



In touch > On line

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

Stay Alert, Control The Virus, Save Lives



June 2020

Proud to be a Wiltshire Freemason....

Wiltshire Freemasonry



When the Provincial Communication Officer asked me “would you like to write some words for **In touch > On line** I must confess I was a little apprehensive, after all it’s a long time since I had to write 600 words in an essay format. Having put on my thinking cap to prepare something for you to read I quickly realised that there was so much happening in the Province and within Freemasonry, that perhaps 600 words might not be enough. The first thing I want to say is how good it was to receive a special letter from the Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes in which he emphasised the importance of Freemasonry’s voluntary contribution to society, and our colossal involvement in all aspects of charity. He outlined just a few of the many incredible social initiatives in which Freemasons have been involved, including the manufacture of PPE, provision of meals, home visits and endless other things. Like the Pro Grand Master, I have an enormous sense of pride in what is being done especially by Brethren in Wiltshire; and I echo his words when he wrote, “What comes over loud and clear is that our Brethren are doing all this work because they **WANT** to do it.” I’m sure you all knew that the first week of June is Volunteers Week, I’m pleased to acknowledge that Wiltshire Freemasons can be found volunteering their time and talents every week of the year. Today I’m saying “Thank you for all you do”.

As part of my role in the Province I have oversight of the work of the Grand Superintendent of Works; the Provincial Mentor and the Sarsen Club. I am particularly pleased to report that Sandy Steele-Davis has been working with Masonic Hall committees to ensure the safety and security of their buildings during the ‘lockdown’. While operating on a normal cycle of activity the issue of water purity is of little consequence, when a facility is unused ‘normal rules’ don’t always apply, and I know that water suppliers have been anxious to ensure all necessary precautionary measures have been followed. In addition Sandy has advised committees on what financial assistance they may be entitled to under various Government Coronavirus assistance programmes.

The Provincial Mentor David Little has been exceptionally busy working with the recently announced and newly appointed Divisional Mentors. I know that all the Lodge Mentors have been contacted by their respective Divisional Mentor; for the sake of good order I am pleased to confirm that Foster Telford (South), Richard Wright (Central) and Alan Colman (North) have been appointed by the PrGM. Under normal circumstances they would have been introduced to you at Provincial Grand Lodge in October, however, given the current circumstances they have started work straight away.

The Sarsen Club joined Brethren from New and Young Masons Clubs (NYMC) in a number of Virtual Inter-Club Social events. Their guest speakers so far have included Christine Chapman from the HFAF, Dr David Staples CEO of UGLE and Thomas Wood, RW Grand Master of the Province of Kilwinning. The club also had a presentation from John Reid and Mark Fuller on the Holy Royal Arch; and Andy Beaumont and Steve Lee who outlined the close links between Mark Master Masons and the Craft.

On behalf of the Provincial Grand Master I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has followed the guidance from the Government and the scientific community to practise social distancing, restrict making unnecessary journeys, and to close my first piece in **In touch > On line** by reminding you of the new message from the Government - **Stay Alert, Control The Virus, Save Lives.**

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Good News is what we want to hear....

The Master of Lodge of Brothers in Arms No.9540, Colin Froude, and his wife Hilary, are volunteer guide dog boarders. They had a fairly full calendar of working guide dog bookings through this year until the lockdown took effect. The Guide Dog Association (GDA) has also had to go into lockdown as far as it can. They asked if anyone was prepared to provide 24/7 emergency response i.e. collect a dog and look after it if the owner was ill. Colin and Hilary volunteered for the extra duty, and at the end of April, the GDA called to ask them take Nico, an 8 month old guide dog puppy who was having some difficulties. He has proved to be a handful as his social skills were poor. Being in lockdown this might have seemed to be an ideal opportunity for getting out and walking twice a day. It was not to be as Nico had his own GDA imposed lockdown and was not allowed outside the front door while his issues were being resolved. There followed regular Skype calls with the GD experts and, fortunately, some good progress in sorting the dog's issues. In theory the puppy should go into final training at about 12 months but there is currently a training backlog so he will be 16-18 months before starting full time training. In the meantime, the regular GD owners have been keeping in touch as they are looking to go on holiday when it is safe to do so.



