



Change is inevitable, we must embrace it.....



When considering what I would write in this month's Newsletter I recalled the words of George Bernard Shaw who wrote *"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything"* How true that is, and how difficult it is to negotiate with someone who refuses to consider any other opinion, or countenance any form of change from that which they have come to view as being 'the only way' to do something. The recently issued UGLE Transgender Policy and my call for Lodges to consider having 'double ceremonies' or emergency meetings to expedite initiating new Freemasons, have provided examples of such entrenched views

A knowledge of the real world requires us to understand and accept the inescapable truth that the society in which we live and work is changing at a rate, which in many respects is unprecedented. Indeed some writers suggest that the scale of change associated with the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries was miniscule compared with the that of today, and that the magnitude and the speed of change in the future will be far greater.

Attempting to maintain the status quo is an option which will be considered by some to be 'the right way', primarily because it doesn't require too much effort, it doesn't rock the boat and most importantly it means we can stay in our comfort zone. Gradual change has always been the cautious man's way of plotting a course by which he can achieve security with the minimum of disruption; whereas in today's real world the speed of change is frequently determined not so much by aspirations but by external circumstances, or as one famous politician is alleged to have said - 'events, dear boy, events'. While technological change occurs exponentially, stretching the imagination and testing our ability to conceive a future beyond snapping point, social change has tended to be more gradual in character; and although the gentle ebb of cyclical ups and downs might be desirable, whether it remains possible in the future is another story. The siren cry of the minority is often heard above that of the majority, and the clamour for equality and fairness, often in the guise of reasonableness is a powerful argument, especially when supported by the force and framework of the law.

Freemasonry should not be surprised or offended to be challenged by a new progressive membership which while imbibing the same core values as previous generations of Freemasons, may wish to take a different route to achieve their aims and objectives. New Freemasons are not afraid to speak their minds, and they are certainly not in awe of rank (nor should they be) rather they understand the true meaning of all being equal. More importantly they recognise that it is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. The belief that we can live in a state of blissful continuity during a time of such tumultuous change is simply not rational or sustainable.

However, that synopsis doesn't mean the future for Freemasonry is bleak. The relevance and appeal of Freemasonry has been questioned and discussed over many decades, with learned men promoting a need to try something new, while at the same time wishing to retain the established characteristics of the fraternity, which must by its very teachings be regarded as ancient. I believe that for Wiltshire Freemasonry to flourish we need to move quickly from simply managing change so things remain the same but slightly better, to a point where we do not begrudgingly accept change, rather we wholeheartedly embrace it as an opportunity to grow and flourish. The more we welcome it, the more profoundly positive its impacts is on us. We must surely accept the truth of the words of the late John F Kennedy who said:

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."



Meeting the boys of the old brigade.....

WM Bob Betchley and Philip Bullock PrGM welcome the Chelsea Pensioners to Lodge of Innocence and Morality No.9587



During Bob Betchley's time as Master of Lodge of Innocence and Morality No. 9587 which meets at East Knoyle he invited Lodge members and other friends to join him in walking the lines that make up the London Underground System in a bid to raise money for The Salisbury Hospital Stars Appeal, for their Premature Baby Unit and The Royal Hospital Chelsea, home of the world famous Chelsea Pensioners.

Between February 2017 and February 2018 the 11 lines that make up the Underground System plus bonus lines that also appear on the Transport for London map, such as the Docklands Light Railway, Emirates Air Line, TFL Rail and London Trams, were all walked, station by station. Following each walk, a report of the walk was sent out to keep everyone connected with the ambitious undertaking up to date with progress. A total of £5,600.00 was raised and split equally between the two charities. On the 4th and 20th July this year the monies were presented to the Salisbury Hospital and The Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Masters' and Immediate Past Masters' Dinner.....

If you are a Master in office or an Immediate Past Master this event is just for you. Every year Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock and Sally host a dinner for Masters of Lodges and their partners. Due to the fact that some Masters are unable to attend during their year in office the invitation is also extended to Immediate Past Masters and their partners. The year the Dinner will be held on Saturday 17th November in Devizes.

Making Progress.....

Lodge Steward: The first rung on the ladder and one of the most rewarding offices in the Lodge

Inner Guard: Your first opportunity to bring together words and actions, It is said that an efficient IG often makes a good Master.

Junior Deacon: The new Initiate becomes the focus of your attention as you discover a new sense of purpose.

