



### We are very fortunate.



Last month I wrote of my pleasure in hearing from readers of the help they have received from the educational element included in recent editions of our monthly newsletter **In Touch>On Line**. I have been pleased to hear from members that they have benefited from the articles that have been included, and that the content has contributed to them making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. It was a particular pleasure to hear that attendees at the recent **Finding Your Feet** seminar in Swindon asked the Learning and Development team a lot of questions.

There is no doubt in my mind that Freemasonry is a progressive science and that a Lodge is a place where Freemasons meet to work and to instruct and improve themselves in the mysteries of the ancient science. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to know that many of our newer members are keen to discover more.

I am concerned when I am told that some of our more senior Brethren appear unable to accept that the Lodge's supposed traditions are not sacrosanct or binding on current and future members. Rule 155 BoC is often quoted as being the default position for a Lodge to 'do what ever it wishes'. This is a misunderstanding in the reading of the rule. Firstly, it is the members present at any Lodge who have the right to regulate their own proceedings. However not without a caveat, that reads, *provided they are consistent with the general laws and regulations of the Craft*. I understand that some members don't want to operate within the rules, but that is simply not an option. Every Freemason promises to *act and abide by the ancient usages and established customs of the Order*. By all means register your views on the content of the Constitutions of Masonry, but to ignore or choose to operate outside of the rules is not something I would advise any Brother to do. For the avoidance of doubt, the booklet Information For The Guidance of Members Of The Craft is as important as the BoC and the By Laws of the Lodge.

During the past month I had the pleasure of meeting with Lodge Membership Officers when they attended a presentation by Colin Cheshire. I was very impressed by the variety of questions asked by the attendees, in particular those that were of a more general nature. What it suggested to me was that there is a desire among our members for the opportunity to learn more about Freemasonry and its workings. I have asked the Communications team, and the Learning and Development team to consider holding a Question Time event at which members of the Craft, and Royal Arch can put questions to a panel and subjects can be subject to debate. In this edition of **In Touch>On Line** there is a short questionnaire, if you would like to support and attend a Wiltshire Freemasons Question Time please do let us know by emailing [comms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk](mailto:comms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk)

I was pleased to announce the Provincial Grand Wardens for 2024/25. Bro Mark Whitmarsh of Gooch Lodge No.1295 will be the Senior Warden, and Bro Keith Rundle of Radnor Lodge No.4451 will be the Junior Warden. Mark and Keith will be Invested at Provincial Grand Lodge in October. I am sure you will give them your full support and make them very welcome when they attend your Lodge.

Thank you to everyone that has contributed towards the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. I really am very pleased to see the Festival Jewel being worn both in Lodges and Chapters. Keep up the good work.

Finally, if you enjoyed last year's Carol Service, you'll be glad to know that it's being repeated. See page 6.



APRIL 2024

### All Wiltshire Freemasons can help.



The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) is often referred to as 'The Freemason's Charity' and rightly so. To reflect this the [Wiltshire 2028 Festival Appeal](#) is made to **ALL** Wiltshire Freemasons and is not restricted to just members of the the Craft. I was therefore delighted to be informed that Chapter of Rectitude No. 335 has made an incredible donation of £2,000 to the [Wiltshire 2028 Festival](#), and that the Provincial Grand Chapter was making a donation of £1,000. These two donations demonstrate the unique bond that exists between the Craft and Royal Arch and confirms beyond doubt that we are One Organisation - Wiltshire Freemasons

Thank you to every Brother and Companion for encouraging members of your Lodges and Chapters to give generously to the [Wiltshire 2028 Festival](#), and a special thank you to every one of you who has signed up to a Regular Payment Plan and is wearing the [Wiltshire 2028 Festival](#) jewel.

Supporting the [Wiltshire 2028 Festival](#) isn't always about giving large sums, the aggregate effect of small and medium sized donations very quickly add up to make a real difference. I was delighted to be invited to attend Calley Lodge No.7525 and receive a cheque for £1,500 for the [Wiltshire 2028 Festival](#). The Lodge has a big goal to achieve and this cheque will go a long way in ensuring the goal is reached.

I do want to encourage every member to set up a **Regular Payment Plan (RPP)**. If you haven't done so already, please do think about doing so as soon as possible. I know you will remember the Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent writing in January that in order to reach £600 per member over five years only requires a donation of £120 per year; or £10 per month; £2.50 per week; or 35 pence per day.

