


Across the Plain

Online edition

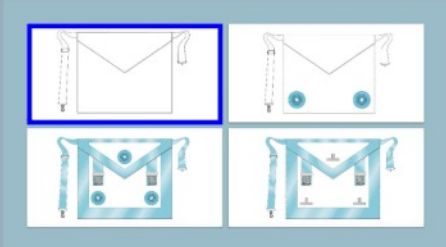
The magazine of Wiltshire Freemasons







Summer 2022

 **Wiltshire Freemasons**
Attracting | Engaging | Growing

**ENTERED
APPRENTICE** **2022**



 Integrity  Respect  Friendship  Charity

www.wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

 **Wiltshire Freemasons**
Attracting | Engaging | Growing

**FELLOWCRAFT
FREEMASON** **2022**



 Integrity  Respect  Friendship  Charity

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

 **Wiltshire Freemasons**
Attracting | Engaging | Growing

**MASTER
MASON** **2022**



 Integrity  Respect  Friendship  Charity

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

 **Wiltshire Freemasons**
Attracting | Engaging | Growing

**WORDS YOU NEED
TO KNOW** **2022**
[A Glossary Of Terms]



 Integrity  Respect

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

06/10/22
**Provincial
Grand Lodge**
SUMMONS
ENCLOSED

The Provincial Grand Master.....



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 decided 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 allowed for.

I know that speculation on the appointment of my successor has occupied the thoughts of many Brethren across the Province. Indeed the editor expounds on the subject in his editorial piece in this edition of Across the Plain. However, if life has taught me one thing, it is that the wheels of all bureaucratic organisations turn very slowly, and Grand Lodge is very much a centralised organisation which takes its time considering and processing matters before making grand announcements. During the past few days Grand Lodge has announced that VW Bro John Reid has been appointed Provincial Grand Master (Designate) for Wiltshire. This information has been transmitted to Lodge secretaries and I am sure they will have notified the members of the Lodge. I 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.

The highlights are too many to list, but chief among them would have to be the opportunity to showcase Freemasonry at the evensong service in Salisbury Cathedral. Our principal guests were the Lord Lieutenant, and the High Sheriff, in addition we welcomed Masonic guests and their partners; and while the weather was less than kind to us, the day went well. It is my earnest hope that Wiltshire Freemasons will be welcomed to the cathedral during my successors term of office.

We can all take comfort in highlights, but what of the low points? I do not imagine I will have many objections in citing Coronavirus or Covid-19 as being the worst two years of not only our Masonic life, but of life in general. For those who are old enough to remember the deprivations of the war years, two years of restrictions might not seem as bad; but for the majority who have never ever experienced enforced isolation, travel bans and social restrictions, the past two years have been quite surreal.

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's a time to take advantage of new opportunities.

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.

Have you ever wondered why the UGLE holds fast to the edict that the discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited; after all don't we live in a society that prizes freedom of expression and protects your right to hold your own opinions and to express them freely?

The idea that human beings should have a set of basic rights and freedoms has deep roots in Britain and we have every reason to be proud that the Magna Carta of 1215, the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679, and the Bill of Rights of 1689 were the precursor to later attempts to set out at a global level the fundamental rights and freedoms shared by all human beings. Today, these rights are guaranteed to every citizen under the Human Rights Act 1998 which came into force in the UK in 2000.

It was in 1938 that the Grand Lodge adopted what is referred to as the 'Aims And Relationship Of The Craft' which can be found tucked away in the pages of the Book of Constitutions. Under item number 6 it is made clear that an individual has the right to hold his own opinion with regard to public affairs. But neither in any Lodge, not at any time in his capacity as a Freemason is he permitted to discuss or advance his views on theological or political questions. Very sensible advice to preserve harmony in the Lodge.

The Grand Lodge wasn't asking its members to do something which they didn't adhere to themselves. As a postscript to item numbers 6 and 7, the Grand Lodge reaffirmed its own position with regard to giving what might be termed an 'official' statement on any political or theological matter, and stated that "If Freemasonry once deviated from its cause by expressing an opinion on political or theological questions, it would be called upon not only publicly to approve or denounce any movement which might arise in the future, but would sow the seeds of discord among its own members." It also took the view that "nothing in present-day affairs has been found that could cause them to recede from that attitude."

A Freemason is expected to tolerate differing opinions or opposing convictions and to respect a Brother's right to hold a different point of view. Sometimes this can prove to be quite difficult especially when the arguments for and against are finely balanced or characterised by subtle shades of meaning or expression. Our modern day society includes many groups seeking equality, changes to existing law or the introduction of new laws, and it should come as no surprise that Freemasons can often be found in such groups; after all members of the Craft are also citizens of the world. The ability to express differing views and debate them is essential to a mature society. However, free speech is not a licence to spread hate, intimidate or close off legitimate debate. There can be no doubt that the principles contained in the Aims And Relationship Of The Craft are of great importance, indeed the Grand Lodge is unequivocal in stating that "They must be accepted and practised wholeheartedly and in their entirety by those who desire to be recognised as Freemasons by the United Grand Lodge of England."

One of the ways in which views are made known and discussed is through social media. The UGLE and the Province has published a policy governing the use of social media and offered guidelines on acceptable content. Sometimes individuals inadvertently use Lodge and Masonic club websites to carry messages which reflect their personal opinion or point of view. In doing so they infer that the named site and its membership is in full agreement with what they post, which in some cases would or might not necessarily be the case. Masonic social media sites must not be used to convey messages of a political nature, or promote or support any cause which in the words of the Aims And Relationships Of The Craft may 'sow the seeds of discord among members'. Remember your cause, your view is yours, and it is incorrect to assume everyone else has to agree or support it.

In the rare circumstances when posts on Facebook or Twitter have justified intervention, the stance of the Province is to offer words of advice. I thank those Brethren who have recognised such action as being for the good of Freemasonry in general and to avoid bringing Freemasonry into disrepute.



In the first Annual Report published by the United Grand Lodge of England the Deputy Grand Master and soon to be incoming Pro Grand Master Jonathan Spence was quoted as saying "We are a members' organisation and we must ultimately focus on attracting new members..." For many Freemasons this may seem a trite sound bite with its succinctness and concision, however, I am convinced that not only is it right to focus on attracting new members, but we need to significantly expand our efforts.

Why do I think this to be the right course of action? Very simply, without growth in the number of members there is a real possibility that in the worst case scenario the organisation may eventually cease to exist, while in the best case Freemasonry will have to change in a way that might prove unpalatable to many of its members. I don't believe that either scenario is what anyone wants to happen.

As we celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee it is worth reminding ourselves that at the beginning of her reign Freemasonry in England and Wales had circa 500,000 members, twenty years ago that number had fallen to circa 250,000 and today it is nearer 160,000. That is not a trend which any organisation can sustain and survive. In a recent edition of *Freemasonry Today* the Deputy Grand Master reminded us that "We must ensure that Freemasonry enhances its reputation as a thriving organisation that people aspire to join."

He was right to do so, and it is clear from research undertaken by the UGLE that the public perception of Freemasonry is nothing like as negative as a minority would have us believe. In fact I can assure you that many men view Wiltshire Freemasonry as a thriving organisation that they aspire to join.

Attracting men to join Freemasonry is only a stage in the journey, welcoming men into the Lodge and looking after them is equally important, after all we surely want them to enjoy their Freemasonry.

One of the comments I hear is that an individual who is introduced through the internet or website is not as good as the man who is introduced by a member of the Lodge. This comment is generally made without any proof to support the claim and in almost every case is discovered to be without merit. In fact I would be so bold as to assert that the very opposite is true and that Initiates from the 'web' are more likely to be a precious asset to the Lodge and to Freemasonry.

Last year I outlined the Provincial Grand Master's initiative to build on the attraction, engagement, retrieval and education elements of the revised *PATHWAY* programme. I share the view that these four elements are key to delivering the objective of building membership and ensuring the long term sustainability of our Lodges.

During the month of May the team held two Lodge Membership Officer awareness days. Thank you to those Brethren who took the time to attend. We certainly enjoyed the experience and we trust we gave suitable answers to the questions asked.

Finally I would remind you that we have Brethren in the Membership Team, Mentoring Team, and the Learning and Development Team who want to work with Lodges to make sure that together we deliver on the objectives we have been set. This will very much depend on everyone working together, and make no mistake, your Lodge, every Lodge, has a very important part to play. First, by providing every opportunity to conduct Initiation ceremonies within both the normal programme of activities, and additional (emergency) meetings as and when required. Secondly, to dispel the notion that 'we don't do doubles' or 'we don't do emergency meetings' which is not borne out by the historical records of most of the Lodges in Wiltshire, and is not an acceptable reason for delaying the Initiation of a qualified candidate.

