



"Just being there when that's where I needed them to be.
There are no better friends than that."

March 2021

The sun will rise tomorrow....



As we enter what we hope is the final furlong in what has surely been a marathon journey, I have been reminded of some words written by Aaron Lauritsen in his best selling work '100 Days Drive: The Great North American Road Trip'. Lauritsen writes *"There is strange comfort in knowing that no matter what happens today, the Sun will rise again tomorrow."* You might feel that there is a similarity in these words to a verse from the Volume of the Sacred Law. *"Don't worry about tomorrow. It will take care of itself. You have enough to worry about today."* I am sure my good friend

the Provincial Chaplain will have a view on this, and will doubtless consider a response in one of his excellent 'Thought For The Day' homilies. Having watched a news clip on the funeral of Captain Sir Tom Moore, what I get from these two quotes is a clearer understanding of what he meant when he said *"Tomorrow will be a better day."* He is right, and it will be.

Quotations, whether from the VSL, a ritual book, or an outstanding work of literature, can be instructive, comforting, inspiring, and motivational. Many quotes carry with them a moral, social or spiritual message; some can be very annoying, especially if the underlying message is one we just don't want to hear. I suppose it's not only quotes which have that effect. I am often told things which are important to the person telling me but which I don't necessarily want to hear. In these circumstances it's all too easy to shoot the messenger and ignore the message - which is not a particularly wise move. I mention this as guidance on a number of subjects is transmitted across the Province. Sometimes the message is not welcomed by the recipient, but that is not an acceptable excuse for being rude to the messenger. One of the principal virtues we expect to see practised by every Freemason is kindness. A lack of kindness towards each other is often cited as a major factor in Brethren becoming disaffected and leaving the Craft. Quite amazingly it is often the case that those Brethren who claim to be 'charitable' are seemingly more likely to be guilty of being discourteous and rude to their fellow Brethren. The author JM Barrie wrote *"Always try to be a little kinder than is necessary."* Today could be the right time to recalibrate, to imitate that what you see praiseworthy in others, while recognising the need to amend any defects in behaviour.

Thank you to all the Lodges which have responded to the Provincial Secretary advising of plans to hold meetings during the summer months. I know some Lodges are planning to hold multiple meetings in order to welcome in to Freemasonry good men who have patiently been waiting to be initiated.

The Provincial Secretary tells me he has heard from Masonic Halls which will be displaying a banner celebrating **NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day** on Monday 5th July. This is a really fantastic opportunity for us to show our appreciation of NHS and Care workers.

Finally, I am absolutely delighted to mention and congratulate ten Wiltshire Freemasons, each of whom received a very special Certificate of Commendation from the MW Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent (see page 3). The certificate recognised their outstanding contribution to Freemasonry's role in the nation's fight against Covid-19, and I am sure you will join me in extending to them the Province's heartiest congratulations.

Wiltshire Freemasons



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NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day....

Wiltshire Freemasons have certainly embraced the opportunity to join in the celebration of NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day at 10.00am on 5 July 2021.

Masonic halls across the Province have made enquiries about purchasing a NHS banner to display outside their building, or as one Lodge has decided, the nearest set of railings. If you have a suitable fixing point at your Masonic Centre or hall, or space to hang a banner, they are available from the supplier's website <https://www.nhsfrontlineday.org/merchadisers/j-w-plant-co-ltd/> (please note that only official flags, bunting and banners can be used).

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to show your appreciation of NHS and Care workers. If your Lodge or a member of your Lodge is doing something special to mark the occasion, please do let me know, and don't forget a picture paints a thousand words.



Congratulations....

The MW Grand Master His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent has been pleased to promote two members of Gooch Lodge No.1295 . Bro Ian Clark will become a Past Grand Sword Bearer which rank entitles him to be known as VW Bro Ian Clark: and Bro Simon Leighfield APrGM is promoted to the rank of Past Senior Grand Deacon. In addition Bro Michael Wilson (pic. Right) a member of Clarendon Lodge No.5908 receives a first appointment as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. Mike will be best known for his outstanding support and service to the Province as a key member of the Provincial Communication Team.



Quarterly Communication Meeting of Grand Lodge....

