



JUNE 2024

In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



It's a fact that sunshine is a tonic for us all....



And so it was that in the middle of May we could enjoy a short period of sunshine and unusually warm weather. I do trust that like me you took advantage of the opportunity to sit in the garden with a cold, refreshing drink .

I was a guest of Harry C Preater Lodge No.8204 in May when I was pleased to watch the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield preside at the Proclamation of Bro Vince Wheeler who remained in the Chair for a second year.

Some of our members have asked whether I approve of a Master undertaking a second year, and my answer is always the same. Why not? After all, the Book of Constitutions allows it (in fact a master can remain in office for longer by my dispensation), and for many of our Lodges it makes complete sense to encourage a competent Master to continue. What I do not think is right, is for the Lodge to appoint a Brother to the high office of Master when it is plain that the candidate is not yet ready to assume such an important position.

In the March edition of [InTouch>OnLine](#) the editor wrote about 'Progression' and referred to Antient Charge No. IV where we are told that "All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only." Furthermore, we are reminded that no Master or Warden is chosen by seniority. In fact, the choices we make in Freemasonry should be no different from those we make in real life, choose the right person for the job, and be sure he can do the work required of him. Sometimes, that does mean asking a Brother to continue in Office as Master or indeed any other office. It also requires that the Lodge must demonstrate the courage to ask a Brother to defer the moment when they are appointed.

However, nothing is forever and there does come a time when it is right and proper to effect change. In 2021 my predecessor Philip Bullock appointed Phil Still to be Assistant Provincial Grand Master. His tenure comes to an end at this year's Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, and I place on record my thanks to Phil for his service to the Province. During my visit to Harry C Preater Lodge it was my privilege to announce the appointment of Steve Lee as the next Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire. I am confident that Steve will prove to be a tremendous asset to the Province and to my executive team.

Having appointed Steve, I am sure the next question on your lips would be "who is going to replace him in the important role of Learning and Development Officer. I was pleased that Alan Colman, a member of the Mentoring Team has agreed to take the office and he will be formally Invested in October at Trowbridge.

This month sees a visit by the the London based Hermes team. They will meet at Cricklade to finalise the details for the implementation of HERMES across the Province. I am confident that those responsible for the administration of Lodges and Chapters will work closely with Steve and his team to get HERMES done.

Wiltshire has a significant military presence and this is replicated in our Lodges. I know that serving personnel are often deployed at short notice and this can cause a headache for the Lodge Director of Ceremonies. However, when you read the account of the members that took part in the most recent Steadfast Defender 24 exercise (see page 5) I feel sure that like me, you will feel a great deal of pride in the service they give to the country.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Lodges, individuals, and societies that continue to support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival appeal. THANK YOU.



HERMES is back...

Or to be more precise, HERMES is back on track to be introduced to all Wiltshire Lodges and Chapters, and a new team is working to make sure the implementation process is carried out with as little delay and disruption as possible. Unfortunately the London team had a diary conflict that meant a planned training meeting in May has had to be rescheduled for mid June.

HERMES has been rolled out in a number of Provinces and the feedback from Secretaries and Scribes has been very positive. The messages being fed back is that the package is well designed, easy to use, and will make life very much easier for the Secretary, and Scribe.

Craft Secretaries and Royal Arch Scribes will receive training in the new system. The training will be delivered by Steve's team of selected volunteers from across the Province, who will ensure that the transition is implemented as smoothly as possible. Ongoing support will be just a phone call away, should it be needed. Training sessions will be delivered throughout the summer months providing plenty of opportunity to practice the new skills before we 'go live' in time for the new masonic year.



WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

The Lodge Secretary

CHANGING THE WAY WE DO THINGS

www.wiltshirefreemasons

Did You Know?

The symbolism of the North East Corner - In some Masonic texts and particularly our Ritual Books the Initiate (Entered Apprentice) in Freemasonry is placed in the North-East corner of the Lodge, and is said to figuratively represent the First or Foundation Stone. It is without doubt a very nice allusion and provides the narrative for one of the most pleasing pieces of ritual. However, the action is based on tradition and not on historical fact.

There is no evidence to support the view that it was ever customary to lay the first or foundation stone at the North East Corner of the building, although there can be no doubt that the proper placement of a Foundation Stone was important to make sure the proper building line was followed.

