



An event not to be missed.



I'm sure that like me, many of you will be sitting in front of the television on Saturday 6th May to watch the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. It promises to be a truly wonderful spectacle full of vibrancy, colour and the pageantry for which this country is famed. Tradition will play a huge part in the event, after all what sort of Coronation would it be without an Orb and Sceptre or a carriage procession with an escort of the Household Cavalry, a Royal Salute from the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and best of all the opportunity to enjoy a jolly time with a 'knees up' in your street. I do trust that you will enjoy the day.

I mentioned that tradition will play an important part in the day's events and rightly so. However, The King has been quite determined to introduce a number of changes to the way things have been done in the past. Treading the line between modernity and tradition as we all know is a difficult pathway to navigate. But navigate it we must as circumstances dictate that we cannot always continue to maintain the status quo and that change is the immutable law of life.

I was interested to read that one of the main changes will be to the length of the Coronation ceremony itself. In 1953 (for those who can recall) the Coronation service of the Queen Elizabeth II lasted a taxing three hours. It is the hope of The King that his Coronation service will be over within one hour, although I did note that invited guests will have to be seated in Westminster Abbey by 7.00am for the service which is planned to start at 11.00am.



Given the almost universal nature of the ceremonies carried out in our Masonic Lodges I am constantly amazed at the difference in time taken by Lodges to perform the same ceremony and I do wonder if our Lodge Directors of Ceremonies together with the Lodge Secretaries could do more and review the way that meetings are conducted in order to reduce any element of tedium that might occur.

One suggestion frequently made is to submit the Lodge Almoner's and the Lodge Charity Steward's reports to the members with the Lodge Summons. Another, which I am glad to see being practiced in many of our Lodges is to ask one Brother to give 'greetings' on behalf of the visiting Brethren. I am aware that this has caused some discussion in the dining room. Interestingly, very few Brethren really know the history and origin of 'greetings' and some actually believe it to be part of the Emulation ritual.

Finally, after mentioning the Coronation and the innovative changes being made to the 2023 event, it seems only right to point out a fairly major innovation being championed by the Pro Grand Master Jonathan Spence. For many of us one of the most enjoyable aspects of Freemasonry is attending the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge. At this point I should add that as the Grand Sword Bearer I am expected to attend, but I really do enjoy visiting Freemasons' Hall and it is quite uplifting to sit in the beautiful Grand Temple absorbing the sights and sounds of over 2000 Brethren taking part in the meeting.

In September 2023, for the first time since before the Second World War, a Quarterly Communication meeting will be held outside of London. The venue could not be any better for Wiltshire Freemasons as the chosen location is The International Convention Centre, Caerleon, Nr Newport, South Wales. I really do trust as many Brethren as possible will use the online facility to register their interest in securing what I guarantee will be a 'hot ticket' event on Wednesday 13 September.



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The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



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



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Scots Lane Dementia Day Centre Grand Opening.



On the 28th March, Kev Parkes, Geoff Johnson, Dave Logan and Neil Gordon from the Lodge of Brothers In Arms No 9540 attended the opening of the new Scots Lane Dementia Day Centre.

The Lodge have donated funds during this time but, more importantly, members of the Lodge have over the last 18 months been supporting the project by helping out with plastering, painting, lifting furniture and generally assisting in any way they could.

It was a great feeling to see Alzheimer's Support get the much needed Dementia Day Care Centre finally opened in Salisbury.

The Lodge also presented a cheque for £1000 that was raised by a raffle and auction during the Ladies Dinner Night on the 25th March at the High Post Golf Club.

There's a first time for everything.

The Provincial Grand Master is pleased to confirm that the September Quarterly Communication Meeting of Grand Lodge will be held at The International Convention Centre, Caerleon, Nr Newport, South Wales on Wednesday 13 September.

Very few Wiltshire Freemasons (if any) will have ever attended a Quarterly Communication outside of London and this will be a superb opportunity for those unable to travel to the capital to experience the joy of what is a very special occasion.

We are making it easy for Wiltshire Freemasons to register an interest in attending September's Quarterly Communication Meeting of Grand Lodge in Wales. Just click the link <http://tinyurl.com/3ucn4gt4>



**QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION
OF
GRAND LODGE
WILL BE HELD AT THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
CENTRE
CAERLEON, NEAR NEWPORT,
WALES
WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER**



The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association

The Stonecutters Chapter WSMBA has fifty five members consisting of two elements. The first element is the Cornerstones, which includes non-masons (such as wives or partners and children), Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Freemasons. The Widows Sons are the second element, who are all Master Masons of good standing in a Lodge under the jurisdiction of, or which is recognised by the UGLE. There are currently thirty three Widows Sons in the Stonecutters.

The Widows Sons is not an order beyond the Craft, although there are specialist motorcycle Lodges and the Widows Sons Lodge No 10011 operates in the Masonic Province of Yorkshire North and East Ridings.

