



August 2019

Wiltshire Freemasonry

### Happy left handers day.....



If you're left-handed, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August is your day as It's International Left Handers Day. A day you share with HRH Prince William, Sir Paul McCartney, David Gower, John McEnroe, Albert Einstein, Napoleon and Jack the Ripper (well you can't have all the good guys). But you're still very much in the minority with statistics suggesting that somewhere between 75 and 90 percent of the world's humans are right-handed. However, a new study published in Frontiers in Psychology suggest that lefties might be smarter than right-handed folk. I do like the quote (see top of page) which implies 'lefties' are multi-taskers.

Sally and I were honoured to attend the celebratory luncheon for the outgoing Provincial Grand Almoner John King and his wife Val which was held at the Calne Masonic Hall; and where we joined Almoners, members of the Province, their partners and representatives of the three branches of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association. John was first appointed Provincial Almoner in 2006, during the intervening years he has been a catalyst for change in the way the Province approaches and handles the many claims for help from members and their dependents. Often he found himself dealing with complex and delicate situations and he did so with the utmost tact, diplomacy and understanding. John was and is a people person, for him the issue at hand was always governed by the simple principle of 'how do we help the individual?' Questions as to how and why the situation occurred was for another day, and yes, there was always 'another day'. John also continued the work of his predecessor in caring for and supporting the three branches of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association, and with Val at his side has been a regular visitor at lunches, special events and regular meetings. Perhaps the most important and high profile initiative introduced into the Province by John has been *Teddies for Loving Care* - who would have imagined that in the space of fourteen years over 75,000 children (and quite a few not so young adults) would have received a TLC teddy bear while in hospital. For all his and Val's amazing work, I would offer the thanks of the entire Province. In October I will Appoint and Invest Gary Dolphin (Gooch Lodge No.1295) as the Provincial Grand Almoner, and I am confident he will continue to uphold the fine traditions and excellent work established by his predecessors.

Sally and I were delighted to attend the charity evenings held at Calne and Salisbury at the end of July. The events enabled charities to talk with Lodge Charity Stewards and explain the vital work they undertake in the community. I was able to thank each of the charities for attending and assure them of continuing Masonic support for their activities. It was good to hear from the many Lodge members who attended the evening who told me how much they enjoyed meeting and talking to the volunteers from the charities.



Talking of support, a huge thank you to those Brethren who gave some of their precious weekend time to assist the Communication Team when they brought the Provincial Display unit to Salisbury for its third visit in as many months. The unit has certainly helped to promote Freemasonry in the City.

Together with the Provincial Team I look forward to welcoming new (and not so new) members and their partners to Chippenham Masonic Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 7.00pm for another Light Blue evening.



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### The Master rules and directs his Lodge.....

But does he, or is he allowed to? Well, surely there can be no doubt, after all isn't it the case that a new Worshipful Master, regularly installed, is given complete authority by the Lodge members who elected him to make any such changes as he sees fit? Well, he might well think that to be the case, and there is little doubt the Book of Constitutions makes clear that the Master of a Lodge has very extensive powers. It is also clear that custom and practice place degrees of restraint on the over exuberant exercise of such powers, and it would be a brave (and perhaps foolish) Master who attempted to use more than a fraction of them other than in exceptional cases. However, under Rule 114 *'The Master is responsible for the due observance of the laws by the Lodge over which he presides'*. The 'laws' referred to are those set out in the Book of Constitutions, the Lodge By-Laws, and the By-Laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Master is not only responsible for 'due observance of the laws' he is also bound to support all of the Ancient Charges read to him on the occasion of his Installation. Charge No.5 reminds him that he *'will submit to the awards and resolutions of your Brethren in general Lodge convened.'* Most Masters appreciate the reality of their new situation, which is not that of a monarch, even less that of a dictator (benevolent or otherwise); to quote from *The Preceptor's Page* (see Provincial Website) on this theme by W Bro. Michael Lee, *"He is proudly and happily - but merely - first amongst equals"*.

At this point it is perhaps appropriate to make reference to what is without doubt one of the most pleasant privileges of a Master Elect, that being covered by Rule 104 (e) *'The appointment of all Officers except The Master, the Treasurer and (if elected) the Tyler, is at the sole discretion and power of the Master'*. A wise Master will work with that skill and assiduity which maintains the honour, reputation and usefulness of the Lodge; likewise he will ensure the happiness of its members by his zeal and ability to promulgate the genuine principles of Freemasonry. What is true of the Master is equally true of his officers, particularly those who have responsibility for the administration of the Lodge affairs and the deeply moving aspects of its beautiful ceremonies who should work with the Master to devise a Lodge programme for the ensuing year. After all isn't the purpose of our meeting together made clear, *'I therefore trust that we shall have but one aim in view, to please each other and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness'*

But what happens when the natural order of things is fractured, and an element within the Lodge seek to regulate affairs and indeed dominate the business and running of the Lodge; all incidentally predicated on what are ostensibly genuinely good intentions? A reminder of the words found in the Address to the Brethren may well be timely. *'The Brethren whom the Worshipful Master has selected to assist him in the ruling and governing of the Lodge are too well acquainted with the principles of Masonry, and the Laws of our institution, to warrant any mistrust that they will be found wanting in the discharge of the duties of their respective offices, or that they will exceed the powers with which they have been entrusted'* Yet we all know that it is far too easy to move from a position of helping and assisting, to one of controlling and taking charge.

