



# In touch > On line

## The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



*"The journey of today can only begin when we learn to let go of yesterday"*

OCT  
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons

We are a part of history.....



Who among us would have imagined that as we left August behind us and entered the month of September, the beginning of meteorological autumn, we would be mourning the loss of the Patron of English Freemasonry Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II? For most of us the late Queen had been the only monarch we really ever knew, and her seventy year reign constituted the new Elizabethan age. We now enter the third Carolean era. The death of The Queen brought into play a well-rehearsed plan known to insiders as 'London Bridge' which covered the various tasks that needed to be undertaken to ensure the seamless continuation of our system of constitutional monarchy; and so it was that on the announcement of the Queen's death, the next proclamation was the news that the nation had a new monarch, King Charles III.

In the same week, we were told that we had a new Prime Minister and, as you read this edition of **In touch > On line**, the Province is preparing to Install a new Provincial Grand Master. Of course, the new head of Wiltshire Freemasonry doesn't assume the office on the basis of any hereditary right, neither is he elected by popular vote, rather he is appointed by the Grand Master to be a Ruler in the Craft. John will join a very select list of Brethren who have held the office of Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent - truly the head of Wiltshire Freemasonry.

On 6<sup>th</sup> October every Master Mason belonging to a Wiltshire Lodge will have the opportunity to witness John being Installed as the 15<sup>th</sup> Provincial Grand Master for this wonderful Province; and I hope you will do your very best to attend. It promises to be a wonderful day and I for one am looking forward to the day's events. If you can't make Provincial Grand Lodge please do remember to send the Provincial Secretary your apologies.

The proceedings for John's Installation will be overseen by the Grand Director of Ceremonies who will be assisted by two colleagues. The Installation ceremony itself will be conducted by the Assistant Grand Master David Medlock who was appointed to his high office in September. David is a former Provincial Grand Master for Somerset, and is a subscribing member of Lodge of Rectitude No.335, which makes him a proud Wiltshire Freemason.

We have been immensely fortunate in having been so well served by Philip Bullock during a period when external events have certainly conspired to make managing the Province more difficult than anyone would have wished. Chief among them was the Covid pandemic that first appeared in 2019 and which came to a head in March 2020 with the unprecedented lock-down of the country, and its impact on Freemasonry. Who would have guessed that it would be two years later that something approaching normality would return, or that for some of our members the net effect of a sustained period of not being able to meet would result in them being reluctant to recommence their attendance at Masonic events and their Lodge. As Philip retires from the office which he has always acknowledged as being a privilege to hold, I trust you will join me in wishing him well for the future.



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### Broade Forde Lodge No.8547....

Eight hale and hearty Brethren from Broade Forde Lodge No.8547 undertook a morning's work 'gardening' at the United Reform Church, Bradford on Avon. An area around the church and adjacent car park had become very overgrown and church members struggled to maintain the site. Brethren, led by the Lodge's Master Steve Goddard, offered their support which was gratefully accepted and greatly appreciated. All in all a job well done in aid of the local community.



The Broade Forde 'boys' take a well deserved breather

### Peter rewarded for 50 years service....

When you're made a Mason you get a nice apron: when you leave the Chair you get a Past Master's Jewel: but for long service all you get is a piece of paper. But you do get it from the PrGM or his representative.

Francis Wakem presented Peter Warren, his long-time friend, and a member of Corsham Lodge No.6616, with a coveted Provincial Grand Masters' Certificate of Achievement in recognition of 50 years membership of the Craft.



Francis Waken says "Well done Peter Warren"





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Join us at Provincial Grand Lodge ....



**WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS**  
**INSTALLATION OF**  
**JOHN REID**

**WELCOME**



**THURSDAY 6TH**  
**OCTOBER**

**PROVINCIAL**  
**GRAND LODGE**



**THE CIVIC**  
**ST STEPHEN'S PLACE**  
**TROWBRIDGE**

Jim Speed honoured by German visitors....

At the conclusion of a visit to Devizes by Brethren and family members of Loge Zur Alten Linde, Dortmund, the German party presented Bro Jim Speed with Honorary Membership. This was in recognition of Jim's incredible efforts in fostering close ties with Loge Zur Alten.



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## Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432....

Learning can be fun, just ask the Brethren of Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432 who recently held a school of instruction at which they got the brain cells working with as they did a 'walk through talk through' of an Initiation ceremony. You've just got to admire their enthusiasm.



Every day's a school day for the Brethren of Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432

## Visiting the 'big house'....

Everyone should experience the thrill of visiting Freemasons' Hall in London, and there's no better time to do it than the Quarterly Communication meeting of Grand Lodge. This year's meeting was extra special as for the very first time in a long time the three Rulers of the Craft were Invested by the outgoing Pro Grand Master. Following the meeting, Brethren from Corsham Lodge No.6616 joined Philip Bullock for a special lunch at Mark Masons Hall. The editor was reliably informed that a good time was had by all.



