



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

"Did you know that around the tenth of August, any year, you can look up in the sky at night and see dozens and dozens of shooting stars?"



**AUGUST
2022**

Wiltshire Freemasons

Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile.....



"August is that last flicker of fun and heat before everything fades and dies. The final moments of fun before the freeze. In the winter, everything changes." As I read these words by American author Rasmenia Massoud I became aware that having enjoyed the longest day in June we are now fast approaching the shortest day in December. Last month I suggested that for many Freemasons the months of July and August are 'meeting free' and allow for a period of rest and recuperation. However, 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 and plan the annual meeting to be held at Trowbridge on Thursday 6th October. The work required to make sure this event occurs to the expected high standard is testament to the commitment of the Provincial teams involved and I know they will do their very best to make John Reid's Installation a memorable occasion.

I never cease to be amazed at the ingenuity of our Lodges especially when it comes to organising events. Sarum Lodge No. 5137 held a curry night, organised by one of its newer members, Dan Lightfoot; the evening was a great success. Vastern Lodge No.8977 holds a regular get together at the home of Andrew Hargreaves ; a valued member of the Communications Team. Attendees enjoy a cup of coffee (or something a little stronger) biscuits and the opportunity to chat about anything and everything Masonic. Gooch Lodge No.1295 invited members to a Pizza Nut fest at Paul Sharp's Cricklade facility. Mark Newman and the pizza chefs fed over 80 visitors including the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Two Chippenham Lodges held a Saturday breakfast club attended by members of the local Masonic Widows Association, and Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432 is inviting members and friends to join them for a Pub Night on the 3rd August. 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 our members do to encourage the principle and practice of friendship.

I was delighted to hear that the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Wiltshire, John Reid, has been appointed Provincial Grand Master (Designate). John will be Installed at Trowbridge on the morning of Thursday 6th October. The Summons for the meeting has been distributed to your Lodge secretary and can also be found in the bi-monthly magazine Across the Plain which you can access by clicking on the following link tinyurl.com/bdf9w8y7

The Communication Team has set up an online booking form which will enable members to register their intention to attend. The form will also serve as a formal apology should you be unable to attend either the Installation meeting or the Annual Meeting.

I have been asked what my intentions are when my retirement as Provincial Grand Master takes effect. I am sure that Sally, my daughter Sara and my two wonderful grandchildren have already concocted plans for what I will do. For me, retirement is a blank sheet of paper. I recognise that retirement from the role of PrGM does not mean retirement from life. It is the beginning not an end, it is an opportunity to redesign my life into something new and different, it is living a life you enjoy every day.



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Time for speculation is over



The successor to Philip Bullock as the 15th Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire is W Bro John Reid, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Wiltshire. John will retain the office on his Investiture as Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire

John is married to Carole, both originally from the west country - Devon and Cornwall respectively (which must make for an interesting discussion when deciding whether it's jam or cream first on scones). They moved to Wiltshire in 1983.

John was Initiated into the Border Lodge No 3129 in November 1988. He is also a member of Wiltshire Masters' Lodge No 6731.

He was appointed a Provincial Grand Steward in October 2000 and the following year promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon and in 2007 to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

In April 2022 the MW Grand Master HRH the Duke of Kent honoured John with the appointment of Grand Sword Bearer; an active rank that he is very proud to hold.

The summons for the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge has now been sent to all Lodge secretaries, and can also be read in the Summer edition of Across the Plain.

The annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge is the jewel in the crown in terms of 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 Assistant Provincial Grand Master and myself at the meeting.

For many Wiltshire Freemasons the meeting prior to the Annual Meeting will be the first opportunity to formally welcome the new Provincial Grand Master. Please make a note of the date in your diary and do your very best to attend.



WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

**INSTALLATION
OF JOHN REID**

WELCOME

**THURSDAY 6TH
OCTOBER**

**PROVINCIAL
GRAND LODGE**



THE CIVIC
ST STEPHEN'S PLACE
TROWBRIDGE



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Are you thinking Festival?



What do you know about the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF)? For instance, did you know that it is funded through the generosity of Freemasons, their families, and their friends. Would you be surprised to know that the Masonic Charitable Foundation is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country and provides support, care and services to Freemasons and their families in need? Would you be amazed to learn that the Masonic Charitable Foundation supports many other charities and good causes to help the most disadvantaged in society?

