



JULY 2025

Enjoying the summer break...



Simon Leighfield

As we move into July I know that many of our members will be looking forward to a well deserved holiday particularly with their family. Judging by the images on Facebook I think it fair to say that some Brethren have already slipped away to enjoy the sunshine on offer in foreign climes. Wherever you are, on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master and the executive team I wish you a very happy holiday and safe return home.

The Provincial Grand Master isn't on holiday but he has asked me to write July's front page, with Steve Lee being responsible for contributing August's comments.

The summer recess might well be considered a break from the practice of speculative Masonry but it also heralds the opportunity to engage in some operative Masonry. For the members of the Lodges meeting in the Masonic Centre at The Planks, Swindon this means two months of intensive work re-arranging, clearing out, and painting and decorating; a call to arms from Howard Jones of Gooch Lodge No.1295 has seen a positive response from Brethren able and willing to wield a paint brush or provide muscle power but extra hands are always welcome. A full schedule of works required to be carried out has been agreed by the Board of the Swindon Masonic Association and a time table for supervised weekend working has been approved; all that is now required are volunteers. Can you help? If you can please contact Howard by clicking - **I WANT TO HELP**

I'm sure you have been following the comments on Community Engagement and the view that this is an essential part of a Freemason's obligation as set out in the fourth of the four principles - **Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Service**. The UGLE has cited Community Engagement as being important if we are "To cement our reputation as a force for good in our communities and society at large."

Wiltshire Freemasons engaging with local communities is as natural as breathing, and is something for which we have a long and distinguished record. Whether it's providing a Big Breakfast, volunteering as a hospital driver, helping in a charity shop or foodbank, assisting a charity, and even litter picking - Wiltshire Freemasons have **always** been at the forefront of community engagement.

In June members of the Province became aware of a SEND student who sadly has suffered bullying. Together with bikers' from across the country Josh made an unforgettable entrance to the end-of-term Prom event at the Shaw Ridge Village Hotel as hundreds of motorcyclists followed him to the hotel's entrance on Friday evening. Brethren from The Border Lodge No.3129 also demonstrated that 'charity is in a freemason's DNA' this time by volunteering their time to erect a very heavy climbing frame, and by rotovating the children's digging garden.

On Sunday 27th July at 3.00pm Highworth Lodge members invite you to join them at John Bridgeman's for a BBQ. It's easy to book, just click on <https://tinyurl.com/9009BBQ>

Have you registered to attend the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge? If not please do consider doing so. All Master Masons will receive a Summons to attend and we do look forward to welcoming you to The Civic, Trowbridge on Thursday 2nd October You can register on line using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ProvGL2025>

Finally, you can support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival and enjoy a 'tippie' of Three Degrees Gin. Available in three super flavours order on line at tinyurl.com/ThreeDegGin



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Making a difference to the local community...

Very often it's not about how much did we give but rather how much did we do; members of The Border Lodge No.3129 meeting at Ludgershall have an enviable track record of giving their time and talent to the local community. One of their most important connections is with the Ludgershall Preschool and during half-term members dug over and rotovated the garden before erecting a 'very heavy' climbing frame into position.

School Manager Claire Churchill was so impressed with the work of the Lodge team she put pen to paper and sent the following letter of appreciation to the Master.

Freemasons, making a difference - no committee just commitment.

If you do something, anything, for your local community let us know comms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk



LUDGERSHALL PRESCHOOL
SHORT STREET
LUDGERSHALL
ANDOVER
HAMPSHIRE
SP11 9RB

Date 1st June 2025

The Worshipful Master
The Border Lodge No 3129
Station Approach
Ludgershall
Wilts
SP11 9LZ

Dear Sir,

LODGE ASSISTANCE DURING HALF TERM

We returned this morning to PreSchool after half term, to find that during the week, members of the Lodge had been busy in the PreSchool erecting a very heavy climbing frame/wall and having dug over and rotovated the children's digging garden.