### Are you a Royal Arch Companion?

Then make an entry in your diary to attend the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter.

**ANNUAL CONVOCATION**  
PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER  
of Wiltshire

SATURDAY 11th MAY 2024




The Melksham Assembly Hall  
Market Square  
Melksham  
Wiltshire  
SN12 6ES



Excellent Companion  
John Christopher Reid  
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

Contact: [RAScribe@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk](mailto:RAScribe@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk)



### The MCF supports Wiltshire Charity.

Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) is a independent and unique organisation offering expert Advocacy for victims after fatal domestic abuse. AAFDA draws on personal and professional experience of major criminal justice processes like Domestic Homicide Reviews, and other related inquiries and provide emotional, practical and specialist peer support to those left behind after domestic homicide.

Founded in 2008 by Frank Mullane *MBE* following the tragic murder of his sister Julia and her seventeen year old son William in 2003, Frank campaigned for changes in the Domestic Abuse Act. Before Frank's sister was killed she had been the victim of domestic violence at the hands of her estranged husband.

An independent review into the deaths found "significant opportunities" to identify the threat were missed. Frank gave up his job in order to set up the charity, Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) which helps bereaved families of murder and manslaughter victims by listening and providing practical help. The charity has been instrumental in forcing through changes by which help for families has been improved recently through the National Homicide Service and also through grant funding to 13 organisations which give peer support, of which AAFDA is one.

Five years ago AAFDA received £60,000 from the MCF, this is the second donation for the same amount.

John Reid, Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire said: "Freemasons in Wiltshire and the Masonic Charitable Foundation are proud to support AAFDA for another three years. The amazing work they undertake in our communities, especially in supporting young victims of domestic abuse and homicide cannot be overstated."





APRIL 2024

### Prostate Cancer - what you need to know....

Prostate Cancer is the most common major cancer in UK men and the second most common cancer killer causing over 50,000 new cases and nearly 12,000 deaths each year. The UK has one of the worst death rates in Europe, even though trials running up to 20 years now clearly demonstrate that PCa screening with the simple blood test PSA could halve this death rate.

Wiltshire Freemasons have supported the work of The Loganberry Trust since 2015 during which time hundreds of men have had a PSA test. However, as events such as Covid affected the capacity of The Loganberry Trust to deliver PSA tests we have entered into discussions to partner with **CHAPS** a charity registered in 2000 which aims to be an advocate for all Men's Health issues and for Prostate Cancer in particular. The case for better provision of resources devoted to improving the health and well-being of men is indisputable and we hope that a collaboration might result in benefits to Wiltshire residents.

You are invited to hear Prof Chris Booth Founder and clinical director of **CHAPS** when he delivers the tenth Rectitude Essay on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Book now to avoid being disappointed.

## LODGE OF RECTITUDE NO.335

The Rectitude Essay 2024

### PROSTATE CANCER

### The Why, Who, What and How to Screen....

Prof Chris Booth FRCS, FRSA.

Consultant Urologist (Retd)

Founder and Clinical Director **CHAPS**

The Men's Health Charity



Pickwick Masonic Hall | Corsham

Monday 20th May 2024

4.15pm

[L335@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk](mailto:L335@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk)





APRIL 2024

### Forget-me-Not.

Members of Forget-me-Not Lodge No. 9035 and The Lodge of Brothers in Arms No. 9540 attended a remembrance service held among the iconic Neolithic site of Stonehenge. The service was to commemorate the lives lost when HMS Stonehenge, a Royal Navy submarine was lost while patrolling the Indian Ocean during the Second World War.

On her previous two patrols she had successfully attacked and sunk two Japanese cruisers but on her third patrol was lost and reported as not returned. It is presumed she may have hit a mine and sunk with loss of all of her fifty crew. Sadly, her final resting place is unknown and over the years HMS Stonehenge had very much become forgotten.

During his year as Master of Forget-me-Not Lodge No. 9035 Bro Martyn Dean asked the Lodge to support Alabare a local charity caring for military veterans. It was during this time that Martyn met Andrew Lord the Chief Executive of Alabare and became aware of Andrews plea for assistance from the local military community to attend the remembrance service.

Bro Dave Bradley (Maj RE) who is Junior Warden in the Lodge enlisted the help of his son who is a serving sailor and a small parade of sailors attended the service from The Fleet Air Arm.