Supporting Wiltshire Freemasons....



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

WILTSREGALIA.CO.UK

REEDS HEARING CARE

- Do you find you are tired at the end of the day?
- Are you having problems remembering what has been said to you?
- Do you think young people 'babble' and do not speak clearly?

THESE ARE ALL SIGNS YOU MAY HAVE A SLIGHT IMPAIRMENT IN YOUR HEARING

Consult a local independent professional

Dr. David J Reed BA MSc MBA AuD RHAD

- EAR WAX REMOVAL
- HEARING ASSESSMENTS
- UPTO DATE HEARING AIDS
- PERSONAL ATTENTION
- LIFELONG AFTERCARE
- HEARING PROTECTION

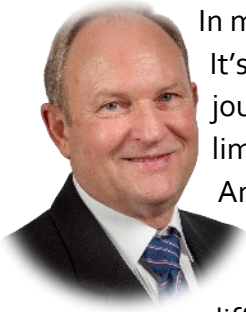


REEDS HEARING CARE

Tel: 01793 692 815

Amnigilda | 4 Raglan Close | Lawn | Swindon | SN13 1JR

Hearing Aids will only be as good as the Audiologist who programmes them



In my travels across the Province, I am often asked what do I get out of being a Freemason? It's a great question and in order to answer it required me to evaluate my own Masonic journey. I know that before I joined my knowledge of Freemasonry was, well let's just say - limited. I was aware of the cliches often used, such as 'it makes good men better' - an Americanism which has much to answer for as opposed to much to commend it. But I didn't really understand or appreciate that by applying the principles of Freemasonry to my life, it had the potential to be life changing, and that it could help me live my life in a different way.

The new made Freemason is encouraged to act honourably and to be charitable, which is not just about giving money but also should reflect our behaviour to one another. This point is reinforced in the presentation of the working tools when we are reminded that part of our moral responsibility is to 'serve a friend or Brother in time of need'. There is the general exhortation that every Freemason should seek to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

When I became a Freemason I could never have imagined I would meet so many people and make so many friends, but I have, and along the way I have shared in the fun and the inevitable sadness that such friendships bring with them.

Being a Freemason has also allowed me the opportunity to practice ancient ritual and perform some wonderful ceremonies. I would never claim to be a great ritualist but I do enjoy the intellectual exercise required to learn special pieces from the ritual book, and I am in awe of Brethren who can perform a charge or give a presentation in a manner resembling the finest theatrical performance. The ceremonial of the Lodge reminds me of my army days but without a sergeant major bellowing commands. I have enjoyed studying the principles of the Craft, and have sought to adapt my daily conduct to reflect the teachings of the Volume of the Sacred Law. In this respect Freemasonry can truly be said to be a 'system of morality'.

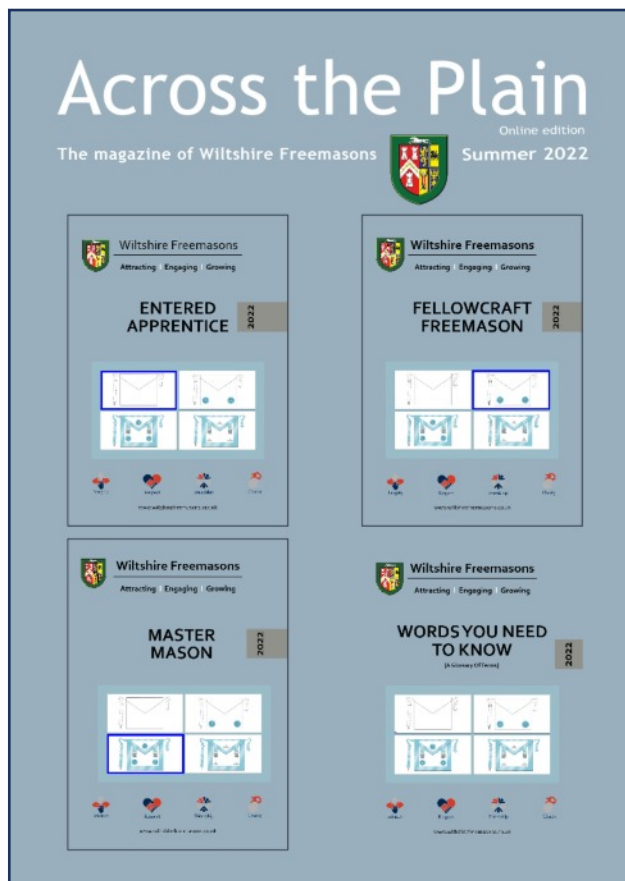
It is also perceived by many of its members as having a philanthropic aspect, something which is recognised not only by the donations made by Lodges, but also the contribution made in supporting worthy causes and registered charities. Charity really is in a Freemason's DNA.

In more modern times we have possibly forgotten that early Freemasons met to discuss and speculate on the great questions of the day. Today we recognise that our members have other interests which link them, and as a result we have seen the introduction and development of various societies, clubs and associations in Wiltshire Freemasonry. What hasn't changed is the importance of understanding the meaning contained in our ritual and reflecting on how on a personal level it contributes to our own development.

Freemasonry means different things to different people, and there are many interpretations on which to speculate. One way in which you can learn more about Freemasonry, its rich ritual and its beautifully impressive ceremonies is to subscribe to Solomon.

At every Freemason's initiation a commitment is made to try and make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge, and perhaps learn something about the history of the organisation or perhaps develop confidence. Solomon is just the tool for every Freemason to do just this.

If you really want to discover what it really means to be a speculative Freemason why not sign into Solomon <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/course/view.php?id=130>



Helping new members to understand the various ceremonies they have undergone is a key part of the role of the Lodge Mentoring Officer. The Provincial Learning & Development Team has produced four new booklets that provide answers to many of the questions asked.

Important information.

While every care is taken in the compilation of Across The Plain, errors or omissions are not the responsibility of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire or the editor.

Opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire or the editor.

Products or businesses advertised in Across The Plain do not carry any endorsement or recommendation by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire or the editor.

All submissions for inclusion in Across The Plain are subject to editorial approval and the editor reserves the right to review, amend or reject all and any copy.

Any images supplied whether used or not become the property of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire. All rights reserved

Advertisement requests are welcome.

Editor: Des Morgan. editor@pglwilts.org.uk

Reviewers: Steve Lee, Colin Cheshire, Alan Colman, Andrew Hargreaves.

Images: Adrian Wooster, Gary Dolphin, Simon Grove.

Royal Arch Communication Officer: Mark Fuller.

Twitter: @wiltspgl

pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Speculation

So what is speculation? The most common definition is as follows 'guessing possible answers to a question without having enough information to be certain'. Such a definition supports the academic position that dignifies speculation as mere theory and the speculator as being someone who is trying to guess what may in fact be unknowable.

Which brings me nicely onto two subjects of speculation which dominate conversations between Freemasons at this time, and one which dominates the national media.

The first is why has the Provincial Grand Master chosen to retire earlier than his patent of appointment allows for, coupled with, who will replace him? On this matter the Provincial Grand Master has explained that in 2023 the Province will enter a five year period of festival. He feels that it would be better, purely for practical reasons, for his successor to determine the direction the Wiltshire 2028 Festival should take; and that requires the new PrGM to be in control for the entire period of the festival.

With regard to the Provincial Grand Master's successor, well that's a decision which has now been made and I can confirm that VW Bro John Reid has been appointed Provincial Grand Master (Designate) and will be installed as the fifteenth holder of the office in October. (See page 19)

Having dealt with one area of speculation, let's move to the second which concerns the festival itself, and can be divided into two issues. The first is when will it start, while the second is what will the target be? Great questions and both will be revealed in a timely manner.

However, I can give you a hint on both the official launch date and the target - the festival will be launched officially in 2023 and the target will be more than we raised in 2017.

Speculating what might or might not happen is a real effort, probably unproductive and absolutely tiring.

Oh, yes the third area of speculation. Who will be the next Prime Minister? Thankfully, the BoC gives me the perfect 'out' on this one. We don't discuss politics, or offer opinions on candidates, as to do so could sow the seeds of discord among our members.

