



# Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

Learn from yesterday. live for today. hope for tomorrow.



January 2020

Welcome to January....



With Christmas almost a distant memory I'm sure you are all getting ready to welcome in the new year. January is the month of new beginnings, the time of year most of us stop and take stock of our lives, look back on the past twelve months, re-evaluate our priorities and set ourselves new goals. I am sure it will not surprise you to know that the Provincial executive takes a similar approach when considering the future of Freemasonry in Wiltshire for the coming year. I'm equally sure you will appreciate that sometimes the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry; a saying adapted from a line in "To a Mouse," by Robert Burns, and during the coming month many of you will be attending a Lodge 'Burn's Supper' where doubtless you will hear the words intoned with due solemnity and theatre accompanied by actions. I'm always impressed with the ceremony of addressing the haggis and in awe of the Brother who takes on the task of speaking the words.

The fear of failure or of not getting something right should never deter us from introducing new initiatives, indeed if we only undertook to do what is risk free and guaranteed to be a success, I doubt much would be done. For example, just before Christmas, Swindon Freemasons opened the Masonic Hall at The Planks and welcomed some of the older Brethren to enjoy a fish and chip lunch. Some of the Brethren are unable to attend Lodge meetings and this provided them with a chance to meet and chat with their friends. It took a couple of hours to organise but it made a real difference to the Brethren who attended.

Talking about making a difference and setting new goals, have you ever thought about what Freemasons could do to make other people's lives so much better, and I'm not thinking of something which will cost a lot of money. In fact one idea would only cost the price of a cuppa and a biscuit. On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January it's **Brew Monday** and the Samaritans are inviting you to join thousands of people across the country who will be coming together for a cuppa, a chat and to banish the winter blues. Did you know that feeling lonely is one of the emotions felt by members of the older age groups, I'm asking all our Lodges to take positive action to tackle loneliness. How can you help? Well it's simple, why not host a '**Have a cuppa**' morning and invite your older Brethren, their family and friends plus Masonic widows to your hall for a cup of tea and a chat. Together we can help banish loneliness.

I was delighted to welcome thirteen Wiltshire Brethren to the Christmas Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication meeting and to join them for lunch at Mark Masons' Hall. If you have never attended a meeting in the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall please do make it one of your resolutions for 2020. I am absolutely sure you will not be disappointed.

Provincial Grand Charity Steward Derek Gibbens hosted Lodge Charity Stewards in Chippenham and Salisbury for the first of a regular series of informal gatherings where topics of interest can be discussed, views aired and information exchanged. The meetings proved to be well worthwhile with positive participation from everyone who attended. With so much going on, such as changes in the organisation of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, this type of meeting is critical if we are to make sure that we work together in developing new initiatives, and as was made clear - consolidating what we already do.

I ended the year presenting Derek Dove with a 50 year service to Freemasonry certificate, of which you can read more on page 2 of this edition of the Monthly Newsletter. I started this article with the words "Welcome to January" and I do sincerely wish that for each and every member of the Wiltshire Masonic family the coming year will be one which brings you all health and happiness in equal measure.

Wiltshire Freemasonry



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Border Lodge No.3129....

Wiltshire Freemasonry



The Master Steve Smith was joined by Senior Deacon Darren Madden when they met Kirsty Scullion and her team from the Wiltshire Homes for Veterans Charity which is part of the Alabare Charity based in Salisbury. Steve was delighted to be able to present a cheque for £500 which will be used in helping to support ex-Service personnel who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. The homes in Salisbury provide accommodation for up to 14 people at any one time.

The charity is able to vary the level of support given based entirely on the individual circumstances of the Veteran. This enables support packages to be tailored to make sure that those who require the greatest support receive appropriate care while not neglecting those who are able to live a more independent lifestyle.

## A New Year resolution....

I wonder how many of us will close our eyes at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> December and make a New Year resolution; more importantly, at what point in 2020 will the resolutions we have made be broken? Sadly it's all too easy; although, and in fairness it has to be said many are made in jest as opposed to any real intent to keep them. We are sometimes critical of those who make pledges, promises and vows and then fail to fulfil them; but are we any different, do we honour the promises we make as Freemasons.

For example every new Master is required to attest his acceptance of the Ancient Charges and Regulations of the Order, which he does by reverentially acknowledging each clause by a slight forward inclination of the head. Some of the clauses require agreement, whereas others are considered so important that they demand a promise. Clause 12 is one of those which requires a 'promise' and yet it appears to be one which few Brethren take seriously. So what is it about clause 12 that is so difficult to honour?

Clause 12 requires the new made Master to "...**promise** a regular attendance on the Communications and Committees of the Grand Lodge, upon receiving proper notice thereof, and to pay attention to all the duties of Free-Masonry upon proper and convenient occasions". Keeping a **promise** can be very difficult, especially when it requires a trip to London which is both time consuming and not without cost. Perhaps we should revisit the 15 clauses the incoming Master is required to acknowledge and accept that some of them are less relevant in today's world. What you think? email the editor@pglwilts.org.uk

## Honouring Derek Dove 50....

I think it fair to say that some members of the Province need no introduction, for if truth be told they are 'known to everyone'. Derek Dove is just one such Brother and for good reason. Not only has he served his Lodge and the Province with great distinction he has also completed an amazing 50 years service to Freemasonry. This was recognised at the December meeting of White Horse Lodge No.2227 when the PrGM presented Derek with a certificate attesting to this fact. Congratulations.



Derek is flanked by David Davies and Phillip Bullock



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## In Touch - On Line....

**In Touch - On Line** is now live and available to everyone through the Provincial website. Narrated by Andrew Hargreaves, the Monthly Newsletter can now be listened to as well as read by any Brother who has a computer, tablet, iPad or smart phone. The Communication Team do hope that you enjoy listening to the audio version and will encourage others to keep **In Touch - On Line** especially if they find reading a little difficult.

## Forget Me Not No.9035....

Brethren of Forget Me Not Lodge No.9035 which meets in Ludgershall made the journey to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance base at Semington where they were welcomed by members of the Fund Raising Team, pilots and paramedics who provided a tour of the fantastic facilities. Following the tour Stuart Thurgood presented the Air Ambulance team with a cheque for £1,000 which was raised by his predecessor Terry Curran. Stuart was joined by his Wardens Bro Tony Davies and Bro Martyn Dean.



## Lodge of Rectitude No.335



**Christine Chapman**

Grand Master

Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons

## Women in Blue

The history of women's freemasonry and the HFAF, past and present



Monday 18th May 2020

4.15pm

Pickwick Masonic Hall  
Corsham



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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		

## Installation and other meetings

Wednesday	Jan	8	Longleat	Warminster
Friday	Jan	10	Royal Sussex	Swindon
Monday	Jan	13	Concord	Trowbridge
Saturday	Jan	18	Finding Your Feet	Salisbury
Saturday	Jan	25	Finding Your Feet	Salisbury
Wednesday	Feb	5	Remembrance	Swindon
Wednesday	Feb	19	Innocence & Morality	East Knoyle

**Lodge of Brothers in Arms invite you to a triple Initiation on Thursday 6 February**



THE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM PRESENTS

**FINDING YOUR FEET**

"Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice."

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

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

**NEVER STOP LEARNING**

Contact Steve Lee on [8204@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:8204@pglwilts.org.uk)

