



# Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

May 2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

## The merry month of May .....



As I was contemplating what I would write about in this the eighteenth edition of what has become an extremely popular newsletter, I was listening to a recording by the band of the Coldstream Guards (there are other fine regiments and bands) which was playing a rousing rendition of 'The Merry Month of May'. Did you know 'The Merry Month of May' is not only a military quick march, it is also the title of a poem, a song, a film and a novel. May also provides two public holidays, one at the beginning, the other at the end of the month; which for some offers a 'double' worth celebrating; talking of doubles, the editor briefly explores the historical propensity for undertaking double

Initiations, Passings and Raisings, and offers the view that they are neither unusual nor do they make the candidates feel any less special. In fact they can invigorate and empower individuals simply because they have shared a Masonic experience to work with that love and harmony which should at all times characterise Freemasons. I was pleased recently to be asked for a Dispensation for what will almost certainly be a double Initiation and possibly a triple ceremony which will be held this month. I will be taking the opportunity to attend the Lodge and witness for myself this very unique and special occasion, I hope you will too, and please do remember that there is no Dispensation Fee charged for an emergency meeting provided it is for the exclusive purpose of Initiating a candidate. It is important to remember that a candidate can only be proposed and balloted for Initiation in a Regular meeting, the emergency meeting (if you apply for one) can only be used for the actual ceremony requested in the application.

May is a very busy month for members of the Provincial team with no less than seven Installation meetings taking place. I am always grateful for the incredible support given by the active officers, who turn out to support to David, Stephen and myself, and to support the various Lodges by making the Installation meeting 'that little bit special. To every Brother who has accepted an appointment to active office and who will be invested on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October** at City Hall, Salisbury; I do ask that you make every effort to fulfil the commitment you made when accepting active office by attending as many Installation meetings as you can in support of the Provincial team, also to attend the Officer's dinner. I am sure you will enjoy every moment.

The Companions of The Holy Royal Arch hold their Annual Convocation in the Assembly Rooms at Melksham on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May** at 11.00am, and I know the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Reid and his officers will be delighted to welcome you to Melksham for what is always a wonderful occasion.

I do look forward to attending the annual meeting of Lodge secretaries and directors of ceremonies which is being held at The Masonic Hall in Chippenham on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm. It is always interesting to receive the views and comments of the Brethren responsible for the administration and ceremonial of our Lodges, and I do thank each of them for giving so freely of their time to participate in the meeting.

In three weeks time, on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May**, the Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 will welcome Deputy Grand Master RW Bro Jonathan Spence to their Bi-Centenary meeting, which due to numbers attending will be held in the Swindon Marriott Hotel, Pipers Way, Swindon. The Lodge celebrates a remarkable milestone in Swindon's Masonic history; having enjoyed a 200 year continuous presence in the town. I look forward to joining them at what I am sure will be a very special bi-centenary meeting which starts at 12.30pm but guests are reminded they do need to be seated by 12.15pm.





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## Veronica Mannings a glorious tribute.....



It's not often that Veronica Mannings has been tongue tied and short of a ready word, but a rather special event organised by the ladies of the Chippenham and District Branch of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association left her quite speechless. Following some meticulous planning by Sylvia Sutton and the assistance of Veronica's daughter Jane and her husband; Veronica believed she was being taken to a local hostelry to celebrate Jane's birthday. Little did she know what was planned for her day.

The Provincial Grand Master and the Master of St Edmund Lodge welcomed Veronica and her family before escorting her into a full to capacity dining room at Calne Masonic Hall, where the assembled friends rose to greet her with a round of applause.

During the course of the luncheon a number of tributes were made to Veronica including one from Andy Bell who as the Provincial Grand Almoner was asked by the then PrGM Brian Edwick to set up the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association.

Andy recalled that "The commencement of the Chippenham Branch involved my wife, Karen and I meeting Veronica at her home and it was immediately clear that Veronica was a lady with a mission. I wasted no time in getting the ball rolling obtaining details from all the Lodge Almoners of their Widows and writing to them, valiantly supported by my wife as Secretary. The Chippenham inaugural meeting took place on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2001 and it won't surprise you to hear that Veronica was elected as Chairman on that day unopposed. I have never underestimated the role of the MWA and its impact as a force for good, and we especially recognise today the outstanding contribution made by Mrs Veronica Mannings, its Chairman, to its success over the past 16 years".

Philip Bullock PrGM paid his own tribute saying -"Veronica embodies the very essence of service and has proven to be an inspirational chairman, she truly deserves the accolades heaped on her today, and long may she continue to lead and guide this most successful branch of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association".

## Brethren - be upstanding (I hope you are) but.....

How often have you smiled as the Director of Ceremonies utters this well known instruction and you think to yourself does he just mean 'stand up' and if he does, why doesn't he just say so. This is a topic I often hear being discussed at the supper table and occasionally it can lead to a keen debate as to the grammatical accuracy of the term and its use in calling the Brethren 'to order' to greet senior Brethren..