Just as the Master does not have absolute power over the affairs of the Lodge, the same is true for any other officer, and this principle can even be brought to bear on Lodge Committees which are specifically mentioned in Rule 154 and can be further explained thus: *'The Lodge by resolution may specifically refer any other matter to such a Committee (of which the WM is ex officio and presides over) for consideration and report or with power to act within such limits as the Lodge may define, but no Committee may be invested with any general executive powers'*. This simple sentence makes all very clear. A Lodge Committee may recommend change, but is not empowered to make change. Due Notice of Motion for any change must be properly given



# Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

**"I'm left-handed: I can think and feel at the same"**



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## Philip and David visit Alzheimer's Support.....

Provincial Grand Master Philip Bullock was joined by David Davies when they visited the Alzheimers Support Memory Cafe in Chippenham. Having enjoyed a very welcome cup of tea (with optional cake) they took part in the quiz, testing their ability to 'put a name to a face' - 'name the board game' and 'name the song and identify the singer'. It's harder than you might think, but they did well. At the end of the session Philip announced the details of a £90,000 grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation.



A very happy group of members welcomed Philip and David to Chippenham

## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WILTSHIRE

IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE BEST DAYS IN THE WILTSHIRE MASONIC CALENDAR

Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft or Master Mason

# PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

CITY HALL  
SALISBURY

THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

you are requested to be seated by 2:15pm  
BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THIS EVENT BY EMAIL TO [PGMLWILTS.ORG.UK](mailto:PGMLWILTS.ORG.UK)

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





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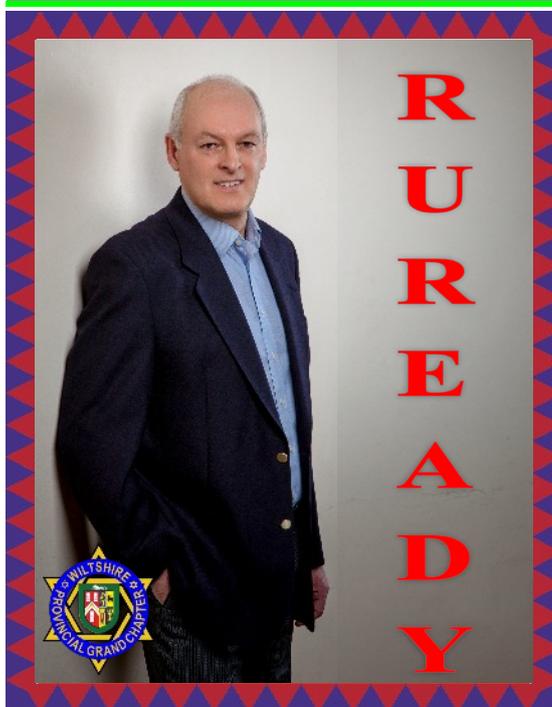
## August 2019

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	

## Installation and other meetings

Thursday	Sep	5	Wiltshire Masters	6731	Devizes
Saturday	Sep	7	New Mason's Evening		Chippenham
Tuesday	Sep	17	St Aldhelm	2888	Malmesbury
Wednesday	Sep	25	Moonraker	8747	Devizes
Wednesday	Sep	25	George Duke of Kent	8788	Swindon
Thursday	Sep	26	New Temple	8435	Swindon
Thursday	Oct	3	Provincial Grand Lodge		Salisbury

Wiltshire Freemasonry



**Provincial Church Service**

SUNDAY  
27TH OCTOBER 3.00PM  
ST MARY THE VIRGIN,  
CALNE

Lunch at Calne Masonic Hall  
1.00pm  
£18 per head  
bookings to:  
barrycooper@btopenworld.com  
or 35 Blounts Court, Potterne,  
Devizes SN10 5QB  
Tel. 01380 723518

## WILTSHIRE SUMMER LODGE NO.9548

### WHITE TABLE

FEATURING THE PROVINCIAL DEMONSTRATION TEAM

EXTEND AN INVITATION TO FREEMASONS AND FRIENDS

Masonic Hall  
Oxford Street  
Marlborough

Friday 6th September  
6.30pm

PRESENTING AN AMENDED FORM OF THE SECOND DEGREE LECTURE



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