



# In touch > On line



DEC  
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons

Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling....



I know when Christmas is just around the corner, and it's not when Christmas lights appear in the windows of houses, or when I see an inflatable Santa stuck halfway down a chimney, and urban gardens being taken over by plastic snowmen and reindeer. It's not even when garden centres are transformed into Christmas grottos, and shops are playing a medley of greatest hits from Christmases past. Just how many times can you bear to hear Noddy Holder proclaiming Merry Christmas Everybody, or Roy Wood's Wizard singing I wish it could be Christmas Everyday? As for mountains of mince pies and party food alongside sprouts, parsnips and potatoes, well just don't get me started.

Actually, for me the precursor of Christmas is when every second advert on the television or radio is an appeal for a worthy cause or charity; when newspapers carry full page advertisements asking you and me to help save polar bears for three pounds a month, donkeys for ten pounds and the homeless for twenty nine pounds and seven pence. I know you are asking why the odd seven pence, well you can find the answer by following the link <https://tinyurl.com/4rb8xbwn> There really is no doubt whatsoever that Christmas is a great time to take full advantage of 'peace on earth, and goodwill to all'.

Now I want to assure you that I am not being a curmudgeon or joining the Scrooge school of casual indifference, what I am attempting to do is highlight how Christmas is viewed by almost the entire world as a special time for people to care for others and to prove how much they care by giving. Indeed it can truly be said that Christmas is about doing special things to special people. It's about forgetting ourselves and giving to others.

As a Freemason we are expected to practice that virtue we profess to admire, I mean charity. However, let's not wait until Christmas to show how much we care, let's keep the Christmas spirit in our hearts every day of the year.

Talking of charity appeals, I would make my own appeal on behalf of the Provincial Grand Charity Steward Clive Emerson and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. In 2023 I will launch the Wiltshire 2028 Festival; a fund-raising event that is hoped to raise tens of thousands of pounds. Some Brethren have gone to great pain in reminding me that 'times are hard' and 'the cost of living will prove a serious impediment to the festival's success'. To the first comment I would suggest that times are always hard, and to the second I would simply say that I don't think that my reliance on the generosity of Wiltshire Freemasons is misplaced in the slightest. I am confident that our Lodges and their members will respond in a most positive manner to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival Appeal.

In this, my first Christmas message as your Provincial Grand Master I wish you season's greetings and trust that for you the best of all gifts around your Christmas tree will be the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.



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### Freemasons making a contribution to their community....



Bro Alan Bancroft, a member of Lodge of Friendship and Unity No.1271, meeting in the lovely town of Bradford on Avon, is a sprightly 80 years young and is still working full time as a builder.

He used to play as a full back for the local football club and now supports Bradford Town Football Team.

Recently Alan was the Match Sponsor and presented a prize to the 'Man of the Match' who doesn't look old enough to be drinking the prize.

Bro Colin Froude and his wife Hilary have volunteered for Guide Dogs for over 10 years.

In November they were invited to the Guide Dogs 2022 National Awards at Reading having been nominated as one of the finalists. They were surprised, and delighted, when they were announced as the winners of the Volunteer 'Expert' category.

They have fostered a number of other guide dogs during the year including a dog which had just had a stroke and required help with walking and feeding. At times they had up to 3 dogs.

One of the guide dogs they have been looking after was on a weight loss programme. In just over four months they had reduced Guide Dog Stevie's weight from 55 kg to 38 kg with regular exercise and diet; Hilary has been covering a good 10 miles a day!

Colin is the Secretary of Brothers in Arms No 9540 and Hilary is a retired nurse.



Stevie







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### The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.....

In this edition of **In touch>On line** I want to reiterate the Provincial view on a subject which continues to cause confusion in some of our Lodges at the Installation meeting.

Three addresses to three different groups of people; seems so simple doesn't it, and yet if there is one subject which creates a sense of them and us, it's the big question of the day – do I stand or do I remain in my seat.

When does this dilemma occur? Yes, you've guessed it; it's that moment when the Provincial Director of Ceremonies escorts the Provincial Junior Warden onto the floor of the Lodge and intones "Would the Brethren of (name of Lodge) with the exception of the Worshipful Master and the recently installed Wardens please stand".

The seeming dilemma is - who should stand? Which begs the question 'who are the Brethren to whom the address is being made? I suggest the answer is perfectly logical based on the fact there are only three addresses, the first to the Worshipful Master, the second to the two newly appointed and invested Wardens and the third to those who remain – the Brethren. Thus all becomes crystal clear. If you are not the Master or either of the Wardens you stand.

However, it seems that for some Brethren the thought remains that the address titled To The Brethren is only for those who have not yet been Wardens in the Lodge. Interestingly, the same logic is not applied to a Master or a Warden taking the office for a second time, or for a Brother moving from being Junior to Senior Warden.

In the address we are told that some must of necessity rule and teach (that would be the Master and his two Wardens) while others must of course learn, submit and obey (that's the rest of the Lodge), and humility in each is an essential qualification.

In the second degree we are reminded that 'Although distinctions among men are necessary to preserve subordination, let no eminence of situation cause us to forget we are Brothers ..... equally entitled to the same regard'.

I am so glad that in Wiltshire almost all of our Lodges have adopted the practice of every Brother standing to receive the words delivered by the Provincial Junior Grand Warden. If your Lodge is resisting the invitation to join, please can I say that Past Provincial Grand Masters, Right Worshipful and Very Worshipful Brethren, and Grand Officers have not thought it beneath their dignity to stand to hear the wonderful words of the Address to the Brethren.