Bro Russ Masterson (Retd Royal Marine) Junior Deacon of Forget-me-Not No. 9035 arranged for a Royal Marine bugler to sound last post and reveille Many members of The Lodge of Brothers in Arms attended together with former servicemen and women from the Homes for Veterans, and the Boots On The Grounds project.

In a poignant moment of reflection for members of the Sub Mariners Association, members of the local Sea Cadets read the Roll of Crew members lost.

The event was a great success. The Lord lieutenant for Wiltshire Mrs Sarah Troughton was in attendance, and the Bishop of Salisbury the Rt Rev Stephen Lake led the Service of Remembrance.





APRIL 2024

### Have you signed up?

## WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL



CYCLE RIDE 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/cycleride2024>

### Christmas is just around the corner....

Well it might seem like that , but honestly we all know how time just flies by and good intentions such as putting the date of Carols at Christmas in the diary are easily forgotten. So why not get your diary or calendar right now and put 3.00pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December in big letters (so you won't forget) and make a date to join John and Carol Reid in the beautiful Marlborough College Chapel. It's Carols for Christmas whichever way you write it! More details in the May edition of [In Touch > On Line](#).



WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

# Carols at Christmas

Marlborough College Chapel  
 Sunday 15th December  
 3.00pm  
 Family | Friends | Children

[www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk)





### The Blind Ski Group - a remarkable story

The Blind Ski Group was started in the 1980s by the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards as a ‘one off’ community event teaching blind and visually impaired adults to ski. The one off event has become an annual event and twenty seven years ago Bro David Wallace a member of The Lodge of Brothers in Arms No.9540 and Chapter Elias de Derham No.586, both meeting at Freemasons’ Hall in Salisbury got involved, and has been the principal organiser for the past sixteen years.

The Blind Ski Group is made up primarily of ex-soldiers and their families (David’s wife and son are both ski guides). The annual event is entirely self funded and all the guides are volunteers. They all would agree they get so much from witnessing the positive impact on those less able to see than most of us when they get down their first ski slope – their excitement is boundless.

The group has received substantial support over the years from Freemasons particularly from David’s German Lodge, but also from St Patrick’s Lodge No.295 a travelling military lodge in the Irish constitution and currently meeting in Warminster. Many of the activities they have undertaken would not have been possible without their generous donations.

The comments from the blind/visually impaired skiers speaks volumes:

“ the skiing trip has given me the greatest freedom I am ever likely to know as normal life as a blind person, I rely on my guide dog to move around; if I want to go for a walk or run, I need a sighted guide. I am always following or holding onto someone, or my dog. Skiing is different. It is the only time in life when I can move at speed, safely, in control, with confidence and freedom.”

“my favourite week of the year. As a person who lost their sight at the age of 19 skiing has provided me with a unique sense of independence, freedom and a huge sense of achievement.



The Blind Ski Group at Alpendorf, Austria. WBro Wallace, is on the left, his wife Eileen is on the right and their son Martin is in the front row.



APRIL 2024

### Did you know?

- a). Only Brethren of the English Constitution are eligible to apply for and wear the Wiltshire 2028 Festival Charity Jewel.
- b). A Lodge By-Law cannot limit the number of members/initiates in a Lodge. A Lodge can agree to limit the number of members by an unofficial accord but such an accord would not be enforceable.
- c). Rule 157 BoC has been changed.

The old rule stated that: No person shall be made a Mason while under the age of twenty one years, unless by dispensation.

The new rules states that: No person shall on any pretence whatsoever be made a Mason while under the age of eighteen years nor at the age of eighteen years before he shall have finally ceased to be in full time secondary education or training...

However, the PrGM wishes that when addressing a candidate at his Initiation the question put shall continue to ask whether he is of the full age of twenty one years.

- d). Only the Master is Installed, all other Lodge officers are Appointed and Invested.
- e). In this Province it is only the PrGM, his Deputy, and the APrGM who are entitled to ask for an Initiate, candidate, or other Freemason to accompany them as they leave the Lodge in procession. It is not in the gift of a Master to invite a Brother to accompany him as he leaves the Lodge.

