



# Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

February

2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

## A short break and it's back to work.....



The sunshine of Lanzarote seems but a distant memory as I gaze at the wintry scene outside the study window. The short holiday was a welcome break for Sally and myself and allowed me to recharge the 'batteries' in preparation for another exciting, event filled Masonic year: and 2018 certainly promises to be just that. In the January newsletter I suggested that 2017 had been one of the busiest and most enjoyable periods I have ever experienced, somehow, I am sure I will be thinking that about every month from now on, such is the level of planned activity within the Province. I am privileged to have a hard working team to support me, for which I am immensely grateful.

Having worked my way through scores of emails, I had a very productive meeting with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Divisional Officers at which we were able to agree new guidelines for our Visiting Officers and the Province's commitment to the Pathway Initiative (see Page 3) which is being led by David Davies DepPrGM. I am delighted to hear that Lodges are already using the programme to good effect, with members telling me that the Pathway processes have been invaluable in helping them interview candidates and to assess their suitability to become Freemasons.

Lodge of Good Fellowship No.8388 welcomed the Provincial Communication Team to their January meeting to receive a presentation on 'The State of the Province' which is designed to examine where we are in terms of current membership and stimulate ideas for growth in member numbers, activity and participation. I was pleased to receive a report which confirmed positive interest in the message of the presentation, which was reinforced by the excellent questions raised by enthusiastic members of the Lodge. It is my wish that all Lodges invite the team to present 'The State of the Province' and I am sure you will contact your Divisional Officer to arrange a date for the team to visit your Lodge at the earliest opportunity..

On page 2 of this edition of the newsletter we have published a document produced by the Provincial Registrar which displays Lodge membership over the past 27 years. It is interesting to see how we have fared in the face of changing conditions at work and in the home, and with the increased opportunities for men to join clubs and organisations which offer them a sense of belonging and provide the opportunity to practise charity

2018 is a very special year for Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 as they celebrate a remarkable milestone in Swindon's Masonic history; having enjoyed a 200 year continuous presence in the town. I am very pleased to offer my personal congratulations to the Lodge on this landmark achievement and look forward to joining them at their very special bi-centenary meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May. On page 4 there is a great picture of Royal Sussex practising that virtue which denominates the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart - charity, when they donated £500 to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. I was particularly pleased to be able to read an account of this superb story in the local Swindon Advertiser.

## Royal Sussex announces....

Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 celebrate their bi-centenary in 2018 and have announced that a special meeting will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The time and venue are yet to be announced but the Lodge has been advised that a High Ruler will be attending the meeting. Newly Installed Master Phil Johnson is looking forward to welcoming the Lodge's special guests including the Provincial Grand Master and members of the Provincial team.



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## Where are you now?.....

