



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

August 2017

Wiltshire Freemasonry

We're off to Salisbury Cathedral to celebrate.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master Stephen Bridge reminds us that in less than four weeks time on Sunday 3rd September Wiltshire Freemasons will be present in Salisbury Cathedral to give thanks for 300 years of freemasonry and to do so in a location that represents the very best of the art of operative masons with all the mutual symbolism that it shares with the Craft. Some Brethren have raised the question as to why we are not able to parade through the streets and into the Cathedral. There are a number of perfectly legitimate administrative reasons including those raised by the Cathedral authorities, one of which is that we are attending a public service (evensong) and not a service specific to freemasonry. We would still be holding the service whether or not regalia was permitted and the fact that we have been permitted to wear our regalia at the service, represents in my view the very positive attitude the Dean and others have of Wiltshire Freemasons and what we are doing in our Province. Stephen says *"For any organisation based on voluntary membership to have existed for 300 years is of itself a subject for celebration and I believe we should hold our heads high and enjoy the opportunity to extol the virtues of freemasonry at this very special event. I am persuaded that Brethren throughout the province should dwell on what has been achieved and what may yet may be possible in the future if we see a substantial number of Brethren present on the 3rd September"*. There is still time to notify Phil Still of your intention to attend and I am told a few places are available at the post service reception which costs £10 per person. However, I'm afraid there will be no opportunity available to join your friends at the reception if you do not pre book with phil.still@btinternet.com and pay your £10 by Monday 14th August .



Last date for bookings for reception is Monday 14th August

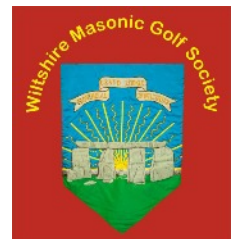
We hope you enjoyed the Teddy Bears Picnic.



Philip and Sally Bullock hosted the Teddy Bears picnic held at The Grange, Winterbourne Dauntsey on Sunday 16th July. The event lived up to its promise to be a highlight of the summer and was enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was great fun to see so many visitors enjoying the 'teddy bear hunt' and 'duck race' or just relaxing with an ice cream or a refreshing glass of Pimms in the beautiful grounds of The Grange. The falconry display proved to be the hit of the day with two performances proving an irresistible attraction to an appreciative audience.

Golfers make plans for Provincial Open Golf Day at Wrag Barn GC.

Merv Johns, secretary of the Wiltshire Masonic Golf Society is hoping for another great turnout for the annual Open Golf Tournament being played at the delightful Wrag Barn Golf Club, Sevenhampton, Nr Highworth (that's North of Swindon) on Tuesday 15th August. The event welcome visitors from far and wide including Somerset, Bristol, Gloucestershire and Hampshire & Isle of Wight.



Whilst golf is a game of incredible skill for some of us it remains a good walk interspersed with the opportunity to bash the living daylight out of a little white ball; all told it could be classed as very therapeutic! To enter a team, donate a prize or to sponsor a hole contact Merv Johns by email merv@chromaticarts.com or phone him on 01793 512524.



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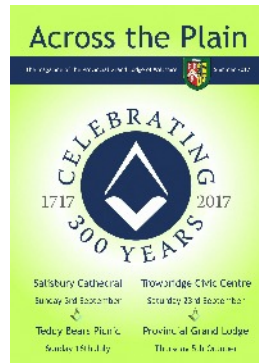
Wiltshire Freemasonry

We hope you voted for your favourite charity.

Voting closed on Monday 31st July for the [MCF Community Awards Tercentenary Fund](#). The four Wiltshire based charities nominated by our Province between them will share a sum of £50,000. The four charities have enjoyed significant support from local news media, particularly our friends at the Swindon Advertiser, Valley News and the Wiltshire Gazette & Herald: while the communication team and some very willing ‘tweeters’ have been promoting The charities on the Provincial Twitter site



Summer edition of Across the Plain has arrived.



The sound of the Provincial magazine landing on the door mat has been heard in over 2,000 homes throughout the Province as the Royal Mail delivers the Summer 2017 edition of *Across the Plain*.

Ian Lever’s cover of the Summer edition, reminds us that in 2017 we are celebrating the Tercentenary of the First or Primary Grand Lodge, hence inside we have an article from Stephen Bridge APrGM recounting the the important meeting at the Goose and Gridiron, while Paul Sharp asks “Why June 1717?” A subject he will return to in the Winter 2017 edition.

Nice to see standards being upheld.

As the Church of England votes to allow vicars to conduct services in jeans and tee shirts; and Parliament approves a ‘no tie’ policy, there is one corner of the world where it really is ‘hip to be square’ - the Freemasons’ Lodge Room.



Having experienced some of the hottest evenings in memory when Lodge Rooms were more like hot houses it would have been quite natural if a decision to adopt shirt sleeve order was made, and in some corners of the United Kingdom ‘jackets off’ was authorised and reluctantly observed. However, some things are a little too avant garde and a change to the dress code is one, so no waistcoats and gloves off was probably as ‘good as it was going to get’. And yet I heard no plaintiff cries suggesting the dress rules should be relaxed or broken, quite the contrary. Albeit air conditioning was mentioned.