### To win it - you have to be in it....

And that's certainly true if you want to win a fabulous prize in the Downton Lodge No.9064 amazing **AUCTION OF PROMISES**. Click on link to book a place <https://tinyurl.com/auction-of-promises>



## DOWNTON LODGE NO. 9064

is hosting an

### AUCTION OF PROMISES

### Saturday 29th June 2024



**Browsing from 7:00pm First auction from 8:30pm**

**Tickets only £10**

including nibbles and a drink on arrival



To book a place click on logo



To book a place click on logo

**Vineys Barn | Amesbury | SP4 7HW**

For more information on LOT details please email  
David Little: [dlittle9064@gmail.com](mailto:dlittle9064@gmail.com)  
Richard Noon: [noon.richard@googlemail.com](mailto:noon.richard@googlemail.com)







never ends

# In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



APRIL 2024

## Rediscovering who and what we are....

*"A Lodge is a place where free-masons assemble to work and to instruct and improve themselves in the mysteries of the ancient science." Antient Charges No .3.*

To many of our more senior members this statement will resonate as a clarion call to rediscover our established past, while for some of our newer members it may seem to be at odds with how they and many others perceive Freemasonry to be in the twenty-first century.

To read about modern Freemasonry you could be forgiven for thinking that its primary purpose is to raise money for charitable purposes. Lodge and Provincial social media sites extol the virtuous act of giving money to charities and deserving causes, and in one recent survey of one hundred posts on X (formerly Twitter) ninety four were just that, advertisements confirming the generous nature of a Freemason. Little wonder that Charity Stewards are targeted by cash hungry charities wanting a slice of the action.

Now, I am not for one moment suggesting that Lodges, Provinces and even the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) should close their coffers to a plea for help, neither am I saying that giving to charity is wrong or the activity misplaced. However, I am saying that charity is not the be all and end all of Freemasonry. In his Quarterly Communication address to Grand Lodge in December 2023 the Pro Grand Master emphasised a particularly crucial point. "We are rediscovering established ways of working from the past, not inventing new ones." I suggest that his words have far greater meaning than just in reference to ceremonies.

So, what is the primary purpose of Freemasonry today. For an answer consider the words of the Pro Grand Master who recently said, "The values on which Freemasonry is practised are centred on the notions of human happiness, intellectual enquiry, self-improvement and the pursuit of knowledge based on reason." Note no actual mention or reference to charity, but the Pro Grand Master did connect the practises as outlined to the new modern principles of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Service. In doing so he aligned the values and principles to create what he called the 'essence of what it is to be a Freemason in the 21st century'.

What is often misunderstood is the concept of charity, it is much more than putting a few coins in the alms, buying five pounds worth of raffle tickets at the Festive Board, or making a contribution to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. Charity is also about actions speaking louder than words, and serving a friend or Brother in time of need by doing unto him as you wish he would do to you.

I am persuaded that we have reached a point where far too few of our members know why they are Freemasons, let alone, have any real knowledge about our history and heritage. Which begs the question, how do we keep members interested and coming back if there is no education for which they came, ritual that is uninspiring, and an atmosphere that is frequently so casual that it contributes to the making of more casual Freemasons. Here let me say that ritual is not the basis for Masonic knowledge, neither is it a substitute for the same. Good ritual does not make a Freemason - It only makes members good, or bad at ritual.

The Pro Grand Master concluded his address to the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in December 2023 by quoting King Frederick II of Prussia who said that his support of the Craft came from its objectives being 'The intellectual elevation of men as members of society and making them more virtuous and charitable'. I concur with Jonathan Spence, who said, I do not think those views can be bettered.



APRIL 2024

### Ride Out for a purpose.

Join the Wiltshire Masonic Bikers as they set out from the Masonic Hall, Morris Lane, Devizes for the GREAT PROVINCIAL RIDE OUT 2024. The Stonecutters will visit every Masonic Hall in the Province on Sunday 21st April 2024. If any Lodges or Brethren feel that they could kindly support this endeavour please do let us know.

The ride is in support of the Wiltshire 2028 Festival and you can donate by scanning the QR code, click on the poster or this link. <http://tinyurl.com/stonecutter-2024>

**STONECUTTERS**

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WILTSHIRE  
2028

**GREAT PROVINCIAL RIDEOUT 2024**

**21ST APRIL 2024**  
Meeting at 0800hrs.  
Stands Up at 0830hrs.

KIND DONATIONS VIA:  
**STONECUTTERS GIVETAP**

MEETING POINT  
The Masonic Hall,  
Morris Lane  
Devizes  
SN10 1NX

VISITING THE IN USE MASONIC HALLS IN WILTSHIRE PROVINCE  
IN SUPPORT OF THE WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL APPEAL

[www.stonecutterswsmba.org](http://www.stonecutterswsmba.org)



### The Royal Arch welcomes 'Stonecutter'

Vince Wheeler into the Royal Arch family as he is Exalted into the Highworth Chapter No. 9090



### Ride out for Julia's Hospice.

Wiltshire Freemasons and members of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association rode to Julia's House Children's Hospice in Devizes and delivered Easter Eggs for the children, relatives and staff of the hospice.