Note from the editor: Articles appearing in the Monthly Newsletter or Across the Plain have a number of purposes, to inform, to educate, to entertain and to challenge. Not every piece written will meet with universal approbation, but neither are they intended to offend. The editor is delighted to receive your views editor@pglwilts.org.uk

Helping to explain the journey.... David Little PAGDC PrGMent

For many Freemasons the journey they undertake between the three degrees is seldom properly explained to them, and it was with this in mind that the Learning and Development Team put together four easy to read (and hopefully to understand) booklets that appear on the front cover of this Summer's edition of Across the Plain. The publications, aptly called 'The Wiltshire Booklets' are available from the Provincial Communication Team who can be contacted by email pcowiltshire@gmail.com

The first three booklets cover the three ceremonies undertaken by a Craft Freemason, the fourth is a dictionary of words which are commonplace in Freemasonry together with a brief explanation of what they mean. The Mentoring Team, and the Learning and Development Team encourage every Lodge to use the Wiltshire Booklets to enhance the membership experience of every Brother in the Lodge.

In addition to the Wiltshire Booklets, the Learning and Development Team has produced two booklets covering the role of the Lodge Mentor, and the Lodge Membership Officer.

The Wiltshire Booklets are not exhaustive works and any suggestions for improvements are welcome.



Education and Training different sides of learning....

Education is defined as the process of gaining knowledge, skill, and development from study or training, whereas training, is defined as the process of learning the skills one needs to do a particular job or activity.

Both education and training are different sides of learning. The main difference between education and training is theory and practice; education is involved with theory whereas training is involved with practical skills. In education, you learn theory; in training, you learn how to apply those theories to practical situations.

The Province organises education, and training sessions for Lodge officers and members. If you are interested in attending a course that is designed to help you make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge please speak to your Lodge Mentor or Lodge Visiting Officer.



Claire Garrett, CEO of The Harbour Project in Swindon presented with a cheque by Gooch Lodge No.1295 members Paul Moffatt and Howard Jones

***We're flying
for you***



Wiltshire
Air Ambulance
funded by you, flying for you



Calling all Master Masons....



In the Winter 2021 edition of *Across the Plain* I wrote about how my thoughts are constantly directed to how the Province can improve the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of Royal Arch Masonry in Wiltshire. I do not apologise for returning to this theme, but do so on the basis that the United Grand Lodge of England and the Supreme Grand Chapter of England have established a need to reinforce the indissoluble link between Craft Freemasonry and the Royal Arch, with the Royal Arch being considered the completion of a Freemason's journey in 'pure Antient Masonry'. I have always put forward the proposition that if a man is to be persuaded to join an organisation, that is any organisation, there must be a reason for him to do so.

For some the reason is professional whereby membership is essential to his employment; for others it is recognition of an achievement, in this I think of E Comp Michael Barratt who very recently was elected to become a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Becoming a member of the Royal Arch will not improve your employment or career prospects, and I would not for one moment suggest its as prestigious as the Royal Astronomical Society. However, I can assure you that it will be an enjoyable experience, and yes, you can reach for the stars.

The unique relationship which exists between the Craft and the Royal Arch is clearly enunciated and can be found on page one of the Book of Constitutions under the heading Preliminary Declaration, and its worth repeating today. *By the solemn Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of Free-Masons of England in December 1813, it was 'declared and pronounced that pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Masons, including the Supreme order of the Holy Royal Arch'.*

Although it's true the Royal Arch might seem only a foot note in the Declaration, it is there writ large and for all to see. Its inclusion in such an important document as the Preliminary Declaration persuades me that our ancient Brethren recognised and acknowledged the significance of the Royal Arch to pure Antient Masonry. For this reason the Provincial team is working hard on new initiatives to promote the Royal Arch to new Master Masons.

Perhaps the Unique Selling Point (USP) of the Royal Arch is that it is recognised as the completion of a Freemason's journey in pure Antient Masonry; maybe we are looking too hard for a reason to sell the virtues and advantages of the Royal Arch, when in fact there are none beside what we have described.

My wish for the future remains exactly as I have set out in previous articles, it is to see a substantial increase in the number of Wiltshire Craft Freemasons joining the Royal Arch. I know that the Craft executive shares my ambition and is equally determined to make sure that no stone is left unturned in the quest to achieve our goal. Which leads me quite nicely to address each and every Companion, and to ask you to be the agent of change, the person who makes a difference, because growth is not going to be achieved unless each and every one of us promotes the Royal Arch within our Craft Lodges. Yes, we have Royal Arch representatives within our Lodges, and as important and committed as they are, they alone must not and cannot be expected to be our only source of promoting this wonderful Order. We all have a responsibility to take the Royal Arch forward, simply because no one else is going to do it for us.

I believe in the principle of giving members a greater sense of belonging, pride, and ownership and it is my hope and wish that you will join me on the journey to make these aspirations a reality.

This is where you belong....



One of the most pleasurable aspects of my role as Grand Superintendent is presiding at the Annual Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter. It is an occasion when I have the opportunity to meet many old friends, reminisce on old times, and share with all the Companions my hope and aspiration for the future of the Royal Arch in Wiltshire.

I was delighted to offer my congratulations to the Companions who I had had the pleasure of appointing and promoting, their preferment being in recognition of their continued contribution and commitment to their Chapters and the Province.

It was also a great pleasure to acknowledge the promotion and appointment in Grand Rank of E Comp Peter Read who is promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner, and E Comp Michael Taylor appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

The Provincial team has also seen some changes especially the appointment of E Comp Simon Ellingham as the Deputy Grand Superintendent; while E Comps Andrew Tiffin and Roger Pounder were appointed as 2nd and 3rd Provincial Grand Principal respectively. E Comp Pounder will be Invested at a later date..

It is only right and proper that I take this opportunity to thank Excellent Companion Colin Cheshire as he steps down as Deputy Grand Superintendent, a post he has held for the last seven years. Colin is a totally dedicated Freemason, a very special Companion and someone who has worked indefatigably for the Royal Arch in this Province. I believe I can say without fear of contradiction that he is arguably one of the most committed and hard working advocates for Freemasonry in the Province.

While our numbers have reduced due to the period of Masonic suspension, there is good news. Many Chapters are reporting multiple candidates waiting to join, and I am optimistic that we will increase our membership year on year as we return to some form of normality. But we must not forget those members who have been hesitant to return to our Convocations, let them know they have been missed and their contribution and attendance is valued by the Chapter, encourage them to return to enjoy our ceremonies and the companionship of the Order.



The Royal Arch Provincial Executive visit Bradford-on-Avon

Clearly it had not been one of Charlie's better days. His normally amiable features displayed a generous measure of deep thought and possibly deeper fatigue but onlookers were certainly sold short on sweetness and light. Fred eyed him amiably and, hoping to lighten the mood, gently enquired if Charlie's 'latest' was still teething and the nights were restless?

Charlie's reply was somewhat guttural, closely akin to a Glaswegian clearing his throat. From long experience Fred identified this response as a firm negative. There was pause for barely a moment before the dam burst.

The DC in the Lodge I was visiting last night singled me out for throwing a bread roll at Tubby Trencherman during Dinner. His roll had hit me first. Hard. Fell in my soup. All the speeches, everyone, gave me stick for the rest of the evening. Made me a laughing stock. Who does the DC think he is? We do the serious bit in the Lodge Room, we come to enjoy ourselves in the dining room. The DC's a dinosaur. He's the reason young Freemasons leave Masonry.

Fred eyed Charlie cautiously. Satisfied all the steam had now left the boiler he felt free to ask innocently if the Master had actually gavelled for the Chaplain to say Grace.

Of course, snapped Charlie, It was a Masonic Dinner wasn't it, and what's that got to do with it anyway?'

Everything, my old Groucho, everything. The gavel is an emblem of the Master's authority and it tells everyone that, when out of the bar, you are once again under his orders. As the Chaplain has invoked the Most High on the proceedings that should also suggest a little respect and decorum might be appropriate. After all we don't want to be discourteous in our toasts to the Queen, the Craft and Grand Master, do we?

Come off it, Fred. We're at a dining service not a funeral service. We've always let our hair down at dinner - and you know it. Eyeing Fred's bald patch he added somewhat ungallantly even if accurately: For those of us who still can, of course.

Fred's inner voice feared that Charlie might be losing the Masonic plot and Charlie's next outburst demonstrated that the inner voice was absolutely correct.

Look, Fred, we younger members want a bit of fun. Work is hard and competitive, the family's all go, the week-ends are full of shopping and duty visits – so our Masonic night out each month is the one and only time for a drink with our mates, have a laugh, rib the old boys and do a bit of good with our Lodge raffles. For Heaven's sake, what's not to like?

No one begrudges fun, Charlie, but a Masonic dinner was never meant to rival a knees-up at the local rugby club. Over the past few years our dinners have been ruined by a steadily increasing intrusion of party games – Dutch auctions, 'heads and tails', copper bowls, raffles galore. You name it.

