



In touch > On line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



We are - Wiltshire Freemasons.



I am sure many of you will have seen the incredible graphics produced by the Provincial Communication Team confirming and celebrating the indissoluble link between The Craft and The Royal Arch. Their work is not simply to demonstrate their prowess in putting together a great set of superb images; it is much more. It is to acknowledge a truth which was first announced in 1813 that Antient Masonry is the union of The Craft and The Royal Arch.

The recently appointed Pro Grand Master who is also the Pro First Grand Principal has set The Craft and The Royal Arch a challenge - aptly named The Membership Challenge. It has at its heart a very straightforward message, how do we grow our membership. For some of you the very mention of the word membership especially when linked to growth is enough to induce a sense of 'here we go again'. However, as the Pro Grand Master Jonathan Spence has made clear on a previous occasion "We are a membership organisation" - as such new members are key to our long term future.

The Membership Challenge is not only about welcoming men into The Craft; it's also about retaining the members we have and encouraging them to continue their journey from Initiation to Exaltation. It is so important to recognise the link between The Craft and The Royal Arch and to acknowledge the fact that a Freemason's journey is incomplete until he the joy of being Exalted into The Royal Arch. The Membership Challenge will only be successful if we can welcome new members, stem our losses, and encourage the transition to The Royal Arch - One Organisation - One Journey - we are Wiltshire Freemasons.

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.

To register your interest in attending this event just follow the link <http://tinyurl.com/3ucn49t4>



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



The Wiltshire 2028 Festival a note from Simon Leighfield

The Wiltshire 2028 Festival has got off to a great start. Thank you to those Lodges that have already made a significant contribution to their 'goal'. I really am so pleased to see the funds flowing into our Provincial Wiltshire 2028 Festival Relief Chest No.E2028. For those Lodges still to be persuaded to move funds from their own Lodge Relief Chest let me say that an interest rate of six per cent payable on money in E2028 should be sufficient incentive for your Lodge Treasurer to release the money.

One festival event I trust we will all be supporting is the cycle ride being organised by Alan Colman and Richard Legge; both members of The Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355. Over the next five years Alan and Richard will be inviting cyclists of all standards to join them as they visit every Masonic meeting venue in the Province. The first cycle ride will be on Sunday 3rd September 2023 and starting at 9.00am from The Planks, Swindon, will travel to Highworth, Malmesbury, Calne and Marlborough.

The boys assure me that the ride will be very sedate and not at all like the Tour de France. So, give the bike a service, pump up the tyres, don the lycra, don't forget your helmet, and join Alan and Richard for the ride of a lifetime. And remember It's all for a good cause. Donate or Sponsor online by clicking on this link:

[tinyurl.com/yw7ypyw4](https://forms.gle/ZkfBEaDWBP6HHJqf8) To enter the event there is an online application form:

<https://forms.gle/ZkfBEaDWBP6HHJqf8>

On a slightly different scale I was very impressed to read that the Master of Lodge of Concord No.632, Mike Boddy, will be taking part in the fan dance race on the 8th July. Interestingly it's nothing to do with 'fans' and it's much more than a 'race'. It's what the SAS and the SBS do as part of their qualification process.

Mike will be in the Brecon Beacons (recently renamed by the Welsh Government) as a competitor in a 24km race carrying 35lbs of kit whilst trying to complete it in SAS/SBS selection time. Although I'm sure we will all be very happy if he completes the course no matter the time. Good luck Mike.

Mike is doing this to raise funds for the Wiltshire 2028 Festival and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. If you want to support Mike why not sponsor him by clicking the link and donate! tinyurl.com/ax3ehb6x

WHAT IS THERE TO THINK ABOUT?

6%

THE MCF IS PAYING 6% ON MONEY IN WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL RELIEF CHEST

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a man with a beard, looking thoughtful with his hand to his forehead. The text is overlaid in large, bold, gold-outlined letters. The number '6%' is prominently displayed in a 3D gold font.



In touch > On line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



We are One Organisation.

The Grand Superintendent John Reid ,has announced the appointment of Comp David Clatworthy as Communication Officer for The Royal Arch. David will be working closely with The Craft Communication Team as jointly they promote the message that Craft and Royal Arch is One Organisation on One Journey.

**ONE ORGANISATION
ONE JOURNEY**

ARE YOU READY?

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

Is your Chapter in the Spotlight?



One of the ways David is helping individual Chapters is by championing and promoting each of the seventeen Chapters in the Province.

The May spotlight was on Wiltshire Chapter of Agriculture No.9090 (linked to Wiltshire Lodge of Agriculture No.9090).

To feature your Chapter please contact David by email:

[racommwilts@outlook.com](mailto:racommswilts@outlook.com)

WILTSHIRE CHAPTER of AGRICULTURE No 9090

Meets on the second Tuesday in January, second Monday in April and second Tuesday in November



The Royal Arch
www.pglwilts.org.uk/royal-arch



Meeting at The Masonic Hall, Pickwick
Nr Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 0HX



scribeeza@pglwilts.org.uk



Vastern Lodge No.8977 Dance The Night Away.

With the current season of Masonic Meetings coming to an end, the families, friends and members of the Vastern Lodge No.8977 proved they know how to party when they gathered at Alexandra House in Wroughton for the Lodge May Ball. The excellent venue was the perfect backdrop for a great meal with fantastic entertainment provided by not one but two live bands who filled the room with a selection of tunes ideal for an evening of celebration and dancing.



