



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

January

2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

A New Year we can all look forward to.



I don't know about you, but I have to confess that the past month has been one of the busiest I have experienced for many a year. I have enjoyed the opportunity to lunch with each of the branches of the Masonic Widows Association, and the Masonic Bowls Association. Sally and I have joined members and their families in giving gifts to Women's Aid and I was joined by Ian Priest to present cheques to Swindon Foodbank, Springboard Opportunity Centre and

Salisbury Hospice. I never cease to be impressed by the work of the charities supported by Freemasons in Wiltshire and our friends from the Masonic Charitable Foundation. I was joined by David Reed as guests of the Brethren of Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 who so very generously donated £2,500 for The Loganberry Trust, of which we are trustees; I was also delighted and very grateful to hear that New Temple Lodge No.8435 made a donation - thank you. Finally, I also attended a Christmas carol service as a guest of the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire.

Sally and I were joined for Christmas by our daughter Sara and our grandchildren Isis and Wolfie, and it is my heartfelt hope that you had as much fun as we did and that like us, you treasure every precious moment you are able to spend together as a family,

We leave the old year on a high note, the Tercentenary celebrations were a huge success as was our 2017 Festival. Ian Priest and I had the pleasure of presenting certificates to the four charities which benefited from the MCF 300 initiative and in December we visited a number of other charities. It really is the case that Freemasons make a difference. As we leave 2017 and enter a new year, Sally and I wish you all, the hope of peace, the joy of plenty and the benefit of good health in 2018.

Swindon Foodbank receives £5,000

For many of us It's very difficult to imagine not being able to put food on the table, but for thousands of people that is a reality they face on an all too regular basis. Foodbanks across the Province provide emergency help to those in the greatest need and in December Philip Bullock was delighted on behalf of the Masonic Charitable Foundation to present Cher Smith MBE with a cheque for £5,000 to help cover essential operating expenses.

Joining Philip for the presentation was Charity Steward Ian Priest and before the presentation Cher gave a short but informative briefing of the work undertaken by the team at Swindon Foodbank. After being told that volunteers were always required to sort, weigh and pack donated items, Charity Steward Ian was heard to say that perhaps the Province's 300 hours for 300 years initiative could be used to support the work of the Foodbank - food for thought perhaps!





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Provincial Grand Master announces.....

The Provincial Grand Master is pleased to announce the following Grand Lodge appointments and promotion. Andrew Tiffin, Michael May and Des Morgan to all be Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. David Henery PAGDC to be promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon. The appointments become effective from 14th March 2018. The Investiture will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

The Royal Arch puts children in the chairs.....

Grand Superintendent John Reid was joined by Provincial 3rd Grand Principal Andrew Tiffin at the John McNeill Opportunity Centre, Odstock Road, Salisbury. The purpose of the visit was to present some very specialised chairs to the Centre, and as you can see the new chairs were soon occupied by some very special children. Funding constraints really do impact on the Centre's ability to buy specialised equipment suitable for their young charges, and it is thanks to grants and donations from Freemasons that this essential equipment is provided.



Salisbury Hospice receives £1,900.....



The Masonic Charitable Foundation has awarded £1,900 to Salisbury Hospice and Philip Bullock PrGM was on hand to present a bumper cheque to the hospice's Fundraising Manager Celia Scott. Set up in 1981 to provide palliative care and support for terminally ill patients within the Salisbury area, the hospice has grown over the years and is now able to accommodate up to ten patients in its purpose-built facility. Care is provided for people in their own homes and through non-residential and inpatient services.

as does Dorothy House Hospice in Trowbridge.

Which is where DepPrGM David Davies was joined by representatives of the two Lodges meeting at the Wallington Hall in Bradford-on-Avon, when he presented a cheque to the hospice's Director of Communications David Badger. Dorothy House is famed for its positive attitude in providing outstanding care and support to patients and their families. An attitude epitomised by the house saying 'Where there's cake, there's hope and there's always cake'





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Chippenham charity awarded £2,000 from MCF.....



