



JULY 2024

# In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



## The summer break is an illusion....



Well, it is for many of the team who have been busy working behind the scenes and getting ready for, yes you have guessed it, the start of the new Masonic season in September, and in particular the introduction of HERMES.

I am sure you will recall that in June's edition of [InTouch>OnLine](#) I mentioned the impending visit of the London HERMES team to Cricklade when they hoped to finalise the details for the implementation of HERMES across the Province. I am glad to be able to report the visit took place and Steve Lee's team was able to discover more about the system that will be the basis for the way in which Lodges and Chapters will conduct their administrative work for the future. Following the meeting Steve and his team have been testing HERMES using a 'sandbox' training environment to hone their skills and to identify the areas that might generate the greatest number of enquiries and questions from the users.

Lodge and Chapter administrators have been sent the necessary details to enable them to access the learning platform which will allow a great opportunity to explore the HERMES system in preparation for our 'go live date'.

I know that some Secretaries and Scribes will be wary of the system and the requirement to change practices that had become second nature to them. I am also aware that HERMES is not a perfect solution, but the simple truth is that HERMES is the system that we and other Provinces throughout England and Wales will have to use as from the 12th of August. My ask of all of our Secretaries and Scribes is that you engage with the team and embrace the positives that exist within the HERMES system.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Barry Jordan-Davis and his team will be welcoming their Lodge counterparts to Devizes on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm. This will provide Barry with the opportunity to outline the Province's role in maintaining and improving standards of ceremonial, and also to hear the views of the Lodge Director Ceremonies. As a former Director of Ceremonies I am keen to see our Lodges promoting excellent standards of ceremonial, not necessarily to the standard of the troops at the recent Sovereign's Birthday Parade, but somewhere close would be very nice.

I have asked the Provincial Communication Officer to liaise with Lodges to review their by-laws and bring them up to date and in line with the UGLE model by-laws. I was pleased to hear that a number of Lodges have already updated their by-laws and adopted the new Provincial format which will ensure uniformity in presentation, while others are preparing to submit a motion to the Lodge outlining the changes. In the main, this exercise will enable Lodges to assess whether fees for Initiates, and Joining members are sufficient to cover costs; it will also provide the opportunity to ask whether the by-law relating to Country Membership is relevant for your Lodge. Please do contact Des to discuss how easy it is to carry out a review and to make any changes.

In the Summer 2024 edition of [Across the Plain](#) Colin Cheshire outlined how his team handle Membership Migration, that is when a Lodge member leaves the area and wishes to join a Lodge or Chapter close to their new home. The role of the Membership team isn't just about 'attraction' and I would urge Lodge Secretaries, Membership Officers and Mentors to keep Colin informed of any Brother moving away from the Province.




### Always Better....

For many years it has been accepted that Freemasonry should be enjoyable, and in particular that we will only attract and retain new members if it provides such an experience. You may recall the words of the Pro Grand Master some time ago when he said "it is not a capital offence to smile during a Masonic meeting". He did go on to say "don't make it a pantomime" which comment emphasises the serious aspect of what we do.

I think everyone will agree that good ceremonial really does add to the experience of a Lodge meeting. For this to happen requires the Lodge Director of Ceremonies to make sure the ceremonies proceed smoothly and are carried out in a dignified manner and to the highest possible standard. Being a good Director of Ceremonies requires many attributes including an absolute need to be knowledgeable about the ritual practiced in the Lodge; tactful in his dealing with the Brethren and above all he should set the tone of the Lodge by personal example. The role of the Director of Ceremonies in supporting the Brethren of the Lodge in both the Lodge Room and the Dining Room cannot be overstated.

Barry Jordan-Davis will be welcoming your Lodge Director of Ceremonies to join him and his team in Devizes on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July when the overall theme of the meeting will be ALWAYS BETTER recognising that and is inviting them to **Ask a Question** on any matter related to their duties in the Lodge. So, if you've got a question to which you would like an answer, just write it on a piece of paper and give it to your Director of Ceremonies.

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| <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">www.wiltshirefreemasons</p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">BARRY JORDAN-DAVIS<br/>AND THE PROVINCIAL TEAM<br/>WELCOME</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">The Lodge<br/>Director of<br/>Ceremonies</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">ALWAYS BETTER</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Wednesday 17th July   7.00pm<br/>DEVIZES MASONIC HALL</p> |
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### Did you know?

