



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

Chill December brings the sleet, blazing fire, and Christmas treat.



December 2019

A time to be kind to one another.

Wiltshire Freemasonry



The quote at the top of the page was from 'The Garden Year' by Sara Coleridge who, as I'm sure you know was the daughter of English poet, literary critic, philosopher and theologian Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who, with his friend William Wordsworth, was a founder of the Romantic Movement in England. However, it was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the American poet and educator whose works include Paul Revere's Ride, The Song of Hiawatha, and Evangeline, who wrote these words *"I heard the bells on Christmas day their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat, of peace on earth, good-will to men"*. Longfellow wrote the

poem 'Christmas Bells' on Christmas Day 1863 - I sense that many of us will not have either the time or inclination to sit at a desk and muse upon the day as he did; but I would like to think that as we enter the festival of Christmas we might all embrace and practice the sentiment of extending good will to men.

Sally and I were delighted to attend the dinner for masters in office and Immediate Past Masters which was held in Devizes. The 90 guests were treated to some wonderful musical entertainment from Matilda Wale a vocal student at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire who enchanted us all with a selection of popular songs. The guest speaker was Maud Saint-Sardos the chief executive officer of the Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon. Maud spoke passionately about the work of the Centre and in particular the engagement work with young people from less advantaged backgrounds.

The Prestonian Lecture is on Tuesday 3rd December. This annual event is hosted by Methuen Lodge No.8692 contact Lodge Secretary Ian Priest 8692@pglwilts.org.uk On the following day, Wednesday 4th December, the Vale of Avon Lodge No. 8432 Installation meeting will also feature a Banner Dedication. If you have never been to a meeting at which a new banner is dedicated please do try to attend. By the way W Bro Mark Fuller (well known to everyone) will be Installed as the new Master.

Also on Wednesday 4th December Simon Leighfield will be at the headquarters of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance to present a certificate on behalf of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

I am sure you will have noticed that Steve Lee and the Learning & Development Team are holding two **'Finding Your Feet'** sessions in January 2020 (see page 4). Please do try to get along to one of the days. They really are a 'must' for the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Freemason who might be keen to make a daily advancement in the progressive offices of the Lodge; but they are also designed for the Brother who may simply want to know more about what takes place in his Lodge.

Following on from my comment in the Winter edition of Across the Plain regarding the use of the Ashlars in Masonic ceremonies, Colin Froude wrote to me pointing out that Lodge of Brothers In Arms No.9540 use the rough and perfect Ashlar in the ceremonies of Initiation and Passing.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the quite incredible feat undertaken by Bro Paul Robinson of Lodge of Fidelity No.663 who set himself the target of visiting every Lodge in the Province during his year in office as WM of the Lodge. At today's date Paul has just four Lodges to visit - how absolutely wonderful, and I know that Paul has been made very welcome at every Lodge he has visited.

Finally, Sally and I trust that you will enjoy the festive season with your family and friends, and we take this opportunity to wish the Wiltshire Masonic Family a very happy Christmas.

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Your last chance to make a Christmas wreath....

Sally Bullock's Christmas wreath making event at Salisbury on **Sunday 8th December** is your last chance to make a unique display which will be the envy of your friends and neighbours. You don't have to be 'arty' as Sally will help you to realise the creative talent which resides in each one of us (for some it might be well hidden, just like Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Davies) and she will guide you through the intricacies of taking a few branches, a sprig of holly, some berries and few fir cones and producing a wreath in many respects similar to the one at the top right hand corner of the page. Tea and coffee will be provided but you should bring something for lunch. Don't forget your apron and gloves (now where have we heard that before?) and a pair of secateurs or very strong scissors!

Wiltshire Freemasonry



In touch On Line

Helping you
keep up
to date

**WORKING TOGETHER
TO KEEP YOU
INFORMED**

Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

Lodge of Instruction or not?....

So, here's a question - is your Lodge of Instruction really a Lodge of Instruction, to which I'm sure you will say "Of course it is - the clue's in the name!" And yet, I ask again - is it?

A Lodge of instruction is regulated by Rules 132 to 135 of the Book of Constitutions. The rules brook no argument and are quite clear. So, does your Lodge of Instruction abide by the rules or does it 'do its own thing'? As Lodge of Instruction may appear to be an 'ad hoc' meeting but did you know that a formal Lodge of instruction must meet with the consent and sanction of a Warranted Lodge - or that the time and place of the meeting must be approved by Province?

Minutes of the Lodge of Instruction are required to be taken which should show the names of all present and which Brethren were appointed to hold office. These minutes must be retained for inspection when properly called for. So, let's go back to the original question - is your Lodge of Instruction really what it claims to be? Please let me know your views by sending an email to editor@pglwilts.org.uk



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Caring for the carers....

The Lodge of Concord No.632 which meet in Trowbridge held a charity buffet on Friday 15th November in aid of Carers Support Wiltshire, David Hipperson's nominated charity for the year he was in office as Master of the Lodge. The Carers Support Group does some stunning work with young people who are caring for adults and even adults siblings and who themselves get very little support or respite from their caring duties. The team at Semington give help and encouragement to the carers, which enables the young carers to 'take a break' and allows them the opportunity to socialise with others.

