



Well, we've got to February...



And what a start to the year we've had. I am so pleased that all of our Lodges and Chapters hit the ground running with ceremonies, lectures and other interesting events, and looking at Paul Robinson's calendar for February I'm persuaded the level of momentum will be maintained. It is particularly gratifying to note that we have nineteen new Initiates being welcomed into Wiltshire Freemasonry, and four Exaltees being received into the Royal Arch.

In my January comments I mentioned David Wootton's thoughts on the Third Pillar and its link to service, more explicitly service to local communities. His views were endorsed by the Pro Grand Master Jonathan Spence who in his recent address to Grand Lodge said, "The Third Pillar of the Strategy for Freemasonry, is concerned with our engagement with the communities within which we live and work. It is essential we do so, and do so with enthusiasm as we demonstrate the good Freemasonry can bring to those whom it touches, whether they are members or not." I mention this alongside the recent offer of help made by Chippenham Freemasons who have offered the local Air Training Corps. Rather than tell you what they have done you can read a brief report from Leon Philips (Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432.) on page 8.

Forget Me Not Lodge's Master for 2023-24, Bro. Kevin Bett, a former serving soldier with over 22 years active service with the Royal Engineers, has made a donation from his year in the Chair of £1000.00 to Alabare's [Boots on the Ground Scheme](#). See page 3. On similar lines the Province is pleased to support Bro Gary Logie who is planning to raise funds for The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) a military charity providing soldiers and veterans with the means to live independently, and with the dignity they deserve.

Each of these activities demonstrates the Province's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) for which we are Silver award recipients. Under the chairmanship of RW Bro John Thompson PrGM for Durham the United Grand Lodge of England will be applying to be awarded Gold status in 2025. Watch this space.

I trust all of our Members will have received an email from the Communication Team asking them to 'sign up' to Portal. Described as a personalised doorway to the future of Masonic membership, Portal is YOUR doorway and you will have the key to open it and to store your personal data. Portal will transform how you interact with your Masonic journey, giving you easy access to all the information you need and empowering you to take control.

Security and privacy are features that everyone quite rightly demands and you will be pleased to know they have been built into the very foundation of Portal. You, as the owner and user of your data will be in complete control of your personal information. Its accuracy will be entirely dependant on the quality of your input and it will also be your decision who sees the information on the system. However, this is only phase one, there's more to come and future phases are already being worked on and will include the provision of support to Provincial, Lodge, and Chapter Secretaries.

If you haven't yet signed up to use Portal please do so as soon as possible. It really is easy to do, blissfully simple to use and it will be a real boon to your Secretary to know that Members are maintaining their personal data.



The Risings and the Lodge minutes...

The Risings are the recognised method of bringing to the attention of the Lodge any business that is not dealt with by the agenda. Frequently on a Lodge agenda the rising are preceded by the words 'Any Other Business' a term that is neither required or necessary as it is in the Risings that any other business is conducted. The actual business dealt with under each of the three Risings follows a familiar pattern. Under the first Rising correspondence and communications from Grand Lodge are dealt with, the second Rising to communications from Provincial Grand Lodge, and on the third Rising any other matters such as propositions and apologies. It is on the third Rising that visitors (not members) are invited to convey greetings from their respective Lodges. *Note: there is little need for a member to give greetings, as he is obviously well known.*

The other term used on some Lodge agenda's is 'Matters Arising' out of the minutes of the previous meeting. This is quite a strange item, not least as invariably the Secretary simply stands and declares "there are no matters arising - Worshipful Master'. He is quite correct as the minutes of the meeting once 'confirmed as a true and accurate record of what then took place' offer no reason for further comment. If there had been an error in the minutes, such an error must of necessity be reported to the Secretary before the meeting at which they are presented as once confirmed they cannot be amended. The minutes do not deal in opinion , only in fact, they are a record of what took place on the occasion of the meeting.

Unauthorised Charity Appeals...

