reputation as a force for good in our communities and society at large, and as a thriving organisation that people aspire to join".

For my part, I trust that there will be no attempt to change any of the fundamental Masonic values that have been maintained and handed down from generation to generation. The principles of Freemasonry may be couched in different words such as Integrity, Respect, Charity and Friendship; for Wiltshire Freemasons these words underscore who we are - a constant in a changing world.

I am delighted to support **What's next for YOU in Freemasonry** - an introduction to the Royal Arch which is being presented by Andy Entwistle and Richard Wright on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at the Swindon Masonic Centre, The Planks, Swindon. (See advertisement on page 4).

The relationship of the Royal Arch and the Craft is an integral part of Freemasonry. The Royal Arch has been described as 'the root, heart and marrow' of Freemasonry, for it may be said that without it, the teaching of the Craft is incomplete. A Master Mason who is curious about what lies beyond the Craft will find this event very useful in planning their next step in Freemasonry.

Finally, I will be joining the Brethren of Sarum Lodge No.5137 for their second Super Saturday double Initiation. If you are able to, why not join them on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June. (See page 3)



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We have every reason to be proud....



Wiltshire recognises that growth in membership is not only a key feature of the United Grand Lodge of England's medium term strategic plan, but it is also important to the future of Freemasonry in the Province. At the same time Wiltshire Freemasons recognise the importance of the many long serving members who have given exemplary service to the Craft over the years. I was honoured to visit Pleydell Lodge No.4687 to present a certificate to Bro Ray Courtney who recently celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry. What a magnificent achievement.



A very happy Ray Courtney receives his 50 year certificate from Deputy Provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield.

I was pleased to hear from the Provincial Membership Officer Colin Cheshire, that Lodges are working really hard to reduce the backlog of men awaiting Initiation. It is heartening to be informed of the number of emergency meetings being held to not only Initiate but also to Pass and Raise Brethren. Colin advises me that we still have over 90 gentlemen waiting to be welcomed into Freemasonry, and that enquiries for membership are still being received.

Salisbury Lodges held another 'Open Bar' event at which they welcomed a number of visitors and friends of Brethren from the seven Lodges which meet at Crane Street. These evenings have proved very successful on two fronts. First, in promoting Freemasonry as a force for good in our communities and society at large, and secondly as a thriving organisation that people aspire to join. Divisional Officer (South) Dave Henery said, "We don't push Freemasonry, but we do use the environment of the dining room with its honour boards to introduce who we are and what we do." It clearly works, as at the last meeting two Form Ps were completed and two gentlemen started their personal journey into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry.



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## Another Super Saturday at Salisbury....



I really am excited to be attending the Second Sarum Super Saturday that is being held at Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street on Saturday the 18th of June. It really will be a bumper afternoon of great ceremony and fun. The great thing about this event is that you really can enjoy the experience in part or the whole.

The choice is yours.

Part one will start at 1.00pm with two initiations. The Lodge will then be "Called Off" for a cup of tea and a biscuit and part two will start at 3.30pm with two further initiations. Members of the Active Wiltshire Provincial Team will conduct part two with the Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock occupying the Senior Warden's chair.

You really won't want to miss a unique opportunity to hear the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, infrequently given in Lodges today. It is one of the most fascinating ways to discover the importance of the Lodge and its symbolism.

The Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice Freemason will be presented by two of the Lodge's newest members. Your support and encouragement will be absolutely well received and very much appreciated.

You will also hear the Charge After Initiation and a very special presentation of the Mode Of Preparation.



**SUPER SATURDAY**

18th June 1.00pm and 3.30pm

The Second Sarum Super Saturday will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street on Saturday the 18th of June.

To round off what we are sure will be a memorable day Bro Barry Jordan Davies of the City Lodge No.5955 will lead everyone in an explanation and presentation of The Initiates Chain.

To experience this amazing event and book your place please e-mail John Clough

[j-clough@sky.com](mailto:j-clough@sky.com)

Please indicate if you will be attending for the 1.00pm or 3.30pm start time.

State your name, Lodge name and number, Masonic rank and any dietary requirements.

There will be a four-course dinner for which the dining fee is only £17.00.





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## What's next for YOU in Freemasonry?

- Have you just been made a Master Mason?
- Are you a Past Master, thinking of trying something different?
- Maybe you are wanting to expand your Masonic experience?

