



JUNE 2026

Excellence is what we should aim for...



John Reid

I'm delighted that many of our members found last month's article and comments on morality to be of interest. I have enjoyed responding to some of the questions and observations made and trust that this month's edition of **InTouch > OnLine** will stimulate your interest in a similar manner and who knows, elicit a response either by way of a question or comment.

Wiltshire might well be a small Province compared to some others, but I never cease to be amazed at our capacity to punch well above our weight especially when it comes to Learning and Development which also incorporates Training. I have had the pleasure of visiting some of the courses on a number of occasions and as a former Director Ceremonies I can say with all honesty that they are well worth attending. The team under the guidance of Alan Colman has developed very different ways to present the sessions, recognising that Finding Your Feet, Preparing For The Chair, and the Deacons' Workshop require quite different approaches. But of one thing I am absolutely certain and that is the benefit of attending and participating cannot be overstated. In fact I would go one step further and say that it is very obvious whether a Brother has attended any of the courses simply by watching them 'perform' in their own Lodge. There is no substitute for good teaching and that is what Alan and his team offer.

Our ceremonies are aptly referred to as playlets with the actors having specific roles which include words and actions and the use of 'props.' During the ceremonies there may well be scene changes, mood lighting, and appropriate music (with the emphasis on appropriate please), the way in which the floor officers in particular conduct themselves can convert a ceremony from okay to outstanding.

I am aware that for some of our members the manner in which ceremonies are conducted is not all that important, indeed I frequently hear Brethren saying, 'that will do' - when in fact 'that will do' is really not always that good. Our performance goal should always be aimed at excellence and not mediocrity and if the work is not good enough it is only right and proper that it should be called out as such and effort undertaken to make it perfect.

It is the role of the Director of Ceremonies to make sure the ceremonial in the Lodge is conducted to the highest standard, and it's the responsibility of the member who has accepted an office to fulfil the obligations of the office by striving to be the very best and to achieve excellence in everything they do. I continue to be surprised at the lack of member attendance at rehearsals and schools of instruction and I would urge members, particularly new Freemasons to make every effort to attend especially if you have a part to play.

The Province has published a manual for the Lodge Director of Ceremonies (available online or from the Communications Team) that contains useful information, practical instruction, and guidance on some aspects of work to which there is an expectation that Lodges will conform. A straightforward example is how a Deacon should hold their wand of office - which is using the pencil grip. In July the Provincial Director of Ceremonies Richard Wright and his team is holding a meeting of Lodge Directors of Ceremonies and their Assistants; please put the date in your diary and do your very best to attend.

Finally, this edition of **InTouch>OnLine** contains the first notice (Summons) for Provincial Grand Lodge on Thursday 1st October 2026 at The Civic, Trowbridge (see page 9). I look forward to welcoming as many of you that can make the meeting. [CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



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Visiting Overseas...

Alan Colman

Last month Alan Colman attended Wade Hampton Lodge No. 404 in the 18th District of South Carolina, under the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. Here is an extract of his report.

"I was made to feel very welcome and joined the members for something to eat before the Lodge meeting which started at 19:30 hrs. The Lodge was opened in all three degrees followed by the members pledging allegiance to the flag; as there was no ceremony they conducted a business meeting with all the agenda items dealt with in the third degree. Discussions centred on the Lodge's charity work for hurricane relief in the local area, as well as building upkeep, and the impending fees increase from Grand Lodge (*nothing new there I hear you say*). A couple of joining members were proposed, for which the Worshipful Master allocated three members to investigate each joiner and determine whether they should be allowed to rejoin.

There is no Lodge Almoner, but the Worshipful Master called for anyone present to stand and report on any Brother or family member for the Lodge to hold in their prayers. It went around the Lodge in much the same way as our greetings. After the meeting we retired to the ante room finishing the food, and sat around and talked (the Lodge is dry, so only soft drinks were allowed).

Here is a photo of me with the members. Note they don't dress up apart from for an installation. One of the Brethren at the meeting was an Eton educated German who was a regular visitor when working in Greenville. He was like a German version of my friend Kieran! This photo (right) shows me with Mark Bennett the Lodge Secretary and Past District Deputy Grand Master (PDDGM)."





Wiltshire Freemasons making a difference ...