### Membership Trends since 1990

No.	Name	±	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	NOW
335	Rectitude	86.4	59	52	56	42	36	52	51
355	Royal Sussex Lo E	100.0	64	68	67	74	68	71	64
586	Elias de Derham	44.3	106	110	110	94	66	47	47
626	Lansdowne	34.9	109	82	78	65	51	36	38
632	Concord	98.6	72	68	71	69	72	72	71
663	Fidelity	48.3	118	110	88	70	66	53	57
1271	Friendship and Unity	66.0	100	101	96	82	69	70	66
1295	Gooch	60.6	94	80	75	69	62	61	57
1478	Longleat	81.2	85	74	75	73	69	67	69
1533	Loyalty	51.6	95	96	81	64	59	46	49
2227	White Horse	70.0	70	65	65	58	43	44	49
2644	Chaloner	100.0	72	68	61	62	61	72	72
2888	Saint Aldhelm	60.6	104	95	84	77	73	64	63
3129	Border	74.1	81	83	77	73	73	58	60
4037	Remembrance	68.1	72	72	67	55	56	49	49
4451	Radnor	40.8	71	72	64	59	48	28	29
4687	Pleydell	82.3	79	76	77	68	64	64	65
4714	Saint Edmund	89.9	69	58	69	70	60	58	62
5137	Sarum	26.7	75	47	36	30	25	17	20
5908	Clarendon	71.0	62	57	61	56	49	45	44
5955	City	83.3	60	59	60	56	54	52	50
6114	Stonehenge	75.4	65	65	59	59	52	51	49
6616	Corsham	74.2	93	89	80	72	64	66	69
6731	Wilts Masters	147.1	102	78	77	128	145	163	150
7525	Calley	76.4	72	69	69	69	62	57	55
8204	Harry C Preater	44.0	75	73	65	45	39	36	33
8388	Good Fellowship	75.9	58	56	57	49	43	44	44
8432	Vale of Avon	65.1	43	40	39	32	27	26	28
8435	New Temple	87.3	55	57	46	47	43	46	48
8547	Broade Forde	71.2	52	59	56	46	39	35	37
8620	Wyvern	92.3	52	41	35	46	50	46	48
8692	Methuen	82.5	40	44	41	36	34	33	33
8718	Tisbury	124.0	25	24	31	34	36	32	31
8747	Moonraker	82.9	70	76	64	62	61	60	58
8788	George Duke of Kent	92.2	51	50	47	44	40	46	47
8977	Vastern	114.0	43	48	49	50	50	46	49
9009	Highworth	67.3	52	51	50	50	41	35	35
9035	Forget Me Not	65.8	76	74	65	63	55	47	50
9064	Downton	102.4	42	49	50	36	35	39	43
9090	Agriculture	112.7	63	66	77	76	67	69	71
9540	Brothers In Arms	180.0		35	43	45	59	61	63
9548	Wiltshire Summer	69.4		36	47	33	31	23	25
9587	Innocence And Morality	148.4		31	36	41	45	46	46
9773	Fiat Lux	62.5				48	38	30	30

Total Membership 2846 2804 2701 2577 2380 2263 2274

Average Membership 71.2 65.2 62.8 58.6 54.1 51.4 51.7

It is as taken from the Annual Returns for the end of the year shown. The ±% indicates the percentage the current membership has increased or fallen since 1990. A value of 100% represents no change, <100 is a reduction, >100 is an increase.

The Same or a Gain of 1990 Level (9 lodges)	Fall between 75% ~ 99% of 1990 Level (14 lodges)	Fall between 50% ~ 75% of 1990 Level (15 lodges)	Fall to < 50% of 1990 Level (6 lodges)
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You can make a difference by introducing a friend to Freemasonry

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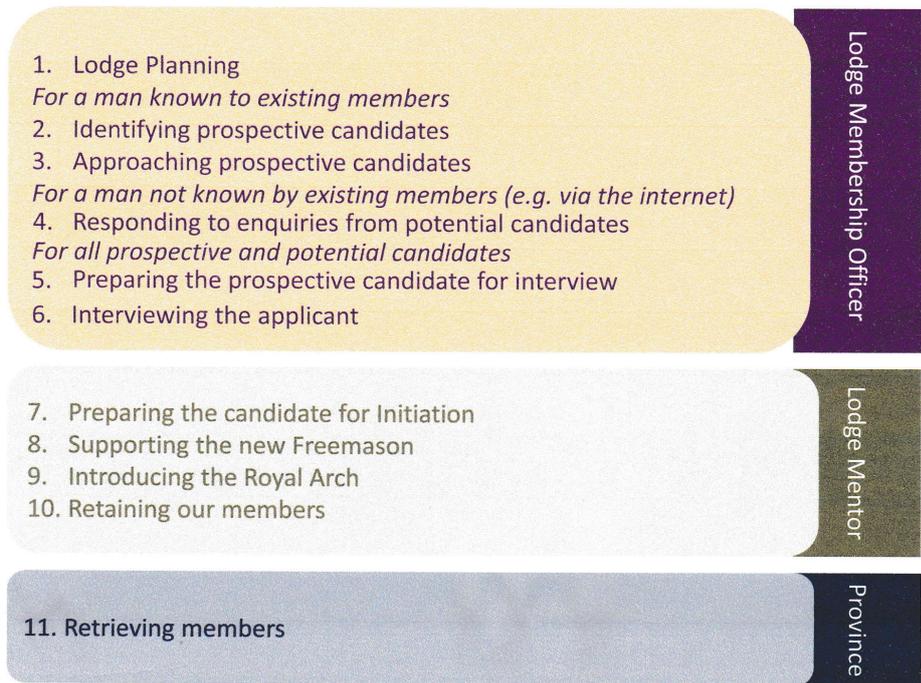
2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