The Masonic writer Albert Mackey suggests that placing the Initiate in the North East part of the Lodge is intended to signify the unity of the North associated with darkness and the East associated with light.



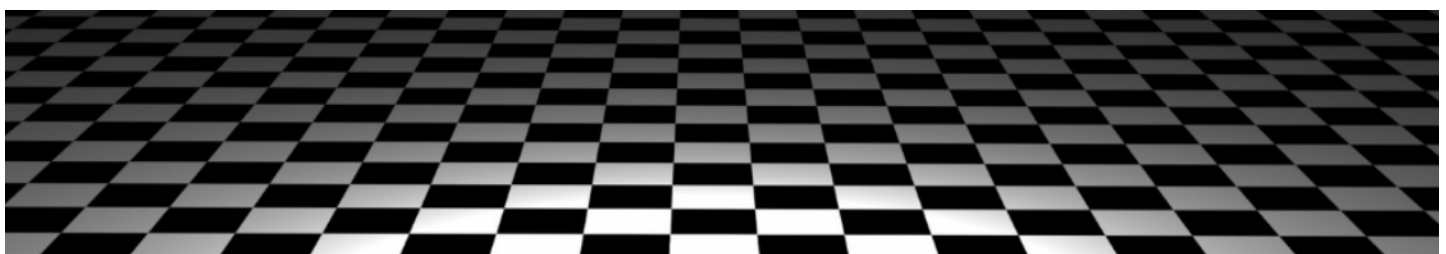
Sir Geoff Hurst signed shirt...

Win a part of that great day when England became Football Champions of The World by acquiring a replica number 10 shirt signed by living legend Sir Geoff Hurst. Beautifully framed this iconic shirt will take pride of place in your home and remind you of the time when the Three Lions really did come home with the Jules Rimet Trophy. To win this amazing prize you need to enter the draw and it's only £5 per ticket (you can buy as many as you like). For more information contact Mitch Bryan, just click on the image or click [HERE](#). Make a donation of not less than £5 and don't forget to add your name and Lodge Number.



Did You Know?

The Black and White Mosaic Pavement can be said to have derived from the French mosaïque and means simply “chequered”, or from the Greek word meaning ‘to assemble’. There is no evidence to support the view that there was a black and white mosaic pavement in either of the temples in Jerusalem. The Mosaic Pavement could represent the old floor cloth on which our ancient Brethren drew the Lodge. To enable them to do so with a degree of precision the cloth was ruled into squares, the checks being added as a decorative embellishment when the cloth ceased being used for its original purpose. Our Tracing Boards now replace the floor cloth which has developed into the conventional pavement (carpet) with which we are familiar. It follows that the checks should be square and not diamond shaped as sometimes seen.





Music can make a difference.

Join Ian Hooper on Saturday 6th July as he takes you through the basics of playing a keyboard.



"The true beauty of music is that it connects people."

Visit Our Website : www.wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

**Can you read music?
Do you want to make music?**

Easy Lodge Music

KEYBOARD Skills

WARMINSTER MASONIC HALL

**SATURDAY 6TH JULY
AT 10.30AM**

LED BY

IAN HOOPER

Book a place
tinyurl.com/Lodgemusic

Teddies For Loving Care (Wiltshire)

Halfway through the year and Wiltshire Freemasons have donated 650 TLC teddies to Salisbury's General Hospital, and to Swindon's Great Western Hospital. We know that demand increases during the second half of the year and we anticipate being asked to provide another 2,000 bears between now and end of December. That's why we need YOUR help. Each TLC teddy costs £2.47 which means we need to raise at least another £3,000 in order to maintain stock levels and be able to meet demand when requested.



Teddies For Loving Care (Wiltshire)

WILL YOUR LODGE HELP RAISE THE MONEY WE NEED TO MAKE A CHILD'S EXPERIENCE IN HOSPITAL LESS OF AN ORDEAL?

WWW.WILTSHIREFREEMASONS



JUNE 2024

For King and Country.



Wiltshire has a proud and honourable tradition of hosting members of the armed forces and we are always interested in hearing from them especially when (rules permitting) they can tell us something about what they are doing to protect and defend the Realm.