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

Wiltshire Freemasons are being asked to support the Masonic Charitable Foundation in what is known as the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. For many of our members the concept of a festival is something which they are very much aware of, while for many new members it will be a new experience, one which I trust they will embrace and more importantly - enjoy.

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. There is also a superb Festival jewel which I am sure we will all be proud to wear in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Wiltshire 2028 Festival.

The Provincial Grand Master will launch the Wiltshire 2028 Festival with a celebratory dinner and dance at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon SN5 8UZ on **Saturday 18th February 2023**. Please keep the date free. Further details of the event including special room rates, tickets price, and payment information will be announced in the October edition of **In touch>On line**. What I can promise you is that the Wiltshire 2028 Festival will be a challenge but it will also be fun.



WHAT IS A FESTIVAL?



- IT'S A MEANS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.
- IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE EVERY MEMBER IN WILTSHIRE AWARE OF THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE AND THE WORK OF THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION IN THE PROVINCE



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What new ritual is this?

It's not a new ritual, it's Brethren being taught how to use a defibrillator. Under the expert guidance of Peter Tuite, Trowbridge Freemasons are learning all about the crucial steps required to save a life. From apprentices to master life savers - well done to you all.



Congratulations Peter....

The Provincial Grand Master accompanied by members of Lodge Elias de Derham No. 586 visited Peter Dowden-Smith at home to present a fifty-year service certificate. Peter's wife, Joan, was on hand to make sure there was plenty of cake for everyone.





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A great night out....



Sarum Lodge No.5137 welcomed members and friends to a curry evening at a local Indian restaurant in Salisbury.

Dan Lightfoot organised the event, which was well supported and enjoyed by all. A terrific night and an example of a Lodge being friendly and making friends. P.S. I see no beers! In the picture



Paul Sharp hosted members and friends from Gooch Lodge No.1295 who opened their very own Pizza Nut outlet (managed by Mark Newman). They were joined by Deputy Provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield and Mark Whitmarsh for what proved to be a superb Sunday afternoon.

Michael Barratt shares his view of the stars....



The quote in the header of this edition of **In touch > On line** is a reference to the Perseid Meteor Shower which is the richest "shooting star" shower of the year with a ZHR (overhead hourly rate) of +80 meteors. Who better than the Province's resident astronomer Michael Barratt to explain the Perseid Meteor Shower.

In good years this can be quite spectacular and has often been called "a celestial fireworks show".

The Perseids are already with us (until 24th August) and you may see the odd one on any clear night at the moment with the maximum being reached on the 13th. Unfortunately this year the maximum coincides with a full moon and therefore many will be "washed out" by strong moonlight. If you spot one they often leave persistent trails for a few seconds.

Incidentally, the month of August is a great time to view the Milky Way and the wonderful constellations through which it runs; Cygnus, Aquila, Scutum, Scorpius and Sagittarius.

A quick reminder from Michael to never ever look at the sun directly, especially through binoculars or a telescope. Happy star gazing.



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And they're off....

The Brethren of Lodge of Friendship and Unity No.1271 are hosting a night at the races, and you are invited to attend. The cost for an evening's fun is only £5 and it's all for a good cause. Contact Derek Robins by email danerobins@talktalk.net or phone 01225 868072



Germany comes to Wiltshire....

Fiat Lux Lodge No. 9773 is the host Lodge for the visit of Zur alten Linde Lodge No. 368 to Devizes over the weekend of the 9th to 12th of September. Members present and past of Fidelity Lodge No. 663, Moonraker Lodge No. 8747, Chaloner Lodge No 2644 and Wiltshire Lodge of Agriculture No. 9090 will also join in the weekend festivities.

Friday 9th September will be a meet and greet social evening with supper at the Devizes Masonic Hall, Morris Lane.

On the Saturday morning there will be a Lodge Meeting at the Masonic Hall, Devizes when there will be a demonstration of the 1st Degree ceremony. A visit to the Wiltshire Museum with a talk about the Thomas Hardy exhibition has been organised for the ladies.

Saturday early evening members of Zur alten Linde Lodge No. 368 will give a demonstration of a ceremony commonly held prior to a festive banquet in Germany. While not a Masonic ceremony it is conducted in Masonic style, no regalia is worn nor Masonic ritual used. This event will be followed by a festive banquet.

On Sunday there will be a visit to Lacock Abbey and the Fox Talbot Museum. Sunday evening 6.30 pm will be a Farewell Social Evening with skittles and a two-course supper.

For further information please contact Jim Speed Tel: 01225 708121