The Lodge regularly supports our charity PreSchool with financial donations but I wanted to say a big thank you to those members of the Lodge (Dan Geary & Dave Kyte & others) who gave up their time to assist with these tasks that we would otherwise have to pay tradesmen to complete. The donation of their time is as important, if not more so, than the donation of money.

Will you please pass on to your members our heartfelt "thank you" for their assistance.

Yours faithfully

Claire Churchill
Manager, Ludgershall PreSchool

HIGHWORTH LODGE NO.9009

JOHN'S BBQ

BURGERS
HOT DOGS
JACKET POTATOES
SALAD

SUNDAY 27TH JULY

LIVE MUSIC

3.00PM

RAFFLE

£12
per person

includes 1st BBQ item
children under 12 free



LATEST BOOKING DATE IS 18th JULY

**RUSLAND COTTAGE | POND STREET
SWINDON | SN25 3JE**

BRING OWN DRINK | BRING OWN SEATING

BOOK ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/9009BBQ>



JULY 2025

Society Without Abuse...



For over 50 years Wiltshire Freemasons have been passionate supporters in the provision of a facility for what were euphemistically referred to as 'battered wives' or victims of domestic abuse. The Swindon refuge under the inspired leadership of the late Jenni Manners captured the hearts, minds, and wallets of local Freemasons. The doors to the refuge opened in August 1975 becoming one of the first operational refuges outside of London. Since then, the charity has helped thousands of victims and survivors to start new lives which are free from violence and abuse.

In January 2025, reflecting the changing activities of the organisation which now include work outside the immediate Swindon area, and with all who need support including women, men and children affected by abuse, the charity became Society Without Abuse (SWA).

Kate Rowland, CEO of SWA reminds us that "Domestic abuse continues to happen at an alarming rate across Swindon, Wiltshire and the whole of the UK. The reality is that official figures on abuse are likely to be an underestimation as many incidents of domestic abuse go under the radar. To change the future, we need to come together as a society to tackle the root cause of abuse, through education, early intervention and prevention. We're very grateful for the support of Wiltshire Freemasons, which means that we can double the work we do directly with children and young people to help them recover from the trauma of domestic abuse. Thanks to our programmes; the HOPE Programme for young people, and working with those who are responsible for these harmful behaviours through our Open2Change programme, as well as the vital support we receive from organisations like the Freemasons, we are working to change the future, today."