At over 94,000 acres Salisbury Plain is the United Kingdom’s largest training area offering live firing and other facilities for armoured vehicles, artillery, engineers, infantry and aircraft. However, training in the UK is only a part of the programme with the exigencies of military life often requiring that serving personnel are deployed to NATO, and Commonwealth countries for specialist training. One such exercise in which service personnel from Wiltshire recently took part in was IMMEDIATE RESPONSE a sub part of a three part programme under the banner of the wider exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER 24. This was NATO’s largest military exercise since the Cold War. It demonstrated the unbreakable bond between NATO Allies in Europe and North America, and involved more than 17,000 U.S. and 23,000 multinational service members from more than twenty Allied and partner nations.

It is carried out in order to practise and evaluate collective training of staffs, units and forces to enable them to operate effectively together, to demonstrate Military Capability, or to provide improvements to the capability.

Capt. Keith Reynolds (MM, Cotswold Lodge). Capt. Rev Richard Mutter (JW, Border Lodge), Sgt. Dan Lightfoot Major Dave Rees (IPM, Border Lodge). Missing from the photograph, but present at the exercise were Border Lodge No.3129 members Fusilier Steffan Herbert and Scouse Cook. Truly, Brothers In Arms.



Keith Reynolds

Rev, Richard Mutter

Dan Lightfoot

Dave Rees



Two Thousand Reasons To Be Happy....

Having been 'Proclaimed' into the Chair for a second year, Vince Wheeler might well have thought there wouldn't be too much for him to do for the rest of the meeting. However, he did have a pleasant duty to perform on behalf of the Lodge and that was to present Deputy Provincial Grand Master Simon Leighfield with a bumper donation towards the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. In accepting the cheque, Simon said "I am so pleased that the Lodge has made such great strides towards meeting their goal. I know just how difficult it is to ask members for money, even for such a worthy cause. The Brethren of Harry C Preater Lodge can be justly proud of their efforts to-date. Thank you."





Christmas is just six months away....

However 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 15th December in big letters (so you won't forget) and make a date to join John and Carole Reid in the beautiful Marlborough College Chapel. It's Carols for Christmas whichever way you write it. The Rev Dr John Railton and Rev Sandy Railton will be conducting the Carol Service and we are sure there will be some special guests.



Words are important...

When opening the Lodge both the Junior and the Senior Warden 'mark' the sun. The Junior Warden marks the sun at its meridian, while the Senior Warden marks the setting sun. The word 'mark' is important as it expressly confirms they do not represent the sun. Why is this so important?

The new Initiate is told there are three great though emblematical lights which are explained to him; he is then told that there are three lesser lights located in the East, South, and West, and he is told they represent the sun, the moon, and the Master of the Lodge.

The lesser lights are not actually or literally the Junior Warden, the Senior Warden, and the Master - far be it for anyone to think of them as 'lesser' but the Lesser Lights referred to are just that, the lights (candles) that are positioned at their pedestals. In earlier days the three candlesticks were placed in the centre of the Lodge. At about the time of the union of the two Grand Lodges pedestals came into use for the Wardens and the candlesticks were moved to their present position.

According to the old Exposures there were three fixed lights in a Lodge Room and were situated in the East, South, and West. The lights were ostensibly windows and their purpose was to "light men to, at, and from their work". There was no light in the North, because "the Sun darts no rays from there".

This change of location for the candlesticks mixed up the symbolism of the three Lesser Lights, as we already have the statement they represent the Sun, the Moon and the Master of the Lodge. Thus if we say the East, South, and West we put the Master in the West. If you visit a Bristol Lodge they have got the location correctly linked to the object. Is that important? Well, for some purists it might well be. For others it reflects the human element of ritual creation and the need to remember that much of what we do and say in Freemasonry is first and foremost symbolical and not to be taken too literally.



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Who were the Antient Masons?

The Grand Lodge of England was formed, as we all know, in 1717. Later, as a consequence of the exposing of the Ritual which was published as the "Exposures", the Grand Lodge was believed to have made certain alterations in the Words and Signs of the Entered Apprentice, and Fellow Craft Degrees, ostensibly to prevent the admission of impostors. This action caused a fair amount of annoyance, particularly to a number of Freemasons who owed no allegiance to the Premier Grand Lodge but were mostly Irish Brethren living in London.

