



AUGUST 2025

There's a first for everything...



Steve Lee

And this is a first for me, the opportunity to write the forward for the August edition of our Provincial Newsletter. I'm sure you have been following the comments on Community Engagement and the view that this is an essential part of a Freemason's obligation as set out in the fourth of the four principles - **Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Service**. The UGLE has cited Community Engagement as being important if we are "To cement our reputation as a force for good in our communities and society at large."

Last month the Deputy Provincial Grand Master referred to members of The Border Lodge No.3129 who demonstrated that 'charity is in a freemason's DNA' by volunteering their time. Not to be outdone Ludgershall's Forget-Me-Not Lodge No.9035 made a substantial donation to support the excellent work Alabare are doing in helping displaced and homeless Veterans get back on their feet.

However, it's also important to remember that volunteering and donating should be practised at home, and by home I mean helping to make sure your Masonic Hall is maintained to a high standard and that the fabric of the building as well as that of the Lodge Room is testament to how we feel about Freemasonry.

From a local perspective I know that Howard Jones and a small team of helpers have undertaken a huge project of much needed re-organisation, maintenance and decoration at the Swindon Masonic Centre. The 'donated hours' given to this work is just as important as any volunteering undertaken for a non-masonic cause. Please do let the editor know if your members have been engaged in similar work during the summer break, and if you have a couple of pictures please send them to comms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

Members of Highworth Lodge No.9090 hosted a BBQ at John Bridgeman's Haydon Wick home and I'm delighted to report that it proved a great success. This is just one way of engaging with the Lodge membership and I congratulate Gooch Lodge No.1295 and Vastern Lodge No.8977 for holding similar functions for members, families, and friends. I'm pleased to hear that several Swindon Lodges are arranging curry evenings on **Tuesday 12th August** and **Wednesday 27th August** - contact Vince Wheeler if you're a Swindon based curry fan and he will put you in touch with the organisers.

Have you registered to attend the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge? If not please do consider doing so. All Master Masons will receive a Summons to attend and we do look forward to welcoming you to The Civic, Trowbridge on Thursday 2nd October. You can register on line using the following online link: <https://tinyurl.com/ProvGL2025>. Incidentally, for the current Acting Officers who will be 'on duty' there will be two rehearsals, one on **Wednesday 13th August** and the second on **Wednesday 20th August**. The venue is Trowbridge Masonic Hall and each rehearsal will commence at **6.30pm**.

I know just how much Teddies For Loving Care means to our members and I am particularly pleased that members of the Thamesdown Ladies Choir (TLC) have agreed to perform at a concert in aid of this wonderful charity. For those of you with long memories I'm sure you will recall TLC sang for TLC in May 2015 in Christchurch, Marlborough. I do hope you will join me at St Andrew's Church, Swindon for what I am sure will be a wonderful evening of music especially as we will have music from the shows.

Finally, you can support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival and enjoy a 'tippie' of Three Degrees Gin. Available in three super flavours and you can order on line at tinyurl.com/ThreeDegGin



In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



AUGUST 2025

VOLUNTEER

YOUR MASONIC CENTRE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Swindon Masonic Centre will be closed during July and August while essential repairs and decoration is carried out.

Work will take place over each weekend starting Saturday 5th July finishing on Sunday 31st August

The Centre is looking for able bodied and willing volunteers to make a positive contribution to The Planks; if you can wield a paint brush you will be most welcome. If you have a trade - so much the better

contact **Howard Jones** directly at:
howardjones2006@outlook.com
if you are able to assist on any of the planned weekends.

HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

THE CIVIC | TROWBRIDGE

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER
2.30PM

www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



Image by Adrian Wooster

Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England

CALLING CURRENT ACTING OFFICERS

If you're a current acting officer your attendance is requested at the two rehearsals to be held prior to the Provincial Grand Lodge AGM.



RW Bro John C Reid
Provincial Grand Master

Please book the dates:

Wednesday 13th August 6.30pm

Wednesday 27th August 6.30pm

Trowbridge Masonic Hall.

VW Bro Simon R Leighfield **PGSwdB**
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

W Bro Steve Lee **PJGD**
Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Dear Sir and Brother,

July 2025

By command of the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held in the Lansdown Hall, The Civic, Trowbridge under the banners of Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No. 626, The Border Lodge No. 3129 and Wiltshire Lodge of Agriculture No. 9090 on **Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 2.30 pm.**

All Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers, Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the Province are summoned to attend. Master Masons are invited to be present.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

1 The Grove

Warminster

Robert J Evans

BA12 8QL

Provincial Grand Secretary

Telephone 01985 214 874

Brethren are to wear dark Lounge Suits or Morning Dress with full dress Regalia (no gauntlets) and are requested to be in their seats in the Lansdown Hall by **2.00 pm**. It is the wish of the Provincial Grand Master that members wear the Provincial Tie.