When meeting or riding, Widows Sons are visible and audible representatives of Freemasonry, therefore, they are required to represent the fraternity in a positive light. The Stonecutters serve to raise Masonic awareness while attending public events and supporting regular Lodges and they also raise money for charitable causes.

While Widows Sons wear identifying regalia (aka "Cuts" with front patches), they do not wear their regalia in open lodge or at the festive board; however, the Provincial Grand Master is happy for members to wear their waistcoats when the Lodge is closed in order that photographs can be taken. The consent of the Master is required before any such action is taken.

Stonecutters had a busy year in 2022 with monthly 'Natter Nights', quiz nights, skittles competitions and many other social events including regular 'rides'. In the same year the Stonecutters raised and donated £5415 to charities.

Twelve members joined Wiltshire Summer Lodge No. 9548 and to top off the year a Cornerstone was initiated into the Lodge.

The 2023 Riding Season has got off to a fantastic start as the weather improves. The Stonecutters have raised £1000 towards Wiltshire Province Festival with their limited edition and uniquely serial numbered Stonecutters Widows Sons Challenge Coins.

Over the Easter Bank Holiday members visited Spurgeon's The Children's Charity and Julia's House Children's Hospice in Devizes to donate several hundred Easter Eggs - the look of sheer joy on the children's faces when the adult staff said "chocolate eggs" and "motorbikes" made it all worthwhile.

Planning is now focused on the largest event of the year, Ye Olde Annual Cider Rally in May which will see the Stonecutters head to Bridport to meet with the Dorset Quarrymen and other local(ish) Chapters for a weekend of riding, fundraising and fun.

Brethren wishing to learn more or join the Stonecutters can find more information on their website at www.stonecutterswsmba.org.uk





Festival Jewels - have you got yours?

As the Provincial Charity Steward I think It's great that so many Lodges have taken full advantage of the opportunity to pre-buy the new Festival Jewel. I am also pleased to have heard of Charity Stewards being invited to present a Festival Jewel to Brethren qualifying for the award. Incidentally, if you are unaware of the qualifying process for a Festival Jewel your Charity Steward is the 'go to person' as not only is he the face of the Festival in the Lodge he is also able to explain the criteria, he is also able to sign you up to a Regular Payment Plan.



The process is as follows:

- A Brother or Companion qualifies for a Festival Jewel when they have given either £600 to the Festival or signed up for a Regular Payment Plan (RPP) that will reach £600 by December 2028 (or a combination of the two).
- Lodges are encouraged to order at least 10 jewels ready to be awarded when a Brother has met the criteria set out above.
- Jewels are available from the Provincial Communication Officer - place your order by email to pcowiltshire@gmail.com
- Please pay £10 per jewel by bank transfer to:
 - Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire
 - Sort Code: 23 05 80
 - Account: 43153161
 - Reference: Lxxxxjewel (the xxxx is your Lodge number).

The Provincial Grand Master has asked that Lodge Charity Stewards present jewels in open lodge and congratulate the recipient. Some may think this to be divisive, others may see this as observing the courtesy of thanking a Brother who has practiced that virtue we all seek to admire and It is important to encourage others to follow their example.

The Provincial Grand Master in his capacity as Most Excellent Grand Superintendent has authorised the wearing of the Wiltshire 2028 Festival Jewel in Chapter convocations where they should be worn with pride.)

Making a single payment donation or signing up to a Regular Payment Plan could not be easier. To make a donation just follow the link on the text newsletter or scan the QR code with your phone camera

Wiltshire 2028 Festival

MAKE A DONATION

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





Steve's a local hero.



When Steven Key of New Temple Lodge No.8435 (meeting at the Planks in Swindon) heard that the children's ward at Swindon's Great Western Hospital needed a fridge for the parents' room he sprang into action and not only donated a brand new unit but ensured it was tested and rated safety compliant before installing it.

Pic left: Steven Key with a grateful mum and nurses from the children's ward

The parents' room is a vital resource for families. It's a comfortable quiet space to take a break but also a place to make a drink and get some food. Traditionally it has always had a kettle, microwave and a fridge.

As one mother said "There isn't always time to go to the hospital's on site canteen if your child is very sick and it can soon get pricey if you go there often. So bringing food from home to eat at your convenience makes a big difference."

But she found the fridge was missing and in its place was a note explaining it was out of order and to ask a member of staff for further help. She later discovered it had been broken for months and the ward was waiting for funds to replace it.

As you can imagine, Steve replacing the fridge is an absolute boon to the parents visiting the ward.

Sometimes the gift of a much needed piece of equipment is a more tangible way of expressing the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart - I mean charity, and Steve certainly proved this point with his donation. P.S. The New Temple Lodge No.8435 approved donations totalling £3,000 at their April Regular Meeting.

Stan receives a just reward.



Deputy Provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield paid a very special visit to the home of Stan Paish (89) a member of Harry C Preater Lodge No.8204.

