



Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

"November's sky is chill and drear,
November's leaf is red and sear."



November 2019

Wiltshire Freemasonry

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields."

Colonel John McRae, In Flanders Fields



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We should always remember.



In last month's edition of the newsletter I quoted from L M Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, this month I would like to share a quotation from J K Rowling's fifth book in the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. "October extinguished itself in a rush of howling winds and driving rain and November arrived, cold as frozen iron, with hard frosts every morning and icy drafts that bit at exposed hands and faces." I am sure we all can identify with the sentiment expressed and as we enter, what is generally accepted as the first of the winter months, I suspect winter coats, gloves and scarves will be retrieved from storage and the central heating turned on (I hope not too high) as we recognise the need to 'do our bit' for the environment.

It cannot have escaped your notice that for very good reason the editor has placed me on page two of this edition of the newsletter. November is the month, when as a nation, we come together to remember the service and sacrifice made by men and women of our armed forces. We no longer have any living personnel from the 1914-18 war and those who fought in the 1939-45 world war are literally - 'the few. However, men and women from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth fought in other wars and conflicts, and many continue to do so. On Monday 11th November at 11:00am I trust you will take a moment to remember them and to reflect on the service they have given. I am grateful to the many Wiltshire Freemasons who will attend Remembrance services being held through out the County, and will lay wreaths on behalf of fallen comrades.

I was delighted to welcome over 350 Brethren, their partners and friends to Provincial Grand Lodge in Salisbury on Thursday 3rd October. My warmest congratulations to the Brethren who received promotions and appointments in Provincial Grand Rank. The occasion also afforded me the opportunity to announce three new initiatives in the Province. The first is the creation of a new charity, the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Foundation; the second The Peter Winton Trophy, so kindly donated by W Bro Stanley Iles; and the third, the Sarsen Club Passport which is featured on page 3 of the newsletter. Each of these initiatives demonstrates a desire on the part of the Province to promote Wiltshire Freemasonry, and while it is easy to visualise the difficulties in implementing them, I do believe the potential benefits should inspire us to make them work.

The Provincial church service at St Mary's, Calne was well attended by Brethren and Companions, as was the excellent carvery lunch prepared and served by Frances and Andrew Evans. Having attended the Provincial church service, Sally and I journeyed to Bradford on Avon to meet with the Brethren of Lodge of Friendship & Unity No.1271 and Broade Forde Lodge No.8547 who were celebrating 150 years of Freemasonry in the town, and attending evensong at Holy Trinity Church. It was lovely to see so many Freemasons in attendance.

A number of Brethren have expressed their concern that we no longer have any Provincial ties for sale. I am pleased to advise that Andrew Tiffin is 'on the case' and we expect to have a new tie available for sale in the early part of the new year.

I am sure you will have noticed that Steve Lee and the Learning & Development Team are holding two '**Finding Your Feet**' sessions in January 2020 (see page 3). Please do try to get along to one of the days. They really are a 'must' for the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Freemason who wishes to make a daily advancement.

Finally, please do make a note to attend the excellent Prestonian Lecture on Tuesday 3rd December. The event is hosted by Methuen Lodge and further details can be obtained from Ian Priest 8692@pglwilts.org.uk

Visit the Provincial website www.pglwilts.org.uk



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Reaping the reward

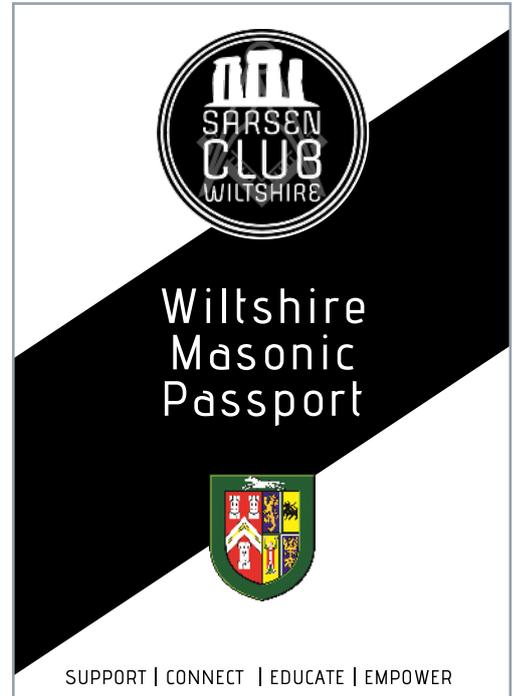
A new initiative has been launched by the Sarsen Club which sees its members being encouraged to visit each of the 44 Lodges which meet at 18 Masonic Centres around the Province.

