



### What a fabulous night.



I was really pleased to be able to host the launch of our Wiltshire 2028 Festival in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. I must admit that I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but what I can say is that any expectations I might have had were exceeded and more. The Province welcomed Sir Paul Williams and his wife Glenys to Wiltshire, together with Les Hutchinson, the Chief Executive of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Les gave a very concise account of the work of the MCF and explained how Wiltshire was a net beneficiary of funding from the Charity having received over £1,300,000 in grants to individuals (invariably a Freemason or a dependant), and to local charities such as the three major hospices in the county, the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and the Youth

Adventure Trust. I was very much aware of the MCF's generosity when I sat with the Provincial Executive to discuss what our goal should be for the Festival and, by default, the amount we would be asking our Lodges to raise. Before I move away from the launch dinner, thank you to everyone who has taken the time to let me know how much they enjoyed the evening, and yes (to a question I was asked) - it is the intention to hold a dinner dance in each of the five years of festival.

As you would expect I want to achieve a good result, but how much we will raise as a Province is tempered with the reality that the cost of living has had an effect on everyone's finances and by default the amount of money we have available to spend. However, I know that Wiltshire Freemasons need little motivation to practice that virtue we recognise as being the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart. I have absolutely no doubt that Freemasons across the Province will discover ways to support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival and The Masonic Charitable Foundation.

I mentioned last month that the festival team has prepared a short presentation that they hope every Lodge will invite them to present. Thank you to the Lodges that have already invited the team to present and answer any questions the Brethren may have.

With regard to the festival, I was very proud to wear my Wiltshire 2028 Festival Jewel at the meeting of Thynne Chapter No.1478, and, while I can't claim to be the first Brother to wear the new jewel, I was very proud to be one of four Companions to wear it at a Chapter meeting (See pic page 5).

The link connecting the Craft and the Royal Arch is indissoluble, that is, it is lasting and can never be destroyed. In my capacity as Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent, I have the honour of leading both the Craft and the Royal Arch and it is my earnest hope that the relationship between the two will become even stronger. I have therefore announced that the Wiltshire 2028 Festival Jewel is to be worn by Brethren in their Lodge and by Companions in their Chapter.

This time of the Masonic year is normally when Brethren are notified of a first Provincial appointment or promotion in the Craft. You will be reassured to know that letters offering an appointment or promotion will be sent out during the coming week. An appointment or promotion is not an entitlement based on length of service, although service to the Lodge after having passed the Chair is one of a number of criteria considered. The award of Provincial rank is not only a reward for past service it is also to be regarded as an opportunity and incentive for further service to the Lodge, to the Province and to Freemasonry in general.

Today I want to say thank you to each and every one who contributes to the well running of their Lodge. Your efforts are very much appreciated.



### The 2023 Rectitude Essay.




  
 W Bro Tony Harvey  
 Prestonian Lecturer 2012  
 PRESENTS THE  
**RECTITUDE  
 ESSAY 2023**  
 HISTORIC LINKS  
 BETWEEN THE CRAFT  
 AND THE ROYAL ARCH  
 Monday 15 May 2023 - 4.15pm  
 PICKWICK MASONIC HALL  
 CORSHAM  
 For details email: 335@pglwilts.org.uk

### Who wears the collar?

A Brother who has served for a full year as a Master of a Lodge and has vacated the Chair on the installation of his successor is not only entitled to, but must, wear the collar and jewel of a Past Master at all Craft meetings until he is able to exchange it for one of a higher rank. It therefore follows that a Provincial officer does not wear the collar and jewel of a Past Master.

But what of the Brother who is asked to stand in for an absent Officer? Should he wear the collar and jewel of the absent Officer? The answer is 'yes he should' even if the Brother is a visitor, but if the Officer is present, the stand-in must not take over his collar, but be dressed according to his own rank.

### An extra thought on thumb up or thumb down.

In the February edition of **In touch>On line** the question was raised as to which was the correct way of acknowledging the words fidelity, fidelity, fidelity said by the IPM at the close of the meeting. Thank you for the very constructive comments made by many readers. In this edition the subject is of a similar nature and concerns the position of the thumb (what a challenge this little digit presents to the Freemason!) during an obligation when taken in the second degree. Without disclosing too much of the ceremony it should surely be recognised and readily acknowledge that the only guidance one needs to determine the correct sign is to read the words of rubric set out in the Emulation Ritual and printed in red; and which clearly state Sp and Sn of F. There we have it, a Sn of F - definitely not a Sn of R. Thus we should be in no doubt that an obligation in the second degree is always the Sn of F which means 'thumb up'.