In anticipation of a return to Masonic 'normality' - the MW Grand Master has been empowered to set a date for the June Quarterly Communication meeting at any point up to the end of July. This temporary change in the BoC will allow Grand Lodge to take full advantage of any relaxation in the restrictions imposed by the Government's Covid-19 policy, which could result in an opportunity to hold a larger gathering at Freemasons' Hall.

Freemasons
Wiltshire



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Decem viri....

Which as everyone knows can be roughly translated to read as 'ten good men'. The Provincial Grand Master is pleased to advise that ten Wiltshire Freemasons have been honoured by the MW Grand Master HRH the Duke of Kent with a Grand Master's Certificate of Commendation to recognise their outstanding contribution to Freemasonry's role in our nations' fight against Covid-19, particularly during the first period of lockdown. The PrGM and his executive offer their warmest congratulations to John Moorehouse, John Deane, Tom Snell, Paul Sharp, Craig Nicholson, Ian Mace, Bob Firth, Peter Tuite, Mark Fuller and Peter Taviner.



Not many people know this....

No private Lodge is permitted to use the Arms of the United Grand Lodge of England; or that any design used as a Lodge emblem, whether on summonses, Lodge stationery, or as a Lodge banner must first be approved or allowed by the MW The Grand Master.



With the increasing use of social media and the ease with which emblems can be designed and placed on media sites, it has become necessary to review the use of logos, emblems and designs being used throughout the Province. The purpose of the review is not to prevent the use of such emblems, but to make sure the use is properly authorised. The use of emblems, especially those containing items of a heraldic nature are unlikely to be approved, and even Arms which are extinct may not be used unless written permission to use them was given before they became extinct.

Many Lodges in the distant past have had banners made, or included designs on their Summons or paperwork without first seeking and obtaining proper approval. A banner may therefore be extremely old but its renewal may not be approved because no permission for the previous design existed and the design may not be approvable.

Is your Lodge using an unauthorised design on your lodge Summons, stationery or social media sites (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). During the coming months members of the Communication Team will be asking Lodge secretaries to confirm whether or not the Lodge has permission

Border Lodge members helping out....

It was good to hear from Stephen Smith of Border Lodge No.3129 who told the editor of the tremendous work being undertaken by members of the Lodge who are acting as Covid - 19 marshals, Temperature checkers, initial Booking reference clerks and data entry staff at the Ludgershall Memorial Hall Vaccination Centre. Well done to everyone who has played a vital role in helping to make the vaccination programme such a success.

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Devizes Freemason jumps for Julia's House....



Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity No.663 member Kent Baxter will be jumping for Julia's House a local hospice which provides frequent, flexible care for children with life-limited or life-threatening conditions to give their parents a much-needed break. Kent said: "I am taking on this challenge because I want to help families facing unimaginable heartbreak - the knowledge that their child may not live into adulthood." To support Kent and Julia's House hospice and for more details email the Lodge secretary 663@pglwilts.org.uk

Hearts That Care....

John Moorehouse of White Horse Lodge No.2227 is just one of the Wiltshire Freemasons supporting the NHS Covid -19 vaccination hub at Salisbury's City Hall. He is also the man who introduced Hearts That Care to Wiltshire. During the period of the Covid-19 pandemic John has been distributing the beautifully crafted glass hearts to health and care workers. The team of volunteers working at Salisbury received their very own Heart That Cares.



So what does the Provincial Mentor do?

It's a great question and one which will be answered by the Provincial Mentor David Little who is in the hot seat on Friday 26th March at 7.30pm. Book your place today and discover why mentoring is something we need to talk about and practice on a regular basis.

Lodge Mentors have an important role in making the newly made Freemason welcome. They also play a key part in supporting every member of the Lodge and to make sure they are happy and contented, and fully involved in the life of the Lodge.

Wiltshire Freemasons

Wiltshire Freemasons
invite you to

MEET THE PROVINCIAL MENTOR

Zoom Friday 26th March 7.30pm
email: pcowiltshire@gmail.com

Bro David Little
Provincial Mentor

Mentor
Coach



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A proud son and grandson....

Bro Kieran German, son of Bro Tony German and Grandson of Bro Jim Newton is one of the many thousands of St John Ambulance volunteers who have been working with their NHS colleagues at Vaccination Hubs across the country.

Kieran is assisting and actually "Jabbing" as a volunteer at the NHS Vaccination Programme in the West Midlands



Proud to be a
Wiltshire
Freemason

Kieran German
Moonraker Lodge
No. 8747