Fred paused – but high emotion swept him onwards. *'The old Freemasons Charges said that 'you may enjoy yourselves with innocent mirth' and every Masonic dinner I've ever attended - and that's quite a few – has still managed to combine proper respect for those old Masonic traditions - inseparable from our Order - with that touch of innocent mirth.*

Charlie's chin jutted forward, his eyes narrowed and his nostrils flared – endowing him somewhat with the appearance of a ram proving to his flock he was the Alpha Male to court. *What old traditions?*

I'll give you two for starters. The glint in Fred's eye could have cut diamonds. *Respect for authority. The Master has been elected by us all to govern our proceedings - in the dining room and Lodge room alike. Only*

the After Proceedings....

the Master - never the IPM or the DC - is allowed to handle the gavel as it represents his elected authority. Therefore when the gavel speaks, Charlie-boy, you listen promptly and you listen in silence.

Secondly, respect for decorum. Our dinners are formal affairs governed by the Book of Constitutions. When you take your wife to The White Hart or The Red Lion for a celebration dinner you don't start shouting across to folk at another table or wander round, slapping shoulders and catching up. The only man given freedom to leave his chair at a Masonic dinner is the Lodge DC - and only then when about his ceremonial duties. No shouting either. We are all entitled to dine in dignity.

Charlie was having none of it. You've conveniently forgotten the Stewards. What about the raffle tickets and the drinks?'

For his part Fred felt Charlie needed a few pointers on good manners. 'Many a pleasant evening meal has been spoilt by two or three stewards noisily working the tables, selling cloakroom tickets to those who neither want nor can afford them. If a raffle is required then place the tickets on the tables and allow those who want to take part to do so. They will, they will. Drinks? In a well-run lodge these can be ordered at the bar beforehand. There's absolutely no need to wander around in the middle of a meal holding a couple glasses of beer. Anyway with problems of drink and drive there can be few occasions today justifying a mid-meal refill.'

'Come to think about it there is a third tradition. Respect for one's Brethren. You say once a month you want to let your hair down with some fun and games. What about those who live alone and once a month come in wanting to enjoy a quiet chat with an old friend from yesteryear over a decent meal and a glass of wine. Aren't they entitled to have their wishes respected too?'

Dander up, Charlie was giving absolutely no quarter. 'Look, Old Feller, you're living in the Stone Age. If Freemasonry is to survive it needs to listen to the younger generation, not the old. Following your traditions Masonic numbers are going downhill and fast. Moral? Open your eyes and ears to the new, Methuselah, don't hide behind the old.'

Fred was honest enough to recognise a grain of truth was hidden in there somewhere ...but he still had some bullets in the barrel. 'Not so fast, Charlie. Many chaps who spend their lives in 'smart casual' with TV dinners tell us they like dressing up in 'black tie' once in a while. They also enjoy being served with the four course meal that a busy home life rarely has time for ...and, yes, they do value having a solid platform of honourable tradition in the fast changing world around them. '

Charlie flung up his hands to dispel Fred's arguments as if batting away a swarm of irritating but really insignificant midges. 'You still don't get it, Fred, do you? Your generation maintains Edwardian traditions as a protective shield. They save you from having to face up to everything new and cope with its challenge. For younger Masons – with their Twitter, iPads, Skype, Tom-Tom, Bitcoins, the Cloud, whatever – change is a normal part of life and we welcome, we value, the new, the unexpected, the latest trend setter from Apple and Silicon Valley... and for us this acceptance of change and its excitement becomes a natural part of our DNA at play as well as work. Cut us some slack, can't you. Just accept that today's Masonic dinners need to respond to all this untapped energy and will never be the same again.'

They walked home in an unusual silence, un-persuaded by the other and content with their own arguments... only wishing, perhaps, they had shaped them a little more powerfully.

After all only time will tell which of the two will be proved right.

Images from across the Province....

The Companions of Gooch Chapter No.1295 held their May meeting at which Bruce Broughton-Johnson was Installed as MEZ after which he Invested Paul Sharp as Haggai and welcomed the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield who was Invested as Joshua.

A numerically strong Provincial team led by Grand Superintendent John Reid, Deputy Simon Ellingham and the two Principals, Andrew Tiffin and Mark Lovell attended the Chapter.

Wiltshire is very fortunate to have a Craft and Royal Arch executive that actively supports Lodges and Chapters especially at Installation.



A very happy MEZ with Haggai and Joshua

St Patrick's Lodge 295 (IC) which meets in Warminster is the oldest travelling Military Lodge in the world. Warranted as a Travelling Lodge in The Royal Dragoon Guards and can trace its lineage from The First Regiment of Horse (1st Irish Horse) Blue Horse in 1758.

Wiltshire offers congratulations to Lodge Secretary John Torley was recently honoured with a promotion to Past Grand Deacon (IC)

The stated communications of the Lodge are held on the last Saturday of each month at 12:00 (midday), the exigencies of the service permitting. Thereafter, we hold a Festive Board, at which guest are especially welcome. The Lodge does not meet in August or December. The Installation is normally held during the November meeting.



John Torley PGD (IC)
Secretary St Patrick's Lodge No.295 (IC)

Lodge of Remembrance No.4037 is playing its part in attracting good men to join the Lodge and Wiltshire Freemasonry.

The latest Initiate joins three other Entered Apprentice Freemasons and two Fellow Craft Freemasons. It really is a wonderful sight to see new members enjoying their Freemasonry and the Brethren of Lodge of Remembrance No.4037 have every right to be proud of their incredible achievement.

We are very fortunate to have so many good men wanting to join Wiltshire Freemasonry.



A wonderful sight for any Lodge, Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft Freemasons proud members of Lodge of Remembrance No.4037

Images from across the Province....

Wiltshire Summer Lodge No.9548 is a peripatetic Lodge travelling from place to place within the Province and meeting in various Masonic Halls in the Province. This unique feature persuaded twelve members of the Stonecutters Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association to become joining members of the Lodge.

A superb evening was enhanced as the Lodge Initiated a new Freemason on the same evening. Congratulations Brother Iain Atkinson and all the Brethren involved in the ceremony.



Wiltshire Summer Lodge No.9548 welcomes Bro Iain and twelve new joining members

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS



TLC
Teddies for
Loving Care
Wiltshire



The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock is a long time advocate for a more 'joined up approach' to membership and promoting the twin aims of attracting and engaging members. What he has made clear, and UGLE supports him 100%, is that we cannot and must not trade the values and traditions that have served Freemasonry so well for over 300 years in order to obtain a quick fix solution to member numbers.

Equally, we must recognise that expecting good men to wait for many months before they can become part of Wiltshire Freemasonry is not a sustainable proposition. Reducing the time between their initial enquiry and their reception in to a Lodge is not traducing a principled tradition, rather it is acknowledging the reality of the way in which life is lived today.

Have your say!

Have you a question to ask, or is there something you want to know about Freemasonry. Maybe you just want to express a view or make a comment, whatever it is why not write to the Provincial Grand Master?

ATPLetters@pglwilts.org.uk

All letters and emails are subject to editorial control. Regrettably due to space not all letters can be published

Is this for you?

Would you like to play a part in promoting Freemasonry in the Province, can you write media copy? The Communications Team would be pleased to hear from you. pc0@pglwilts.org.uk

Barry Cooper

As many of you will be aware Barry Cooper was recently called to the Grand Lodge Above. He was a supporter of the communication team and a contributor to the pages of ATP.

IF YOU HAVE A STORY
TO TELL
LET US KNOW



editor@pglwilts.org.uk

The Provincial Grand Master replies to your question:

Q. I have heard on the grapevine that it is intended to ask Lodges, and the Brethren to make a significant contribution to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. Given the cost of living crisis which is affecting everyone, how can this be fair?



A. Thank you for this very interesting and thought provoking question. I really do appreciate the point you make and I know it is a matter which occupies the thoughts of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the festival team.

In answering your question let me first say that the grapevine is not always the best or most reliable place from which to obtain information. In his column the editor makes a valid point when he writes that "Speculating about what might or might not happen is a real effort, probably unproductive, and absolutely tiring". I really do agree with him and would urge Brethren to avoid trying to second guess what will happen.

Secondly, let me say that on balance you may well be correct and the festival target might well be set at an amount in excess of what was achieved in 2017. However, it would also be correct to point out that the Province benefits hugely from the support given by the MCF to various Wiltshire charities and to Wiltshire Freemasons who find themselves in distressed circumstances.

The individual charities and the amounts donated to them are advertised by the MCF and this information is fed through to Lodge Charity Stewards, and Lodge Secretaries. As I am sure you will appreciate, the help given to individual members and their dependents must quite properly remain confidential; albeit even this support is quantified with an aggregate total.

