



There is never a quiet time...



At the Installation of a new Master, immediately before he appoints his Wardens and his officers, the presiding officer offers a few words of welcome and encouragement to the new Master. Unlike the formal Address to the Master there are no prescribed words to be used, however, by and large it does follow a tried and tested format. Sometime during the short monologue, the new Master will be reminded that his time in office will pass very quickly and that he should do his very best to enjoy his year in office. This got me to think about my own situation, particularly as I am fast approaching the first anniversary of my appointment and Investiture as Provincial Grand Master. I can honestly say that the year has flown by.

In August, the Provincial Director of Ceremonies organised two practice sessions for the officers that will be at the forefront of the ceremonial proceedings at Provincial Grand Lodge, and the Provincial Secretary arranged for the team to visit The Civic at Trowbridge in order to run through the day's events. I mention this just by way of demonstrating that for many the idea that there is a Masonic summer break is an illusion. The reality is that for a Provincial officer, there is never a quiet time.

I'm pleased to say that Barry and his team have introduced 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.

I know the Communication Team has requested your Lodge secretary to forward the official summons for Provincial Grand Lodge with this edition of **In touch > On line**. I am looking forward to welcoming you to The Civic on Thursday 5th October for what I'm sure will be a fantastic occasion.

Talking about the Communication Team and Lodge Secretaries – I have approved a new initiative where every Lodge and Chapter will have a unique email address @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk. During the past two weeks the team has sent out to Lodges and Chapters details of how to set up the new email system and I am very pleased to hear that so many have signed up to the scheme. There is a nominal cost of £30 per annum that covers hosting. I feel sure you will agree this is a real benefit to all users, particularly as it provides a facility that enables total separation of personal emails from those related to the Lodge. Incidentally, members of the Provincial team are using @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk as their default email address for all Masonic business. I do thank Mark Newman and Colin Froude who have been instrumental in getting this project up and running. If you have any issues setting up, please do speak to them and they will do all they can to assist.

Alan Colman and Richard Legge will be joined by fellow cyclists including Deputy Grand Superintendent Simon Ellingham when they embark on their first ride in aid of the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. There is still plenty of time to sponsor the riders – just click on the following link <https://tinyurl.com/yw7yppw4> I am delighted to hear that members of the Widows Sons will be supporting Alan and Richard on Sunday 3rd September and you can too.

Finally, if you haven't already booked, please do register to attend the Christmas Carol Service in the Marlborough College Chapel on Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm. It really will be a wonderfully festive event with Christmas carols, mulled wine and minced pies. It's a great way for all the family to get into the festive spirit. Book today using the link tinyurl.com/bd7nwpxy



Are you attending Provincial Grand Lodge?

Last month I wrote about the importance Freemasons attach to the promises they make. A number of readers contacted me to say how much they felt that 'keeping a promise' was something for a generation past and that the words we use in our ritual are only symbolic, and that we shouldn't get too hung up on them. In fact, one person suggested that making a promise you didn't intend to keep was a good way of getting someone 'off your case'.

One of the consequences of not keeping to our word is that it can damage a reputation, as people who don't keep their word are often perceived as being unreliable and untrustworthy. Not a great position for the aspiring Freemason looking to progress through the offices of the Lodge and eventually to the Master's chair.

Included with August's copy of **In touch >On line** there was a copy of the summons for the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. Will you be there? It's on Thursday 5th October at 2.30pm at The Civic, Trowbridge. If you really can't 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. You can email him secretary@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

The Civic doors will be open from 10.00am and you are requested to assist the stewards who have the important task of completing the registration process and giving you an MCF Gift Aid envelope which we would ask you to complete and give to the Charity Stewards in reception. There will be a number of changes to the format of this year's meeting including new roles for the Active Deacons, and Stewards of the year. Plus, for the first time, we will be singing both the Opening and Closing Odes.

It promises to be a great day.

The poster features a black background with orange and white text. On the left, a vertical orange banner contains the text 'WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS'. The main text is centered and reads: 'PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE' in large white letters, followed by 'THE CIVIC. TROWBRIDGE' in white letters on an orange background. Below this, the date and time are listed: 'Thursday 5th October 2023' and '2.30pm (to be seated at 2.15pm)'. At the bottom, there are two orange buttons: 'JOIN US FOR A GREAT AFTERNOON' and 'wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk'. A small crest is visible in the top right corner of the poster, and a large orange arrow points towards the event details.