Senior Deacon: New opportunities come with greater challenges and responsibilities as you take the lead role in the ceremonies of Passing and Raising.

Junior Warden: The first of the Principal Officers and a new set of words and actions to learn, and it's only two years to the Chair. Just got to work on the 'knocks' and everyone will help.

Senior Warden: Everything is much clearer and yet there is still so much to learn. But at this stage you know the workings of the Lodge and next year you will be....

The Master: The highest honour the Lodge has in its power to bestow on any of its members.





The Tyler's Toast.....

If there is one charge which commands our full attention it surely must be the Tyler's Toast, and not simply because it is the final toast of the evening signalling the opportunity to either wend our way home or stop off at the bar for one post prandial libation.

Just as with many Masonic toasts, there are 'differences' in presentation, with some versions having a delightful introduction immediately preceding the actual words of the toast itself. A question which I am often asked is whether it is correct to use the words 'in the air' and 'under the sea'

The traditional form of the Tyler's toast is given in the Charge at the end of the Third Section of the First Degree Lecture, and the words 'in the air' and 'under the sea' do not appear, although the words '*wherever scattered over the face of Earth and Water*' may be said to cover every aspect. The term 'in the air' was a wartime innovation introduced in the early 1940s and was copied from one Lodge to another. The same can be said for 'under the sea' except its origins were nothing to do with the war but rather an attempt to inject humour into the toast, and it worked judging by the smiles it attracts!

Is it correct to use different words? - well, let's just say it's not a cardinal sin - the original words, (see below) as beautiful as they are, were only the personal preference of another individual. The key as with any toast is to ensure the words are appropriate, and in the case of this toast, delivered with the dignity it deserves.

To all Poor and distressed Masons, wherever situated over the face of Earth and Water, wishing them a speedy relief from all their troubles, and a safe return to their native country, if they desire it.

Gifts to make a difference

Robert Butler W/M of Moonraker Lodge No. 8747 presented a cheque for £200 to the Loganberry Trust.
Bob Betchley IPM of Lodge of Innocence & Morality No. 9587 has raised £2,800 for Salisbury Hospital.
Members and friends of the Wiltshire Masonic Golf Society have raised £3,000 for Julia's House.

Provincial Grand Lodge - are you coming?

Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock is looking forward to welcoming Brethren who are due to receive Provincial Honours together with their partners to the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in Salisbury on Thursday 4th October. We will also be offering a warm welcome to guests from neighbouring Provinces, the ladies of the three branches of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association, and representatives of some of the charities supported by Lodges in the Province. This is the most important meeting of the Provincial calendar and we are delighted that despite the recent Novichok scares Wiltshire Freemasons have chosen to maintain their support of the Province's cathedral city.

MAKE THE DATE

04 1 0 18

THURS



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
CITY HALL
SALISBURY





Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



September 2018

Wiltshire Freemasonry

September 2018

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

ACTIVE PROVINCIAL OFFICERS DINNER SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018



Where: The Bear Hotel, Devizes

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Dress: Black Tie



“VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME, THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART.”

Thanks to Elizabeth Andrew

The Provincial Communication Team is always looking for volunteers to help organise and man the Provincial display unit at venues throughout the county. If you can help contact: pco@pglwilts.org.uk

Lodge Installation meetings in September

Tuesday	Sept 18	St Aldhelm	2888	Malmesbury
Thursday	Sep 20	Vastern	8977	Lydiard
Wednesday	Sep 26	Moonraker	8747	Devizes
Wednesday	Sep 26	GD of Kent	8788	Swindon
Thursday	Sep 27	New Temple	8435	Swindon

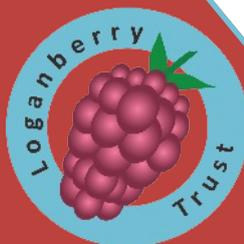
MASTERS' AND IPMS' DINNER

Date: Saturday 17th November

Time: 7.00pm

Place: The Bear Hotel, Devizes

Guest: Michael Baker UGLE



**PSA Testing
Conservative Club
Devizes**

(by kind permission)

Saturday 29th September

10.30am until 1.00pm



Are you ready to complete your journey in pure Antient Masonry?



TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE

**CAN YOUR LODGE
DONATE JUST
£150**

**SPEAK TO YOUR LODGE
CHARITY STEWARD**