This annual event also helps support the Easter Bunny and the Lost Eggs Trail organised by Julia's House. The Easter trail takes children through the woodland in the enchanting grounds of Wilton House, Salisbury in search of hidden Easter Eggs.





### Robinson's Roundup

Compiled by Paul Robinson Fiat Lux Lodge No.9773

### WILTSHIRE LODGE MEETINGS FOR APRIL 2024

DATE	LODGE NAME	No.	CEREMONY	LOCATION
2	Lodge of Loyalty	1533	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Marlborough
2	Methuen Lodge	8692	Installation	Swindon
3	Longleat Lodge	1478	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Warminster
3	Lodge of Remembrance	4037	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Swindon
3	Sarum Lodge	5137	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Salisbury
3	Vale of Avon Lodge	8432	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Chippenham
4	Clarendon Lodge	5908	Installation	Trowbridge
4	Lodge of Brothers In Arms	9540	Installation	Salisbury
5	Calley Lodge	7525	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Swindon
8	Lodge of Concord	632	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Trowbridge
8	Broade Forde Lodge *C	8547	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Bradford-On-Avon
8	Downton Lodge *C	9064	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Downton
9	Lansdowne Lodge of Unity	626	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Chippenham
10	Lodge of Friendship & Unity	1271	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Bradford-On-Avon
10	Stonehenge Lodge	6114	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Salisbury
11	Lodge Elias de Derham	586	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Salisbury
12	Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation	355	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Swindon
15	Chaloner Lodge *B	2644	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Corsham
15	The City Lodge	5955	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Salisbury
16	Whitehorse Lodge	2227	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Westbury
16	St Aldhelm Lodge	2888	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Chippenham
17	Gooch Lodge	1295	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Swindon
17	The Border Lodge	3129	Installation	Ludgershall
17	Vastern Lodge	8977	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Calne
17	Lodge of Innocence and Morality	9587	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	East Knoyle
18	Corsham Lodge	6616	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Corsham
18	Fiat Lux Lodge	9773	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Devizes
19	Lodge of Fidelity	663	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Devizes
19	Highworth Lodge	9009	Installation	Highworth
20	Tisbury Lodge	8718	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree *A	Salisbury
23	Pleydell Lodge	4687	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Swindon
23	St Edmund Lodge	4714	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Calne
24	Radnor Lodge	4451	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Salisbury
24	Moonraker Lodge	8747	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree *A	Devizes
24	George Duke of Kent Lodge	8788	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Swindon
25	New Temple Lodge	8435	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Swindon
27	St Pats (Irish Constitution)	295	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Warminster
30	Lodge of Agriculture	9090	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Corsham

\*A = Double ceremony

\*B = Meeting at Corsham by dispensation

\*C = Moved by dispensation due to original date being a Bank Holiday



### What did the head of Mark have to say about the Craft?

In a recent address John Prizeman, head of Mark Master Masons said: “We accept without exception that the very spring and fount of all English Freemasonry, the foundation on which it has been built for the last two hundred and ten years, are the Three Craft Degrees and including the Royal Arch.

The Royal Arch should never be considered a way to a means, a clear demonstration of commitment to progress is essential if a Brother and Companion is to understand and make a worthwhile contribution in the Companion Orders.

I firmly believe the various Orders of Freemasonry beyond the Craft should never be rushed, too much too soon leads to confusion in the early years of the Masonic shared experience. Membership of any Masonic order from the very start should be regarded as a privilege to which we can make a worthwhile contribution”.

Read John Prizeman’s address to Grand Lodge by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/markmasons>

**WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE PART IN  
WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS VERY OWN

**QUESTION  
TIME 2024**

TOPICAL DEBATE IN WHICH YOU CAN ASK QUESTIONS AND  
MEMBERS OF THE PANEL CAN PROVIDE ANSWERS

**VENUE AND DATE TO BE DECIDED**

The Panel  
John Reid | Simon Leighfield  
Steve Lee | Simon Ellingham

**INTERESTED?**