



JAN

2023

Wiltshire Freemasons

A new year is a new beginning.



As the new year begins, we often feel that we need to make changes in our life, start on a new path, do new things, and say goodbye to old habits, problems, and difficulties. To kick-start the process, we start making new plans and new resolutions. We might feel elated, inspired, and hopeful, but sometimes we are also apprehensive about our ability to meet our own self-imposed expectations

The question is whether we will continue and persevere or quit our plans and resolutions. Will we revert to our habitual behaviour and continue living the same kind of life, without making any changes or improvements? One thing I do know is that to achieve change, improvement and success requires persistence. To carry through with New Year Resolutions you need more than temporary inspiration and desire. Your inspiration should continue throughout the year, and not evaporate after a few days.

In October of last year, I was Installed as Provincial Grand Master. In the intervening eighty-five days I have discovered a lot about the Province that I didn't know, learned some important lessons and have met with great people who are committed to promoting Freemasonry in general and Wiltshire in particular.

It is my intention to visit as many Lodges and meet as many Brethren as possible during the coming twelve months to gain an understanding of what plans they may have for the Lodge's future, what changes they feel may need to be made; what help they need to do new things, and to say goodbye to old habits, problems and difficulties.

In the Book of Constitutions there is a section titled The Charges of a Free-Mason; there are six in total and number three references 'Of LODGES'. It defines what a Lodge is - it's a place where Freemasons meet, and it's also the collective name for a group of Freemasons. It's important to remind ourselves that Freemasons meet in and as a Lodge for a purpose, which is to instruct and improve themselves. In 2023, wouldn't it be wonderful for Brethren throughout the Province to attend as many, if not all the meetings of their Lodge in order that a knowledge of the established usages and customs of the craft can be acquired.

If you are serious about making real changes in your everyday life you need to take certain steps. It is great to dream big; however, to make your dreams come true you need to do something about them, not just daydream. The same is true of Freemasonry. To make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge, and to obtain the privileges of Freemasonry with the aim of making yourself more extensively serviceable requires the same determination and perseverance as you need to bring to fruition your New Year resolutions. I am confident that 2023 will prove to be the year of positive change.

I wish you well and may the GAOTU guide and guard you in the coming year.



In touch > On line



The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

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We wish you a Happy New Year.

I am sure you will have seen the animated messages sent to Wiltshire members who use social media links such as Twitter and Facebook, and of course the Provincial website which can be accessed at www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

In his opening comments the Provincial Grand Master writes about the need to make changes in our life, start on a new path, do new things, and say goodbye to old habits, problems and difficulties. I am convinced the big secret about succeeding in the new year lies in concentrating more on things that matter most in life and walking away from those things that are of no value or use. It's certainly something that has been brought home to me during the past few weeks and I would encourage you to do so.



In our ritual we are reminded of how we should act with a Brother on the square, it's referred to as an important duty and requires us to render every kind office, relieve his necessities and soothe his afflictions, and by doing to him as in similar cases you would wish he would do to you. These qualities are the hallmark of a Freemasons and are further described by the Provincial Junior Warden when he addresses the Lodge at the Installation of a new Master.

As we enter the new year wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all be a little more gentle with each other, a little more loving, and have a little more empathy, and maybe, next year at this time we'd like each other a little more.

John and Phil join me in wishing you, your families and your friends all the very best for a very happy and healthy new year.

Simon Leighfield - Deputy Provincial Grand Master



JAN
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Wiltshire
Freemasons

Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association Charity Toy Run.

A cold December day, and even snow, and black ice couldn't prevent the members of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association and Juno Company, Wiltshire Army Cadet Force from coming together to deliver a van full of toys to Julia's House Children's Hospice in Devizes. The cadets, who had loaded the toys into their van at Trowbridge Cadet Centre, were flanked and escorted to Julia's House by the Masonic Bikers. A fantastic day when two groups came together for the benefit of the children at Julia's



A very special Christmas present.



Everyone enjoyed the carol service held at The Wallington Hall, Bradford on Avon that was attended by members, friends and family of both Broade Forde Lodge No.8547 and Lodge of Friendship & Unity No.1271. To make the evening complete Bro Steve Goddard presented a cheque for £2637 to Clare Way from Dorothy House Hospice.

Working together in Salisbury.

Members of Stonehenge Lodge No.6114 meeting in Salisbury, joined their friends from the Rotary Club of Wilton to celebrate the Christmas festival. A terrific example of Freemasonry working with like-minded people and contributing to the community. It certainly looks as if there were presents being handed out by a suitably attired Santa Claus.



A huge thank you.

When the Brethren of Chaloner Lodge No.2644 discovered a water pipe had burst and gallons of water had damaged areas of the Masonic Hall at Melksham, a call for help was swiftly answered. A fantastic display of what it means to help a friend or Brother in time of need. Thank you to everyone who responded.



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The distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart.

Of course, every Freemason will know and be able to recite the words which follow this phrase found in the charge given to the new Initiate as he stands for the first time in the northeast corner of the building. It is of course 'I mean charity' hence the reason this lovely piece of ritual is often referred to as The Charity Charge, and why in some Lodges it is given to the newly made brother by the Lodge Charity Steward.

As we enter 2023 many of you will be aware that the Province is also embarking on a five-year period of Festival in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The Provincial Grand Master will formally launch the festival on Saturday 18th February but in truth it is already receiving support from Lodges, individual Brethren and even some from outside of the Province; to which we say a huge thank you.

Wiltshire 2028 Festival

MAKE A DONATION
Scan with phone camera to open or visit tinyurl.com/53bfkzju

While listening to the King's Christmas message, I was struck by the references he made to everyone who donated food to foodbanks, gave money to charities and to good causes; but above all I was pleased that he emphasised what is probably the single most difficult aspect of giving, the giving of time.

Sometimes putting a pound in the alms or buying five pounds worth of raffle tickets is an easier option than offering to visit a Brother who has been absent from the Lodge, or one who is in hospital or in care.

Can you find time in your busy life to visit a Brother or Lodge widow and help break the cycle of their loneliness? I'm sure they would welcome you with a cup of tea and even a biscuit.

During the next few months, members of the Wiltshire 2028 Festival team led by the Provincial Charity Steward, will be engaging with Lodges across the Province and asking members to do something very special by making a regular contribution to the festival. No one is pretending that giving is easy - everyone is experiencing the effects of the cost of living crisis, and for some times really are hard. While you will be asked to contribute to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival, your, Lodge Charity Steward will only ever expect you to give as your circumstances fairly warrant.

Clive Emerson - Provincial Grand Charity Steward