Occasionally Members seek to enlist the support of other Members and Lodges to raise funds for worthy causes and charities. It is worth repeating the guidance given by UGLE with regard to such appeals. *"It is irregular for any appeal to be made to the Craft is general to support particular objects, causes, or movements without the sanction of the MW Grand Master, or, in the case of any such appeal intended only for circulation in a specific Province, of the Provincial Grand Master."* If in doubt as to whether your appeal contravenes the rules please contact comms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

Discover More...

The Royal Arch welcomes enquiries from Master Masons wishing to Discover More about the Masonic journey they have entered upon.

Having been Raised to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason a Brother is able to search for and discover that which was lost which by the Master's instruction and our own industry we hope to find.

You are invited to scan the QR Code and Discover More.



#WiltshireRoyalArch
Discover More Booklet

Q-Code Download



Forget me Not Lodge No.9035...

Forget Me Not Lodge's Master for 2023-24, Bro. Kevin Bett, a former serving soldier with over 22 years active service with the Royal Engineers, has made a donation from his year in the Chair of £1000.00 to Alabare's [Boots on the Ground Scheme](#).

Karen Langley, pictured below with homeless veterans in Badger Camp, has been operating the scheme from Salisbury single-handedly, supporting homeless veterans in Wiltshire. This is a regular gathering where the group of homeless veterans they are supporting come together in the open air to chat, be social, and learn.

The veterans designed the camp themselves, and take pride in what they have achieved. It all takes place at Alabare's Old Sarum Development Centre, and provides invaluable support to homeless Veterans in getting back on their feet.



Karen Langley at Badger Camp



The Veterans Forge

The above photo shows a group who regularly travel to the Veterans Forge in Dorset. Here the guys and girls are taught blacksmithing skills and become truly engrossed in what they are doing. Again, it fosters such pride and allows them to focus on the here and now. The group always say *"the next session can't come round quickly enough!"*

Forget Me Not Lodge in Ludgershall is proud of its rich heritage, founded as a Military Lodge and is committed to supporting local charities who provide much needed relief to our homeless veterans.

For more information on Alabare and its various charitable initiatives to support veterans in Wiltshire and beyond: www.alabare.co.uk

Annual Subscriptions are now due....

It's **February** and that means Lodge Annual Subscriptions are now overdue as almost all Lodge and Chapter by-laws state that the annual a subscription is payable **IN FULL : IN ADVANCE** by a single specified date. Apart from a few instances the specified date is the 1st January.

Please help your Lodge Treasurer to keep the Lodge accounts upto date by making your payment on time.

THANK YOU ALL LODGES AND CHAPTERS THAT HAVE PAID THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS



Raising funds for the ABF

The Sandakan Death Marches were a series of forced marches in Borneo from Sandakan to Ranau which resulted in the deaths of 2,434 Allied prisoners of war held captive by the Empire of Japan during the Pacific campaign of World War II at the Sandakan POW Camp, North Borneo.[1] By the end of the war, of all the prisoners who had been incarcerated at Sandakan and Ranau, only six survived, all of whom had escaped. It is widely considered to be the single worst atrocity suffered by servicemen during the Second World War.

To raise money for the ABF: between **7 and 16 March 2027** Brother Gary Logie (Lansdowne Lodge of Unity, No. 626) will be retracing the steps of the Prisoners of War, who endured extreme conditions on the gruelling Death March from Sandakan PoW camp to Jessleton in 1943. 470 prisoners set off, only 6 survived.

The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) aims to provide soldiers and veterans with the means to live independently, and with the dignity they deserve.

For some Army veterans, injury, disability and advancing years can make it difficult to remain independent and to stay living in their own homes. The ABF stands at the forefront of support for the Army family, last year supporting an estimated 75,000 people in 51 countries around the world. As one of the largest funders in the sector, they award grants to individuals and families, and fund leading organisations that support soldiers, former soldiers, and their families

For some Army veterans, injury, disability and advancing years can make it difficult to remain independent and to stay living in their own homes. The ABF is on hand to support veterans and their families, both young and old, with home adaptations and mobility equipment that enable them to live where they have the best quality of life. Some will require significant support for the rest of their lives, and the ABF is there to ensure their needs are met over the long term.