Having spoken with the Provincial Almoner, and the Provincial Charity Steward I am confident that Wiltshire is a net beneficiary of MCF support; accordingly I feel sure that Wiltshire Freemasons and our Lodges will be generous supporters of the 2028 Festival. A subject the Deputy Provincial Grand Master refers to in his short piece on the adjoining page.

Let me also address the matter of 'fairness'. It has been said that fairness is an idea conceived by someone who has the power to make such pronouncements, and that if you expected fairness, you would be forever disappointed. However, all Freemasons should be advocates for fairness. But what is fairness? Fairness does not necessarily mean everyone gets the same, fairness can also mean that everyone gets what they need. The highest virtue is not to give or to take, it is to share. In this very simple truth we can validate the true meaning of charity as proposed in what we now refer to as The Charity Charge and given to every Freemason at his Initiation.

As I come the end of my tenure as Provincial Grand Master there is one thought that will stay with me forever, and of which I am incredibly proud. That is the Wiltshire Freemasons' strap line 'charity, its in a freemason's DNA'.

Hospices, we owe them so much....



Since 1980, **Prospect Hospice** has provided the only dedicated end-of-life care service for people living in Swindon, Marlborough and north east Wiltshire. The Prospect team bring care, comfort and confidence, around the clock, every day of the year.

Prospect provide excellent, personalised and compassionate care for everyone in the community who is affected by a life-limiting illness. Working in close partnership with other organisations – and specifically with local health and social care professionals – Prospect staff ensure that anyone can access the best possible care whenever and wherever they need it.

Prospect Hospice provides a broad range of services to thousands of patients, carers and family members every year. A dedicated team of nurses, doctors and therapists support patients at the hospice in Wroughton, in their own homes and care homes. Carers and family members can also access a range of free support services.

Through outreach work – talking to businesses, schools, GP surgeries and community groups – the charity raises awareness about life-limiting illness and end-of-life care, and encourage conversations about death and dying. The aim is to break down any barriers that might stop people from accessing Prospect services.

Prospect Hospice is a charity, funded primarily by the local community. Each year it costs several million pounds to provide the care that patients and their families depend on. Less than a third of funding comes from statutory organisations like the NHS – the rest is raised from organisations such as the Freemasons.



For over 40 years **Dorothy House** has been an active part of the local community. Their teams recognise that every life is special. Their mission is to make sure that anyone in their community who is facing a life-limiting illness can live well, and die well.

They do this by understanding who their patients are and what is most important to them. Together, they create individual care journeys which start at diagnosis and continue with bereavement support for family members, carers and children.

Without the backing of the community, they would not be able to care for as many people as they do and be there for local families who need them most. Your support means the world to Dorothy House. That's because any donation or gift, large or small, means that people living with a life-limiting illness get the care and support they and their families need to make the most of the time they have together.



Every year, **Salisbury Hospice** provides specialist palliative care to 1,000 local people with life-limiting conditions. Through the generosity and support of local people, Salisbury Hospice can continue to offer nursing and medical care, emotional and practical support, welfare advice, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, complementary therapies and creative activities.

These services are provided free to patients and their families – either at the hospice, in the community or in their own homes. They don't just help people in the last few weeks of their lives – they often provide care for up to a year or longer.

It costs £2.4 million to run the hospice annually – and less than 45% is funded by the NHS. As a charity, Salisbury Hospice aims to raise £1.5 million each year towards these costs to ensure vital services continue. Without the generous support of the Freemasons of Salisbury and Wiltshire the hospice would not be able to achieve this.

Planning for the future....



It may seem odd to even mention succession planning when talking about Freemasonry, but it is important to identify and develop new, potential leaders who can move into leadership roles when they become vacant. Succession planning is used to ensure continuity in the way in which an organisation or even a part of an organisation is managed, and as a method to prevent any semblance of a vacuum occurring. In an organisation such as the monarchy, succession is settled by a clearly defined order. In business, succession planning means developing people with managing or leadership potential to fill key hierarchical positions in the company.

In our Lodges succession planning is often nothing more than following the system referred to as being on the 'progression'. This system presupposes that every Freemason has the skill and ability to fulfil the roles they are being asked to undertake. It also assumes that every Freemason has the desire to undertake an active office in the Lodge, whereas my experience after talking to many of the new Freemasons in the Province persuades me that this is often not the case at all. In fact it is increasingly the case that new Brethren are reluctant to commit to the rigours of learning ritual and ceremonial at such an early stage in their Masonic journey and yet some Lodges continue to insist that the methodology of the 1950s is appropriate for today.

The Members' Pathway programme urges every Lodge to include succession planning as part of the Membership Action Plan, the first of the four elements of the programme. The UGLE has taken a very positive stance on the issue and recommends every Lodge positively supports succession planning.

- **Start early:** one of the most common problems is people not giving succession planning the time it deserves early enough. Unless forced to discuss it, many Lodges miss the opportunity to plan for a smooth transition well enough in advance. This can lead to issues later on. Start thinking about it as early as possible.
- **Be honest:** sometimes the hardest thing is starting the conversation about whether a Brother is looking to advance in the Lodge or are they happy to sit on the 'back bench' and soak up their experience of Freemasonry. Whatever you do, don't make assumptions. The lack of a clear plan can lead to unease on both sides, with senior Brethren feeling a sense that there's no future for them, or younger workers waiting for them to move on so they can attain office. It should never be about having light blues in all the offices, the aim should be to have the right person in the right office. I have been particularly pleased to hear about Lodges who are experimenting with keeping Brethren in their respective offices for a period of two years rather than the seemingly obligatory one year. It's not a new approach as it is already practiced with officers such as the secretary, treasurer, chaplain, almoner, mentor and others.
- **Harness the expertise of the senior Brethren:** Think about how senior members can pass on their skills and expertise, so it doesn't leave your Lodge when they do. If you're considering an administrative succession, could they work alongside their successor for 6-12 months, then continue part-time in a mentor-style capacity to support the new officer. There is no doubt that insight gained over the years, processes, and tips to help smooth over any issues can be very helpful in the well running of the Lodge.
- **Develop your deputies:** Never assume succession is a simple matter of a deputy stepping up to a leadership position when a leader retires. Deputies can sometimes be more used to working in the wake of their leader, and haven't had enough opportunity to be challenged in the leadership role before actually stepping up to the position permanently. So invest in their learning, development and training before that leader retires, and give them the opportunity to make key decisions, coached by

- Find an effective way for generations to learn from each other: from younger workers training older colleagues in using technology and social media, to innovative approaches like reverse mentoring, there are plenty of ways all members can develop further to sharpen their talents and keep their skills fresh.

Senior members need to accept that younger, less experienced members may be able to see a faster, better way of doing something. It's not just about technology – senior members should embrace the fact that you're never too old to learn. Be prepared to try new approaches to situations and then evaluate how they worked, so both sides can learn from the experience, promoting positive communication and collaboration.

- Learn to let go: one of the biggest challenges with succession planning is the difficulty many Brethren have in letting go – especially if they've been in office for a long period and see it as their 'baby'. If someone has been in a role for a long time, it's easy to feel that there are lots of tasks only they can do. It's really important to objectively approach issues around delegating, and working alongside the successor can be extremely valuable. Emotions can run high, clouding judgment and making it harder to focus on coaching and passing on knowledge – so an objective third party can help keep these feelings out of the planning process.
- Give it the time it deserves: planning an effective succession strategy can be difficult to balance with more immediate Lodge needs. But that's no reason to put it off. Little and often is the key – allow time for regular conversations (followed up with simple actions), sharing contacts, techniques and tips on how to do things. This will be much easier to manage than doing nothing and consequently getting to a point where it's urgent and takes over everything.
- Finally, be flexible.: a Lodge succession plan doesn't have to be carved in stone; it's an evolving conversation, not a binding contract. Update it regularly as circumstances change. Both the Lodge and the individual will need to adapt to the unexpected – but doing this within a clear strategy is always more effective, and remember succession planning is a talent and organisational improvement initiative that enables a Lodge to grow and thrive now and in the future.

I am confident that with a formal succession plan in place Wiltshire Lodges will succeed and grow.

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

WELCOME

THURSDAY 6TH OCTOBER

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

THE CIVIC
ST STEPHEN'S PLACE
TROWBRIDGE



Liberty Organs

For all pipe organ tuning, restoration services and advice

01225 766884
enquiries@libertyorgans.co.uk
www.libertyorgans.co.uk

Derek Gibbens MBA, FCII, DipPFS,
Independent Financial Adviser

Personal office: 19 Crow Lane, Wilton,
Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 0HB

Tel: **01722 744556**

web: www.afhwm.co.uk/derek-gibbens



SteeleDavis

For all your building and maintenance requirements.