## Why not join the Royal Arch?

– to 'complete your knowledge of Craft Freemasonry'

Do you want to know more, but are not sure who to ask?

Then register for the presentation:

## 'What's next for YOU in Freemasonry?'

– an introduction to the Royal Arch Chapter'

You can learn a great deal about 'The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch', but not too much that it spoils the impact of your first meeting!

Come and talk with the Companions of the Order.

Saturday morning 18<sup>th</sup> June at the Planks in Swindon, 10 to around 11.30am

Refreshments provided. Free registration [here: https://bit.ly/38hgwMx](https://bit.ly/38hgwMx)

Any questions, email Andy at [1295chapter@gmail.com](mailto:1295chapter@gmail.com), or call 07941 041364

**Why not make it the next Chapter in your  
Masonic life?**





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## The right (or not) to visit a Lodge....

How often have you heard it said that 'visiting is the life-blood of Freemasonry'. While visiting is one of the benefits of being a member of the fraternity of Freemasons, visiting and visitor numbers can only enhance a meeting. The life blood of a Lodge, and by default of Freemasonry, is totally dependent on the number of subscribing members and their ability and willingness to play an active role in the work of the Lodge.

The other statement commonly made is that a Freemason is 'entitled' to visit any Lodge in the English Constitution. In 2007 The Board of General Purposes made it quite clear that "there was no entitlement or 'right of visitation', but the custom of visiting, which has a long and honourable history in English Freemasonry ought not to be discouraged."

Brethren are, however, reminded that while every Freemason in good standing is *eligible* to attend Lodges other than his own as a visitor subject to Rule 127 BoC, he is not necessarily *entitled* to do so. Under rule 126, the Master has the power to refuse admission to any visitor whose presence *in his opinion* is likely to disturb the harmony of the Lodge. No doubt the words of the Master to the new Initiate will be brought to mind. "...you should never put on that badge should you be about to visit a Lodge in which there is a Brother with whom you are at variance or against whom you entertain animosity".

Visiting is one of the most pleasurable aspects of Freemasonry and is to be recommended and actively encouraged. Bro Paul Robinson has initiated a Facebook site to encourage visiting within the Province by providing a link to Brethren who are willing and able to offer car sharing. Do take a look at **Wiltshire Craft Freemasons Visiting Network**.

## Michael Barratt has stars in his eyes....



Congratulations are due to our Provincial Grand Chaplain, Michael Barratt who is a keen amateur astronomer and is well known for his regular articles in local Wiltshire magazines, and for giving presentations to both adult and youth groups about what to see in the night sky. Michael recently received the exciting news that a lifelong ambition had been fulfilled in that he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. The Society was formed in London in 1820 and is based in Piccadilly. Its first president was William Herschel, the discoverer of the planet Uranus and past Fellows include Sir Patrick Moore, Will Hay, the British comedian, amateur astronomer and discoverer of the white spot on Saturn (not to mention finding time to give flying lessons to Amy Johnson, and astronomer Heather Couper. Fellowship is open to professional astronomers/astrophysicists and geophysicists and amateurs who have shown a serious commitment and contribution to those sciences.

As a Freemason Michael was exhorted to study the liberal arts and sciences of which Astronomy is the seventh. I am sure we can all agree that his election to a fellowship of the society bears testament to the fact that he has applied himself to the study of astronomy.



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## Forget me not Lodge No.9035....



Forget Me Not Lodge in Ludgershall has a long tradition and association with the military. The Brethren were delighted to support the vital work of the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association SSAFA Wiltshire with Lodge Master, Tony Davies presenting a cheque for £500 to Margaret Lock and Rosina Bellis. SSAFA understand the unique demands of service life, whether it's on UK soil or overseas. Support is available for people at any stage in their military career.

## Lodge of Remembrance No.4037....

Lodge of Remembrance No.4037 meeting at the Planks, Swindon recently held an emergency meeting and welcomed two new members to the Lodge. Since October the Lodge has Initiated six new brethren, Passed two Fellowcrafts, raised one to a Master Mason, and Installed a new Master!



Left to Right in the photograph: Bros. Dave Barrie **SW**, Eric Broderstad, Jason Woosnam, Tony Ellis, Gary Marsh **WM**, Larry Cheriton, David Brown, Fahim Meah and Matt Courtliff **JW**.