



OCTOBER 2025

Building Together...



John Reid

Building Together is the theme for this year's Provincial Grand Lodge and is intended to reinforce the initiative from Grand Lodge.

For many of our Members the union of the Antient and Modern Grand Lodges in 1813 will probably be nothing more than something they hear at the presentation of a Grand Lodge Certificate; and yet it is such an important part of our Masonic history

The union was sealed with an historic announcement referred to as the *Preliminary Declaration* the words of which can be found in the Book of Constitutions under the heading GENERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CRAFT.

The declaration made clear that English Freemasonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz, those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch. This declaration has been accepted without reservation by English Freemasons for over 200 years. Today, with a few 'cosmetic' changes the declaration remains a key feature of English Freemasonry and forms the basis for a new initiative aptly titled **Building Together**.

Every Master Mason should aspire to continue their journey from Initiation in the Craft to Exaltation as a Companion in the Royal Arch, after all there are four parts to a Freemason's journey. The connection of the Craft to the Royal Arch makes English Freemasonry unique around the world and represents an important part of our history and heritage.

By the time a Brother becomes a Master Mason, it is hoped that he will have learnt a lot during his Masonic journey and having made such progress will have been made aware that his journey is not yet complete because there is more to learn. The Craft starts you on this voyage of discovery, but it is only in the Royal Arch that you learn how to pursue it to the next level

In my address to Provincial Grand Lodge I will be reinforcing the central message and developing the theme of **Building Together**. I will also be pleased to launch Wiltshire's very own **Welcome Companion** booklet, which is designed to assist Companions of the Royal Arch to explain how the metaphorical journey in the Craft is the transition from rough to perfect ashlar, while the Royal Arch represents the completion of that journey — the stage when the perfect ashlar becomes part of a larger, more complete structure.

If you have not yet completed your Masonic journey and want to know more about the Royal Arch please contact your Lodge Royal Arch representative or email RAComms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

I am pleased to advise that the team has made it possible for attendees to enjoy a 'tipple' of Three Degrees Gin and support the Wiltshire 2028 Festival during the hours before Provincial Grand Lodge commences proceedings. Available in three super flavours (you can order on line at tinyurl.com/ThreeDegGin)

This year Provincial Grand Lodge will meet under the banners of Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No.626, The Border Lodge No.3129, and Wiltshire Lodge of Agriculture No.9090. I am grateful to the Master, Wardens, and the Brethren of each of these Lodges for their support in the provision of Stewards for the day.

For 2026 the host Lodges for Provincial Grand Lodge will be The Pleydell Lodge No.4687, St Edmund Lodge No.4714, and Harry C Preater Lodge No.8204.



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF WILTSHIRE



PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER
OF WILTSHIRE

Dear Brethren and Companions

September 2025

I am pleased to announce the rollout of **Building Together** which will be launched at Provincial Grand Lodge on Thursday 2nd October. This exciting initiative brings together The Members' Pathway and Archway into a single resource, aligned with our Membership Strategy: One Journey, One Organisation.

The key highlights of the **Building Together** programme:

- **The journey starts with a man being made a Freemason.**

When interviewing candidates for Initiation, it is important to emphasise that they are not only joining a Lodge, as essential as that is, but they are also joining Freemasonry which is more than just an organisation. Their journey will span four stages – three within the Craft and one in a Royal Arch Chapter of their choosing. This final stage completes their journey in Pure Antient Masonry.

- **Reinforcing the Masonic Journey in Lodge.**

Following each ceremony of Initiation, Passing, and Raising, the three special readings that describe a Mason's progress can be read by the Worshipful Master, or a Brother with a special interest in the development of the new Freemason. Copies of these readings will be distributed by the Communication team, and further copies can be accessed online. This practice helps reinforce the meaning and continuity of the Masonic experience.

- **Distribution of educational material.**

Please ensure that the relevant booklets are provided at each stage of a Brother's Masonic journey. Additionally, when a Master Mason receives his Grand Lodge Certificate, please reference the Royal Arch and issue a copy of the "Discover More" booklet, helping to raise awareness and curiosity about the next stage. The booklet is available on the Provincial website on the Craft, and Royal Arch front pages.

I encourage all Lodges and Chapters to embrace and support this initiative. It is only by **Building Together** that we can ensure every Brother is guided, informed, and inspired throughout his Masonic journey.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Kind regards

John Reid

Provincial Grand Master | Most Excellent Grand Superintendent



OCTOBER 2025

Blackballing a candidate.

Is it ever right to blackball a candidate? The answer must surely be, yes it is – otherwise there would be no point whatsoever in allowing for such an action in the Book of Constitutions.

The better question might be, under what circumstances is a blackball justified?

It's worth noting that the position with regard to blackballing has given rise to a number of cases that have found their way to Grand Lodge for an opinion or adjudication.

It should be recognised that not every blackballing of a candidate is wrong. Etiquette demands that proper process and procedure should be followed whenever it is suggested that there may be an objection to a candidate.

First and foremost a Lodge is a group of Brethren who meet together to enjoy the Craft and equally importantly, each other's company. This statement suggests, quite correctly, that a Lodge exists primarily for the benefit of its existing members and the harmony of the Lodge, the issue of someone wishing to join the Lodge is a secondary consideration for the members, albeit Grand Lodge and the Province may have a slightly different view.

The key to whether a blackball is justified is grounded on the basis that there are real grounds to a genuine objection to a candidate. This gives rise to clear obligations on the part of the members not to abuse the right to register their objection to a candidate.