Festival Jewels - have you got yours? asks Simon Leighfield...

Sometimes something is said that causes me to do a 'double take' and ask the question "Did you really actually say that?" The 'something said' was. "I've not seen anything about how to get a Festival Jewel". That caused me to stop and think about how many times the Festival and Jewel had been mentioned in the monthly newsletter, Across the Plain, Twitter, Facebook and on the front page of the Provincial website www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk. The pragmatist in me simply put the question to one side and concentrated on the solution to the problem.

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 comms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk
- 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).

The first cycle ride...

Join Alan and Richard for the first of their cycle rides on Sunday 3rd September 2023. Starting at 9.00am from The Planks, Swindon, the ride will include visits to Highworth, Calne and Marlborough. 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>

Wiltshire 2028 Festival
BIKE RIDE - SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

The ride is themed as an "Entered Apprentice" event and will visit 5 masonic centres in North Wiltshire. Sponsorship and donations can be made using the QR code or hit the red button.

 





cycling@acolman.com www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



St Aldhelm Lodge No.2888 is on the move....



St Aldhelm Lodge No.2888 is moving from Malmesbury to Chippenham Masonic Hall and will be celebrating in style at their Installation meeting on Tuesday 19th September.

The Lodge has a wonderful history and can lay claim to many achievements among which is the fact that it is the only Hall Stone Jewel Lodge in the Province, having raised the magnificent sum of £525 towards the Masonic Memorial Fund in 1925.

St Aldhelm Lodge has also provided Wiltshire with a Provincial Grand Master, two Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, a Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, two Provincial Grand Secretaries and a Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch. It can also lay claim to have provided a Provincial Grand Organist who compiled the Provincial Grand March at the opening of Provincial Grand Lodge.

St Aldhelm Royal Arch Chapter is relocating to Chippenham, while St Adhelm Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1531 is moving to Calne, and the St Aldhelm Preceptory No.492 is relocating to Swindon.

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. Last week John and the team had a sneak preview of the Chapel after which they were convinced that this event will eclipse any Christmas experience you might have had before. Join John and the whole Wiltshire Masonic family as they sing popular carols in the week before Christmas. Book online with the link tinyurl.com/bd7nwpxy and remember, please tell us how many children you will be bringing. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service in the Marlburian Hall.

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?

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

The August spotlight was on Wiltshire Chapter of Rectitude No.335 that meets at The Masonic Hall, Stanier Road, Calne, SN11 9PX

To feature your Chapter please contact David by email: racommswilts@outlook.com



WILTSHIRE CHAPTER of RECTITUDE No. 335

Meets on the fourth Thursday in March and the first Tuesday in October



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



Meeting at The Masonic Hall, Stanier Road,
Calne, SN11 9PX. Wiltshire



 RAcommsWilts@outlook.com



@Wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

Have you noticed a new email address for your Lodge and Chapter?

As part of the Province's standardisation initiative, Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribes are being asked to sign up to @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

Many Lodges and Chapters already use @gmail and some use @outlook to send and receive emails, while others use a personal email address (often the same one they use for all their correspondence). Using a distinctive @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk address offers greater security, increased privacy and allows the Lodge/Chapter to transfer a unique email address to a successor in due time.

The Province does not have access to the content of emails sent and received using the email address @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk and all emails are private and confidential.



Finding Your Feet...

Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge can take many forms and be achieved in different ways. One way is to attend a presentation given by the Learning and Development Team. The next event is on Saturday 16th September at the Swindon Masonic Centre, The Planks, Swindon and while it's designed for the 'new' Freemason, everyone is welcome to attend.

You can book a place online using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/56vdwkrn>

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS
LEARNING | EDUCATION | TRAINING

FINDING YOUR FEET
designer footwear for the new freemason

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Swindon Masonic Centre
The Planks
10.00am until 12 noon

<https://tinyurl.com/56vdwkrn>

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk **Contact us: education@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk**

Teddies For Loving Care...



Often described as Wiltshire Freemasons' unspoken success, TLC is without doubt the Province's most popular and well supported charity and it needs your support.

The cute teddies really do make a difference to a child's life. Only this month we have been approached by the parents of two children who had lost their TLC bear.

The PrGM acted as postman and delivered a new TLC bear to one young person who lived in Shrewton; while DPrGM Simon Leighfield performed the same task to a young person in Beckhampton Nr Marlborough.



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.