Philip Bullock and Ian Priest were certainly kept busy in December as they journeyed across the Province dispensing very welcome 'gifts' to a number of charities including Springboard Opportunity Group based in Chippenham. One of the benefits of making these visits is the opportunity given to the team to learn more about the work of the organisation and during their recent visit Jane Boulton the manager outlined the amazing work carried out by the team at Springboard Opportunity Group,

and more from Lansdowne Lodge of Unity....

Mike and Angela Pearce have many fond memories of working with the team at Chippenham based charity Springboard Opportunity Group, and were delighted to return and present manager Jane Boulton with a cheque from members of Lansdowne Lodge of Unity. Mike and Angela joined Ian and Maureen Dunbar of the Vale of Avon Lodge, Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock, and Provincial Charity Steward Ian Priest who presented a Masonic Charitable Foundation cheque for £2,000.



Presentations to the RUH at Bath were made by WM Bill Platts - Longleat Lodge and Ken Rake of Devizes based Moonraker Lodge. What makes these donations so special is the personal association of donor and recipient.



URGENT NEWS FLASH....

The Provincial Presentation Team will be at Lodge of Brothers in Arms on Thursday 1st February. When Stephen Mansfield will lead the team in a presentation of the First Degree Lecture. The highly accomplished team has gained a well deserved reputation for its professionalism and this event is one 'not to be missed'. The Lodge of Brothers in Arms meets in Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street, Salisbury at 18.00hrs. To book a dining place contact the secretary by email 9540@pglwilts.org.uk This event is open to all Freemasons especially EAFs and FCFs..





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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				

Have you a friend who wants to be a Freemason?

The Provincial Education team led by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Stephen Bridge will be holding a Masonic Recruitment Workshop on Saturday 20th January. The workshop will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Crane Street, Salisbury and is designed to help new Freemasons understand the process of recruiting friends into Freemasonry. To find out more simply email dlittle@isvgroup.com

Lodge Installation meetings in January and February 2018

Wednesday	January	3	Longleat	1478	Warminster
Monday	January	8	Concord	632	Trowbridge
Friday	January	12	Royal Sussex	355	Swindon
Wednesday	February	7	Remembrance	4037	Swindon
Wednesday	February	21	Innocence and Morality	9587	East Knoyle

We have always done it this way and we don't intend to change - ever.....

A few years ago I was asked to present the extended second degree working tools which I believe is a lovely piece of ritual and ideally suited to what is a fairly short ceremony. After the meeting I was taken to one side and told that 'this Lodge doesn't do that piece of work'. As I walked away, I thought how sad that the members of the Lodge are restricted to a diet of ritual dedicated to preserving ceremonies which countenance no variation whatsoever, and devoid of the beautiful prose to be found in the Long Closings, the very emotional Walking Charge of the Third Degree (ask W Bro Colin Davies to do it for you), and the cleverly constructed Mode of Preparation which explains so much to the newly Initiated Freemason.

Sometimes tradition, as in 'this is the Lodge's tradition established by the founders' - is used to counter any attempt to change the content, no matter how minor, of a ceremony. It's bit like 'we must have parsley sauce with ham' at the festive board as it's traditional, even though many would prefer it to be a choice and not imposed. I wonder if anyone ever stops to think 'I wonder what the Brethren might like'?

Perhaps a younger/junior Brother has seen or heard something different during a fraternal visit elsewhere, and wants to ask whether his Lodge might consider doing the same; If he thinks his request/suggestion will be disregarded or worse he will suffer some form of admonishment, what do you think he will do? And before someone says 'that would never happen' let me assure you, it does and it has.

Change is not always easy to accept, but occasionally doing something different needn't be the end of the world either. In fact it might just be the very thing to breathe new life into the Lodge. What possible harm can there be in a Master introducing an occasional one-off 'variation' during his year in office?

Why not make a new year's resolution to try something new in 2018?