



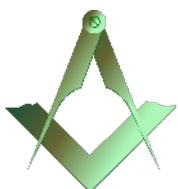
# Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



December  
2017

Wiltshire Freemasonry



## Provincial Grand Master says Christmas is a very special time of the year.

And it does appear to be starting earlier than ever, or do we always say that? I was a little surprised, when as early as the last week of October, while shopping in a well known supermarket I heard the sound of 60's pop group Slade singing 'Merry Christmas Everybody' - (a reminder that I once appeared as a support act to the Wolverhampton band). If Christmas songs are a portent of the season so is the pleasant task of writing out this years Christmas cards, the point at which I realise what a lot of friends we have; which nicely leads me to say, please do not be offended if you don't receive a Christmas card from Easterton this year, but please be assured that Sally and I do wish each and everyone of you, the members of our Wiltshire Masonic family, a very happy Christmas. A sentiment which I know comes also from the entire Provincial team. We trust you will have a wonderful time with your family and friends, and that as we leave the old and welcome the new year it will bring with it much happiness, health and prosperity.

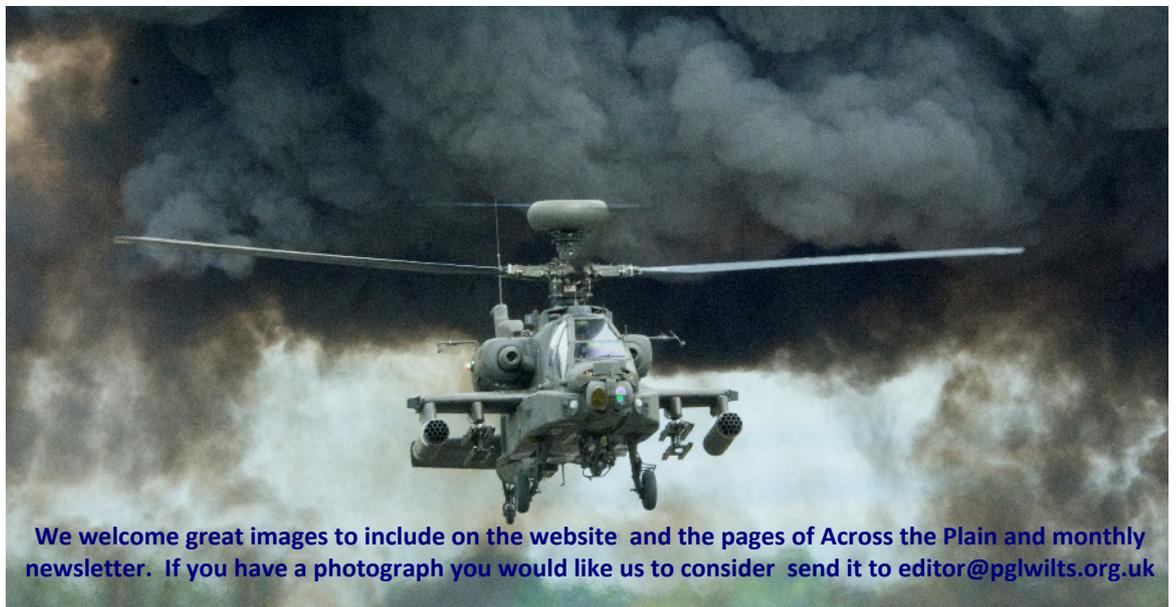
2017 has been a year for reflection but also a year of intense activity and I extend my thanks to everyone who contributed so much to the host of events celebrating the Tercentenary and end of Festival. The success of both events was due to the incredible work of so many. Every year I think to myself, the next twelve months will be quieter in comparison; as you will know, such thoughts are illusionary, and I am sure 2018 will be a very busy year, especially for Wiltshire Freemasonry.

The essential message of Christmas has not changed for centuries (thank goodness), it remains, peace on the earth and goodwill to all men. For Freemasons that sentiment extends still further as we think of those less fortunate than ourselves, and seek to put into practice that virtue of charity which we profess to admire. May the hope of peace, the joy of plenty and the benefit of good health be yours to enjoy in 2018. A very happy Christmas to you all

*Philip & Sally*

## Flying through the smoke with Phil Elliott.

WBro Phil Elliott of Methuen Lodge No.8692 is fast gaining a well deserved reputation for his superb photography. Phil was joined by WBro Simon Grove when they visited the Royal International Air Tattoo at Royal Air Force Fairford. See more of Phil's pictures in the Summer 2018 edition of Across the Plain.