Masonic guidance has been provided by the Grand Registrar.

"On the election of a candidate for initiation, or any other election, each Brother has the right to vote, and the right to vote, of course implies a right to blackball. But that right must be exercised in good faith, and is capable of being abused, and the abuse of it may be a Masonic offence. The right is conferred on the understanding that it will be exercised in good faith, and in what are, or what the Brother honestly believes to be, the interest of the Craft in general and the Lodge in particular. Within those limits a Brother can vote as he pleases. He should not use the blackball wantonly or without some definite reason, **and he must not do so merely to gratify some personal resentment or as a means of revenge for some real or supposed grievance.** Still less must he do so in order to punish or injure some other Brother or Brethren, or to hinder the progress and prosperity of the Lodge. If he so uses the vote, he abuses the right, and is guilty of a breach of the trust imposed in him, and so commits a Masonic offence."

Blackballing a candidate is a serious matter as such it should be avoided if at all possible. For that reason Lodge By-Laws generally carry a short note recommending that any objection be notified to the Master or Secretary who may give the sponsor the opportunity of withdrawing his candidate.

The following words of the Grand Registrar may be considered pertinent, "A Brother... is not bound to disclose whether he voted, or how he voted, or why he so voted; but if it is proved that he deliberately misused the vote – if for instance, he blackballs a Candidate, not because he has any object to that particular Candidate, but in order to be revenged for some real or supposed grievance, or for some similar reason....he has, I suggest to you, done that which will justify the interference of the lodge, and even his exclusion by the Lodge."



In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



OCTOBER 2025

Meeting Calendar for October...

October's meeting calendar is brought to you by Paul Robinson with the help of the Secretaries and Scribes who provide the information on 'what is going on' in the Lodge or Chapter.

WILTSHIRE LODGE AND CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 2025

Date	Lodge/Chapter Name	No.	Ceremony	Location
1	Longleat Lodge	L1478	2 nd Degree	Warminster
1	Lodge of Remembrance	L4037	2 nd Degree	Swindon
1	Sarum Lodge	L5137	Installation	Salisbury
1	Vale of Avon Lodge	L8432	2 nd Degree	Chippenham
2	Provincial Grand Lodge	Prov	PGL	Trowbridge
3	Calley Lodge	L7525	Installation	Swindon
4	Forget Me-Not Lodge	L9035	1 st Degree	Ludgershall
6	Downton Lodge	L9064	1 st Degree	Downton
7	Lodge of Loyalty	L1533	Installation	Marlborough
7	Methuen Lodge	L8692	2 nd Degree	Swindon
7	Lodge of Brothers in Arms	L9540	3 rd Degree *1	Salisbury
7	St Aldhelm Chapter	C2888	Lecture	Chippenham
7	Chapter of Rectitude	C335	Lecture	Calne
8	Lodge of Friendship & Unity	L1271	2 nd Degree	Bradford On Avon
8	Stonehenge Lodge	L6114	Installation	Salisbury
8	Wiltshire Chapter	C355	Installation	Swindon
9	Lodge Elias de Derham	L586	3 rd Degree	Salisbury
9	Clarendon Lodge	L5908	2 nd Degree	Trowbridge
9	Border Chapter	C3129	Exaltation	Ludgershall
10	Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation	L355	1 st Degree	Swindon
13	Lodge of Concord	L632	1 st Degree	Trowbridge
13	Harry C Preator Lodge	L8204	2 nd Degree *1	Swindon
14	Lansdowne Lodge of Unity	L626	3 rd Degree	Chippenham
14	Methuen Chapter	C1533	Demo Exaltation	Marlborough
15	Gooch Lodge	L1295	Lecture	Swindon
15	The Border Lodge	L3129	1 st Degree	Ludgershall
15	Vastern Lodge	L8977	3 rd Degree	Calne
15	Lodge of Innocence and Morality	L9587	3 rd Degree	East Knoyle
16	Corsham Lodge	L6616	2 nd Degree	Corsham
16	Fiat Lux Lodge	L9773	2 nd Degree	Devizes
17	Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity	L663	1 st Degree	Devizes
17	Highworth Lodge	L9009	3 rd Degree	Swindon
18	Wyvern Lodge	L8620	1 st Degree	Warminster
18	Tisbury Lodge	L8718	2 nd Degree *1	Salisbury
20	Chaloner Lodge	L2644	1 st Degree	Melksham
20	The City Lodge	L5955	1 st Degree	Salisbury
21	White Horse Lodge	L2227	Installation	Westbury
21	St Aldhelm Lodge	L2888	3 rd Degree	Chippenham
22	Radnor Lodge	L4451	Installation	Salisbury
22	Moonraker Lodge	L8747	3 rd Degree	Devizes
23	New Temple Lodge	L8435	1 st Degree	Swindon
24	Highworth Chapter	C9009	Exaltation	Swindon
27	Lodge of Good Fellowship	L8388	Installation	Marlborough
27	Chapter of Concord	C632	Exaltation *1	Trowbridge
28	Pleydell Lodge	L4687	2 nd Degree (PM)	Swindon
28	St Edmund	L4714	2 nd Degree	Calne
29	George Duke of Kent	L8788	3 rd Degree	Swindon
31	Wiltshire Lodge of Agriculture	L9090	Installation	Corsham

*1 = Double Ceremony

To email the lodge Secretary or Chapter Scribe, simply add @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk after the lodge or chapter prefix and number shown