Incidental music for dining was from a fine duet of musicians from the dazzling 41 Degrees swing band who provided the dance music after dinner and then just when things might have come to a close the second act – a pop tribute band called Good Times, hit the stage and performed numbers from the swinging sixties onwards.

Master, Johnathan Bourne, was delighted that everyone enjoyed the evening and was particularly pleased to have raised funds for distribution to a number of Masonic charities.

A Call To Arms - Asked and Answered.

Five Brethren from Lodge of Brothers in Arms No.9540 volunteered for a day's heavy gardening at Buckland Court care home in Amesbury, which is run by The Orders of St John Care Trust.

The challenge was to remove a large rockery into two skips and fill in a disused pond. To achieve this some ten cubic metres of rocks and soil was shifted. With blazing sunshine a good sweat was built up, especially when it came to lifting the full wheelbarrows into the skip. As you might imagine there were various comments about how much it resembled military fitness training!

And a Cheque Was Presented.

The event was arranged by Bro Chris Lyons whose wife works at Buckland Court, Bro Chris also presented a cheque for £200 from Brothers in Arms to the Deputy Manager.'





The wearing of Masonic jewels.

One of the most frequent questions asked of me is "What is the proper order to wear Masonic jewels?" It does seem that despite numerous articles in Across the Plain, [In touch>On line](#) and on social media there is still some confusion as to what is right and what is wrong. The Provincial Grand Master has asked me to repeat the previous guidance.

Lodge By-Laws are silent on the wearing of Masonic 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 (delegated to the PrGM).

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.

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)

Order of wear

To avoid any misunderstanding the diagram shows the order in which Masonic Jewels are to be worn in Wiltshire (subject to qualification).

1. The Royal Arch Jewel
2. The UGLE Tercentenary Jewel
3. The Provincial Festival 2028 Jewel
4. A Lodge Past Master's Jewel (only in the Lodge to which it refers)
5. A Lodge Centenary Jewel (only in the Lodge to which it refers)





In touch > On line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



Festival Jewels - have you got yours?

The Wiltshire 2028 Festival Jewel has clearly captured the attention of many members of the Province, so much so that the Provincial Grand Master has commented on the number of Brethren wearing a jewel. It really is a nice jewel and if you are unaware of the qualifying process for a Festival Jewel your Charity Steward is the 'go to person' as the face of the Festival in the Lodge.



- 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).
- 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: L xxxx **jewel** (the xxxx is your Lodge number).

Christmas is coming.

And this year it really will be very special family event with a festive Christmas Carol service in the beautiful surroundings of the Marlborough College Chapel. Mince pies, mulled wine and a host of well-known carols – a perfect start to Christmas. Register online: tinyurl.com/bd7nwpxy

John Reid

Invites you to join him for

Carols at Christmas

Marlborough College Chapel

Sunday 17th December 3.00pm

visit website for more details

Family | Friends | Children

Special guest appearance from Santa Claus

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk





WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL MASONIC CYCLING EVENT SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER



STARTING AND FINISHING AT THE SWINDON MASONIC CENTRE

The first of four annual fun cycling event for all the family with various distances ranging from 14 miles to 71 miles. Themed as an "Entered Apprentice" event we will visit five masonic centres in North Wiltshire.

JOIN US BY CLICKING ON THE CYCLIST.

SPONSOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM CLICK THE QR CODE BELOW.

VIEW THE ROUTE BY CLICKING ON THE ROAD.

Every participant will receive a Masonic Charitable Foundation cycling top, a specially commissioned medal (unique to each year) and a water bottle.

There will be two water and food stops and support assistance following the riders.

**ENTRY
£25**

ROUTE HERE



SPONSOR US HERE



ENTER HERE



REGISTER HERE



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
CYCLING@ACOLMAN.COM**



Chippenham Freemasons Supporting the Community.



Chippenham Freemasons Martin Stringer and Bob Firth Supporting Fighting Hunger with Food Waste

Bro Bob Firth, Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No.626, was recently approached to see if the Freemasons could help with donations of foodstuffs to the local community. The rallying cry went out and, very quickly, Chippenham Freemasons responded with donations of various food items to support the worthy cause.

Fighting Hunger with Food Waste collect good food from local supermarkets that can no longer be sold and distribute it to individuals, families, foodbanks, schools and any other organisation who feels they could benefit from an extra hand with food in the local area. They currently support some 1400

families and several organisations in the Chippenham area and demand for the service is rising and, in spite of those regular donations from local stores and shops, they do at times run low on supplies and this was one of those times.

Chippenham Freemasons were more than happy to support this worthy cause and yet again demonstrate that charity is in a freemason's DNA.

Pictured with their hands full are Bro Bob Firth of Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No.626, and Bro Martin Stringer, the Master of Vale of Avon Lodge No. 8432 .

Don't miss Sarum Super Saturday.

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS
 A DOUBLE DOUBLE FIRST DEGREE
 performed by Sarum Lodge No.5137
 and the Active Provincial Team



**SARUM
 SUPER
 SATURDAY**

**SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023
 1.00PM AND 3.30PM**

Be a part of the event - contact John Clough for details

FREEMASONS' HALL | CRANE STREET | SALISBURY



SARUM LODGE
 5137

CLOSING DATE JUNE 10TH