



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

"So the air lingering among the woods and hedges—green waves and billows—became full of fine atoms of summer."



JULY
2022

Wiltshire
Freemasons

Summer is here...



It's so difficult to believe that half the year has gone and we are now in July the seventh month of the year. The June solstice which occurred on Tuesday 21st June marks the official beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, when Earth arrives at the point in its orbit and where the North Pole is at its maximum tilt (about 23.5 degrees) toward the Sun, resulting in the longest day and shortest night of the calendar year. By longest day, we mean the longest period of sunlight hours. However, the longest day reminds us that it's all downhill after that with each day of sunlight reducing in time. It's little wonder that we try to take advantage of the daylight hours to enjoy outdoor activities.

The writer Richard Jefferies was born at Coate in the north Wiltshire countryside - now on the outskirts of Swindon. Jefferies is best known for his prolific and sensitive writing on natural history, rural life and agriculture in late Victorian England. To some people he is more familiar as the author of the children's classic 'Bevis' or the strange futuristic fantasy 'After London'. Since his death his books have enjoyed intermittent spells of popularity, but today he is unknown to the greater part of the reading public. There is a Richard Jefferies museum in Swindon which I am told is well worth a visit. I particularly like Jefferies quote in the header of this month's newsletter which is taken from 'The Pageant of Summer'.

For many Lodge members the months of July and August are 'meeting free' and allow for a period of rest and recuperation. For members of the Province's management team there really is no such thing as downtime. This is particularly the case as the Province prepares to welcome a new Provincial Grand Master, plan the annual meeting to be held at Trowbridge on Thursday 6th October, organise the church service, and finalise the essential elements to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The work required to make sure these events occur to the expected standard is testament to the commitment of the Provincial teams involved and I do thank them all for the sterling work they do for the Province.

I am advised that there are plans to hold a dinner/dance at Bowood on Friday 30th September, It's themed as the Provincial Grand Master's final gavel, and I look forward to an evening of good food, with good friends and enjoying having fun. Places are limited so if you wish to attend please follow the link <https://bit.ly/3Q9XyFv> and complete the online application form (see page 5)

I was joined by Phil Still and many members of the Provincial team for Sarum's Super Saturday. We really did enjoy helping the Lodge to Initiate four excellent candidates in one day. It was certainly a 'full on' day, but it was absolutely worthwhile and I wouldn't have wanted to miss the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful event. For those Lodges with candidates waiting to be Initiated or Passed I can only recommend that you consider emulating Sarum Lodge and hold your own multiple ceremony. Contrary to some opinions, the ceremony is just as meaningful to the candidates and from comments I have received, it is considered to be the way to go.

Our Province may be small in terms of the number of Lodges, some may say it is small in terms of the number of subscribing members. However, our Province frequently punches above its weight, and I am very proud of what has been achieved over the past eight years.



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We're thinking Festival....



When we were made Freemasons we were charged to practise that virtue we profess to admire - charity. But exactly what is meant by the word charity? We would all agree that the practice of charity is the voluntary giving of help to those in need, as a humanitarian act, unmotivated by self-interest. I am sure you will be aware that there are several philosophies about charity, often associated with religion. That should come as no surprise as the word is closely linked to Christianity, only entering the English language through the French word *charite*, which in turn was derived from the Latin *caritas*.

Charitable giving is not just about giving money, it can also be the giving of goods or personal time. Equally, charity is not just about giving to organisations established for a particular purpose, it is perfectly right and proper for Freemasons to practice charity toward its own members. The often quoted 'Charity Charge' given to the new Freemason is explicit in reminding us that it is on behalf of a member reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress that the claim on a Brother's charity is first made.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) is funded through the generosity of Freemasons, their families, and their friends. The MCF is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country and aims to be a force for good by providing support, care and services to Freemasons and their families in need, and supporting other charities to help the most disadvantaged in society.

Working with the Provincial Almoner, the MCF Masonic support team helps Freemasons and their families gain access to the wide range of financial, health, family and care support available from the Foundation.

The Provincial Charity Steward liaises with the charity grants team as it works directly with other charities who are applying for funding. The team processes applications, offers advice to prospective applicants and awards grants. The picture on Page 3 graphically displays the support Wiltshire receives from the MCF.

The work of the MCF is subject to the funds at their disposal. The MCF fundraising team helps to coordinate and encourage the fundraising efforts of Provinces, Lodges, and individual Freemasons.

Over the next few months I will be telling you more about the Wiltshire 2028 Festival and the important part, you and your Lodge, and especially your Lodge Charity Steward will be asked to play.

What I can tell you is that Wiltshire is being asked to support the Masonic Charitable Foundation which as you will know is the Freemasons' charity. I can also confirm to you that there is a superb new Festival jewel (approved by the UGLE and the MCF) which I am sure we will all be proud to wear in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Details of the launch, targets (yes, I know you will all have expected that there would be targets), events and other plans will be communicated to you between now and the end of the year.

What I can promise you is that the Wiltshire 2028 Festival will be a challenge but it will also be fun.



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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



£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





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Provincial Grand Lodge beckons....



And this year promises to mark yet another milestone in the history of our Province. Subject to a decision and formal announcement from the UGLE the October meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge could be preceded by the Installation of a new Provincial Grand Master. At the time of publishing **In touch > On line** no decision on a successor to Philip Bullock has been advised, and while I understand the desire to speculate and guess who the next PrGM will be, it really is best to await the decision from London.

However, what I can say without fear of contradiction is that you will be most welcome to attend the annual meeting on Thursday 6th October in The Civic, St Stephen's Place, Trowbridge. For many Wiltshire Freemasons the meeting prior to the Annual Meeting will be the first opportunity (subject to a decision being made) for us to formally welcome the new Provincial Grand Master. Please make a note of the date in your diary.

The annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge is an event at which the attendance of all active Provincial Officers is expected, and I am sure every officer of the current year, together with those appointed to serve for 2022/23 will join the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and myself for the event.



WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

WELCOME

»»» THURSDAY 6TH OCTOBER

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE



THE CIVIC
ST STEPHEN'S PLACE
TROWBRIDGE

Thank you Sarum Lodge No.5137....

I was pleased to be able to attend the second Super Saturday event organised by the Brethren of Sarum Lodge No.5137. It really was an amazing day, made even more special by some superb ceremonial and ritual. I know that the many visitors who attended, and those who took part, were completely bowled over by the excellent standard achieved in the Lodge Room. The Provincial Grand Master was present for the two ceremonies and occupied the Senior Warden's chair for the afternoon session. A good day was enjoyed by the 76 Brethren who attended, some from as far away as Northumberland.



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The final gavel....

Join the Provincial Grand Master and Sally for a very special evening at Bowood Hotel and Spa when we will enjoy good food, good company and dance the night away.

Wiltshire Freemasons

Provincial Grand Master
For Wiltshire

Final Gavel Dinner

Friday 30th September '22

~

Bowood Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort
Derry Hill, Calne. SN11 9PQ

~

3 course
dinner

£65.00

~

Pre Dinner Drinks: 6:45pm
Dinner: 7:30pm
Carriages: 12:30am

Dinner & Dance

pglwiltshire.org.uk

@wiltshirefreemason pcowiltshire@gmail.com

To book a place for you and your partner click on the QR code or follow <https://bit.ly/3Q9XyFv>.