The Master doesn't have to appoint a Director of Ceremonies or an Assistant Director of Ceremonies. Rule 104 a states the Master **may** also appoint as additional officers a Chaplain, a Director of Ceremonies, a Mentor, and Assistant Director of Ceremonies, an Organist, an Assistant Secretary, and a Steward(s). The important word is of course **may** and indeed he **may** also choose not to.



JULY 2024



## Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England



RW Bro John C Reid  
Provincial Grand Master

VW Bro Simon R Leighfield **PGSwdB**  
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

W Bro Philip J Still **PSGD**  
Assistant Provincial Grand Master

July 2024

Dear Sir and Brother,

By command of the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held in the Lansdown Hall, The Civic, Trowbridge under the Banners of Gooch Lodge No.1295, Corsham Lodge No.6616 and Lodge of Brothers in Arms Lodge No.9540 on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at 2.30 pm.**

All Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers, Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the Province are summoned to attend. Master Masons are invited to be present.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Robert J Evans

**Provincial Grand Secretary**

1 The Grove

Warminster

BA12 8QL

Telephone 01985 214 874

Brethren are to wear dark Lounge Suits or Morning Dress with full dress Regalia (no gauntlets) and are requested to be in their seats in the Lansdown Hall by **2.15 pm.** It is the wish of the Provincial Grand Master that members wear the Provincial Tie.

Lunch (11.45 am for 12) will be available in the Usher Suite for Brethren and their Masonic Guests, subject to seats being available. Lunch is £35 per head which includes wine. Bookings may be made using the online link <https://tinyurl.com/PGLAGM> and payments may be made to Sort Code 23-05-80, Account Number 43153161 (please use your Lodge number and name as a reference, eg 1234Bloggs). Alternatively, bookings with remittance (giving name, initials, rank, Lodge number and any dietary requirements) can be sent to J H Deane Esq, 10 West Park Road, Corsham, SN13 9LN. Cheques to be made payable to 'Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire'. Bookings must be made as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 6th September 2024.**

The **Provincial Committee** will meet at **The Masonic Hall, Trowbridge**, at **7 pm** on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024** to receive the accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, to consider the disposal of funds and to transact any other Masonic business.





JULY 2024

## Christmas is just six months away....

You are invited to join John and Carole Reid in the beautiful Marlborough College Chapel for Carols for Christmas. The date is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December and the service starts at 3.00pm. 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. Register your interest in attending Christmas Carols in Marlborough <https://tinyurl.com/CarolsinChapel>



## Why your by-laws are important....

Every Lodge has the power of framing proper by-laws for its government, that's a fact established in Rule 136 BoC. However, the opening sentence is not the whole of the rule, as a famous comedian (Jimmy Cricket) was prone to say, "There's more." The more in this case is that no by-law or any alteration thereof shall come into operation until approved on behalf of the Grand Master.

In the case of by-laws or any alteration conforming to the model by-laws, approval can be granted by the Provincial Grand Master. If the new by-laws or any amendment does not conform to the model by-laws it **must** be approved by the Grand Master. Clearly, it is in everyone's best interest that by-laws and any amendments conform to the UGLE model by-laws. First, no one wants to play email ping pong, it's a distraction and achieves little. Secondly, the UGLE secretariat is a remarkably busy section of the organisation and there are no guarantees of timeliness with regard to approving documents; and thirdly, given there is a noticeably clear and logical template that when used dispenses with any delay, why not take advantage of it, and use it.

As with all things Masonic, there is a process to be followed before any by-law or amendment can be proposed in open Lodge for the members approval. The Communication team has produced a comparison template in which the current by-laws can be compared to the new by-law. This has proven to be a positive way to communicate with the Lodge and conform to the requirement of by-law 11 (a).

The Provincial Grand Master refers to the design format that the Province has asked Lodges to adopt. This is simply an A6 booklet with a cover featuring the Lodge name, number, and logo; and the Wiltshire shield and the words 'Province of Wiltshire.'

The Communication team has sourced a printer that has proved competitive against quotes provided by other potential suppliers.





### Teddies for Loving Care...

Wiltshire Freemasons have every right to be proud of the work of what we believe is one of the most important charities we support. **Teddies for Loving Care (Wiltshire)** provides a comforting soft toy to children admitted to the Accident and Emergency units of Salisbury General Hospital, and the Great Western Hospital at Swindon.

In the first four months of 2024 we have distributed 1,080 teddy bears and are on target to donate two thousand five hundred bears by the end of the year. We need to raise £6,000 just to meet the current demand, and we are always being asked to do more. Currently we only have funds to meet demand until the end of this year and we need your help to enable **Teddies for Loving Care (Wiltshire)** to continue its important work in helping a child to cope with trauma of being admitted to the Accident and Emergency Department of their local hospital.