Devizes **01380 728738**

E: enquiries@steeledavis.co.uk
www.steeledavis.co.uk



APEST Solutions

Complete Pest Control for commercial and residential clients.

Rats, Mice, Flies, Wasps, Moles, Rabbits, Pigeons, Fleas etc.

Peter Hatt BPCA/RSPH Certified
Tel/Fax **01380 730154**
Mobile: **07725 656734**
E: apestsolutions@btinternet.com
www.apestsolutions.com

The BARBER Shop

Traditional Gents Hairdresser

Professional Friendly Barbering for all ages.
Concessions for OAPs and children.

1 Wood Street, Royal Wootton Bassett,
Swindon SN4 7BB

Tel: 01793 850950
www.barbershopswindon.com



AJR Data Recovery Services

We recover data from computers, hard drives, USB devices, cameras, iphones, ipads, tape drives etc.

No data no charge

Contact Adrian Road on
01249 715425

www.ajrdata.com
Free Quotes

we recover data from anything that stores data

When you want to be in the picture phone Adrian on

Adrian Wooster

Professional Photographer

07922 245262

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS



TLC

Teddies for Loving Care
Wiltshire

PGL of Wiltshire TLC
E0188

To make a donation scan with phone camera to open or visit URL

<https://gtap.uk/e0188>



TLC Wiltshire now has its own unique Relief Chest which makes giving so much easier and allows you to Gift Aid your donations

tlcwiltshire@pglwilts.org.uk

Supporters Page A big thank you to all our supporters and advertisers



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

WILTSREGALIA.CO.UK



WILTSSHIRE
REGALIA

CMD RECRUITMENT

YOUR LOCAL AND INDEPENDENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY

NEED HELP RECRUITING? LOOKING FOR YOUR PERFECT ROLE? WE CAN HELP.

We tailor our service to fit your requirements.
We regularly place applicants into temporary, permanent and contract job positions.
CMD pride ourselves in creating successful, long-term relationships with both our business clients and our candidates.

CMD Recruitment specialise in the recruitment in the following sectors:

- Industrial & Driving
- Engineering & Technical
- Administration & Customer Services
- Accountancy & Finance
- Sales & Marketing
- PA & Secretarial
- IT & Design
- HR & Training

For a more in depth understanding of the services that we provide, please contact your local office, visit our website www.cmdrecruitment.com or email enquiries@cmdrecruitment.com

REC Member

15 Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1HT
t 01380 738300

Unit 5 Fourbrooks Business Park, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9PP
t 01249 813843

4 Lancaster House, Lancaster Park, Bowerhill, Melksham, SN12 6TT
t 01225 805080

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)



4E

4 ELEMENTS CLOTHING

[4 elements clothing.co.uk](http://4elements clothing.co.uk)

15% Discount Code: WiltshireMason

Arktis



MUSTO



Treksta



Sharing the work....

For some Lodges the prospect of having a ceremony to perform is nothing more than wishful thinking, but why should that be so? In Wiltshire we are very fortunate to be experiencing a renaissance in terms of membership enquiries and engaging with men who are interested in who we are and what we do.

With the emphasis being on Lodges welcoming Initiates into the Order there is an almost inevitable backlog of Passing and Raising ceremonies to be undertaken; and that's where sharing the work becomes a reality.

In fact sharing the work is a perfect example of Lodges working in harmony, and it's not as uncommon as you may think. Recently when Sarum Lodge No.5137 which meets in Salisbury looked for a suitable date when it could Pass an Entered Apprentice, it found itself in a spot of bother. With another Super Saturday looming with four (yes four) Initiates the Lodge needed some help. And it came in the form of Lodge of Innocence & Morality No.9587 who agreed to Pass Brother Toby Stiggants on behalf of his mother Lodge.

Toby was not an exemplary candidate by accident - he attended Lodge of Innocence & Morality No.9587 rehearsals in order that he could practice his words and get to know the Brethren of the Lodge.

Now that is the sign of a young Freemason keen to make a daily advancement.



ATTRACT / ENGAGE / RETRIEVE

Brethren from the North, East, South and West came to enjoy a spectacular Sarum Super Saturday and welcome FOUR initiates into the Wiltshire Masonic Family.

Lodge members Initiated two candidates in the first half while the Provincial team conducted proceedings for the other two candidates after a short call off. Particular mentions go to Bro Colin James Russell who performed the Charity Charge and Entered Apprentices Bro Josh Whitfield and Bro Eric Mamphey who presented the working tools to the four candidates.

Its always nice to be able to welcome visitors to the Lodge and so many turned up that more chairs had to be brought up from the dining room. There were even four Brethren from Northumberland.

Steven Darlington wowed everyone with his explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board. The ceremony was then polished off with a mode of preparation lecture by Bro Barker from Hampshire.

A wonderful Sarum Super Saturday.



Visitors came from afar - even from Northumberland



Everyone enjoyed meeting and making friends



A warm welcome to our latest Initiates who joined the Wiltshire Masonic family at Sarum's Super Saturday

The Waiting is over....

The MW The Grand Master has been pleased to appoint VW Bro John Reid as the fifteenth Provincial Grand Master for the Masonic Province of Wiltshire. John will succeed RW Bro Philip Bullock who has previously announced his retirement which will become effective on Wednesday 5th October 2022. It has also been announced that John will continue in office as the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Wiltshire for the unexpired term of his Patent, after which the future position will be subject to a review process. This decision means that Wiltshire will join other Provinces in having a single Ruler for the Craft and the Royal Arch.



The appointment of a new Provincial Grand Master is an important event in the life of a Province. In many respects it can be compared to the accession of a new Sovereign taking the throne upon the death of the previous King or Queen. Albeit a new Sovereign succeeds to the throne as soon as his or her predecessor dies and is proclaimed as soon as possible at an Accession Council in St James's Palace.

Perhaps, given the time taken to select a candidate some might think of the event as being more akin to a papal conclave, a gathering of the College of Cardinals convened to elect a bishop of Rome, also known as the Pope. While there is no white smoke emanating from the chimney of Freemasons' Hall (do they have chimneys?) one can only assume a gathering of the great and the good considered the matter and having done so, made a recommendation to the Grand Master that he was pleased to confirm.

What didn't happen was an election directly by members as is the case with the Grand Master, and the Master of a Freemasons' Lodge who is elected by the Brethren in open Lodge assembled. In both cases the election is usually endorsed by an act of sustained 'acclamation' on the basis that there is invariably only one candidate proposed.

To understand the process, and answer the question as to 'why is a Provincial Grand Master not elected by his Province?' we need only refer to the Book of Constitutions; for there is scarcely a case of difficulty can occur in the Lodge which a reference to that book will not set right. A Provincial Grand Master is appointed by the MW The Grand Master (Rule 63 BoC) who issues a patent which invests the appointee with appropriate authority. The rule also sets out the timeline for the new Provincial Grand Master's installation, and the limits of his function prior to his installation.

Philip Bullock spoke with your editor and said, "I welcome the decision of the MW Grand Master to appoint John to the office of Provincial Grand Master for this wonderful Province of Wiltshire. John is well known in the Province and will, I am sure, be well received by the Brethren. I have spoken with John and offered him my full support and that of the Provincial team as he approaches October and takes over the reins. I am sure that the Brethren of Wiltshire will give him 100% support in future years. I wish him well."

John has said, "It is a great honour and privilege to be entrusted with the office of Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire. While I know many Brethren across the province know of me, I am acutely aware that isn't quite the same as being able to claim they know me. That is something I will address very quickly, as I do believe Freemasonry is an organisation that can only thrive with human interaction. I am grateful for the support of Philip who has been most generous in briefing me".

John will be Installed at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. The meeting will be in two parts (see Summons on page 32 for further details. But what is involved in the Installation of a PrGM - read on...

Installing a Provincial Grand Master....

Every Freemason knows that the first Grand Lodge was formed in London in 1717 by four private Lodges meeting in that city; all of the first private Lodges warranted by it were within easy communicating distance of London. As Lodges became more distant an intermediate level of administration was considered necessary.

Under the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), three terms now exist for this intermediate level of administration. In the counties of England and Wales there are Provinces, each headed by a Provincial Grand Master. In overseas territories under the Grand Lodge's jurisdiction, the equivalent unit is called a District, headed by a District Grand Master. Since 2002 the facility has also existed to create an equivalent layer of administration and management in any urban conglomeration, to be known as a Metropolitan Area, and headed by a Metropolitan Grand Master. The only such Metropolitan Area so far created is that of London. (MetGL).

