



I do like change when it has a purpose...



If there is one thing I have discovered in life it is that there is always someone who wants to question your motives whenever you attempt to challenge the status quo or to suggest that acquired tradition might just be the result of an historical oversight that has been allowed to continue unchallenged. Let's be honest, we can all attest to the truth I recently heard, when a Lodge secretary informed the visiting Brethren that they had just witnessed some of the amazing traditions of the Lodge - including some that had occurred for the very first time that same evening. It drew a laugh, and the many nodding heads confirmed that what he said was absolutely true.

When I was Invested as Provincial Grand Master in October 2022 I informed my team that our journey would be one punctuated by change. Some of the changes would be as a result of initiatives from the Centre (the UGLE), but most of the changes would be inspired from within the Province. However, what I would not encourage is change for change's sake. There has to be a reason for change.

Recently the Communication Team produced the latest booklet designed to assist Provincial and Lodge Directors of Ceremonies in managing the protocols surrounding the Installation Meeting. It might come as a surprise to some Brethren to know that there are set processes, procedures, and elements of the ceremonial that are common to every Installation, and to which every Lodge is expected to conform. In simple terms the rule is that whenever a Provincial Ruler presides at a meeting, the Installation Meeting being the most common, Provincial Grand Lodge Rules apply.

What has pleased me and the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, is the way in which the majority of Lodges have 'signed up' to the new way of doing things. In fact, quite a few Lodges have commented on the fact that the incoming procession is much smarter and looks more controlled, while some Brethren have welcomed the way in which the Provincial Grand Stewards have brought an element of colour to proceedings. The Deputies, and Assistant Directors of Ceremonies are required to carry their Batons, even when attending in support of the active officer. Small changes but carrying significant meaning.

I'm pleased to say that Barry and his team have some new ideas and plans for Provincial Grand Lodge in October, yet another reason to attend what is the showcase of Wiltshire's Masonic year.

The Summer edition of Across the Plain contained the official summons for Provincial Grand Lodge. The summons is also sent to you with this edition of In touch > On line. I would ask that you read the comment on 'Why you should attend Provincial Grand Lodge' - I trust it will make you think about the importance of a promise.

I was particularly pleased to visit Salisbury Hospital to be given a comprehensive briefing on the work of The Stars Appeal, and what a superb job they do. I was delighted to present a cheque for £1,000 that will go towards providing items which are not core to the NHS provision. (See page 6)

Having visited Salisbury Hospital it was only right that the following week found me in Swindon and the Great Western Hospital, whose version of The Stars Appeal is 'Brighter Futures'. It is humbling and inspiring to witness the generosity of the Lodges that support local organisations doing such great work.



The Wiltshire 2028 Festival – Simon Leighfield...

I was asked recently whether we would be setting up a 'thermometer' - the Brother was a clinician - showing the state of the Wiltshire 2028 Festival and how it was progressing in terms of achieving our goal of £1million. It was a great question and raised an issue that the festival team has been discussing. In the 2017 Festival the Communication Team designed a pillar that was updated on a regular basis and formed part of the Festival web page. To be quite honest with you, it was a flop. Hardly anyone looked at it, and those that did didn't believe it was accurate, and they were right. Rather than present inaccurate and misleading information we have decided that we won't be repeating that exercise.

However, we do recognise that Lodges want to know how they are doing and we will be reporting individual Lodge progress through the Lodge Charity Steward. Funds continue to flow into our Provincial Wiltshire 2028 Festival Relief Chest No.E2028 and that money is growing at an astonishing rate of six per cent per annum. I am sure you will agree this is a great incentive for your Lodge to release the money to E2028 as soon as possible.

Please don't forget that Alan Colman, and Richard Legge are gearing up for the first of the cycle rides in support of the Wiltshire 2028 Festival on Sunday 3rd September 2023 – starting at 9.00am from The Planks, Swindon, and will include visits to Highworth, Calne and Marlborough. Sources suggest that the members meeting at the locations will be providing refreshments to riders and supporters. If you want to join Alan and Richard for any of the rides there is an online application form: <https://forms.gle/ZkfBEaDWBP6HHJqf8> And remember if you can't make the ride don't worry as you can donate or sponsor Alan and Richard online by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yw7ypyw4> 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.

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 the 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).



Why should you attend Provincial Grand Lodge?

To the Freemason a promise, pledge and/or vow should be adhered to without evasion, equivocation or mental reservation of any kind. In fact that is what each of us commits to do as we kiss or salute the Volume of the Sacred Law. Every Freemason understands the gravity of the undertaking he makes as he "solemnly promises and swears" to observe the parts and points recounted by the Master; yet for some Freemasons it would seem to be the case that a promise, pledge or vow is really nothing more than an aspiration, a hope or an ambition.

This is potentially problematical as keeping a promise lays the foundation for trust and respect. When our behaviour is consistent, it allows others to build faith in us. One of the biggest consequences of not keeping our word is that it can damage our reputation as people who don't keep their word are often perceived as being unreliable. This can make it difficult to establish and maintain relationships, as others are likely to be hesitant to trust you in the future.

The Emulation book of ritual is peppered with phrases that indicate the importance of a Freemason's word being his bond and something on which his Lodge and a Brother can rely. Who can forget the solemn pledge undertaken by the new Master Mason as he engaged in the act of demonstrating the five points of fellowship?