**Teddies for Loving Care (Wiltshire)** is a unique charity as it is managed and funded solely by Wiltshire Freemasons - you, me, and our friends in every Craft Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter. I know you give generously to local charities and yet I'm asking you to treat **Teddies for Loving Care (Wiltshire)** as a very special case whenever you consider making a donation to a local cause.



THANK  
**YOU**



**Broade Forde Lodge No.8547**

**£520**

WILL HELP US TO BUY 200 + TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE



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





### Music can make a difference.

We wish the 'musicians' joining Ian Hooper all the very best as they 'GET TO KNOW THE KEYBOARD' at Warminster Masonic Hall on Saturday 6th July. There is still time to book a place to join Ian as he takes you through the basics of playing a keyboard. <https://tinyurl.com/Lodgemusic>



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

Visit Our Website : [www.wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk](http://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](https://tinyurl.com/Lodgemusic)



**£1,024.64p**

### Out and about....

As Freemasons we don't do bucket collecting, but that doesn't stop Freemasons from doing bucket collecting.

So, it came as no surprise to see two military veterans in Devizes shaking a bucket for Help the Heroes.

Les Welling *BEM* and Wayne Cherry raised an incredible £1024.64p

That is truly worth a mention and we are delighted to congratulate both of them on a wonderful achievement.



### Regrettably events occur to block the best laid plans....

The organisers very much regret that due to circumstances outside of their control the Auction of Promises scheduled for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June has been **POSTPONED**.

 **DOWNTON LODGE NO. 9064** is hosting an **AUCTION OF PROMISES** Saturday 29th June 2024 

 To book a place click on logo 



**Browsing from 7:00pm First auction from 8:30pm**  
**Tickets only £10**  
including nibbles and a drink on arrival

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

 **Masonic Charitable Foundation** 

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)

### Marlborough Masonic Hall....

The Masonic Hall will be closed from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August while the painters and decorators are on-site in order to provide a freshly painted centre of the new Masonic season.

### HERMES the next phase....



CHANGING THE WAY WE DO THINGS

It's only 7 weeks until we go live with Hermes and Lodge Secretaries, and Chapter Scribes are testing in the Training Environment. It's vital that everyone does so as soon as possible to ensure they are conversant and well-practiced before the Province goes live on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August.

Brethren and Companions, Hermes is not optional, and it is not possible for a Lodge or Chapter to fulfil its administrative obligations without it.

Steve and the Provincial Hermes Support Team will be holding the first of a series of walk-in learning sessions at the Swindon Masonic Centre, The Planks on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00am. All Lodge and Chapter administrators are welcome.

### Did you know?

If your subscriptions remain unpaid for a full two years your membership of a Lodge automatically ceases. It cannot be delayed or revoked by the Lodge. A point worth remembering is that it is recorded and may affect your ability to join another Lodge.





### The Royal Arch....

The rules in the Book of Constitutions regulate Craft Lodges, while in the Royal Arch the corresponding rule book is the General Regulations that date from 1817 and which can be found positioned at the back of the Book of Constitutions. It will come as no surprise to discover that the Royal Arch Chapters manage to function with 73 Rules covering 20 pages, while the Craft Lodge has 98 rules covering 60 pages. However, as every Freemason will know it's the interpretation of the rules, and regulations that provides the basis for healthy and frequently spirited debate.

Many of the regulations governing the Royal Arch are almost identical to those found in the rules of the Craft, one in particular comes to mind. Just as the Master of a Craft Lodge can only be elected to office for a period of two years in succession, so the same applies to the Royal Arch First Principal. Should the Brethren or Companions wish the Master/First Principal to undertake a third year, a dispensation must be obtained from the Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent. But what about the Second, and Third Principal, is their route to the Chair the same as for Wardens in the Craft - and what about the other Officers of the Chapter, how different is their appointment?

You can discover more about the Royal Arch, its history, its place in Freemasonry, its differences and its similarities, from the most reliable source of all - Royal Arch Masons including Grand Superintendent John Reid, Deputy Grand Superintendent Simon Ellingham, and members of the Provincial Team. Join them at Chippenham when you can ask and they will answer your questions as you are invited to continue the journey and to DISCOVER MORE about the Royal Arch.



## 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



# OPEN MIC NIGHT

CHIPPENHAM  
MASONIC CENTRE

Saturday 6th July



£10  
per person

Sign up from 7.00pm  
Family and Friends

Contact: Leon 07712 458660