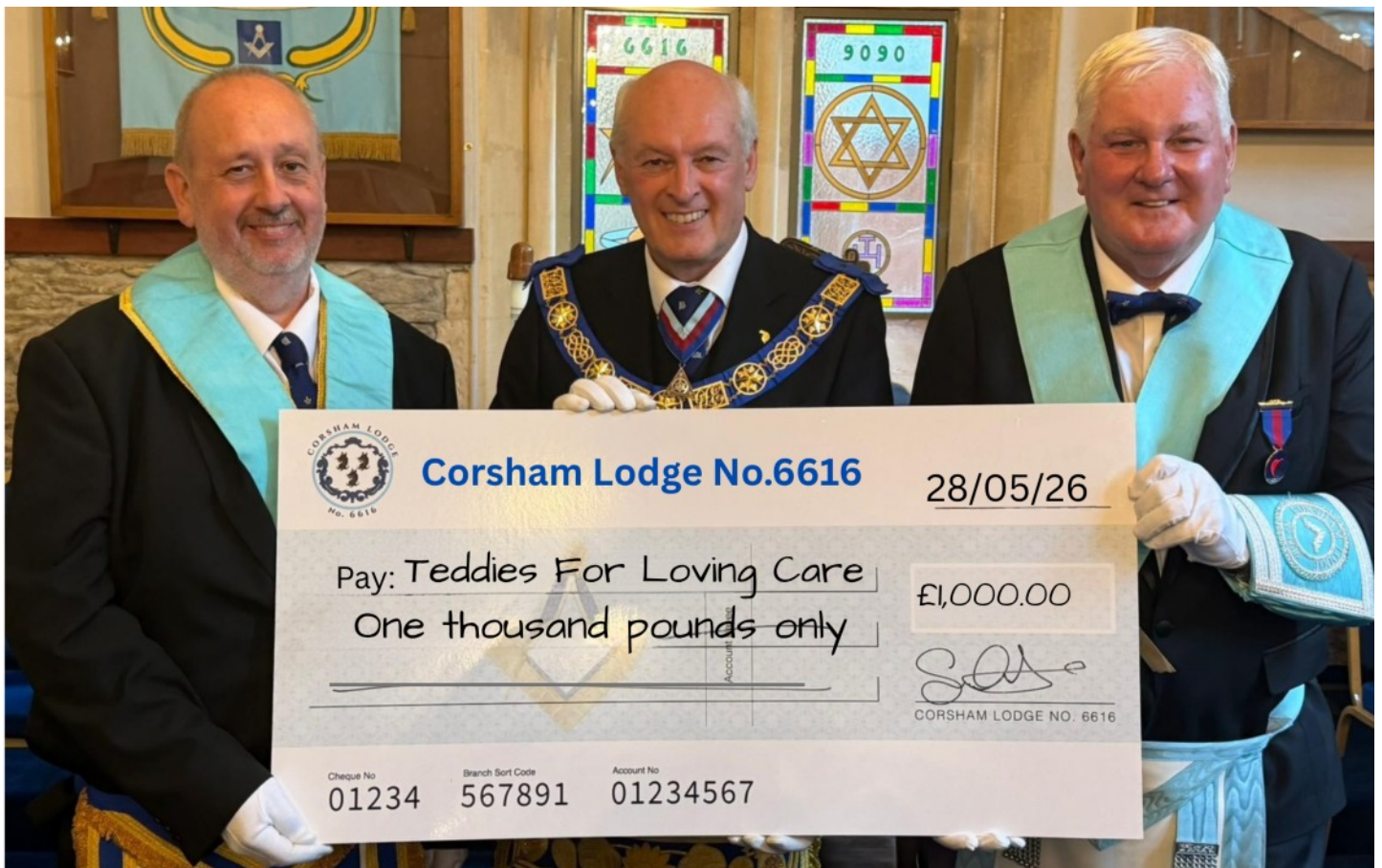
Ian Lever

As the Provincial Charity Steward it's part of my role to encourage Brethren to give not only money but also their time to support the aim of creating that positive impact; I am pleased to report that in the main our members acknowledge the importance of the promise they made when they were first admitted to Freemasonry. To recap the events of the North East corner is hardly necessary but I would remind you of two elements. The first is to reflect on the recipients of the charity you were being asked to support. The subject of the charity charge is Freemasons and starts with - "It cannot be denied that we have many **members...**" It ends similarly with the words "should you at any time meet a friend or **Brother** in distressed circumstances ...you will cheerfully embrace the opportunity of practicing towards him, that virtue you now profess to admire."

The first call on a Freemason's charity is quite clearly established - it is another Freemason. This accords with the principle set out in the VSL where "Therefore as long as we have the opportunity, let us do good unto everyone, **especially** unto those who are of the household of faith." It also gels with what we often refer to as 'family first' after all we are all part of a large Masonic family.