Talking Newspapers, a real bonus to those with sight loss....



Having experienced some success with our very own newsletter **In touch > On line**, we appreciate why Mike Forster, the ADC of Lodge of Brothers in Arms No 9540 and his wife Carol are keen supporters of the Gloucester Talking Newspaper. Before lockdown the newspaper was run by a team of editors, readers, operators, duplicators and deliverers. With some of the team self isolating, and in order to comply with the rules covering social distancing, Mike and Carol have done all but the editing between them while at home. Should 'needs must' Carol, who is chairwoman of the Gloucester Talking Newspaper, says that she and Mike are ready to do the editing. What a pair of troupers.

BBC Wiltshire radio talks to Gooch member Paul Moffatt....

The Province's initiative to support St Joseph's School in Salisbury (they make the full face visors), Corsham Lodge's Food Box delivery, and John Moorehouse's Hearts That Care has attracted the attention of BBC Wiltshire Radio and all three have been featured in their Making A Difference segment. We are pleased to report that Paul Moffatt - Gooch Lodge No.1295 was the latest Wiltshire Freemason to talk with BBC Radio presenter Jonathan Fido: Paul was asked about the support given to the Swindon Food Collective who provide emergency food parcels.

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Working together Craft and Mark....

Members of the Craft, and Mark Master Masons in the Province, have joined forces to provide much needed PPE is provided to care homes and surgeries in the county. Provincial Grand Master MMM Andy Beaumont is pleased to confirm that Lansdowne Lodge MMM No. 1035 has delivered 50 visors to Mavern House Care Home in Atworth, and Elias de Derham Lodge MMM No. 443 has delivered 50 to Salisbury Hospice. Organiser Bob Blake confirms that another order for 100 visors has already been placed and he looks forward to working with Brethren in the Craft to distribute them in due course.



Lodge Newsletters, a great way to communicate....

Last month we wrote that an online newsletter is probably one of the most productive ways to keep members of the Lodge informed, entertained and educated. White Horse Lodge No.2227 has published its second newsletter, and what a cracking read it is. If your Lodge is interested in producing a regular newsletter please contact editor@pglwilts.org.uk and let us help you get started.

Museum of Freemasonry wants a Heart That Cares....



But, not just any heart, they want a Wiltshire one. The Museum of Freemasonry located at Freemason's Hall in the very heart of London's Covent Garden; have asked for a couple of John Moorehouse's **Hearts That Care**.

Vicky Carroll from the museum is gathering items for a future Covid-19 collection for the Museum of Freemasonry, and items like Wiltshire's **Hearts That Care** are a great example of what could become part of the collection.



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Chippenham Lodges - working together....

Members from Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No.626 and Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432, both of whom



meet in Chippenham, were keen to help the Provincial effort to supply PPE (full face visors) to local care homes. They had also read of the exploits of John Deanes, Tom Snell and members of Corsham Lodge No.6616 who were donating boxes of 'goodies' to care home staff. Working to the principle that it's often never worth re-inventing the wheel, the Brethren delivered a

selection of much needed 'comfort and cheer' to local care homes..

St Aldhelm Lodge No.2888

Ian Mace (Almoner) and Brethren from St Aldhelm Lodge No.2888 have delivered full face visors (PPE) to a local Malmesbury care home, where it was very quickly put to good use.



Solomon introduced by John....

The UGLE Communication Team has recruited John to help them promote SOLOMON the online learning programme; and John was introduced to members of the Province on Facebook and on the Provincial website. While John isn't real (so no salary cost) he is the creation of Rosa and he appears to be really good at getting the message across. You can see what John has to say by visiting www.pglwilts.org.uk



The Peter Winton Trophy....

Is your Lodge doing something 'special' this year to support or help those affected by the Covid 19 virus? Doing something which promotes Freemasonry in the local community, and which makes your Lodge a contender for **The Peter Winton Trophy**. Nomination Forms are available online, visit www.pglwilts.org.uk and click on The Peter Winton Trophy image.



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