



July 2017

Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

We're off to the Teddy Bears Picnic - for a big surprise!

Philip and Sally Bullock invite you to join them at the Teddy Bears picnic on Sunday 16th July at 1.30pm. The event promises to be a highlight of the summer and will provide the ideal opportunity for you to put your feet up and enjoy a cream tea, delicately cut sandwiches or a slice of your favourite cake.

Join in the great 'teddy bear hunt' and 'duck race' or just relax with an ice cream or a refreshing glass of Pimms in the beautiful grounds of The Grange and watch the amazing falconry display.

The Grange offers plentiful free parking and onsite facilities.

Gates will open at 1.30pm To discover more about this event and buy a ticket contact Phil Still 01722 337880 or email. phil.still@btinternet.com

This event is raising funds for two wonderful charities, our own Teddies for Loving Care and The Supported Living Bungalow Alderbury.



Highworth Lodge No.9009 is having a 'hog-roast'

However you need to be quick as it's on Sunday 2nd July at the home of John and Kate Bridgeman, Rusland Cottage, Pond Lane, Haydon Wick, Swindon. Ample parking is available in the grounds and the day promises to offer lots of fun and friendship, plus some fabulous food from master chef John. A pay bar will also be available for this annual event organised and manned by members of Highworth Lodge and in support of Teddies for Loving Care. Gate opens at 1.00pm

If you are organising an event in support of Teddies for Loving Care why not let us know

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.

Trowbridge Lodges get together for a super 'hog-roast'

Clarendon and Concord Lodges are having a 'hog roast' on Saturday 22nd July at North Bradley Peace Memorial Hall. Lots of fun activities including 'horseshoe pitching' and a bouncy castle. Doors open at mid-day and tickets are only £12.50 with free admission for children under 16. For more information contact David Hipperson on gneiss.geyser2@virginmedia.com or Adrian Road aroad@btconnect.com or Marc Bayley bill@mbayley.fsnet.co.uk



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Another election is happening this month - don't forget to cast your vote.

Voting closes 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. Your vote really will count, and who knows it could be the difference between your favourite charity receiving a cheque for £4,000 or £25,000!!

For more information read Ian Priest's article in the Summer edition of *Across the Plain*.



Increase in membership enquiries.

Following the recent Television programme *Inside the Freemasons* we have seen an increase in enquiries from men who want to become a Freemason. This will mean the Lodge secretaries will see a corresponding rise in the number of referrals made by UGLE and from the Provincial website. Of course we want to see our membership numbers improve but the PrGM is quite clear that this cannot ever be simply a numbers game. The demanding criteria for membership must be maintained and the Divisional Officers will be pleased to work with Lodge interview panels who are charged with the all important task of recommending candidates suitable for Initiation.

The Summer edition of Across the Plain is on its way!

Salisbury Cathedral Sunday 3rd September	Trowbridge Civic Centre Saturday 23rd September
Teddy Bears Picnic Sunday 16th July	Provincial Grand Lodge Thursday 5th October

Yes, the sound of the envelope containing the Summer edition of Across the Plain landing on the door mat will soon be heard in over 2,000 homes throughout the Province. The printers have now passed the finished product to the despatch team who have been posting out your copy of the magazine. Remember *Across the Plain* is also available online.

Ian Lever's cover of the Summer edition, reminds us that we are celebrating the Tercentenary of the First Grand Lodge. Inside we have an article from Stephen Bridge recounting the the important meeting at the Goose and Gridiron, while Paul Sharp asks "Why June 1717?"

Ian Priest talks about charitable giving and the ways in which you can help the Province to provide support for future years. A difficult subject to broach but one we should talk about.



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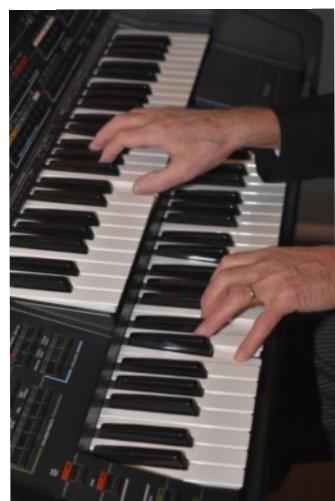
Wiltshire Freemasonry

Columbanus Lodge revving up to visit Wiltshire.