## So, what is The Members' Pathway?

The Members' Pathway provides a structured approach for Lodges to follow in order to attract and encourage potential new members while at the same time retaining and adding value to the existing membership. The Provincial Grand Master considers this initiative to be a key feature for 2018 and asks that Lodges give it their full support. He has asked the Deputy PrGM David Davies to 'head up' the programme. Lodge secretaries have already received a number of briefing documents which explain the processes to be followed. This diagram explains the basic principles of The Members' Pathway.

### The Pathway (Steps 1 to 11)



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### Step 1: Lodge Planning



- Convene a meeting or series of meetings to discuss the future of your lodge
  - Include all members in this meeting or meetings, and not just the Past Masters or Lodge committee
  - A suitably skilled, respected and experienced member of the Lodge should chair these meetings
  - Involve the relevant leaders from your Province.
- Create a Lodge profile
  - A Lodge Profile describes the Lodge's key features and especially its characteristics, circumstances, expectations and values
  - Lodge profiles help members to identify prospective candidates who are a good match to the Lodge
  - Lodge profiles help members identify issues in the Lodge that need addressing
  - If a common feature emerges (such as a sporting interest, hobby, old school), develop a prospective member's 'profile'
- The Lodge in its community
  - UGLE is encouraging Lodges to become visible, recognised and respected within their communities
  - Lodge profiles can be developed into promotional or informational literature for the Lodge
  - The Lodge can engage in local community events
  - It can also organise its own private and public events and activities open to friends, family and other non-Masons
  - The Province should be consulted before any Lodge becomes involved in public events.
- During the planning meetings, identify:
  - An enthusiastic member (not necessarily a Past Master) for the role of Lodge Membership Officer(LMO)
  - At least one more knowledgeable member to assist the LMO when screening enquiries from potential candidates (see Step 4)
  - A skilled interviewer to be Chairman of the Interview Panel
  - Two other knowledgeable members (at least one who is not a PM, at least one who is a PM) to be members of the Interview Panel.
- Make decisions, record them, set deadlines, assign responsibilities for action and review at intervals.

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To survive we must be prepared to adapt to a changing world, the alternative is we become irrelevant.



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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				

### Do you know someone 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 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am 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](mailto:dlittle@isvgroup.com)

### Lodge Installation meetings in February and March 2018

Wednesday	February	7	Remembrance	4037	Swindon
Wednesday	February	21	Innocence and Morality	9587	East Knoyle
Thursday	March	15	Fiat Lux	9773	Devizes
Friday	March	13	Fidelity	663	Devizes
Monday	March	19	Chaloner	2644	Melksham
Monday	March	19	City Lodge	5955	Salisbury
Wednesday	March	21	Gooch Lodge	1295	Swindon

### Air Ambulance says "500 thank yous" to Royal Sussex.



The Wiltshire Air Ambulance is the charity of choice for many Lodges and it's not hard to understand why; with the Air Ambulance being a vital service to people involved in life threatening situations. The Brethren of Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No.355 recently presented a bumper cheque for £500 when Ron Fairhurst and David Lewis visited the unit's Devizes base and met Air Ambulance fundraiser Valerie Whistler.

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