Five happy Master Masons enjoyed their trip to Freemasons' Hall

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It's always Gin O'clock....somewhere

And we want you to enjoy Wiltshire Freemasons' Middle Chamber Dry Gin. The aptly named 'Tyler's Toast' a boutique gin was quickly snapped up by discerning gin drinkers across the Province. To get the Wiltshire 2028 Festival of to a great start the team has commissioned a flavour filled successor gin - 'Seal Of Solomon'.

**Enjoy a great new taste at the same fabulous price of only £40.**

Middle Chamber Dry Gin will be available to purchase at Provincial Grand Lodge at Trowbridge on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October. To avoid disappointment why not reserve your bottle of Middle Chamber gin by emailing Mark Newman at [mn@s33kers.co.uk](mailto:mn@s33kers.co.uk)

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## Wiltshire Masonic Bowlers victorious.....

The President of Wiltshire Masonic Bowls Association and his counterpart of the Gloucester Masonic Bowls Club shake hands prior to the annual Inter-Provincial Bowls Match hosted at Calne by kind permission of Calne Bowls Club.

Wiltshire Masonic Bowlers enjoyed a memorable first time in living memory victory against their Gloucester opponents .

The Wiltshire Masonic Bowls Association warmly welcome any Bowlers in Wiltshire who would like to join them. For further information contact Association President W.Bro. Bob Roberts-Phare (01666 823971)



## Seventy years a Freemason....

Scottish Freemason, ninety five year old Geoff Richards, a joining member of Broade Forde Lodge No.8547 was the recipient of a 70 year service certificate presented by retiring PrGM Philip Bullock on behalf of St Margaret Hope Lodge No.1184 (SC). While Initiated into a Lodge registered in under the Scottish Constitution, Geoff joined Trincomalee Lodge No.6923 (EC) while posted to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

Brethren from Broade Forde joined the PrGM and Geoff's family for the event.



Steve Hiscox, Steve Goddard, The PrGM, Janet Bird and Stephen Richards

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## Hermes - it's the future ....

More news on the roll out of Hermes, the new way of working soon to be introduced to Lodge secretaries and Chapter scribes. First phase training is currently being planned with programmes tailored to meet the needs and expectations of all concerned.

A series of webinars (via ZOOM) will be offered during October and it is expected that every secretary will attend, especially as the team will provide multiple opportunities (during the day or evening) for each webinar.

Once the first webinar has been completed, either via the scheduled session or in their own time, Lodge Secretaries will have access to a training module (a sandbox).

The training will be delivered by trained volunteers from across the Province, who will ensure that the transition goes as smoothly as possible and that support is just a phone call away, should it be needed.

The team, under the guidance of Steve Lee, recognises the concerns of the Lodge secretaries and Chapter Scribe Es that HERMES is a big change in 'how things are done' - but, isn't that the same throughout life? What we can say with certainty is that, going forward, HERMES is the only way that the UGLE will envisage Lodge and Chapter administration being carried out.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master Phil Still, one of the leaders for the Project, said "Hermes presents us with the opportunity to help Lodge and Chapter administrators eliminate unnecessary paperwork and processes by taking advantage of what the latest technology has to offer Freemasonry and our membership. I am sure all of us are looking forward to the real benefits it will bring in streamlining the way in which we assemble and manage essential data".







# WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

## PROVINCIAL CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday 16th October 2022 at 3:00pm

St Mary the Virgin Church,  
30 Church St, Calne SN11 0HU

**ALL MEMBERS OF THE WILTSHIRE  
MASONIC FAMILY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

The PrGM would be delighted to see all Grand Officers, and active Provincial Officers from both the Craft and Royal Arch, attending this event.





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## Getting it right....

The Learning & Development Team was at The Planks in Swindon last month where they met five new Wiltshire freemasons. Over a cup of tea and biscuits our new Brethren were able to ask questions of the team and to visit the Lodge Room and demonstrate their knowledge of who's who and what they do. No one seemed anxious to get away and it was really good to experience the enthusiasm of the 'newbies'.

For the Brother taking the bold step of becoming a Deacon in the Lodge your turn comes on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October when a **Deacons Workshop** is being held at Salisbury. A short introductory classroom session will be followed by a walk through the Lodge Room with lots of practical hints and tips, plus you get the chance to ask the questions and the team will provide the answers.

The next **Finding Your Feet** session is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at The Masonic Hall, Morris Lane, Devizes and any new Wiltshire Freemason will be made very welcome.

Everyone attending the sessions has said now helpful they were - now it's your opportunity to find out whether they were telling the truth or just being nice to teacher.

## NEW DATES FOR TRAINING....

### Finding Your Feet

Devizes - Saturday 26 November

Note change of venue.

### Deacons Workshop

Salisbury - Saturday 29 October

Swindon - Saturday 17 December

### Preparing for the Chair

Swindon - Saturday 5 November

10.00am until 12 noon

<https://forms.gle/aeLsgEyCkEwC1vyt9>



[www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk)

Contact us: [info@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:info@pglwilts.org.uk)