The history of the creation of Provinces is quite interesting, based on a supposed requirement to coordinate the growth of the Craft it soon lost some of its lustre when a request was made for fees to cover expenses. The rural Freemasons saw no reason why, as they had managed perfectly well without a Grand Lodge, that they should be required to send money to London. (some things never change).

The very first Provincial Grand Master was appointed for Cheshire in 1725 although the process of dividing England and Wales into Provinces didn't really have much traction until 1727.

It wasn't until 1775 that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire was formed, which means that in 2025 the Province will celebrate its 250 year anniversary. In the period referred to the Province has been under the expert guidance of only fourteen Provincial Grand Masters (Thomas Dunckerley was only ever a Superintendent in charge).

The Provincial Grand Master is appointed by the MW Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent, and is given a Patent of Appointment, by which he delegates to him the authority to govern his private Lodges within the Province. Just over a month ago RW Bro Philip Bullock announced his retirement as Provincial Grand Master (see page 2) this necessitated the appointment of a new head of Freemasonry for Wiltshire; a process shrouded in mystery and which makes speculative Freemasonry just a little bit more interesting.

Much speculation and earnest discussion on who will be appointed has dominated the conversations of many Brethren. What we now know is that VW Bro John Reid is the Grand Master's choice to be the 15th Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire. The Provincial Secretary has informed every Lodge Secretary, and today every member has the opportunity to register to attend Provincial Grand Lodge on Thursday 6th October (see page 32). It will be a wonderful day as the new Provincial Grand Master is Installed according to ancient custom. To following might be of interest in explaining the Installation process.

Just as every Master of a private Lodge will have received "the benefit of Installation the better to qualify him for the discharge of the duties of his important trust." So every new Provincial Grand Master is Installed in a ceremony containing elements familiar to all installed masters. He takes a solemn obligation in which he promises, to the best of his skill and ability, zealously, faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of his high office, and in common with every Master of a Lodge, he promises to observe and enforce all the Laws, Regulations and Ordinances of the Grand Lodge. Additionally, he promises to uphold and preserve the Antient Charges, Landmarks and Usages of the Order. The Antient Charges are well known to most Freemasons, as they are set out in the front of the Book of Constitutions and are also read to a Master Elect prior to his taking a similar Obligation. But the Landmarks of the Order are nowhere to be found in any document issued by Grand Lodge, even though every Master Elect,

The Ceremony of Installation....

just like the Provincial Grand Master Designate, is required to attest that he will uphold and preserve them. So what are the Landmarks and how many are there? It may come as no surprise that Masonic writers are not consistent on this point. In his Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry Albert Mackey lists twenty five Landmarks. But Harry Carr, author of the *Freemason at Work*, as well as several other renowned Masonic authorities, have reduced these to just six.

- A belief in the Supreme Being.
- The presence in our Lodges of the three great lights, particularly the Volume of the Sacred Law.
- The three great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth
- The use of Ritual employing allegory and symbolism in our ceremonies.
- The ban on the discussion of religion and politics.
- The taking of an obligation to uphold the principles of Freemasonry.

The reasoning behind retaining these 6 from the 25 listed by Albert Mackey, is that removing any more of them would materially alter Freemasonry forever, which is why they must be preserved without change.

Finally, in his obligation the Provincial Grand Master Designate further promises that he will obey all the lawful commands of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and his Deputy. This has a resonance with the wording of the Patent of Appointment issued to the PrGM Designate by the Grand Master, and which was read by the Provincial Secretary to the assembled Brethren at the commencement of the ceremony. The purpose of this was threefold: First it confirmed to the assembled Brethren that the Brother so named had the full trust and confidence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and that he would be acting with his full authority as Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire. Secondly, it charged our Provincial Grand Master to ensure that every Member of Lodges in his Province keep all the Rules, Orders and Regulations contained in the Book of Constitutions, and that nothing is done contrary to these Rules and Regulations without first obtaining authorisation from the Grand Master or his Deputy. Thirdly, it charged the Provincial Grand Master to hold a general meeting of his Provincial Grand Lodge once a year, and at this meeting he should promote whatever may be for the honour and advantage of Masonry and for the benefit of the Grand Charity. Also, that an account in writing of this meeting be forwarded to the Grand Master forthwith, together with lists of the new Lodges constituted in the Province with details of every member and the rules and regulations governing the new Lodge.

The Patent of Appointment, like all Letters Patent issued by a higher authority, whether from a Government appointing an Ambassador, or from a Sovereign appointing a Peer of the Realm, is intended to transfer authority from the issuer of the Patent to the Recipient. The reading of it to an assembly makes sure that everyone understands what powers are being transferred and the limitations of those powers. It can be likened to a naval captain reading the Articles of War of 1757 to the ships company.

But what exactly does Installation mean and where did the concept and practice come from. The word "Installation" has its roots in the Latin word "Stallum" meaning place, seat, or proper position, which meaning is preserved in the modern English word "stall." To "install" therefore means to place in a seat or station, and in Freemasonry it is applied to the induction of one who has either been elected to an office, such as Master of a Lodge, or designated by the Grand Master, as the Provincial Grand Master is.

However here the similarity between the two ceremonies deviate, as there is no inner working associated with the Installation of a Provincial Grand Master, and after he has been Invested with his Chain of Office

The Ceremony of Installation....

he is ceremonially placed in his Chair by the Installing Grand Officer. But the symbolism does exist in the design of the PrGM's Regalia, which is detailed in Rule 265 of the Book of Constitutions, the design of which dates from the union of the two Grand Lodges of the Antients and the Moderns in 1813.

This Rule starts by describing the first badge we receive as an Entered Apprentice, a plain white lamb skin apron without any ornament. The Rule then takes us on a journey through subsequent designs of Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge Aprons, all of which start with the words "The Same" followed by a description of the additional ornamentation at every stage, confirming that even the apron of the Most Worshipful The Grand Master is based on this same simple lamb-skin apron we received at our Initiation.

The Provincial Grand Master's full dress Apron is similar to all Grand Officer's Aprons but with the following additional ornamentation. In the centre on the white lamb-skin is a wreath embroidered in gold, comprising a sprig of acacia and an ear of corn encircling an emblem consisting of the Square and Compasses enclosing a five-pointed Star, and with the name of the Province embroidered above. This is the emblem of a Provincial or District Grand Master. The outside, broad, garter blue border of a Grand Officer's Apron is, on the Provincial Grand Master's Apron, embroidered in gold with representations of pomegranates and lotus flowers interspersed with leaves. All fringes being in Gold Bullion.

The symbolism of the Pomegranate is well known to all Fellow Crafts as ornamentation on the chapters of the two pillars at the porch way or entrance of the temple. But a Hebrew tradition also teaches that the pomegranate is a symbol of righteousness because it is said to have 613 seeds, which corresponds with the 613 commandments in the Torah and represents fruitfulness, knowledge, learning and wisdom.

However the symbolism of the Lotus Flower is more complex, having different meanings to Buddhists, Hindus and Ancient Egyptians, but being a member of the Lily family to Freemasons. It also appears first on the chapters of the two pillars at the porch way or entrance of the temple, where the lily-work, because of its whiteness, symbolises peace. The Lotus, being symbolic of beauty, purity, peace and unity, is a most appropriate symbol of peace and unity for the Rulers of the new United Grand Lodge just after the union in 1813, and hence an excellent symbol to adorn the aprons of the Rulers of the Craft.

The Provincial Grand Master's Regalia would not be complete without his Chain of Office. The pattern of which is common for all Grand Officer Chains. The number of Stars designates the wearers rank with the Grand Master and Pro Grand Master having eleven, the Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Masters nine, Provincial and District Grand Master's having seven stars all in gold or silver gilt. These Stars, which are all five pointed and contained within a wreath, are interspersed with rectangular pierced plates containing the letters PGM, and interlocked scrolls supporting the representation of an Orobous interwoven between them.

The Orobous is an ancient symbol depicting a Snake with its tail in its mouth and can also be found on the Mark Mason's Token Coin as well as the 18th Degree Collar of the Ancient & Accepted Rite (Rose Croix). This symbolises the recurring nature of the Universe, and is to be found in many cultures around the world. It usually represents cycles or constant returning, infinity or eternity and completion. In fact it represents anything that goes around and around and is therefore a perfect emblem on the chain of an officer whose tenure is for a specific time only, before the Chain is passed to a successor, as it will be at the Provincial Grand Master's Installation in October.

The Chain of Office is completed by the attachment of the jewel, which is the same design as the emblem on the apron, a Square and Compasses enclosing a five pointed star, enclosed within two circles bearing the name of the Province.

Freemason follows Sky at Night hero....