Lunch (11.45 am for 12.00 pm) will be available in the **Usher Suite** for Brethren and their Masonic guests, subject to seats being available. **Lunch is £35 per head** which includes wine. Bookings may be made using the following online link: [Click Here](#) and payments may be made to

Sort Code: 23-05-80

Account Number: 43153161

Reference: your Lodge number and your surname as a reference, eg 1234Bloggs.

Alternatively, bookings with remittance (giving name, initials, rank, Lodge number and any dietary requirements) can be sent to J H Deane Esq, 10 West Park Road, Corsham, SN13 9LN. Cheques to be made payable to **The Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire**. Bookings must be made as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 5th September 2025**.

The Provincial Committee will meet at **The Masonic Hall, Trowbridge, at 7.00 pm on Friday 5th September 2025** to receive the accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, to consider the disposal of funds and to transact any other Masonic business.



AUGUST 2025

Business of Provincial Grand Lodge

1. Welcome and Opening Ode
2. To open Provincial Grand Lodge
3. The RW Provincial Grand Master will be saluted according to ancient form
4. The RW Provincial Grand Master will greet our guests
5. The attendance of Provincial Officers and Lodges will be acknowledged
6. In Memoriam
7. The Minutes of the Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held at Trowbridge on Thursday 3rd October 2024 will be submitted for approval
8. To receive the Provincial Grand Treasurer's accounts
9. To elect a Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year; W Bro Clive L Emerson is nominated
10. To receive the report of the Provincial Grand Registrar
11. To receive the report of the Provincial Committee held on 5th September 2025
12. To elect the following for the ensuing year:
 - a. Two Brethren to serve as Account Examiners for the ensuing year; W Bro Keith R S Surry and W Bro Derek K Gibbens are nominated
 - b. Two Brethren to act as Account Examiners for the Wiltshire Masonic Charity Foundation; W Bro David Wallace and W Bro Colin W Ayton are nominated
 - c. Two Brethren to serve as Wiltshire representative members of the Masonic Charitable Foundation; W Bro Derek Gibbens and W Bro Chris Robbins are nominated
13. Wiltshire Association reports
14. The RW Provincial Grand Master will re-appoint as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Simon R Leighfield **PGSwdB**
15. The RW Provincial Grand Master will re-appoint as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Stephen Lee **PJGD**
16. The RW Provincial Grand Master will appoint and invest the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year
17. The Provincial Grand Officers will be saluted
18. The RW Provincial Grand Master will address the Brethren
19. To attend to any other Masonic Business
20. To close Provincial Grand Lodge
21. Closing Ode

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Alms will be received in aid of the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. Alms may be donated before the meeting at the Charity desk or on exiting Provincial Grand Lodge.

TLC sing for

Thamesdown Ladies Choir

TLC

Teddies For Loving Care



Thamesdown Ladies Choir
in concert with

JAYDEN KAYE

songs from the shows

SHELLEY MORGAN
FRANCES COULDRIDGE
piano duets

Saturday 27th September 7.00pm

St Andrew's Methodist Church
Moredon Road | Swindon

Book Your Seats Using This Link
<https://tinyurl.com/TLCsingsTLC>

Free admission | donations in lieu

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

TLC
Teddies for
Loving Care
Wiltshire





AUGUST 2025

Forget Me Not Lodge No.9035 Supporting Local Veterans...

Members of Forget-Me-Not Lodge No. 9035 meeting in Ludgershall visited the Alabare Community self-build for Veterans site in Ludgershall to present a cheque for £2,000 to support the excellent work Alabare are doing in helping displaced and homeless Veterans get back on their feet.

Past Master Dave Bradley, WM Ade Herbert and W.Bro Martyn Dean were among members of the Lodge that attended the site to see first-hand the positive and 'life-changing impact this project is having on local veterans.

Frank Nelson, the Project Manager and Support Officer of the site gave a detailed overview of the progress the project has made and explained Self-Build has two main aspects to it: *"The obvious primary outcome is several dwellings, but more importantly, the self-builder rebuilds their life by helping to build their home. The site itself becomes a platform for recovery and transformation, leading to paid work and independent living"*.

The Alabaré Community Self-Build for Veterans in LDP is the result of a true partnership, formed with a shared vision to deliver a flagship quality housing scheme, while helping socially excluded veterans to rebuild their lives.

The Members of the Lodge, many of whom have a military association have a long history of supporting and donating to several Alabare projects over the years and are proud to continue that support of such a worthwhile and productive project.



For more information on the work that Alabare do: <https://alabare.co.uk/>



AUGUST 2025

Supporting the Wiltshire 2028 Festival...