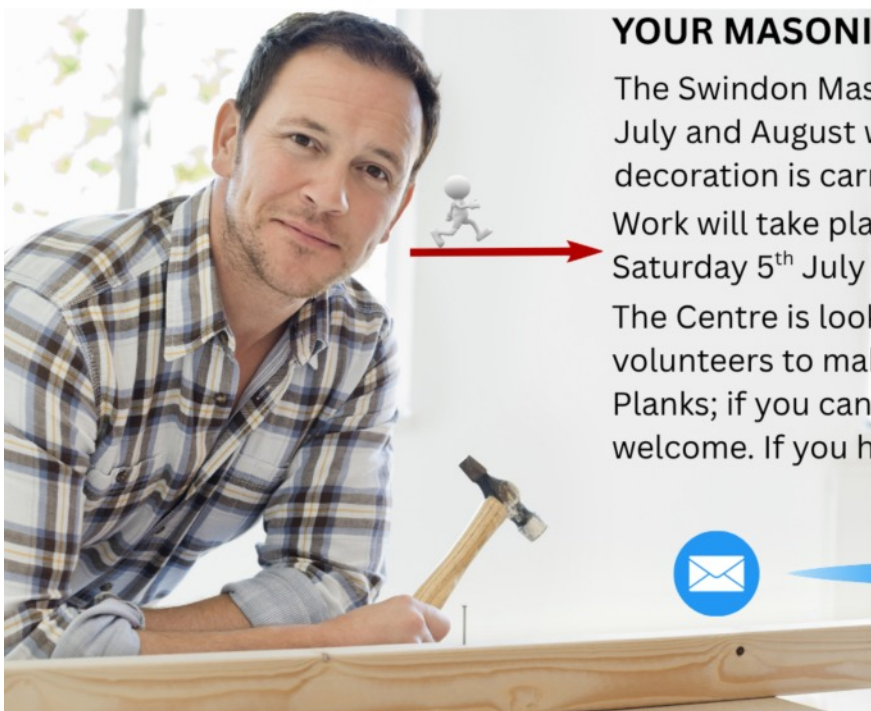


In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



JULY 2025



YOUR MASONIC CENTRE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Swindon Masonic Centre will be closed during July and August while essential repairs and decoration is carried out.

Work will take place over each weekend starting Saturday 5th July finishing on Sunday 31st August

The Centre is looking for able bodied and willing volunteers to make a positive contribution to The Planks; if you can wield a paint brush you will be most welcome. If you have a trade - so much the better



CAN YOU HELP?

contact **Howard Jones** directly at: howardjones2006@outlook.com if you are able to assist on any of the planned weekends.

HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

PROVINCIAL
GRAND
LODGE

THE CIVIC | TROWBRIDGE

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER
2.30PM

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



Image by Adrian Wooster





In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



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Make my day...

Wiltshire Freemasons from the Masonic Bikers Association joined with bikers from across the UK to make a wish come true for Swindon SEND student Josh and took him to his prom



Warminster welcome Book Festival...

Warminster Masonic Hall welcomed the bi-annual Warminster Book Festival with four authors giving talks on their books and then participating in lively questions and answers sessions. Opening our Masonic Halls because it's the right thing to do



WARMINSTER BOOK FESTIVAL
SATURDAY JUNE 7TH 2025
www.warminsterbookfestival.co.uk

The Library
Paula Rooney-Travel / autobiography 10-11am
AA Abbott - Psychological Thrillers 11-12 noon
Kate Pearce - Steamy Romance 1.30-2.30pm
Stuart James- Psychological thrillers 3-4 pm

The Wellbeing Hub
Nicola Parkinson - Children's Meditations 9.30-10.30am
Cogmaze Publishing - Children's Books 11-12 noon
Mark Tanner- Young Adult 1.45-2.30pm
Richard Collis - Young Adult 3-3.45 pm
Vanessa Tanner - Family, Friendship and Fidelity 4.15-5pm

Masonic Hall
Wendy Jackson -The Lost Keys, a war saga 10-10.45am
Nikki Copleston - Crime 11-12noon
Bryan Mason Black comedy / Crime 1.30-2.30pm
Rachael Rowe - Body Snatchers 3-4pm

St Lawrence Chapel
Lynn Griffin- Women's Fiction 10-11am
J P Reedman - Historical Fiction 11.30-12.30
Felice Hardy - The Tennis Champion who escaped the Nazis 2-3pm
Jo Gilfillan- Dogs About Our House 3.30-4.15pm



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Giving something that makes a difference...

The most recent gift from Wiltshire Freemasons to John McNeill Opportunity Centre in Salisbury is a sensory projector, costing over £7,000. This amazing piece of equipment allows children to interact with the projected images and with each other. John and Simon couldn't resist getting involved! Can you spot them?





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Supporting the Wiltshire 2028 Festival...

Inspired by the rare flowers found on the vast chalk plateaus of Salisbury Plain and produced by a local distillery in Melksham, Three degrees Dry Gin comprises three flavours. Alongside a traditional Dry Gin there will be Orange Gin, and Pink Gin. Three Degrees Gin is only £40 a bottle and all profit will be given to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. Contact Mark Newman to pre-order or simply click on tinyurl.com/ThreeDegGin



3 DEGREES Gin - £39.99

Distilled in wiltshire - NOW AVAILABLE

3 Distinct flavours, Award winning Gin, Pink Gin & Orange Gin

ALL PROFITS TO THE WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL