



A tribute to the Lodge Director of Ceremonies...



John Reid

I was privileged to be invited by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies Richard Wright to attend a meeting at which he and his Provincial colleagues outlined some of the changes to our ceremonies that have occurred over the past four years and to offer a perspective for the future. As with almost every change there is always a little resistance from some quarters especially when the change conflicts with the Lodge 'tradition'. As a former Lodge and Provincial Director of Ceremonies I believe I can say with confidence that I understand the reluctance of some Directors of Ceremonies to embrace change. However, I don't believe the methods of working outlined by Richard

do conflict with any Lodge traditions, for example, the Province expects that every officer having a wand of office will carry it using the pencil grip; there is a requirement that the Volume of the Sacred Law is set out on the Master's pedestal with the text positioned so that the Master can read it, and that the Square and Compasses is positioned on the right hand page (from the Master's view) with apex of the square and the points of the Compasses pointing to the Master, or the bottom of the page. The fact that some Lodges do not conform to these criteria is not the result of any learned experience, rather it is more likely due to it having been done like this without anyone ever questioning - why?

I was also impressed with the incredible attendance (given that there was an important football match being played in Miami) and I thank each and everyone of the attendees for giving so generously of their time. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the team to answer questions, something I believe is very important as it only with the freedom to challenge and debate that 'issues' can be dealt with, I will always support the right of members to test ideas, express unpopular opinions, and even to question received wisdom without fear of censorship or harm. Such scrutiny, when carried out properly, helps to form the basis of the ground on which the principles of Freemasonry are constructed.

One issue I do want to return to is the wearing of jewels in our Lodges and I do so as it clearly remains a point of discussion and debate for some members. There are two types of jewel - the first of which are the collar jewels worn by Lodge Officers, Provincial Officers, and Grand Officers. The design of these jewels is very specific and laid down in an appendix in the Book of Constitutions. It is also the case that these jewels must be worn by the office holder. The second type of jewel, a breast jewel, is specific to a Lodge, the two most common being a Past Masters' jewel, and a Centenary jewel. The Book of Constitutions offers little by way of guidance on the wearing of these jewels and while there is no actual impropriety in a Brother wearing any Craft jewel that meets the test in Rule 241 it is a requirement that if any jewels are worn the Royal Arch jewel (not Lodge specific) is the first in order of precedence. **In this Province the rule is that Lodge specific jewels can only be worn in the Lodge to which they apply and it is expected that Members respect and adhere to this requirement.** I would also take this opportunity to mention military medals and civil honours and remind Brethren that while valued by the recipient and acknowledged by members, it is inappropriate for them to be worn with Masonic regalia at any time of the year.

This edition of **InTouch>OnLine** contains the notice (Summons) for Provincial Grand Lodge on **Thursday 1st October 2026** at The Civic, Trowbridge (see page 6). I look forward to welcoming as many of you that can make the meeting. This event is truly one of the most important of the year and all Master Masons are summoned to attend. Finally, Alan Colman and his team have set out three dates for three Learning & Development events; all are being held at the Swindon Masonic Centre and details can be found on page 8.



Will you be attending Provincial Grand Lodge?

It actually does seem like a silly question but it's one that has to be asked as for many of our members the annual meeting is one they feel quite comfortable about missing often citing work or some other commitment that prevents them from attending.

Every Installed Master makes 15 promises or pledges at his installation, so important are these promises he is required to make them on the strict understanding that he is giving his unqualified assent, at the conclusion of the reading of the charges he is asked whether he *submits to and promises to support these Charges and Regulations as Masters have done in all ages...* I have never ever heard a Master say "No I don't" and yet number 12 is often forgotten. To remind you, Charge #12 is to *promise a regular attendance on the Communications and Committees of the Grand Lodge, upon receiving proper notice thereof.* In this particular case the Grand Lodge is in fact Provincial Grand Lodge.

Now, of course, for some of our members taking a half day holiday to attend Provincial Grand Lodge is something they would prefer not to do, after all holiday time is precious. However, the annual general meeting of the Province is by definition a once a year event and indeed is the only occasion the Provincial Grand Master 'summons' qualified members to attend a meeting.