The sound of motorcycle engines will herald a visit by members of newly formed Columbanus Lodge No. 9941 who will be donning their leathers and helmets and riding to Devizes for their first Wiltshire meeting on Saturday 15th July. The meeting will feature an Initiation ceremony and is scheduled to begin at 15:30hrs. Visitors will be made very welcome.



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

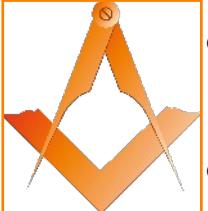
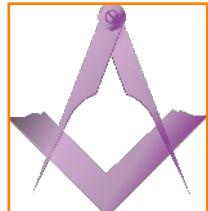


Provincial Organist Mike May is aware that many Lodges no longer have an organist to play music during a ceremony and have to rely on CDs.

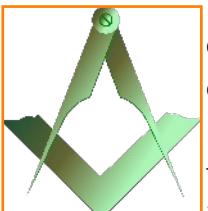
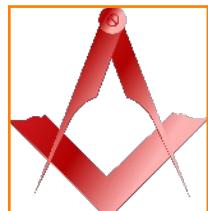
Mike has compiled and recorded a selection of Masonic music covering all three Degrees, the Opening and Closing Odes, the National Anthem and his very own arrangement of the Provincial Grand March. A piece of music particularly suited for when a member of the ‘chain gang’ visits your Lodge and you want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

The Square and Compasses, do they need to be ‘plain and ordinary’?



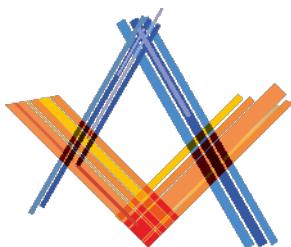
I suppose it depends on what is meant by the words ‘plain and ordinary’ after all it would be surprising if a Freemason ever considered these two important symbols to be anything other than quite extraordinary; after all they do comprise two thirds of the three great though emblematical lights in Freemasonry.



In terms of marketing and raising public awareness the symbols can often best be displayed using colour and these are four examples of a project we are working on at present in which we not only use single solid colours but also shades and tints. To the purist colour may be perceived as avant garde, but I wonder if Freemasons in days gone by said something similar when elaborately decorated gold and silver coloured symbols were used?

As one of the most recognised symbols of Freemasonry we must be careful never to devalue or debase the image, by the same token we must use it to maximise our visibility to a public audience.

One of the most visually powerful examples of a modern square and compasses has been used during the past year on the Provincial Display Stand and has proved to be a great conversation opener with visitors asking the team “what is that?” And that’s precisely the response we hoped for. In today’s society ‘image’ is important and we must present a vibrant, modern and positive image of our wonderful organisation.





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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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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 July and August 2017 plus two special September events

Tuesday	July	7	Summer Lodge	9548	Chippenham
Thursday	August	31	Wiltshire Masters	6731	Swindon
Sunday	September	3	Cathedral Service		Salisbury
Saturday	September	23	Festival Luncheon		Trowbridge

Still time to book a seat for Festival Lunch at Trowbridge



The end of festival Lunch is being held on Saturday 23rd September. The three course lunch is being prepared by Leigh Catering and will be served at 1.00pm with pre-lunch drinks available from 12 noon. We have been advised that RW Bro Jonathan Spence DGM will be our special guest at this event. You can book online via the front page of the Provincial website or by contacting Bro. Ian Dunbar by email pewsham1@sky.com

Masonic Widows Association welcome new members.

If you think it's tough finding suitable candidates for Initiation, spare a thought for the ladies who organise the three branches of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association. Just how do you tackle the problem of low numbers, after all you can hardly suggest as an Almoner once did that "the Lodge needs to do something to help them increase their numbers" Little wonder a few senior Brethren went a little pale as an unwanted image of the grim reaper seized the Lodge. Although it has to be said there were winsome chuckles as well.



So what is the answer? Well it's closer to home than you may think. Do you know the names and addresses of all your Lodge widows and have they been made aware of the MWA? Perhaps now is the time to confirm the number of widows the Lodge is responsible for and to reassess their individual needs. What about widows from other Provinces, do you know of any and if so 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 social lifeline to many of our widows and each of the three branches will be pleased to welcome new members to attend their meetings and other events. To learn more please contact your Lodge Almoner or John King by email at john21jk@aol.com