One of the questions often asked by new Freemasons and even the not so new is “when can I wear stripey trousers?” It should come as no surprise that this subject is covered in Graham Redman’s excellent book *Masonic Etiquette Today* of which I have a signed copy. Bro Redman begins by citing an extract from a 1950’s Report by the Board of General Purposes. “Masters of Lodges should by example and encouragement lead their members to a standard of dress compatible with the dignity of the Order”. He then points out that UGLE offers no hard and fast rule as to what a Brother wears in his Lodge, such ‘advice’ generally being proffered by the Provincial Grand Master. In Wiltshire matters on dress could not be clearer with evening dress, morning dress or a dark suit with a white shirt and black shoes being considered appropriate for everyone.

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Organist Mike May reminds us “Where words leave off, music begins”.



Provincial Organist Mike May is aware that many Lodges no longer have an organist to play music during a ceremony and have to rely on CDs.

Mike has compiled and recorded a selection of Masonic music covering all three Degrees, the Opening and Closing Odes, the National Anthem and his very own arrangement of the Provincial Grand March. A piece of music particularly suited for when a member of the ‘chain gang’ visits your Lodge and you want to make an impression.

The music, which Mike will tailor to suit the individual Lodge requirements is available as an MP3 file which can be recorded to CDs and can be obtained by contacting mikemay@talktalk.net who asks only for a donation to Teddies for Loving Care.

Tercentenary Banner moves seamlessly from Hampshire to Dorset

Having been transferred to Wiltshire at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in Southampton, the banner was soon to depart from Wiltshire and be handed over to our near neighbours in the South of the country

And so it was that the PrGM together with the APrGM and PrGSec travelled to Poole where in a special ceremony at Lodge of Amity No.137 at which PrGM Philip Bullock and his team were afforded full Masonic honours, the banner was entrusted (it has to be said - with some style by the PrGM) to Richard Merritt PrGM for Dorset.

During it's time in the Province of Dorset the banner will be paraded at various venues, being escorted by members of the Dorset Motor Bikers. On Wednesday 9th August the Banner will be handed over to the Provincial Grand Master for Somerset RW Bro Stuart Hadler.



Ruling Masters make a diary date NOW!!

The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock invites all Ruling Masters, and Immediate Past Masters together with their wives/partners to join him for dinner at Calne Masonic Hall at 7.00pm on Saturday 18th November 2017. This event is an opportunity for the PrGM and the executive officers of the Province to meet Masters of Lodges and their partners in a warm and friendly environment with the minimum of formality. The Provincial Grand Master is pleased to announce that the guest speaker for the evening will be Air Chief Marshall Sir John Cheshire *KBE, CB, KStJ* formerly HM Lieutenant Governor of Jersey.

Due to expected demand you are asked to book for this event as quickly as possible

Rob Evans email 1478@pglwilts.org.uk

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock invites you and your wife/partner to join him at 4.30pm on Sunday 3rd September at Salisbury Cathedral for an 'evensong service' with a difference. At this very special event Wiltshire Freemasons will be joined by civic representatives including the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire. Following the service the Provincial Grand Master will host a celebratory reception in the Cathedral Cloisters. It's easy to book either online or directly with Assistant Secretary Phil Still. phil.still@btinternet.com

Lodge Installation meetings in August and September 2017 plus two special September events

Thursday	August	31	Wiltshire Masters	6731	Swindon
Sunday	September	3	Cathedral Service	Province	Salisbury
Tuesday	September	19	St Aldhelm	2888	Malmesbury
Thursday	September	21	Vastern	8977	Lydiard Millicent
Saturday	September	23	Festival Luncheon	Province	Trowbridge
Wednesday	September	27	George Duke of Kent	8788	Swindon
Wednesday	September	27	Moonraker	8747	Devizes
Thursday	September	28	New Temple	8435	Swindon

End of Festival Lunch at Trowbridge.



The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock extends a warm invitation to every member of the province to join him for the end of festival Lunch which is being held on Saturday 23rd September at 1.00pm with pre-lunch drinks available from 12 noon. RW Bro Jonathan Spence DGM and RW Bro Richard Hone QC will be our special guests at this



event. We are also pleased to announce that the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Tank Regiment will entertain guest with a dazzling display of marching and music. There is still time to book a place, either online via the front page of the Provincial website or by contacting Bro. Ian Dunbar by email pewsham1@sky.com

Final bookings now being taken

Masonic Widows Association welcome new members.

Do you know the names and addresses of your Lodge widows and do they know that there is a support network available to them in the form of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association? The MWA provides a vital social lifeline to our widows, and the three branches based in Salisbury, Chippenham and Swindon will be pleased to welcome new members to attend meetings and other events. To learn more please contact your Lodge Almoner or John King by email at john21jk@aol.com



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