

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



MARCH 2025

Thank you for signing up...



Yes, I am referring to Portal a personalised doorway to the future of Masonic membership, in fact YOUR doorway and only you will have the key to open it and to store your personal data. Portal transforms how you interact with your Masonic journey, giving you easy access to all the information you need to take control.

Doubtless you will be pleased to know that security and privacy are features that have been built into Portal, while 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 as the Provincial Secretary has said, it will be a real boon to your Secretary to know that Members are maintaining their personal data.

Recently I was asked why Freemasonry had become so bureaucratic and why were Lodges being controlled from the centre. My answer was unequivocal, nothing has changed, we have always been governed by the Book of Constitutions, which incidentally includes the entire content of the booklet INFORMATION FOR THE GUIDANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE CRAFT, and the By Laws of the Lodge. The truth is that for many Members their preference for "We have always done it this way" or "Our founders wanted us to do things differently" has relegated the Book of Constitutions to being considered by some as being nothing more than advice, whereas it is much more. I trust you will agree, and in doing so will act in strict conformity to those excellent Rules and Regulations to which we have previously given our assent.

I was delighted to see a poster advertising PSA testing by The Loganberry Trust. I am sure every Member of the Province will be aware that Prostate Cancer is a major cause of male deaths in the UK, and that an early diagnosis is crucial. The PSA test is just one way in which you can be tested and Wiltshire Freemasons in conjunction with The Loganberry Trust is offering PSA blood tests at three of our Masonic Halls.

So, if you're approaching fifty years of age or, more probably, past it by some margin here's a question, how much consideration have you given to your Prostate Gland? It's a potential ticking time bomb sitting quite undisturbed behind your 'Bits and Pieces'. It came in handy when you were having a family. Maybe not so important now, but why should you have given it any consideration at all? After all you are probably feeling fit and well for whatever age you are. Before you get any feelings of smugness, give the following point a bit of thought:

One in eight men will develop Prostate Cancer in their lifetime. How do you feel about these odds? Please do take advantage of the opportunity to have a test - it's one test where a low score is a good score.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Learning and Development team who will be holding two sessions in March. The first is for new Freemasons and is on **Saturday 8th March** at the Masonic Centre, The Planks , **Swindon**; and the second for Brethren who are or wish to become a Deacon and this is on **Saturday 15th March** at Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street, **Salisbury**. Both events start at 10.00am and last for a very profitable two hours. There is always plenty of time to ask questions and to pick the brains of the team. Please do try to get along to one of the sessions.



Wiltshire Freemasons

and the

The Loganberry Trust

Invite you to take a PSA test

When: Saturday 29th March 2025

Time: 10.00 until 14.00

Where: Masonic Centre

Emery Gate | Chippenham | SN15 3JP

Cost: £10.00



When: Saturday 12th April 2025

Time: 10.00 until 14.00

Where: Masonic Centre

The Planks I Swindon I SN3 1QP

Cost: £10.00



When: Saturday 10th May

Time: 10.00 until 14.00

Where: Freemasons' Hall

Crane Street | Salisbury | SP1 2QD

Cost: £10.00



For more information visit: https://gfct.mypsatests.org.uk/
Tel: 01926 419959 - E: info@psatests.org.uk



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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

Portal is the way to go...

Portal is probably one of the best initiatives UGLE has introduced. It's so easy to sign up to and to use, just as importantly it puts you in control of your personal data and means your secretary is always up to date with your address, email, and telephone numbers.

PLAY FOLLOW MY LEADER...



"Making your Lodge Secretary happy is very important.
Signing up to portal and updating your personal details is just one way you can help him and the Lodge."

Manage your Masonic profile with ease.

Never miss a Lodge meeting again.

Keep in touch with Members of your Lodge

Chart your Masonic journey.

Let others know what you can do.

Use this link to access Portal on your desktop computer: https://desktop.portal.ugle.org.uk/



Scan here with your mobile to begin your digital Masonic journey.

SIGN UP TODAY TO BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING PROJECT

Enhance your Masonic experience for years to come.



Rob Evans - Provincial Grand Secretary



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Wiltshire leads the way...



George Duke of Kent Lodge No.8788



Gooch Lodge No.1295 You are invited...



St Aldhelm Lodge No.2888



New Temple Lodge No.8435

Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or are you a Master Mason wanting to know more? Well, FINDING YOUR FEET could be the answer and we would love to see you in Swindon on Saturday 8th March

Saturday 8th March @ 10.00am





Invite you to a **PSA** screening event on

Saturday 29th March 2025

at **Masonic Centre**

Emery Gate Chippenham

By Appointment Only







Are you a man aged 40 and over? A PSA test could save your life.

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80

In its early stages, prostate cancer generally produces no symptoms, so it is important to diagnose the disease before symptoms arise and while it is still potentially curable.

Merry

A PSA test is nothing more than a simple blood test. It's currently the best readily available indicator of a possible prostate issue.

Invest a few minutes of your time taking a test that could change your life.

When: Saturday 29th March 2025

Time: 10.00 until 14.00

Where: Masonic Centre

Emery Gate | Chippenham | SN15 3JP

Cost: £10.00

Book Your Test Now



TITTENHAM



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Two dates not to be missed...

Don't miss the chance to join the Learning and Development team in Swindon or Salisbury for another opportunity to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.







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The 2025 Rectitude Essay...

Lodge of Rectitude No.335 is Wiltshire's oldest Lodge (Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 comes a very close second but can claim to be a 'working Lodge') and the Master, Wardens and Brethren ivite you to join them on Monday 19th May to hear former Prestonian Lecturer Dr Ric Berman present the annual **Rectitude Essay.**

The Lodge is proud to have welcomed over the years many distinguished speakers to Corsham to present the **Rectitude Essay** and Dr Berman joins this fine list in 2025.

We pride ourselves on not only feeding the mind but also the body. Catering for the event is provided by Andrew, Frances and Matthew Evans.

To book a place please email the secretary at L335@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk



Our impact 2023/24

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Local community

6Wiltshire 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



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**