The ABF provides support for soldiers, for life, making sure that veterans and their families have the care they need, long after service has ended.

Supporting the Army family is central to the work of the ABF, enabling better mental and physical wellbeing, so that soldiers, veterans, and their families can lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

For some, leaving the Army is a daunting experience, we are here to provide lifelong support for those who have served their country and who find themselves in particular need of help; the wounded, injured or sick who have had to leave the Army through no fault of their own.



Our impact 2023/24

In Wiltshire



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

Local community

6

Wiltshire charities supported

£69,200

given to charities in Wiltshire

Support for individuals and families



39

grants awarded



30

individuals and families helped



£131,076

given to individuals and families



£79,572

given to support with daily living costs



£11,927

given to support the education of children and young people



£39,578

given to support healthcare and wellbeing



4

people accessed mental health support



The MCF grant has been a great help, allowing me to support my children when they needed me most. It has eased the difficulty of managing arrears and financial strain, making me feel more able to assist others in need, especially my family. It has truly made a difference in many ways."

And beyond...

This year we supported more than 330 charities in England, Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and internationally and helped more than 3,000 individuals and families in need.

Read our full Impact Report!

Scan the QR code using your phone camera or visit mcf.org.uk/impact-report





Annual Provincial Subscriptions....

Just as paying your individual Lodge subscriptions on time is very much appreciated by the lodge Treasurer, so too is paying the Province the annual Lodge subscription. This year is the first time HERMES has been used to issue the Annual Return and the subsequent invoice and the Provincial Treasurer is delighted with the response from Lodges throughout the Province who have made prompt payment.

A Reminder...

Past Masters who have been presented with a Past Masters breast jewel are asked to remember that in this Province **the wearing of Lodge specific jewels is restricted to the Lodge to which they apply**; which means that when a member visits or joins another Lodge he does not wear a Past Master's or a Centenary breast jewel of another Lodge in that Lodge.

If you invite a member of another Province to visit it is perfectly in order, and a courtesy, to advise your guest of this ruling. A Freemason will not be offended at being made aware of this and in most circumstances would be grateful for the notification. A similar principle applies when visiting a Lodge in another Province; please make yourself aware of the policy of the Province and be respectful of their wishes.

The Lodge Membership Officer...

Are you a Lodge Membership Officer or the Brother designated to assist with attracting new members to the Lodge? If you are then Colin Cheshire will be delighted to welcome you to Trowbridge Masonic Hall on Saturday 8th February for the first of the New Year's Membership Officer seminars. Please do feel free to just turn up on the day, the team will be pleased to see you. The event runs from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

The Festive Board...

One of the most enjoyable features of a Lodge meeting is the time spent socialising with our fellow Brethren at the Festive Board or as it is commonly referred to 'the after-proceedings'. It will come as no surprise to discover that the Book of Constitutions offers some good advice regarding the correct behaviour to be followed.

"You may enjoy yourselves with innocent mirth, treating one another according to ability, but avoiding all excess, or forcing any brother to eat or drink beyond his inclination, or hindering him from going when his occasions call him, or doing or saying anything offensive, or that may forbid and easy and free conversation; for that would blast our harmony, and defeat our laudable purposes." **The Charges of a Free-Mason - V1 Of Behaviour.**

While a little humour often helps in lightening a speech, particularly at the toast to the visitors or in the response, this should be used carefully. A little wit, an elegant and eloquent turn of phrase, even if designed to elicit a 'groan' are all acceptable. A joke or a story, however, is a different matter. These are, on the whole best avoided altogether, for the straightforward reason that junior Brethren are liable to think that telling a joke is the thing to do. This leads too easily to someone trying to cap an innocuous story with a slightly risqué one, or even worse, one that is definitely of a dubious nature; at which point we move into 'being offensive'.