Is it important to attend? That of course depends on how you as an individual consider your membership of Freemasonry and the Province you promised to support; and if that sounds like a call to attend it's because it is. In a nutshell the question always comes back to what is generally referred to as commitment - for some Freemasonry is simply 'just another hobby to be taken up and put down as circumstances allow, while for others it is much more. The great thing about Freemasonry is that it can and does accommodate the various levels of interest.

So, if you can, please do make every effort to attend Provincial Grand Lodge in support of your Lodge, your friends who might be receiving an appointment of promotion, and above all to demonstrate your support of the Province of which you are a member.

PROUD TO HOST PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE 2026



The Pleydell Lodge
No. 4687



St Edmund Lodge
No. 4714



Harry C Preater Lodge
No. 8204

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 online link:

USE THIS LINK

**BOOKINGS FOR LUNCH ARE NOW FULL - HOWEVER A RESERVE LIST IS OPEN
TO JOIN THE RESERVE LIST PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM USING THE LINK**

ADD ME TO THE RESERVE LIST



Supporting The Freemasons' Charity...

Gary Dolphin and Ian Lever

Have you noticed the name change? Yes, the Masonic Charitable Foundation has changed its operational name and is now known as the **Freemasons' Charity**, the national charity of Freemasonry. While the name has changed other key elements of the charity remain the same including the fact that the Freemasons' Charity is funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons, their families, and their friends. The Freemasons' Charity remains **one** of the largest grant-making charities in the country - (Please don't claim it is the second or third).

The **Freemasons' Charity** helps to build better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence.

Values

Responding to Need

We listen, understand, and respond to the needs of individuals, families, and communities, providing practical and meaningful help when it is needed most.

Making a Difference

We dedicate ourselves to initiatives and grants that create positive, measurable impact, improving lives and strengthening communities.

Striving for Excellence

We act responsibly, transparently, and professionally in all we do, managing resources wisely and striving for the highest standards in support, governance, and collaboration.

Our strategy

These are the three strategic goals that have helped us to achieve our mission between 2018 and 2022:

- We will enhance our support and services
- We will improve our ways of working
- We will raise our profile

We are currently working with our staff, volunteers and trustees to create our next strategy that will take us up to 2030.

Your support donating to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival is key to enabling the Freemasons' Charity to continue its amazing work supporting the Royal College of Surgeons of England, medical research charities, local Hospices and many other worthy causes in Wiltshire plus providing a 'helping hand' to Wiltshire Freemasons in need.



Freemasons' Charity



In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons

JULY 2026



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)

Wiltshire Masters' Lodge No.6731

INVITES YOU TO DISCOVER

The Great Architecture of the Universe

W Bro Michael Barratt FRAS, PPrSGW

Michael will take you on a journey and reveal some of the wonderful objects visible in the night sky and illustrated by many of his own images taken at his private observatory in Wiltshire.

The Second Degree Freemason is encouraged to study the liberal arts and sciences, astronomy being one of them. Join Michael on:-

FRIDAY 28th AUGUST at 5.30pm

DEVIZES MASONIC HALL | MORRIS LANE | DEVIZES

To book email: L6731@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

NOTE START TIME
5.30PM



CHRIS & JOHN WISE INVITE YOU TO THEIR
LADIES AND PARTNERS

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

INCLUDE THREE COURSE DINNER
Gentlemen - Black Tie | Ladies - It's your evening!

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

"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



JULY 2026

Ceremony of The Keys...

Many a soldier will ask, "How on earth did Peter Tuite (former RAF Regiment) get to know a Yeoman Warder (commonly known as a Beefeater?" The answer is really quite straightforward, Yeoman Warders are recruited from all four branches of the armed forces, the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, the Regular Army, and the Royal Air Force. According to King's Regulations candidates from the Royal Marines must be of 'very good character, while those from the other branches of the service must be "of exemplary service".

To become a Yeoman Warder candidates must be former warrant officers or senior NCOs (very exceptionally sergeants or their equivalent may be considered) with at least 22 years of regular military service: they must hold the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and be under 50 years of age upon appointment.