To those who believe their obligation to support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival is 'optional' I would suggest they might think on the words of our ritual, the text of the VSL, and the promise they made at their Initiation.

I don't deny that times for some are hard, and I acknowledge that there are many claims on the pound in your pocket but I don't believe that £10 a month is too much to ask a Brother to give on a regular basis. After all when we were asked "If you had not been so deprived would you have given freely?" - What was your answer?





In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



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Supporting Masonic Events...

The editor is always pleased to promote Masonic events especially those raising funds for Masonic charities and causes. Events held with the intent to raise funds for charity and which are advertised beyond an individual Lodge must be approved by the Provincial Grand Master (via his appointee).



PARTY ON THE FIELD

LIVE MUSIC ONSITE PARKING BRING OWN SEATING AND DRINKS HOG ROAST

SUNDAY 26TH JULY
ARRIVE AT 2PM • £16PP

Collection for The Prospect Hospice

RUSLAND COTTAGE FIELD, SN25 3JE

PAYMENTS TO
JOHN L J BRIDGEMAN REF HOG ROAST
BACS ACC: 11675990 SORT: 40 43 41

CONTACT JOHN WITH ANY QUERIES/
DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
07798743715



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WILTSHIRE 2028 **Masonic Charitable Foundation**

RACE TO THE STONES

Supporting the Wiltshire 2028 Festival

Liam East, Matthew Finnegan, Prinesh Patel and Jack McGeoch are running a 50km Ultra Marathon from Wantage to Avebury to raise funds for the Wiltshire 2028 Festival.

12th JULY 2026

Support our journey and donate today
<https://tinyurl.com/calley2026>

SCAN TO DONATE

Never miss a word...



Having trouble following your Lodge or Chapter meeting? Help yourself and the Wiltshire 2028 Festival by booking a hearing consultation with Reeds Hearing Care who will provide you with expert advice and guidance, while you contribute their normal fee (£85.00) to the Festival. We cover everything to do with hearing, tinnitus, wax removal and can provide help, support and advice for all issues.

Reeds Hearing Care is a professional, independent, caring, business based in Swindon.

e.mail: reeds@reedsear.co.uk or text: 07585 525993



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Your Events promoted here...

Members are reminded that Lodge Funds from a charity account or general account cannot be used in support of a Lodge Ladies Festival or similar event, in particular Lodge funds cannot be used to cover any deficit that might occur. However, a Lodge may establish a fund specifically for an event but Rule 153(e) BoC must be followed.

The editor will be pleased to promote a Lodge event in [InTouch > OnLine](#) (restrictions may apply)

**NEW TEMPLE LODGE
NO. 8435
ANDY AND LISA THORNE**

DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY | **5th** | SEPTEMBER

6.30PM UNTIL LATE
carriages at 1.00am

HILTON HOTEL | LYDIARD FIELDS
GREAT WESTERN WAY
SWINDON | SN5 8UZ

THREE COURSE DINNER
£60 PER PERSON
TABLE WINE
courtesy of andy and lisa

TO RESERVE A TABLE CONTACT
ANDY THORNE 07909 544229
andy.thorne1@hotmail.com
EDDIE CHILD 07768055542
childeddie@yahoo.co.uk

**CHRIS & JOHN WISE INVITE YOU TO THEIR
LADIES AND PARTNERS
Party Night**

The Doubletree Hilton | Lydiard Fields
Great Western Way | Swindon | SN5 8UZ

24 OCT | LIVE MUSIC | 7.00 PM

DANCING TO JON CLARE
AND THE FABULOUS DOUGHBOYS
AND
DJ JIMMY HANNAWAY

WELCOME DRINKS 7.00 PM - CARRIAGES 1.00 AM

TICKETS £60.00

Gentlemen - Black Tie | Ladies - It's your evening!

BOOK YOUR TABLE WITH ED COOMBS AT
ed_coombs@hotmail.com



Wiltshire Freemasons
One Journey • One Organisation

#DISCOVERMORE in the ROYAL ARCH



#WiltshireRoyalArch
Discover More Booklet

Q-Code Download



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Membership Attraction...

The Provincial Membership Team in conjunction with the Communication Team is always keen to support Lodge initiatives. In order to make sure that any advertisement complies with UGLE and Provincial guidelines Lodge Membership Officers, and Lodge Secretaries are asked to submit any proposals to the team before placing material on social media or commissioning printing.

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

THESE ARE OUR PRINCIPLES

**Integrity
Respect
Friendship
Service**

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT FREEMASONRY

CONTACT US
contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



MEET THE DOWNTON FREEMASONS



L9064@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

About the Freemasons

We are a unique members' organisation which has thrived for over 300 years.