The event was held in the Masonic Hall and David was delighted to announce that the Lodge raised the amazing sum of £3,250 from raffles, summer BBQ, Ladies night and generous donations. This donation will help



A picture speaks ten thousand words

Carers Support Wiltshire carry out training and to hold a monthly meeting at a local cafe when they can enjoy a cup of tea, a snack. And a little respite. It was a splendid evening and very tearful.

The cheque was presented to Andrea James, Care Worker Officer, by Worshipful Master David Hipperson and was received with tearful emotion. Carers Support help young people who are caring for an adult by giving them support, advice and training. They also encourage them to continue with their education, as so many drop out of school because of their caring duties. This support has now seen three young carers take up university places. What a wonderful Christmas message.

Calling all Lodge Charity Stewards....

Provincial Grand Charity Steward Derek Gibbens invites Lodge Charity Stewards to Chippenham and Salisbury for the first of a regular series of 'get togethers' where topics of interest can be discussed, views aired and information exchanged. With so much going on, such as changes in the organisation of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Teddies for Loving Care being run by a new team with a brief to enhance the profile of TLC throughout the Country. Taken in concert with an equal number of innovations and initiatives introduced by this Province; it really does promise to be a great opportunity to learn more and to have your say.

Wiltshire Freemasonry

WILTSHIRE CHARITY STEWARDS

Join Derek Gibbens

Chippenham Masonic Hall | Monday 9th December | 7.00pm

Freemasons' Hall | Salisbury | Tuesday 10th December | 7.00pm

CHARITY IT'S IN A FREEMASONS DNA





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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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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					

Installation and other meetings

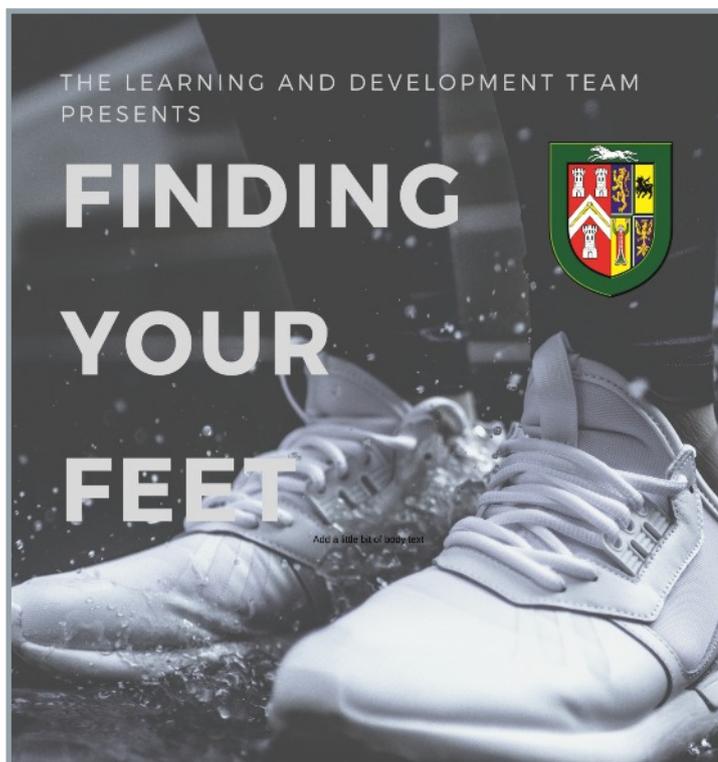
Tuesday	Dec	3	Prestonian Lecture	Methuen Lodge -Swindon
Wednesday	Dec	4	Vale of Avon	Chippenham
Monday	Dec	10	Lansdowne	Chippenham
Thursday	Dec	14	Tisbury	Salisbury
Wednesday	Jan	8	Longleat	Warminster
Friday	Jan	10	Royal Sussex	Swindon
Monday	Jan	13	Concord	Trowbridge
Wednesday	Feb	5	Remembrance	Swindon
Wednesday	Feb	19	Innocence & Morality	East Knoyle

Join the Brethren of Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432

BANNER DEDICATION

Wednesday 4th December 5.00pm

Contact Ivan Carey 8432@pglwilts.org.uk



THE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM PRESENTS

FINDING YOUR FEET



**FREEMASONS' HALL
CRANE STREET | SALISBURY**
Saturday 18th January 2020

**SWINDON MASONIC CENTRE
THE PLANKS | SWINDON**
Saturday 25th January 2020

Contact Steve Lee on 8204@pglwilts.org.uk

Are you unsure of what is expected of you when attending a Lodge meeting? Do you wish there was someone to guide you and just whisper what you've got to do next? What do you have to do when you become a Lodge office holder?

Steve Lee invites you to join The Learning and Development Team as they build on the successes of 2019 with the launch of their all new 2020 programme. Tailored to meet the needs of the individual Freemason as he moves from being an observer to taking an active role in the ceremonies.

Kicking off in Salisbury on Saturday 18th January with 'FINDING YOUR FEET' the team will give you an introduction to what you can expect when taking those very tentative steps as a junior officer in the Lodge. What to say, where to stand, when to move, how to salute, so much to learn and where better than with the Learning and Development Team

New to the office or just wanting to 'brush up' on the skills you already have; Steve will be pleased to welcome you to Salisbury or Swindon: in fact you can come to both sessions.

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