Incidentally, Yeoman Warders should not to be confused with the Yeoman of The Guard as they really are quite different. If you are interested in joining Peter when he organises another trip to witness this uniquely British event please let him know by emailing your interest to contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk





In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons

JULY 2026



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



Downton Lodge No.9064

**RACE
NIGHT**

£10
Per Person

SAURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

**FREEMASONS' HALL
CRANE STREET
SALISBURY SP1 2QD**

7.00PM (FIRST RACE 7.30PM)
ADMISSION INCLUDES RACE CARD
LIGHT BUFFET SERVED DURING THE EVENING

Book Online: <https://tinyurl.com/DowntonRaceNight>
Email: chrispearse1957@hotmail.co.uk
dlittle9064@gmail.com
Call: 07836 203815 or 07979 692504

Supporting the Wiltshire 2028 Festival



Wiltshire Freemasons
One Journey • One Organisation

#DISCOVERMORE in the ROYAL ARCH



#WiltshireRoyalArch
Discover More Booklet

Q-Code Download



WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS



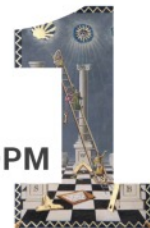
JOIN ALAN AND THE TEAM AT SWINDON AS THEY HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FREEMASONRY

FINDING YOUR FEET

Swindon Masonic Centre | The Planks | Swindon | SN3 1QP

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2026 - 10.00AM UNTIL 12.00PM

ALL COURSES ARE SUBJECT TO SUFFICIENT NUMBERS SIGNING UP TO A MODULE



For number 1 click here > <https://tinyurl.com/FyF26-27>

DEACONS' WORKSHOP

Swindon Masonic Centre | The Planks | Swindon | SN3 1QP

SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2026 - 10.00am until 12.00pm

ALL COURSES ARE SUBJECT TO SUFFICIENT NUMBERS SIGNING UP TO A MODULE



For number 2 click here > <https://tinyurl.com/Deacons26-27>

PREPARING FOR THE CHAIR

Swindon Masonic Centre | The Planks | Swindon | SN3 1QP

SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2026 - 10.00am until 12.00pm

ALL COURSES ARE SUBJECT TO SUFFICIENT NUMBERS SIGNING UP TO A MODULE



For number 3 click here > <https://tinyurl.com/Chair26-27>



BUILDING TOGETHER

Attracting Members – Growing Freemasonry



Did you know Rule 159 has changed?

In fact did you know there was a Rule 159 and what it is all about?

Probably the one person in the Lodge who who will know is your Secretary as it is invariably down to him to advise the Master and the Lodge membership of the rules by which we operate. So, what is Rule 159 and what effect does the change make to what a Lodge can do?

‘Thriving Membership’ is a pillar of the *Strategy for Freemasonry - 2022 and Beyond* and is focused on increasing and sustaining the membership of the Craft. In order to achieve this aim it is necessary to remove any stumbling block in the process of welcoming new members and to make sure that Lodges are able to move quickly to process and progress applications from good men.

The ‘old’ Rule 159 only allowed a candidate to be proposed for membership at a **regular** meeting (that is a normal meeting of the Lodge as determined in the Lodge By Laws). This could seriously delay the introduction of a candidate in to the Lodge. As a result the Board of General Purposes recommended to Grand Lodge that a candidate could be proposed at either a **regular** or **emergency** meeting, the proposal was accepted in December 2025. This seemingly simple change allows Lodges to be more ‘fleet of foot’ in preparing the ground for both a ballot and initiation ceremony.

As you might imagine, putting Rule 159 into effect for the proposal of a candidate does not come free of other conditions but these are very minor issues and should not deflect a Lodge from using its new powers. It remains the case that a candidate proposed at either a regular or an emergency meeting **MUST** be balloted for at the next regular meeting. To make the best use of the rules should always be the maxim driving any decision and to assist Lodges the Provincial Grand Master has made it clear that no charge will be made for a dispensation in respect of either a change of date or of meeting place. To discover how the change in Rule 159 can benefit your Lodge contact the Province by email at contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

One thing **there are others** you can’t do at an Emergency Meeting...

Under the new Rule 159 you can propose a candidate for membership at an emergency meeting but it remains the case that a ballot must be taken at a **regular** meeting. The only exception is when applying Rule 160 BoC: because of the very strict conditions attaching to Rule 160 an application to propose, ballot and initiate on the same day at a regular or emergency meeting, is subject to the granting of a dispensation given by the Provincial Grand Master (for which no charge is made).

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.

Wiltshire Freemasons



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WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL**



ONLY £39.95

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