So next time the Provincial Junior Warden steps forward, don't feel abashed to jump to your feet and stand with your Brothers in the Lodge when the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies asks "Would the Brethren of (name of Lodge) with the exception of the Worshipful Master and the recently installed Wardens, please stand".



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### Past Provincial Grand Master remembers.....

Swindon Heritage recently unveiled its 12th Blue Plaque to celebrate the life of one of its most famous sons; and Right Worshipful Brother Byron Carron was invited to do the honours at the Bath Road residence where his father, renowned operatic tenor Arthur Carron, grew up.

Byron's father sang in the choir at the Central Methodist Church, where a clergyman heard him sing and suggested he take professional lessons in the capital. He made his operatic debut at the Old Vic as Tannhäuser in 1929.

Arthur Carron was a founding member of SALOS (Swindon Light Operatic Society) and used to host meetings and auditions at the house.

In 1931, he became the Old Vic company's leading tenor when it moved to Sadler's Wells Theatre. His roles there included Fra Diavolo, Manrico of Il Trovatore, Radames of Aida, Cavaradossi of Tosca, and Otello.

Arthur's mentor and teacher was so impressed with his musicality that she suggested he audition for the Metropolitan Opera in New York City; and in 1935 he made his debut there as the first Englishman to sing at the Met, playing Canio in Pagliacci and taking 15 curtain calls during one performance. Arthur remained with the opera house until 1946.

His biggest concert in Chicago attracted an audience of 10,000 people. Before he retired in 1952, Arthur spent the last six years of his career at Covent Garden. He died in 1967.

Byron said, "My father sang at Alexandra Palace during the beginning of the BBC and his voice was so strong it broke some of the microphones, he didn't need one". Byron added that his father "Was a seventh child of a seventh child, which is something special".



Byron and Joan Carron with members of the family





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### The Prestonian Lecture 2022....

Methuen Lodge No.8692 is pleased to welcome Dr John Hawkins the Prestonian Lecturer for 2022, to Swindon on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Wiltshire has a long Masonic association with the Royal Family, with HRH The Prince George, Duke of Kent having been Provincial Grand Master from 1934-1938. The Grand Master His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent has held the title since the age of six, and since 1967 has been Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Master and Brethren of Methuen Lodge No.8692 will also be honoured by the presence of the RW Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire and Provincial Officers.

**METHUEN LODGE NO.8692**

**THE 2022 PRESTONIAN LECTURE**

PRESENTED BY DR JOHN HAWKINS

**THE ROYAL FAMILY  
AND FREEMASONRY**

TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER  
6.00PM  
SWINDON MASONIC CENTRE  
THE PLANKS

### Wiltshire 2028 Festival....

To get the Wiltshire 2028 Festival off to a great start a new flavour filled gin - 'Seal Of Solomon' is available to purchase online at the Wiltshire 2028 Shop. 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) or better still, buy direct by clicking <https://s33kers-ltd.sumupstore.com> You can also ask your Lodge bar steward to pour you a Gin & Tonic and specify Middle Chamber - Seal of Solomon Dry Gin. It's also a great tasting gin without a mixer. To make your Christmas complete Middle Chamber Gin makes an excellent present at only £40 a bottle - Great Gin - Great Value.

Holes in your gloves, or are they just looking tired and worn out? Now's the right time to buy a pair (or two and even three) of Wiltshire 2028 Festival gloves. Super value, great fitting cotton gloves with the Festival logo boldly displayed. Value for money at only £10 per pair plus post and packing. To order your gloves shop online by clicking on this link <https://s33kers-ltd.sumupstore.com>

Buying Festival Gin or Festival Gloves is just one way you can support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival, which in turn supports the Masonic Charitable Foundation.



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The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

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## Finding Your Feet.....

The Learning & Development Team is holding another **Finding Your Feet session** 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.

You can register online <https://forms.gle/aeLsgEyCkEwC1vyt9> to book your place.

The poster features a purple and blue background with diagonal light streaks. On the left is the Wiltshire Freemasons crest. The text is in white and purple. On the right is a photograph of a man in a dark suit and light blue shirt. At the bottom are three white circles.

**WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS**

**FINDING YOUR FEET.....**

**DEVIZES MASONIC HALL**

**SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER**

**10.00 AM - 12 NOON**

[www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk) Contact: [info@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:info@pglwilts.org.uk)

## Deacons' Workshop ....

The Learning & Development Team is holding a **Deacons' Workshop** on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at The Masonic Centre, The Planks, Swindon, and any Brother interested in learning about this very important Lodge office will be made very welcome.

The work of the Lodge Deacon is visible to every Brother sitting in the Lodge Room, and is a combination of walking, talking and guiding. It's not for the faint hearted, but it is fun. You can register online <https://forms.gle/aeLsgEyCkEwC1vyt9> to book your place.





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### Terry Baker celebrates 50 years.....

Brethren from Swindon travelled to Mark Masons' Hall to see Terry Baker receive his 50 year certificate from Met Grand Lodge, 36 years of those as a Wiltshire Freemason. During the evening Terry took the Chair to Pass his son Simon.



### WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

John Reid PrGM  
invites you to join him  
at the  
*Double Tree Hilton Hotel*  
*Lydiard Fields,*  
*Great Western Way,*  
*Swindon SN5 8UZ*

Tel: 01793 881777

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2023

Ticket £60 per person

four course dinner | music | dancing til midnight

Dinner 6.45pm for 7.30pm

<https://tinyurl.com/Wiltshire-Festival>

Special room rate available - quote **GWIL18**