There was also the not insignificant matter of the de-Christianisation of Freemasonry, and the decision to abandon some of what were held to be 'traditional' aspects of the fraternity.

Such was their anger to the changes made, coupled it has to be said with dissatisfaction with the administration of the Premier Grand Lodge that in 1751 they formed their own Grand Lodge as a rival to the Grand Lodge of England. As they believed they were being true to the original principles of Speculative Freemasonry they called themselves the Atholl or 'Antients' - and perversely, considering the original Grand Lodge was much older, they called them the 'Moderns'.

The two Grand Lodges were united in 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England, what we now know as the United Grand Lodge of England.

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

Vineys Barn | Amesbury | SP4 7HW

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





JUNE 2024

Two John's celebrate the Royal Arch....



Fifty Years in the Craft is an incredible achievement; however, to be able to celebrate fifty years in the Royal Arch is an even greater accomplishment and worthy of more than just a mention.

So it was that The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Reid, who is also MEZ of St Aldhelm Chapter No.2888, took the opportunity to say a few words in praise of Excellent Companion John Kerslake's exemplary service to Royal Arch Masonry in the Province of Wiltshire.

John proved himself to be a stalwart promoter and supporter of the St Aldhelm Chapter during its many years in Malmesbury and is now championing the Chapter following its recent move to a new home at Chippenham.

As well as his commitment to the Royal Arch, John has for many years been a mainstay of the St Adhelm Lodge No.2888. Having been Initiated into the Lodge in 1971 he was Master in 1986 and has played a pivotal role in its success even since.

John's many friends wish him the very best for many more years.

St Adhelm Chapter No.2888 welcomes TZ....

St Adhelm Chapter welcomed its newest Companion, when Andy Tomaszewicz (TZ to his many friends) was Exalted in a ceremony conducted by MEZ John Reid and assisted by the two Principals of the Chapter E Comp Mark Lovell, and E Comp Andrew Tiffin.

Andy had great support from members of the Wiltshire Masonic Bikers who turned out in force to witness his Exaltation.

All in all a great evening, at Chippenham, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and a super boost for the Chapter following its recent move from the historic market town of Malmesbury.





The Freedom Ride.

Comradeship, Endurance and Endeavour' is the ethos underpinning those who fought in the Falkland's War in 1982. In recognition of the fortieth anniversary of that campaign Falkland's veterans formed a cycling club and now ride together as the Falklands 40 (F40) with friends, family and supporters.

Through the Falklands 40 these veterans (aged 60 plus) organise and promote cycling as a means of keeping in touch, and staying fit and healthy in their advancing years. Sadly, for some, it is for more, much more than that, as still lingering in their thoughts is the inevitable trauma and reminder of the horrific events that all wars force you to face.

The group's next big ride in May 2024 is for twenty-one of them to undertake the momentous Land's End to John O'Groats Cycle challenge (over 1000 miles) in 13 full days and 2-part days of riding between Saturday 18th May to Saturday 1st June 2024.

Twenty-one Falklands veterans (or having strong links with veterans) are riding, representing all three Services. David Brady a member of Vastern Lodge No.8977 is part of the Falkland 40 and was delighted to receive a donation of £200 from Norman McKeaveney Master of Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No.626.





JUNE 2024

Make a date....

To meet the Prestonian Lecturer Dr Ric Berman when he visits Wiltshire as the guest of members of Methuen Lodge No.8692 and delivers the 2024 Prestonian Lecture.

The impact of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and of Irish freemasonry extended beyond, indeed, far beyond, the island of its birth. This is seen perhaps most clearly in the development of 'Antients' freemasonry, which was established by London's expatriate Irish community in the mid-eighteenth century.

More inclusive and mutually supportive, Antients freemasonry was not only shipped back to Ireland but transported across Britain's burgeoning Empire, particularly North America, where it was carried by migration, trade, and the regiments of the British Army. It was also absorbed formally into English freemasonry following the 1813 union of the original Grand Lodge of England (the 'Moderns') and the Antients Grand Lodge to create the United Grand Lodge of England.