**We welcome great images to include on the website and the pages of Across the Plain and monthly newsletter. If you have a photograph you would like us to consider send it to [editor@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:editor@pglwilts.org.uk)**



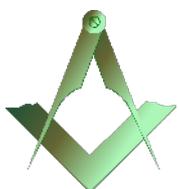
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The  
**Sarsen**  
 Club  
 a circle of upright pillars

**Freemasons' Hall**  
**Great Queen Street**  
**London.**  
**Wednesday 13 December**

**David Little invites you to join him and the Provincial Grand Master for a great day out in London**

### A very special Provincial dinner.

The Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock and Mrs Sally Bullock hosted a very special dinner at Calne Masonic Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017. This event provided an excellent opportunity for the PrGM and the executive officers of the Province to meet 70 members and their partners in a warm and friendly environment with the minimum of formality. The guest speaker for the evening was Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire *KBE, CB, KStJ* who is a former UK Defence and Air Attache to the Soviet Union and HM Lieutenant Governor of Jersey between 2001 and 2006. Sir John was also a former Station Commander of RAF Lyneham.

### Philip and Sally Bullock join Black Rod in House of Lords.

One of the most memorable events of this year was the visit to London by over 200 Wiltshire Freemasons and their partners. Having either attended the Royal Albert Hall Tercentenary celebration or experienced a Thames River cruise, guests made their way to Parliament. Sally and Philip joined Black Rod Lt. Gen. David Leakey in jointly hosting dinner on the terrace overlooking the magnificent River Thames.



Mrs Sally Bullock in conversation with Black Rod Lt Gen David Leakey

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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## David Davies welcomes Justin Tomlinson MP and Kate Bennett

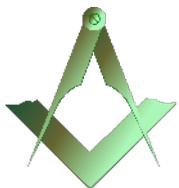
While Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock and Sally dined on the terrace of the House of Lords, David Davies DepPrGM and Mrs Marian Davies welcomed Justin Tomlinson MP and Ms Kate Bennett to the Churchill Room in the House of Commons where over 100 Wiltshire Freemasons and their partners sat down for a truly memorable banquet under the gaze of a bust of the great man himself.

The evening event was the perfect ending for what was universally agreed to have been a splendid day, planned and organised by Colin Cheshire. Before sitting down to dinner the Provincial Grand Master thanked Justin for sponsoring the event and for taking the time, with Kate, to attend. Philip presented a bouquet of flowers to Kate and Justin with a cheque for £100 which was given to the Swindon branch of the Parkinsons Society.



David Davies DepPrGM and Mrs Marian Davies joined by Kate Bennett and Justin Tomlinson MP

In the Churchill Room at the House of Commons



Methuen Lodge No 8692 invite you to hear Dr James Daniel the 2017 Prestonian Lecture

***'The Grand Design'***

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 18.15hrs**



The Masonic Centre, The Planks, Swindon

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



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## December 2017

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

### Swindon Masonic Association

Yes, it's that time of the year when thoughts turn to Christmas parties, turkey dinners and greetings cards. And yet would we want it any other way? The



Swindon Masonic Association will be holding their Christmas lunch on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at the Masonic Centre, The Planks, Old Town. To reserve your place at this wonderful event and support the Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Unit Appeal just email organiser Dave Lewis [dclewis355@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dclewis355@hotmail.co.uk)

### Lodge Installation meetings in December 2017 and January 2018

Wednesday	December	6	Vale of Avon	8432	Chippenham
Saturday	December	9	Tisbury	8718	Salisbury
Tuesday	December	12	Lansdowne Lodge of Unity	626	Chippenham
Wednesday	January	3	Longleat	1478	Warminster
Monday	January	8	Concord	632	Trowbridge
Friday	January	12	Royal Sussex	355	Swindon

### The wearing of Masonic Jewels (or how not to look like a Christmas tree)

If there is one subject which could fill an edition of *Across the Plain*, never mind a paragraph or two in the monthly newsletter, it's the 'rules' regarding wearing Masonic jewels, sometimes irreverently referred to as Masonic Bling. In essence 'rules' generally refer to the style of a jewel and require the approval of Grand Lodge. It's only once a jewel is approved that the fun really starts.

One thing we can say with confidence is that the breast jewel of the Holy Royal Arch, the Chapter jewel (white, red or tri-colour) takes precedence and is worn on the left breast. The Grand Master has indicated that this is followed by the Tercentenary jewel, which would then be followed by a Provincial jewel (the festival jewel) and then by a Past Master's jewel. After this, almost 'anything goes'. However, there are rules on who is entitled to wear some Masonic jewels and Graham Redman's excellent tome [Masonic Etiquette TODAY](#) is well worth reading to understand the complexities and to avoid the pitfalls.

As is often the case, the answer to most questions can best be said to feature a liberal dose of 'common sense'. For example, the wearing of a Past Master's jewel or a jewel celebrating a notable anniversary (such as a centenary jewel) is normally worn only in the Lodge to which it refers; an eminently sensible method of determining when and where to wear a jewel. It's also good form to remember that at the Quarterly Communication meeting of Grand Lodge only the Chapter jewel and the Tercentenary jewel can be worn.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century the wearing of jewels, particularly by senior Freemasons, fast approached levels of farcical proportion. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century the need to demonstrate a Freemasons eminence has been largely superseded by the recognition that "We are all Brothers, equally entitled to the same regard"

Wiltshire Freemasonry