The most important rule when making or responding to any toast, is to keep it short. The very best of speakers, by leaving listeners wish he'd gone for longer, will only enhance his reputation.



Portal has launched in Wiltshire...



Yes, Portal is now launched and being used by many Wiltshire Freemasons. A new facility whose design has been developed around the experiences of over 500 users, incorporating their suggestions to produce clean, mobile friendly screens that are easy to navigate and a delight to use.

Security and privacy are features that have been built into the very foundations of Portal. You, as the owner and user of your data will be in complete control of your personal information. Its accuracy will be entirely dependant on the quality of your input and it will also be your decision who sees the information on the system.

To be able to access Portal it is important that your email address is up to date with UGLE and recorded properly on the Adelphi database. Your Lodge Secretary or Chapter ScribeE can help by checking and updating your email address - it's always worth confirming with them that they have the right details.

While every Freemason will be invited to sign up to Portal, use of the system is voluntary. If you choose not to use Portal, your Lodge Secretary will be able to update your personal data using HERMES. If you have not received a personalised invitation to sign up to Portal please email contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

LODGE OF RECTITUDE No.335



THE
RECTITUDE ESSAY
Dr. Ric Berman 2025



**EVOLUTION & MYTHS...
FROM SOLOMON'S TEMPLE TO
THE TEMPLARS...
FOUR KEY DATES**



Masonic Hall
Bath Road
Corsham



Monday 19th May 2025
4.15pm



L335@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk



Serving the local community in Chippenham...

On Monday 25th November 2024 the country felt the full force of Storm Burt with Wiltshire being subject to severe flooding, locally one of most affected areas was Chippenham where the town centre found itself underwater on after downpours caused the River Avon to burst its banks.

Shops on the High Street were forced to close while important routes into the town centre were also impassable, like The Bridge Centre Roundabout, and were closed by police.

While the water was cleared by Tuesday morning, businesses were left reeling in the aftermath of what many have described as the worst floods in Chippenham since 1968 and residents were left shocked by the floods that submerged the town centre overnight.

One of the many organisations affected by the flooding is the local squadron of the Chippenham Air Cadets whose main building and storage containers were submerged under four feet of water. The inevitable loss of uniforms, teaching equipment, first aid teaching kit, furniture and technological equipment, much of it either gifted, donated or bought through cadets fundraising activities was to have a marked effect on the cadets.

The unit provides a space for young more than 40 young people twice a week, many of whom aspire to join the military. The squadron has a long history in the town and is proud to count fighter pilots, Falklands veterans and airline pilots among the thousands who have been a part of it over decades at the current site on Long Close and before that.

A call to arms was made on behalf of the Air Cadets and Chippenham Masonic Centre members Lansdowne Lodge No.626 and Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432 (both of which have former cadets in their ranks) responded with the offer of the lower hall whilst their meeting place is rebuilt. As it turns out this journey hasn't all been straight forward as the initial ask of a couple of months is now 12 months as the meeting hut requires rebuilding.

The first challenge: The RAF and ATC are only geared for hiring public spaces which comply with certain regulations. Using a private Masonic meeting hall was something they have never done before and required the CMC to refresh its building certificates, and put new policies in place (a not insignificant amount of work).

The second challenge: The CMC and the ATC hit a roadblock as RAF policies stipulate a recent Wiltshire Fire Rescue Service Fire Risk Assessment was to be undertaken before the venue could be used as a temporary home for the cadets. We asked the ATC if they could find a pragmatic solution and a way forward and that arrived in the shape of Bro Rick Whitehead (The Border Lodge No.3129 – and more importantly ATC's Regional Safety Advisor) whose involvement completely turned the situation around. He put in a significant amount of work getting the Fire Risk Assessment complete and gained agreement from ATC leadership to allow the ATC to use the hall.