Inspired by the rare flowers found on the vast chalk plateaus of Salisbury Plain and produced by a local distillery in Melksham, Three degrees Dry Gin comprises three flavours. Alongside a traditional Dry Gin there will be Orange Gin, and Pink Gin. Three Degrees Gin is only £40 a bottle and all profit will be given to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival. Contact Mark Newman to pre-order or simply click on tinyurl.com/ThreeDegGin



3 DEGREES Gin - £39.99

Distilled in wiltshire - NOW AVAILABLE

3 Distinct flavours, Award winning Gin, Pink Gin & Orange Gin

ALL PROFITS TO THE WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL



AUGUST 2025



FIAT LUX LODGE No.9773
Invite you to join them for lunch
and a talk by
GILLIAN CANE
The Masonic Hall Morris Lane
Devizes SN10 1NU



THE MIRACLE OF BLETCHLEY PARK

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 12.00pm

Parking close by available on request

Freemasons are invited to the short business meeting prior to the talk. We tyle at 1100 hrs.

Mention Bletchley Park and you immediately think of the Enigma coding machine but this incredible location was home to many more secrets and Gillian will talk about some of the brilliant and truly eccentric characters who peopled the Park during the Second World War (it was not unusual to come to the office still wearing your pyjamas) and the part they played in achieving Victory in Europe.

Gillians talk will be followed by a superb 3-course luncheon. Non-masons and guests are very welcome to the talk and lunch. These talks at Fiat Lux are extremely popular, so it is advisable to book early.

Book with Les Welling leslieroywelling@gmail.com.

BACS. Fiat Lux Lodge: Sort Code: 30-99-50 Account number: 03149227.

Or book now and pay on the day. Lunch and Talk £20.00pp. Talk only. £7.00pp.

Please state any dietary requirements

Closing date for booking: 14 November 2025. Bookings cannot be accepted after this date

Gillian was one of the earliest female recruits who trained at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and the first women ever to serve with The Royal Green Jackets when Les Welling was a Company Sergeant Major.

All funds raised will be donated to
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

There will be a raffle during lunch.





AUGUST 2025

If you're a Swindon Freemason...

As we approach the start of the new Masonic season, Alan Colman, Vice-chairman of the Swindon Masonic Association pleased to share updates regarding catering and bar arrangements at The Planks for 2025/2026.

Catering



We're delighted to welcome Lee Downie of Sims Catering as our new chef caterer. Sims Catering is a family run business that has been established since 1988, with many years of experience in providing a first class catering service to Freemasons at Salisbury and Ludgershall.

The cost of catering will be £25 per head including cheese and biscuits plus coffee with the usual £2 reduction for each course not taken. This is our first price change in two years, and we're confident the excellent quality of Lee's food will more than justify the modest increase. I'm also pleased to confirm that our current serving staff will remain, transferring over to Sims Catering.

It is important that the number of diners, menu choices, and any dietary requirements are given to the caterer at least five working days before a meeting. Everyone understands that numbers may change closer to the day and Lee will always do his best to accommodate late changes, but if you book, it follows you must pay. Minimum numbers for dining remain at 20 people.

Non-Masonic Events and Centre Bookings

If you or your Lodge are planning any non-Masonic functions, such as private dinners, social evenings, or other events, these can be arranged directly with Sims Catering. Alan will continue to manage the diary for The Planks, so all enquiries about using the Centre must be made with him. Once the date is confirmed, Lodge Secretaries or dining stewards are welcome to liaise with Lee regarding catering and event details.

Bar

The bar at The Planks will be open whenever there is hot catering. In common with other organisations there will be a small price increase across the range of drinks offered. The SMA is excited to introduce the new Provincial Three Degrees Masonic Gin which will be available soon. Look out for details in this issue of **InTouch>OnLine** for how you can buy your very own bottle(s) and remember drinking Three Degrees Gin helps support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival.

The Planks - Improvements

The SMA with help from Lodge volunteers have been hard at work throughout July and August. Improvements have been made to the Lodge Room, Tyler's Room, Boiler Room, Entrance Lobby, Robing Room, Long Room and its Offices, Storage Room, Hall Stairs and Landing, and the Rehearsal Room. When you next visit the Swindon Masonic Centre we are sure you will agree the changes have made a real and positive difference to the facility.

In addition, Swindon Masonic Centre is pleased to welcome Highworth Lodge No. 9009 to The Planks with their first meeting in their new home scheduled for Friday 19th September.

If you have any questions or need clarification on any of the changes please don't hesitate to get in touch with Alan.



The Royal Arch...

Soon to be released - A new guide to help you explore fresh perspectives and confidently engage with curious Master Masons and spark your interest in the Royal Arch like never before.



Wiltshire Freemasons

One Journey • One Organisation



YOUR LODGE NAME AND NUMBER

The Lodge name should be shown in full and the number must always be preceded with 'No.' (i.e. the lettering capital 'N', small 'o' and a full stop. {No.})

Rule 98 BoC

Lodge of Rectitude No. 335



Lodge of Rectitude 335



Rectitude Lodge



DID YOU
?
KNOW