We welcome members of all ages, races, faiths, cultures and backgrounds.

Freemasons have met in Downton for over 30 years and currently meet at the Downton Football Club.

Our Principles

- Integrity
- Respect
- Friendship
- Service



wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

Never miss a word...



Have you had trouble following your Lodge or Chapter meeting? Help yourself and help the 2028 Festival by booking a hearing consultation with Reeds who will provide you with expert advice and guidance, while you contribute their normal fee (£85.00) to the 2028 Festival. Reeds Hearing Care cover everything to do with hearing, tinnitus, wax removal and can provide help, support and advice for all issues. Reeds is a professional, independent, family caring business based in Swindon. e.mail: reeds@reedsear.co.uk or text 07585525993.



JUNE 2026

Were you there?

The Provincial Grand Treasurer Clive Emerson was the host at Freemasons' Hall when a team from Wiltshire attended a meeting of Lodge No.10000. Once opened and closed the Pro Grand Master presided at a meeting which included several interesting presentations, one of which proposed suggestions of how to present Freemasonry when talking to non-masons. It was interesting and inspiring to see the Council for Freemasonry in Great Britain well represented, with rulers and members from OWF, HFAF and the Grand Lodge of Scotland present whilst the Lodge was called off.

Following the meeting, Wiltshire brethren had lunch and a couple of cooling drinks, before watching a recording of Craftcast: The Freemasons Podcast.



Is progression a real 'thing'?

The so called natural progression from Steward to Inner Guard and 'up' an imaginary ladder culminating in gaining the Chair is a fictional path perpetrated by many but without any evidential basis in Masonic history or tradition beyond the time worn phrase "We always do it this way." Indeed it is well established that "All preferment among masons is grounded upon real worth....therefore no master or warden is chosen by seniority, but for his merit." (See **The Antient Charges**). It also bears repeating that the officers of a Lodge, with the exception of the Treasurer and if so determined the Tyler, are all appointed by the Master (**Rule 104(d)**).

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 Steve Lee **PJGD**
Assistant Provincial Grand Master

July 2026

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 Pleydell Lodge No.4687, St Edmund Lodge No.4714 and Harry C Preater Lodge No.8204 on **Thursday 1st October 2026 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 10 West Park Road
Corsham
John H Deane SN13 9LN
Provincial Grand Secretary Telephone 07484 386 566

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 **2.00 pm**. It is the wish of the Provincial Grand Master that members wear the Provincial Craft Tie.

Lunch (11.45 am for 12.00 pm) 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 following online link: [Click Here](#) and payments may be made to

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

Sort Code: 23-05-80
Account Number: 43153161
Reference: your Lodge number and your surname as a reference, eg 1234Bloggs.

Bookings must be made as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 4th September 2026.**

The Provincial Committee will meet at **The Masonic Hall, Trowbridge, at 7.00 pm on Friday 4th September 2026** to receive the accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, to consider the disposal of funds and to transact any other Masonic business.



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Happy have we met...

With Freemasonry being universally spread over the surface of the Earth it should be little surprise that Brothers will find one another across the globe.

And so it happened to be that a happy coincidence resulted in a chance meeting between Bro Mike Bracken and Bro Philip Mackie in Nidri on the island of Lefkada, Greece.

Mike is Treasurer and Charity Steward of Vastern Lodge No. 8977 where Phil was initiated almost 20 years ago. Phil is also a Charity Steward at Moonraker Lodge No. 8747 meeting in Devizes.

Happy to have met, Mike and his wife Debbie invited Phil and wife Jane to a day of sailing in the glorious Ionian Sea. Good company, great food, swimming and stunning scenery made for a perfect day.



"IF THERE IS ONE EVENT I WOULD ASK MEMBERS TO ATTEND IT HAS TO BE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE. IT HAS EVERYTHING, GOOD CEREMONIAL, GREAT MUSIC AND IT'S AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON SPENT WITH FRIENDS". John Reid PrGM.



**PROVINCIAL
GRAND LODGE**

**THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER
2.30PM**

**THE CIVIC
TROWBRIDGE**

ALL PROFITS TO SWINDON MASONIC ASSOCIATION LIFT REPAIR FUND

Lodge Logo Embroidered Clothing



Represent your Lodge on and off the square!

Artwork creation fee - £20 but only with 1st order
(Baseball caps separate logo creation fee of £20)

--

all enquiries to Tim Herrington:
kipper.herrington@icloud.com