METHUEN LODGE No. 8692

INVITE YOU TO THE

PRESTONIAN LECTURE 2024

The Second Grand Lodge : The Grand Lodge of Ireland, the London Irish & Antients Freemasonry

TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER

6.15PM



Dr Ric Berman FRHistS

Swindon Masonic Centre | The Planks | Swindon

Contact Ian Priest: L8692@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

Did You Know?

The Prestonian Lecture is the only lecture given under the authority of the United Grand Lodge of England, or that during his lifetime William Preston (1742-1818) developed an elaborate system of masonic instruction which was practised in association with the Lodge of Antiquity of which he was at one time Master. On his death in 1818, Preston bequeathed to Grand Lodge the sum of £300 for the perpetuation of his system of instruction. Lectures in accordance with this system were delivered from 1820 until 1862, when the Lectureship was permitted to lapse. In 1924 the Prestonian Lectureship was revived with a modification to the original Scheme, the lecturer now submitting a Masonic subject of his own selection, and with the exception of the war years, 1940-1946, regular appointments have been made annually since 1924 to the present day.



Trek with Derek in 2025....

Derek Gibbens (Lodge Elias de Derham No.586) has the mindset of Mallory and the drive of Hillary which is why he has arranged a six-day charity trek to Mount Toubkal scheduled for **September 2025** to raise funds for the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. Derek, who recently completed a trek to the Lost City, Colombia, is inviting any Wiltshire Freemasons who have an adventurous spirit to register their interest in being a part of this incredible experience. Discover more <https://tinyurl.com/Trekwithderek>

After flying to Morocco as part of a closed group of friends you will be led by experienced guides to trek Mount Toubkal the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains. However, it's not just a trip of a lifetime, it's also a way to support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival, so, even if you can't make the trip you can help Derek to raise lots of money for the Wiltshire 2028 Festival and you can do this do by getting sponsorship from family, and friends.



Lodge By Laws need to be up to date....

Now there's a tag line to dwell on. Did you know that Rule 136 BoC clearly states that "Every Lodge has the power of framing proper By-Laws for its government." However, the By-Laws of the Lodge have to be approved by the Provincial Grand Master and they must also conform to the model By Laws as set out by UGLE.

As part of a rolling programme of updating Lodge By Laws, twelve Lodges have already revised their By Laws, and having had them approved by Province, have introduced them to the Lodge members whereon they have been properly voted on and adopted. Three more will come on stream before the end of the year.

If your Lodge By Laws are more than fifteen years old it is almost certain they might need to be revised. The Province in conjunction with UGLE has designed a template that provides instant clarity on the differences (if any) between existing By Laws and the model proposed by UGLE. For more information contact the Communication Officer comms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk



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A warm welcome for Steve....

As advised on page one the Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to announce that Bro Steve Lee (Harry C Preater Lodge No.8204) will be appointed and Invested as Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire at the Provincial Meeting at Trowbridge on Thursday 3rd October. Steve will be joined by Brethren from across the Province to receive appointments and promotions

Andreas takes the Chair....

At a well attended meeting at the Pickwick Masonic Hall Andreas Kalogerou was Installed as Master of Corsham Lodge No.6616.

Supported by many friends Andreas certainly looked the coolest Brother in the Lodge Room.

While Vince is joined by

Fellow 'bikers' journeyed to Harry C Preater Lodge No.8204 at Swindon to congratulate Vince Wheeler who was Proclaimed as Master for a second year in the Chair.

At the end of the meeting members returned to the Lodge room for a team photo with Vince.



OPEN MIC NIGHT

CHIPPENHAM
MASONIC CENTRE

Saturday 6th July



£10
per person

Sign up from 7.00pm
Family and Friends

Contact: Leon 07712 458660

Chippenham Masonic Centre | Emery Lane | Chippenham | SN15 3PJ



never ends

In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



JUNE 2024



Wiltshire Freemasons

One Journey • One Organisation



#DISCOVERMORE in the **ROYAL ARCH**

OPEN DAY INVITATION • SATURDAY **19th OCTOBER 2024**

10.00am till 12.00pm • The Masonic Hall, Chippenham SN15 3AU

OPEN TO **ALL** WILTSHIRE MASTER MASONS

More details to follow