Promising to "obey all lawful signs and summonses sent from a Master Masons' Lodge" is something that we do twice in our Masonic journey and it is the promise that some Freemasons feel is the least important to keep. Having been told there are six, seven or eight meetings a year, and having affirmed that you will support the Lodge and be a regular participant in its activities, suddenly another event takes precedence and the Lodge is deprived of your presence. Tough at the best of times, but more so when holding a Lodge office.

Promises are hard work and rightly so for if following through on a promise was easy, then broken promises wouldn't hurt so much.

Promises are usually hard because they require us to step outside of our wants and fulfil something for someone or something else.

Promises are meant to be taken seriously; after all when a promise is broken, our reputation, relationships and personal integrity suffer.

Promises are commitments, whether the commitment is to ourselves or to someone else. Making a promise is a commitment that you will keep your word. It is a commitment that reinforces trust.

Promises should never go beyond our own boundaries. In other words, never make a promise you can't keep. Have the courage to stay true to yourself and tell them you can't fulfil the pledge, vow or promise.

So here's the rub. Every Master Mason promises to "answer and obey all summonses sent to me from a Master Masons' Lodge". With this edition of [In touch > On line](#) you will receive a copy of the summons for the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on Thursday 5th October at 2.30pm.

If you are a Master Mason you promised that you would answer and obey such a summons. The question therefore is quite simple - will you be there? If you really can't attend (as opposed to you don't want to attend) on the basis of sickness or the pressing emergencies of my own public or private avocations that's fine, but whatever your reason, if you don't intend to attend, please send your apology to the Provincial Secretary.



Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge?

For the first time in over eighty years The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge is being held outside of London and moving to Newport. If you have registered your interest with the Province you will have also received a communication explaining the second part of the process which is to register not just an interest but your commitment to attend and this must be done through the UGLE designated partner.



To access the booking form SCAN the QR code or click on the link below.

<https://buy.stripe.com/7sl4gzo173lj4l85kA>

For this reason it is important that attendees know what is required (beyond just attending) and the Provincial Grand Master wishes it to be made clear that all attendees are expected to dine at the event. The cost of dining is £52.50.

Therefore, before any names are put forward the Provincial Grand Master wishes to be assured that every Brother understands this condition.

If you believe this condition alters your interest in attending, please advise the Assistant Secretary by email by return. asstsecwilts@gmail.com

Have you booked for Christmas?

John Reid is looking forward to welcoming you, your family and your friends to a special Carols at Christmas in the beautiful surroundings of Marlborough College Chapel. To experience a Christmas like no other, join John and the whole Wiltshire Masonic family as they sing popular carols in the week before Christmas. Book online with the link and remember please tell us how many children you will be bringing.

Wiltshire Freemasons
Invite you to join them for

Carols at Christmas

Marlborough College Chapel

Sunday 17th December 3.00pm
tinyurl.com/bd7nwpxy

Family | Friends | Children
Special guest appearance from Santa Claus

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



In touch > On line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



Is your Chapter in the Spotlight?



CHAPTER
SPOTLIGHT
WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE CHAPTER of AGRICULTURE No. 9090

Meets in January, April and November

Meeting at The Masonic Hall, Bath Road, Pickwick,
Nr Corsham, SN13 OHT. Wiltshire



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



RAcommsWilts@outlook.com

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

The July spotlight was on Wiltshire Chapter of Agriculture No.9090 that meets at The Masonic Hall, Pickwick, Nr Corsham.

To feature your Chapter please contact David by email:

racommswilts@outlook.com

To join the Royal Arch a man must first be made a Freemason...

For the next three months the Membership Team will be undertaking a Province wide campaign using Facebook to target the 200,000 men who live in the county. We are also challenging YOU to introduce a relative or friend to your Lodge and to Freemasonry. It's JUST ASK in reverse, you ask them rather than they ask you. Do you have someone you can introduce?

We're **Wiltshire FREEMASONS**
AND WE WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU

contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

FOLLOW US NOW

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



In touch > On line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



Discover More...

Over the past few weeks we have been promoting the Royal Arch, and for good reason as it really is an important step in the journey of the Master Mason. In the Craft we Discover Freemasonry, in the Royal Arch you can Discover More. The Royal Arch enable the Master Mason to discover the genuine secrets that we were told were lost. If there was no other reason to become a Companion of The Royal Arch, surely the opportunity to Discover More is more than enough. Talk to your Royal Arch Representative and continue your journey of discovery – you won't be disappointed.

The Royal Arch Discover More



www.pglwilts.org.uk/royal-arch



CONTINUE THE JOURNEY



Stars Appeal...

John Reid was all smiles when he visited Salisbury Hospital and was able to present a cheque to the Salisbury District Stars Appeal.

Having heard about the superb support given by the Stars Appeal from a senior Consultant Haematologist, a Paediatric Consultant, a Breast Surgeon, and a Radiographer, Wiltshire Freemasons were left in no doubt that their donation would be used to make a real difference in the hospital.

If your Lodge wants to know more about the Stars Appeal and how you could help them to improve the patients' experience in Salisbury contact pcowiltshire@gmail.com



In touch > On line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



Coffee time is anytime and all the time...

Which makes The Perfect Ashlar Smooth Coffee a surefire winner for Wiltshire Freemasons. Created by Contact Coffee Co. the original British Military Coffee Company. Contact Coffee was set up by two serving Royal Marines frustrated with drinking poor quality freeze dried coffee during operational tours and exercises around the world.

All profit from sales of The Perfect Ashlar Smooth Coffee will be used to promote the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. Thank you for your support of this fabulous initiative.

