



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

“The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day”



September 2019

Wiltshire Freemasonry

Forget Me Not.....



September has arrived and with it the knowledge that summer is coming to an end and autumn will soon thrill us all with its glorious colour scheme. It is said that the poet Henry Longfellow produced his greatest works in September and the quote at the top of the page is just one of the beautiful thoughts he expressed in his writing. The month of September is also associated with the Forget Me Not flower closely linked to Freemasonry and now identified with the various Alzheimer’s groups which do such good work in the local community. In the years between the two World Wars the blue Forget Me Not was a symbol used by many charitable organisations in Germany, with a

very clear meaning: “Do not forget the poor and the destitute”. It was first introduced in German Freemasonry in 1926 at the annual Communication of the Grand Lodge Zur Sonne, in Bremen, where it was distributed to all the participants. In distributing the Forget Me Not at the Grand Lodge Communication the hope was that it would remind German Brethren of the charitable activities of the Grand Lodge.

In early 1934, when it became evident that Freemasons were in danger from the incoming Nazi regime, the Grand Lodge of the Sun (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges) - realising the grave dangers involved, adopted the blue Forget Me Not flower as a substitute for the traditional square and compasses. It was felt the flower would provide brethren with an outward means of identification while lessening the risk of possible recognition in public by the Nazis. Freemasonry went undercover, and this delicate flower assumed its role as a symbol of Masonry surviving throughout the reign of darkness. Many Freemasons continue to wear the Forget Me Not as a lapel pin and it remains a potent symbol of Masonic suffering.

In just over a month’s time I will be welcoming members of the Wiltshire Masonic family and many of our friends from neighbouring Provinces to City Hall, Salisbury for the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. I am looking forward to honouring the Brethren who will be receiving a Provincial appointment or promotion and I trust they will be supported by members of their Lodges.

It is a privilege to be invited to the opening of the **Survivors@SWA** charity shop in Swindon which has been set up to raise much needed funds for the work of Swindon Women’s Aid. The venture has been well supported by Swindon Freemasons. If you are free, why not join us on Saturday 7th September at 11.15am.

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

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

CITY HALL
SALISBURY

THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

you are requested to be seated by 2:15pm



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The Festive Board - is it necessary?

Recently I read an article where the writer suggested that the Festive Board was where ‘real Freemasonry is practised’ and where the “main joy of a Lodge meeting is actually the bit outside when everyone is disrobing, knowing that for better or worse it’s all over for a few months”. My initial reaction to the comment was one of amazement, my second of sadness; for if those sentiments were true it would suggest that the beauty of Masonic ceremony, the teaching of a system of morality, and the principles and tenets of the Craft were possibly of little importance to some Freemasons. I found it disconcerting to read the view that the work that takes place in the Lodge Room was viewed as some sort of fearsome undertaking and intellectual challenge; and that a Masonic Sword of Damocles hangs over everyone’s head with members ‘terrified’ of getting stuff wrong. And yet the words of the article did gain some traction in my thought process, particularly when it came to the writer citing the ‘same old ceremonies syndrome’ which induce non-participants to slumber. And yes, I had to admit there are undoubtedly some Brethren who will echo the sentiment “The reason I attend Lodge is to meet my mates, have a pint (or two) and enjoy a good meal”

The Festive Board certainly evokes strong views and comment whether it be the quality of the food (average at best) the number of toasts (far too many) the length of speeches (interminably long) or the fact that people want to sit with their best friend (a veritable mine field for the dining steward). And we have all heard the differing opinions as to the importance and even the relevance of the Festive Board in the 21st century. Some Brethren claim it to be a tradition as old as Freemasonry itself; to



which we could and maybe should add the caveat, “but not as we know it”, while others accept that while the concept of dining does indeed have a lengthy association with Freemasonry, it didn’t always occur after the meeting. Records prior to the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813 confirm that it was common practice for both the Masonic meeting and the imbibing of refreshment to take place together at the same time and in the same room. The editor invites you to give your views on the Festive Board, is it too long, too expensive, what’s good and what’s not so good, and finally does it have a place in twenty first century Freemasonry?

Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

**SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
7.00PM FOR 7.30PM DINNER**

**ACTIVE
PROVINCIAL
OFFICERS
DINNER**



Masonic Hall | Stanier Road | Calne



Visit the Provincial website www.pglwilts.org.uk



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Side by Side volunteers - who are they?



When Barry Jordan-Davis told me about his friend Michael, and how he spends a few hours each week with him, I was intrigued and wanted to know more, especially when Barry explained that he and fellow Freemason Nigel Dalby is a Side by Side volunteer, a service which assists people living with dementia to continue to play active roles in their communities, and helps them to lead fulfilling lives, and reduces loneliness and isolation.

Side by Side is the brainchild of the Alzheimer's Society and Wiltshire Masonic News spoke with Diane Jenkins who is the local Side by Side co-ordinator for the Alzheimer's Society Wiltshire branch.

Dianne is passionate about the scheme and explained what a Side by Side volunteer does. "A Side by Side volunteer will help a person living with dementia to keep on doing the things they love – and trying new things too. The idea is that the volunteer and their new friend meet up, decide what they would like to do, and then do it together. It's all about having fun and feeling good – amazingly what starts off as being an opportunity to help one person often results in making a big difference to each other's lives".

You can help the Alzheimer's Society celebrate its fortieth anniversary and support the work they do by becoming a Side by Side volunteer sidebysidewiltshire@alzheimers.org.uk. Whatever is your idea of a good time - going to the gym, watching a film, a jog around the park, or just a trip to the shops followed by a cheering cup of tea or coffee, Side by Side is one way to help you keep involved with your community,

Salisbury Freemasons were especially delighted to welcome the Alzheimer's Society team to Crane Street for the Charity Presentation Evening organised by Sebastian and Charlotte Salt, which was attended by Philip Bullock PrGM, the Mayor of Salisbury and Deputy Lieutenant Lord Talbot of Malahide. The evening was a great success with representatives from thirteen charities meeting with over ninety Freemasons and their friends. The evening provided a unique opportunity to celebrate all that is good about volunteering and supporting local charities.



Barry Jordan-Davis and Nigel Dalby Side by Side with Michael

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



Step 1. Entered Apprentice



Step 2. Fellowcraft



Step 3. Master Mason



Step 4. Companion



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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						

Installation and other meetings

Thursday	Sept	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 Grand Lodge of Wiltshire
IS YOUR MASONIC HALL OPEN?



PLEASE LET US KNOW AND WE WILL ADVERTISE YOUR HERITAGE OPEN DAY EVENT

pco@pglwilts.org.uk



MASTERS' AND IMMEDIATE PAST MASTERS' DINNER

Saturday 16th November
7.30pm

The Bear Hotel
Devizes

cost £28 per person

Contact robertevanspglw@gmail.com



Dress code Black Tie!