The current challenge: The challenges are not over as we still need to get our Commercial Electrical Safety certificate refreshed if the Cadets are to be allowed to Parade at the CMC beyond Mid-February.

But there is an upside to all this work and that is that the CMC will now be able to better support its orders when they want to work with the community around the building with a complete set of building certificates, policies, and procedures.



In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



FEBRUARY 2025

Who's meeting where and when in FEBRUARY?

WILTSHIRE LODGE AND CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Date	Lodge/Chapter Name	No.	Ceremony	Location
1	Forget-Me-Not Lodge	L9035	2 nd Degree	Ludgershall
3	Broad Forde Lodge	L8547	2 nd Degree	Bradford on Avon
3	Downton Lodge	L9064	2 nd Degree *1/*2	Downton
4	Lodge of Loyalty	L1533	1 st Degree	Marlborough
4	Methuen Lodge	L8692	1 st Degree	Swindon
4	St Aldhelm Chapter	C2888	Installation	Chippenham
5	Longleat Lodge	L1478	2 nd Degree	Warminster
5	Lodge of Remembrance	L4037	Installation	Swindon
5	Sarum Lodge	L5137	1 st Degree	Salisbury
5	Vale of Avon Lodge	L8432	1 st Degree	Chippenham
6	Clarendon Lodge	L5908	1 st Degree	Trowbridge
6	Lodge of Brothers in Arms	L9540	1 st Degree *2	Salisbury
7	Calley Lodge	L7525	1 st Degree	Swindon
8	Tisbury Lodge	L8718	3 rd Degree	Salisbury
10	Lodge of Concord	L632	1 st Degree	Trowbridge
10	Harry C Preater Lodge	L8204	1 st Degree *2	Swindon
11	Lansdowne Lodge of Unity	L626	2 nd Degree	Chippenham
11	Methuen Chapter	C1533	Exaltation	Marlborough
12	Lodge of Friendship and Unity	L1271	Business Meeting	Bradford on Avon
12	Stonehenge Lodge	L6114	3 rd Degree	Salisbury
12	Wiltshire Chapter	C355	Exaltation	Swindon
13	Lodge Elias de Derham	L586	2 nd Degree	Salisbury
14	Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation	L355	1 st Degree	Swindon
17	Chaloner Lodge	L2644	Lecture (Burns)	Melksham
17	The City Lodge	L5955	1 st Degree (PM)	Salisbury
18	White Horse Lodge	L2227	2 nd Degree *1	Westbury
18	St Aldhelm Lodge	L2888	1 st Degree	Chippenham
19	Gooch Lodge	L1295	1 st Degree (PM)	Swindon
19	The Border Lodge	L3129	2 nd Degree	Ludgershall
19	Vastern Lodge	L8977	2 nd Degree	Calne
19	Lodge of Innocence and Morality	L9587	Installation	East Knoyle
20	Corsham Lodge	L6616	3 rd Degree	Corsham
21	Lodge of Fidelity	L663	2 nd Degree	Devizes
21	Highworth Lodge	L9009	2 nd Degree	Highworth
24	Lodge of Good Fellowship	L8388	TBC	Marlborough
24	Chapter of Concord	C632	Change of date now on 21st March	
24	Lansdowne Chapter of Unity	C626	Demo Exaltation	Chippenham
25	Pleydell Lodge	L4687	1 st Degree	Swindon
25	St Edmund Lodge	L4714	1 st Degree	Calne
26	Radnor Lodge	L4451	1 st Degree	Salisbury
26	Moonraker Lodge	L8747	2 nd Degree	Devizes
26	George Duke of Kent Lodge	L8788	2 nd Degree *2	Swindon
27	New Temple Lodge	L8435	1 st Degree	Swindon
27	Thynne Chapter	C1478	Exaltation *2	Warminster
28	Lodge of Agriculture	L9090	Demo 1 st Degree	Corsham