The word 'upstanding' is normally employed as an adjective describing or naming an attribute to a noun, therefore it could properly be used as follows "John is an upstanding person" where John is being described as principled, upright and decent, rather than that John is standing up. While it is certainly not wrong to use it as a command for the Brethren to stand, the command exists in the Emulation ritual, I wonder what we would say if the next instruction issued was for the Brethren to be 'downsitting'. I suspect we might adjudge that to be incorrect terminology and enjoy a quiet chuckle. For me, the simple command 'To Order Brethren' should be sufficient to get us to our feet and ready to obey the next instruction. What do you think?



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## Make mine a double?.....

What is it about the suggestion that a Lodge should consider undertaking a double ceremony which leads to an attack of the heebie jeebies and an urgent need to pass the smelling salts? What dreadful potential outcomes could possibly justify the concerns expressed by some as the basis for rejecting doing doubles? Let's look at what has happened in the recent past and put to rest once and for all the canard that 'we don't do doubles' - to which it should be asked, what never, never ever?



Well, you may be surprised to know that doubles in all three degrees, and particularly in Wiltshire, are far more common than you might imagine. I was recently reading the 'ancient minutes' of Border Lodge No.3129 which clearly proved that they not only did doubles, but after a short break returned to the Lodge Room to undertake a different ceremony! Indeed Gooch Lodge No.1295 can boast of having Initiated five new Masons at one meeting, raised four at another and passed two at yet another: the icing on the cake was surely when the newly Installed Master Initiated a candidate on the evening of his Installation, something akin to heresy today. In recent years (1964) Lodge of Remembrance No.4037 Initiated two gentlemen on the same evening, one of whom became the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire; which suggests he was not too discombobulated by having to share his 'special day'. It is this 'special occasion' element which is used by some to justify their argument to not do 'doubles' thankfully this is no justification at all, just an opinion formed on the basis of 'what they believe'. The numerous double Initiations undertaken offer no evidence of a sense of disappointment on the part of the Initiate, on the contrary it appears that Brethren who share their day are 'joined at the hip' forever, even to the point of asking whether or not they can be Passed together and ultimately Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Their shared experience in being Initiated together marks their Masonic journey as a joint enterprise, their future in Freemasonry is strengthened by an invisible bond which has been formed in the crucible of the regularity of their Initiation, strict examination and the willingness to be examined when properly called on. Their appetite for learning is founded on a desire to help each other, as is their commitment to a regular attendance at Lodge and the support of the activities of the Lodge. I think that we would all agree that Interdependent people combine their own efforts, with the efforts of others to achieve their greatest success.

Moonraker Lodge No.8747 meeting at Devizes have performed two double Initiation ceremonies, and I was privileged to attend the one held in April. Having spoken with both candidates, I am left in no doubt that they were thrilled to 'be done together'. They sat together at the festive board where they enjoyed the company of the Master and the Provincial Grand Master. How wonderful it will be for them to forever say 'mine was a double'.

## Seb takes to the skies .....

Sebastian Salt a member of City Lodge No.5955 which meets at Crane Street, Salisbury will be risking life and limb when he makes his first sponsored Wing Walk on a bi-plane on **Sunday 10th June** (weather and Charlotte permitting). This year Sebastian has chosen Cancer Research UK as his nominated charity and he invites you to sponsor him in this intrepid adventure. You can contact Seb at [sebatheforge@live.com](mailto:sebatheforge@live.com)

Have you a picture of a special event or visit by your Lodge, share it by sending it to the [editor@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:editor@pglwilts.org.uk)  
Always let us know who's in your picture and always ask for their permission for us to use it in a public forum.

Visit the Provincial website [www.pglwilts.org.uk](http://www.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			

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Myth, misunderstanding, ignorance or prejudice, whatever it is Freemasons must speak up and say

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Fake news, plain untruths or just lazy exaggeration, whatever it is Freemasons must speak up and say

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

False reports, absurd claims of Masonic influence whatever it is Freemasons must speak up and say

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



**TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE**

**CAN YOUR LODGE**

**DONATE JUST**

**£300**

**SPEAK TO YOUR LODGE**

**CHARITY STEWARD**

## Lodge Installation meetings and special meeting in May and June 2018

Thursday	May 1	Loyalty	1533	Marlborough
Thursday	May 10	Elias de Derham	586	Salisbury
Monday	May 14	Downton	9064	Downton
Monday	May 14	Harry C Preater	8204	Swindon
Saturday	May 19	Wyvern	8620	Warminster
Monday	May 21	Royal Sussex	355	Swindon
Tuesday	May 22	St Edmund	4714	Calne
Thursday	May 24	Corsham	6616	Corsham
Saturday	June 2	Forget me Not	9035	Ludgershall
Monday	June 16	Rectitude	335	Corsham
Friday	July 6	Summer Lodge	9548	T.B.A.
Friday	Aug 31	Masters	6731	T.B.A.

Wiltshire Freemasonry

## Are you ready to complete your journey in pure Antient Masonry ?



Step 1. Entered Apprentice



Step 2. Fellowcraft



Step 3. Master Mason



Step 4. Companion



Visit the Provincial website [www.pglwilts.org.uk](http://www.pglwilts.org.uk)