Stan was Initiated into Freemasonry on 16 April 1973 and served as Master of the Lodge in 1987 and Simon was pleased to present him with a 50 year membership certificate

In 1993 Stan received Provincial honours being appointed Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon.

Pic shows Simon, Stan and Lodge Almoner Clive Webb.



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



We are One Organisation says Simon Ellingham.

As many readers will know I am the Deputy Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch in Wiltshire, and it really is a pleasure to be given the opportunity to write a short piece to explain the unique relationship that exists between the Craft and the Royal Arch.

Everyone knows the words of the Preliminary Declaration of the Book of Constitutions but the bit I want to focus on is the stated fact that 'pure Antient masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch'. In those thirty two words the relationship between the Craft and the Royal Arch is made abundantly clear - together they constitute pure Antient Masonry.

One of my favourite books and films is The Lord of the Rings. Each film is great in its own right but would you want to watch the first two without completing the journey with the characters to whom you have become attached?

Now I am not suggesting that a Freemason can't just be a member of the Craft, but I would pose the question "Why would you not want to continue your Masonic journey and complete your knowledge of pure Antient masonry?" We are one organisation on one journey, and we should do it together.

The importance of the Royal Arch in the Freemason's journey is best set out by the Grand Master who is also the First Grand Principal. "No mason should be joining other Orders without first completing their journey in pure Antient Freemasonry by becoming a member of the Royal Arch".

If you are keen to complete your knowledge of pure Antient Masonry please speak to the Royal Arch Representative in your Lodge. He will be delighted to help you negotiate the process.

The banner features a red and blue background with a white diagonal stripe. On the left is the coat of arms of Wiltshire, and on the right is the Wiltshire Provincial Grand Chapter logo. The text "WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS" is in white, "ONE ORGANISATION" is in yellow, and "ONE JOURNEY" is in yellow. A 3D rendering of a red and blue knot is centered below the text. The website address "wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk" is in the bottom right corner.

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

ONE ORGANISATION

ONE JOURNEY

wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



The wearing of Masonic jewels.

One of the most frequent questions posed to me is to do with the wearing of Masonic Jewels, and despite numerous articles in Across the Plain, [In touch>On line](#) and on social media it seems as if there is still some confusion as to what is right and what is wrong. Following a conversation on this subject at a recent Lodge meeting I was asked if I would repeat the previous guidance.

The first thing to say is that there is little point in relying on the Book of Constitutions and absolutely no point whatsoever in referring to your Lodge By-Laws. The former is really only relevant in determining the design of a jewel which must be approved by the Grand Master - Rule 241 BoC. However, Rule 239 BoC does make a very interesting point in stating that "...jewels to be worn are as hereinafter prescribed..."

Lodge By Laws are silent on such things as jewels, and rightly so as a Lodge does not have any authority to create a jewel or determine the wearing of a jewel without the express permission of the Grand Master (sometimes delegated to the PrGM).

Which leaves the inquisitive Freemason to seek answers elsewhere - but where? Thankfully there are any number of good books that give helpful guidance not least the excellent *Masonic Etiquette Today* written by Graham Redman. There is also our very own booklet 'The Etiquette of a Freemasons' with a forward by the Provincial Grand Master in which he states: "While By-Laws, and the Constitutions are classed as rules; just as important are the customs that control behaviour in social groups or social situations. This is often referred to as 'etiquette' and for many doing what is 'right and proper' over and above what falls within the strict rule of law is a mark of common decency". Wiltshire Freemasons are encouraged to follow Provincial guidelines in respect of etiquette.

Masonic jewels can best be categorised as collar jewels and breast jewels, and then as jewels issued by the UGLE, the Province, and your Lodge.

If qualified to do so you should wear the Royal Arch jewel and it is always worn as the first jewel on the left breast nearest the heart.

Again, subject to qualification, the next jewel is the UGLE Tercentenary jewel, followed by the Provincial Festival jewel (when in Festival and until it has been designated a permanent jewel) and then by any Lodge jewel (which in Wiltshire should only be worn in the Lodge to which they refer). Incidentally, it is quite strange to see Brethren still wearing the 2005 and 2017 Festival Jewels. Far better to be wearing the Wiltshire 2028 Festival Jewel.

Provincial Officers (of this Province) and Grand Officers do not tend to wear Founders, Past Masters and other Lodge specific jewels.

It might come as a surprise to many former and serving members of the armed forces to discover that the wearing of military medals is not advocated by the Book of Constitutions. Indeed Rule 239 BoC is explicit in determining that *The regalia, clothing, insignia, and jewels to be worn are as hereinafter prescribed, and no Brother shall be admitted into any meeting of Grand Lodge, or of any subordinate Lodge, without the clothing appropriate to his rank under the Grand Lodge.*

N.B. Masonic etiquette dictates that it is inappropriate to wear civil or military decorations and medals with Masonic regalia. When we enter the Lodge Room we leave our distinctions of ordinary life behind us and are all Brethren. (Graham Redman - *Masonic Etiquette Today*)



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Festival Gloves On Tour.





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