Our Provincial Grand Chaplain, Michael Barratt, who has had to reduce his Masonic activities for the time being due to health reasons, is also well known for his regular articles in local Wiltshire magazines and giving presentations to both adult and youth groups about what to see in the night sky.

Michael, a keen amateur astronomer since childhood, 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, which entitles him to use the letters FRAS.

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, and 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 Freemasons we are encouraged to study the liberal Arts and Sciences of which we are told of seven, namely Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy. As a lawyer Michael will certainly have practiced the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, both of which would have required him to have a command of grammar and logic.

Get ahead and get a hat....

Where did you get that hat? Where did you get that tile? Isn't it a nobby one and just the proper style? I should like to have one just the same as that Where're I go they shout: "Hello, where did you get that hat?" The lyrics may be well known by the pre-millennial generation as a comic song sung by comedian singer Stanley Holloway.

However, the ladies of the Masonic Widows Association can tell you where they got their hats from - they made them following a talk and demonstration on millinery by internationally award winning milliner and Trowbridge resident Debs Marrison. As you can see a good time was had by all.



It's a fond farewell....

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

To book your place
scan QR code with
phone camera or
visit URL

URL <https://bit.ly/3Q9XyFv>



 @wiltshirefreemason pcowiltshire@gmail.com

The magic of the Mark....



Some final words



This is how we do it



Trusted with the chain of office



It's looking good



Rapt attention



Dining in style



The Installation of a new Provincial Grand Master...



Thank you for coming

And here's to your health

Just arrived

So the journey begins...

Taking advice

It's not just an empty bag

Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England



RW Bro Philip S A Bullock
Provincial Grand Master

VW Bro Simon R Leighfield **PGSwdB**
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

W Bro Philip J Still **PSGD**
Assistant Provincial Grand Master

July 2022

Dear Sir and Brother

By command of the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held in the Lansdown Hall, The Civic, Trowbridge, under the Banners of Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432, Wyvern Lodge No.8620 and Highworth Lodge No.9009 on **Thursday 6th October 2022** at **11.00am** for the Installation of VW Bro John C Reid **GSwdB** as Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire.

Provincial Grand lodge will be Called-Off for lunch, and Called-On at **3.00pm** for the remainder of business.

All Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers, Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the Province are summoned to attend. Master Masons are invited to be present.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Robert J Evans

Provincial Grand Secretary

1 The Grove

Warminster

BA12 8QL

Telephone 01985 214 874

Brethren are to wear dark Lounge Suit, or Morning Dress with full dress Regalia (no gauntlets) and are requested to be in their seats in the Lansdown Hall by **10.45am** for the Installation Meeting, and at **2.45 pm** for the General Meeting. It is the wish of the Provincial Grand Master that members wear the Provincial Tie.

Luncheon (12.45pm for 1.00pm) will be available in the **Usher Suite**, for Brethren and their Masonic Guests, subject to seats being available. **Lunch is £32 per head** which includes wine. Bookings may be made using the following online link [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) Alternatively, bookings with remittance (giving name, initials, rank, Lodge number and any dietary requirements) should be sent as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 2nd September 2022** to J H Deane 10 West Park Road, Corsham, SN13 9LN.

Cheques to be made payable to '**Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire**', BACS payments to Sort Code 23-05-80, Account Number 43153161 (please use your Lodge number and your name as a reference, eg 1234Bloggs).

The Provincial Committee will meet at **The Masonic Hall, Chippenham** at **7.00 pm** on **Friday 9th September 2022** to receive the accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, to consider the disposal of funds and to transact any other Masonic business.

Business of Provincial Grand Lodge

1. To open Provincial Grand Lodge.
2. To Install VW Bro John C Reid **GSwdB** as the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire (see Installation agenda).
3. To Call- Off Provincial Grand Lodge.
4. To Call-On Provincial Grand Lodge.
5. The RW Provincial Grand Master will be saluted according to ancient form.
6. The RW Provincial Grand Master will greet our guests.
7. The Roll of Provincial Officers will be called
8. The Minutes of the Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held at Trowbridge on Thursday 7th October 2021 will be submitted for approval
9. The Roll of Lodges will be called
10. In Memoriam
11. To receive the Provincial Grand Treasurer's accounts
12. To receive the report of the Provincial Committee held on 9th September 2022
13. To receive the report of the Provincial Grand Registrar.
14. Wiltshire Association reports.
15. To elect a Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year, W Bro Christopher J Robbins is nominated.
16. To elect two Brethren to serve on the Audit Committee for the ensuing year, W Bro Keith R S Surry and W Bro Derek K Gibbens are nominated.
17. To elect two Brethren to act as Account Examiners for the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Foundation, W Bro David Wallace and W Bro Colin Ayton are nominated.
18. To elect two Brethren to serve as Wiltshire representative members of the Masonic Charitable Foundation for the ensuing year, W Bro Gary Dolphin and W Bro Derek K Gibbens are nominated.
19. Pursuant to the notice given to Brethren in July the Provincial Grand Secretary will propose that the following Provincial By-Laws be amended:
 - a. **By-Law 6** that "Every Brother on appointment or promotion to office in Provincial Grand Lodge, Acting or Past rank, shall pay a registration fee of £25"
 - b. **By-Law 7** that the fees for initiation of a Candidate, and grant of a Dispensation, shall cease.
 - c. **By-Law 12** that the notice period for amendments to By-Laws shall be three calendar months and not two.
20. The RW Provincial Grand Master will re-appoint VW Bro Simon R Leighfield **PGSwdB** as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire
21. The Provincial Grand Master will re-appoint W Bro Philip J Still **PSGD** as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire
22. The Provincial Grand Master will appoint and invest the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year
23. The Provincial Grand Officers will be saluted
24. The Provincial Grand Master will invite three Lodges to host Provincial Grand Lodge on Thursday 5th October 2023
25. The Provincial Grand Master will address the Brethren
26. To attend to any other Masonic Business
27. To close Provincial Grand Lodge
28. Closing Ode

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Alms will be collected in aid of the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Foundation.

Alms may be donated before the meeting at the Charity desk, or on exiting Provincial Grand Lodge.



I was leafing through the latest edition of FMT (it used to be called Freemasonry Today) and in doing so came across an interesting article from outgoing Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes. The article was headed 'Swelling the membership' and dealt with the age-old question of attracting new members. You might think that being the head of another Order in Freemasonry my interest in Craft membership matters would be quite muted; you would be wrong.

Membership is fundamental to the function and future sustainability of associations. With new generation of members expecting more from their membership subscription, organisations such as Freemasonry are determining how they can improve the value that they provide to their member-base.

Attracting new members, retaining current members, and keeping them engaged is a real challenge for all membership organisations including Freemasonry.

We know that what we refer to as the Millennial generation is very different to their predecessors. Where many of our existing members were attracted to Freemasonry by virtue of simply 'being associated with it', Millennials are far more demanding in what they consider 'of value' in their membership. This generation has easy access to information and communicate on social channels using the latest, content-rich websites and mobile apps. These social networks provide easy and convenient ways for Freemasons to find each other and network, driving up their expectation for their engagement with Freemasonry.

Freemasonry at a national and local level is taking steps to improve the member-experience, including:

- Improving their websites by optimising navigation and content.
- Launching new mobile sites.
- Providing new e.Learning tools such as SOLOMON.
- Personalising services, because 'one size does not fit all'.
- Clearly identifying their member-base and sending targeted, relevant information to members.

However, it is really important to recognise that member engagement is an ongoing initiative that requires developing new tactics in order to keep up with trends and the new needs that will arise. It also means we can't afford to get frustrated and give up if our first tactics don't work right away.

The more tactics we employ, the more we will discover what our members enjoy. The more we know about what they like, the more successful we'll be at engaging them going forward — and the more Freemasonry will grow and thrive.

Which brings me back to my opening remark about having a keen interest in the Province's attraction campaign. Every Order in Freemasonry, including Mark Master Masons, is keen to increase the number of members on its books, and in almost every case the pool in which we fish for prospective members is the Craft Lodge. This should come as no surprise as the primary qualification to join an appendant Order is the requirement that a candidate must first be a Freemason. Of course, there are other qualifications which must be met to join Rose Croix or Knight Templar, the most obvious being the need to be a Christian and to believe in a trinitarian God.

Finally, let me reinforce an obvious truth which is that new members bring new energy to a Lodge, which in turn means there are more people to hold office, work on projects and events, and raise money for the many worthy causes Freemasons support.

And remember, the lifeblood of Freemasonry and your Lodge comes from its members.



Providing teddies for the comfort of children in distress

PGL of Wiltshire TLC
E0188

To make a donation
scan with phone camera to open
or visit URL

<https://gtap.uk/e0188>

