



A Very Happy New Year...



John Reid

We certainly finished the year on a high as we welcomed the Lord Lieutenant and Mr Peter Troughton to join over 600 Wiltshire Freemasons, their families and friends at Carols for Christmas which was held in the magnificent chapel of Marlborough College. A huge thank you for your attendance and I hope that like me you enjoyed the music, the singing and of course the mulled wine and mince pies - a particular thank you to Tom and Oli Snell for their generous contribution to this event.

We were once again treated to the very best of organ playing by our maestro Gary Cook. A highlight for me was our soloist Kitty Pearson who sang Ave Maria so wonderfully. As for the mince pies, well all I am going say is that I wish I had bought two boxes and not just one. They were superb.

Last month I posed the question "Where has the past year gone?" In this edition of InTouch>On Line I want to ask a different question "What will 2026 bring?" New Year resolutions are promises that become aspirations and eventually they fade into nothing. Freemasons make promises, take obligations and profess vows - surely there can be greater mark of a Freemason's character than that his word can be relied upon. I want to share my top wishes for 2026.

1. Support the Lodge. I am sure that we all recognise the importance of supporting the Lodge of which we are a member. When we became Freemasons we were welcomed by Lodge Members and we promised to attend the meetings and to support the Lodge and yet attendance at Lodge meetings is often less than 50% of the subscribing membership.

2. Learn the ritual. I know that for some that's not as easy as it is for others. I am aware that today we recognise learning difficulties and can put a name to them whereas in years gone by we simply accepted some were 'fast' learners while others were 'slow' learners. What I want to see less of this coming year is reading from ritual books. It is difficult to memorise ritual and it has always been difficult - perseverance will bring its own reward to both the individual and to the Lodge.

3. Be kind to one another. This past year I have been made aware of some pretty awful behaviour and while I appreciate that in a society such as ours no one is going to the best of pals with everyone, but Freemasonry demands a higher standard of behaviour from its membership. I have heard of 'issues' that have their genesis in the envy of promotion and worse the disappointment that a promotion received wasn't what was 'expected'.

4. Give as you can afford. Contrary to some opinions, Freemasonry isn't just about charity, important as that is - it is only a part of what we are and what we do. Freemasons are by their very nature charitable, indeed Wiltshire coined the phrase 'charity it's in a freemason's DNA'. We ask only that a Freemason gives as his circumstances fairly allow, and if you can't afford to give money consider giving of your time and skill.

5. Don't be a slave to tradition . If there is one impediment to progress in Freemasonry it's a misunderstanding of the value of tradition. It's our tradition is often shorthand for 'this is the way we do things and we will not be moved'. In today's fast paced society the use of tradition as a reason not to change is proving to be an anchor to progress. Please don't let your Lodge be held back by an aversion to change.

Finally, I wish each and every one of our Members a very, very Happy, Prosperous, and Healthy New Year.



In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



JANUARY 2026

Meeting Calendar for January 2026...

December's meeting calendar is brought to you by Paul Robinson with the help of the Secretaries and Scribes who provide the information on 'what is going on' in the Lodge or Chapter.

WILTSHIRE LODGE AND CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 2026

Date	Lodge/Chapter Name	No.	Ceremony	Location
2	Calley Lodge	L7525	1 st Degree	Swindon
5	Downton Lodge	L9064	1 st Degree	Downton
6	Chapter of Agriculture	C9090	Exaltation	Corsham
7	Longleat Lodge	L1478	Installation	Warminster
8	Lodge Elias de Derham	L586	3 rd Degree *3	Salisbury
8	Clarendon Lodge	L5908	2 nd Degree *4	Trowbridge
8	Border Chapter	C3129	Exaltation	Ludgershall
9	Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation	L355	Installation	Swindon
9	Chapter of Harmony	C663	Exaltation	Devizes
12	Lodge of Concord	L632	Installation	Trowbridge
12	Harry C Pretor Lodge	L8204	1 st Degree	Swindon
13	Lansdowne Lodge of Unity	L626	3 rd Degree *1	Chippenham
13	Lodge of Loyalty	L1533	2 nd Degree	Marlborough
14	Lodge of Friendship and Unity	L1271	TBC	Bradford-on-Avon
14	Stonehenge Lodge	L6114	2 nd Degree	Salisbury
15	Fiat Lux Lodge	L9773	1 st Degree *2	Devizes
15	Corsham Lodge	L6616	1 st Degree	Corsham
15	Gooch Chapter	C1295	Exaltation	Swindon
16	Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity	L663	1 st Degree	Devizes
16	Highworth Lodge	L9009	3 rd Degree	Swindon
17	Wyvern Lodge	L8620	1 st Degree	Warminster
19	Chaloner Lodge	L2644	Demo 1 st degree	Melksham
19	The City Lodge	L5955	1 st Degree	Salisbury
20	White Horse Lodge	L2227	1 st Degree	Westbury
21	Gooch Lodge	L1295	Lecture	Swindon
21	The Border Lodge	L3129	3 rd Degree	Ludgershall
21	Vastern Lodge	L8977	3 rd Degree	Calne
21	Chapter Elias de Derham	C586	Exaltation	Salisbury
21	Chapter of Friendship and Unity	C1271	Invest officers	Bradford-on-Avon
22	New Temple Lodge	L8435	2 nd Degree	Swindon
23	Highworth Chapter	C9009	Lectures	Swindon
26	Lodge of Good Fellowship	L8388	3 rd Degree	Marlborough
27	Pleydell Lodge	L4687	Demo 3 rd Degree	Swindon
27	St Edmund Lodge	L4714	3 rd Degree	Calne
28	Radnor Lodge	L4451	1 st Degree	Salisbury
28	Moonraker Lodge	L8747	1 st Degree	Devizes
30	Wiltshire Lodge of Agriculture	L9090	1 st Degree	Corsham

*1 = Double Ceremony *2 = Emergency Meeting *3 Degree By Request

*4 = Moved due to bank holiday