### The Wiltshire 2028 Festival.

The distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart is of course charity. 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 often referred to as The Charity Charge and explains why in some Lodges it is given to the newly made brother by the Lodge Charity Steward.

The Provincial Grand Master John Reid formally launched the Wiltshire 2028 Festival on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February and it is already receiving support from Lodges, individual Brethren and even from outside of the Province.

The new Wiltshire 2028 Festival Jewel has been well received and twelve Lodges have already placed orders and received a jewel allocation. If you have taken the steps that qualify you for a Festival Jewel please contact your Lodge Charity Steward.

The Provincial Grand Master has announced that the jewel can also be worn in your Royal Arch Chapter (p.s. John wore his at Thynne Chapter No.1478).

### Wiltshire 2028 Festival

#### MAKE A DONATION

Scan with phone camera to open or visit [tinyurl.com/53bfkzju](https://tinyurl.com/53bfkzju)



### It's not just a case of puppy love.

Colin Froude, Secretary of the Lodge of Brothers in Arms No.9540, was invited to give a talk about guide dogs at Braemar Lodge Care Home in Salisbury. This was to start their fundraising for Guide Dogs which is the Lodge's chosen charity for 2023.

He was accompanied by his wife Hilary and guide dogs Stevie and Bonnie. The dogs had a great time meeting the residents and were particularly interested when the tea and cakes came around!

The residents and staff enjoyed fussing with the dogs and asked some interesting questions.

W Bro Colin and Hilary have volunteered as boarders for the Guide Dogs for 10 years, looking after dogs for anything from a few days to many months.

Readers will recall that Radnor Lodge No.4451 is also a great supporter of Guide Dogs and recently adopted a new puppy.



### Warminster undergoes a transformation.

Our Masonic Halls should be places where member are proud to meet and to entertain guests. Sadly, this isn't always the case with some of our halls looking a little tired and in desperate need of a little Teder Loving Care. The importance of decorating and sprucing up our halls should not be underestimated, and huge thanks are due to the Brethren who 'go the extra mile' to make sure the facilities are up to scratch and are as welcoming as the members. The management committee of Warminster Masonic Hall have invested in a new carpet for the Lodge Room and what an impact it has made to the appearance and feel of the room. First reports are very positive and everyone commenting has said what a difference it has made. Well done Warminster.



BEFORE



AFTER



Keith McEvoy and Stacey Cresswell

### The Province moves to Las Vegas.

It's tough but someone has to do it and when the RAF called for volunteers to visit America, Bro Keith McEvoy, a member of St Edmund Lodge No.4714, was one of the first to volunteer. That's how he came to be sending a message home from Las Vegas where he is taking part in the US Air Force Trials for the wounded Warrior games. The event is connected to the Invictus Games and supports WIS (Wounded Injured Sick) service personnel and veterans.

Amazingly Keith is not the only Wiltshire Mason taking part. During his visit he bumped into Bro Stacey Cresswell from Moonraker Lodge No.8747.

What a coincidence to have two Wiltshire Masons competing for the UK against the USA and Georgia?

Keith and Stacey are not only representing their country. They are also ambassadors for Wiltshire Freemasons and we wish them all the very best.



# In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



## Preparing for the Chair.

Without doubt one of the most demanding offices in the Lodge, and yet few Brethren feel properly prepared to take on the exacting duties of Master of the Lodge. The Learning & Development Team invites you to join them for two hours when you can hear from Past Masters, Masters currently in office, and Brethren just like you -Preparing for the Chair. You might think you can 'wing it' - but why do that when you have the opportunity to discover what you are likely to face as you take on the role of ruling and directing your Lodge. Book the date in your diary and plan to attend. Book online [tinyurl.com/y37bj85c](http://tinyurl.com/y37bj85c)



## WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

It's the highest honour the Lodge can bestow on any of its members.

# Preparing for the Chair

SATURDAY 4th MARCH  
10.00am - 12.00noon  
Freemasons' Hall  
Crane Street  
Salisbury

[tinyurl.com/y37bj85c](http://tinyurl.com/y37bj85c)



www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

## Wear your Festival jewel with pride.

Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent John Reid invites you to be proud and wear the Wiltshire 2028 Festival jewel in every Craft Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter throughout the Province.