Watch out for young Freemasons as they arrive at your Lodge with their Wiltshire Masonic Passport in a challenge which will see them journey to all four corners of Wiltshire. From Salisbury in the South, across the Plain to Swindon and Highworth in the North; and all points in between

Awards will be given to the club members who have achieved the most visits in both the Lodge and Masonic Centre challenge.

Sarsen Club Chairman Ryan Hartley writes *'This is not a race, but more of an incentive to see what Wiltshire Freemasonry has to offer, and to meet your fellow Sarsen Club Members'*.

Every Club member who visits all 44 Lodges in the Province, will be inducted into the **Sarsen Club Hall of Fame**.



MAKE A CHRISTMAS WREATH

Sally Bullock will be hosting two of her very popular Christmas Wreath making workshops at the end of November and beginning of December. You can join her in Swindon on **Saturday 30th November** or at Salisbury on **Sunday 8th December**, both sessions starts at 10.30am until 2.30pm. While tea and coffee will be provided, you are requested to bring your own food.

Sally will provide all the necessary greenery, twigs and adornments but please do feel free to bring any special decorations with which to finish off your wreath. During the morning session, Sally will demonstrate how to make a Christmas Wreath and this wreath will be raffled to raise funds for Teddies for Loving Care. The cost for the workshop is £25 per person and is open to Masonic friends and family.

Places are limited at both venues. Please e.mail Sally on sallybullock30@hotmail.com for further information.

Learning and Development
FINDING YOUR FEET

Saturday 18th January
Freemasons' Hall Salisbury

Saturday 25th January
Swindon Masonic Centre
10.30am

steve.lee22@ntlworld.com

Methuen Lodge No.8692

The Prestonian Lecture 2019

Tuesday 3rd December 6.15pm

**FREEMASONRY
AND THE
GREAT WAR**



**MASONIC
REACTION TO
THE WAR YEARS**

W.Bro. Michael (Mike) Karn, PAGSwdB

**W.Bro Ian Priest
8692@pglwilts.org.uk**



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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

Monday	Nov	4	Broade Forde	BoA
Wednesday	Nov	13	Friendship & Unity	BoA
Tuesday	Nov	26	Pleydell	Swindon
Tuesday	Nov	16	Masters' Dinner	Devizes
Tuesday	Dec	3	Prestonian Lecture	Methuen Lodge -Swindon
Wednesday	Dec	4	Vale of Avon	Chippenham
Monday	Dec	10	Lansdowne	Chippenham
Thursday	Dec	14	Tisbury	Salisbury

Best Practice -

In the absence of a clearly defined set of rules, the decision on 'what to do' in certain circumstances might seem a little daunting. Relying on a whim and prayer may suffice for a time, but not for ever. Quite frequently we revert to the tried and tested, or to put it another way 'custom and practice'. And if we are ever unsure as to how we should do something there will always be someone waiting in the wings to offer some 'words of advice'.



The Lodge Summons is a case in point. Many secretaries, especially those of longstanding, know how to compile a Summons having regard to the rules contained in the 321 pages of the Book of Constitutions. The Summons is a fairly easy document to prepare, but as is often said - 'the devil is in the detail'.

An application for membership has four very clear stages, one informal and three formal, of which the latter two have a great deal of similarity. The informal stage is the introduction and 'no commitment' getting to know each other meeting; the first of the more formal stages is the interview (Pathway to the fore) and the final two stages are the Proposal and the Ballot. You will note that there is no 'Notice of Motion' as such a stage is neither mandated for, nor is it considered necessary by both UGLE and the Province.

Assuming all goes well with stages one and two, the Lodge secretary will be asked to put into effect stages three and four. Stage four is covered by Rule 164(b) in the Book of Constitutions, and requires the publication of seven pieces of information (thankfully they are all contained in the Form P) - but what about stage three, the Proposal in open Lodge? You might be surprised to discover that the BoC is silent on what information should be on the Summons, in fact Rule 159 doesn't mention the need for any detail and Rule 163(b) refers only to the information required by the secretary from a candidate being submitted on the correct Form P.

Which brings us to 'Best Practice' as employed in the Province of Wiltshire for almost twenty years. In order to clarify and regularise the process of Proposing new Freemasons, it was determined that the self same detail used to inform Brethren of the ballot should **also** be used to advise them of the proposal.