



Was it warm enough?



John Reid

For many of us the weather over the past few weeks has been something we have either enjoyed or endured, for my part I was very glad that there were very few meetings at which I had to sit in a Lodge room, in full regalia and wearing my gloves. I was reminded that the last time we experienced such incredible temperatures was in 1976 when for 15 days the outside temperatures exceeded 32 degrees centigrade.

Some of our senior members have been particularly affected by the excessive temperatures and I trust that whenever possible you might have checked up on them just to make sure they are alright. I am grateful to Howard Jones (Gooch Lodge No.1295) who provided a very easy to read, and understand guide on the importance of keeping hydrated.

In last month's edition of [InTouch > OnLine](#) I wrote about the importance of standards in our Lodge meetings and I make no apology for repeating a particular point which is that our performance goal should always be aimed at excellence and not mediocrity. I know this view was met with a little resistance from some quarters with some saying what's important is that a Brother tries his best - to which I can only ask 'is, and should that really be the ONLY criteria by which we measure performance?' I don't think so - indeed I challenge that idea based on the belief that no Brother tries to do anything but their best, it's just that sometimes that's just not enough. It's for this reason that the Learning and Development Team with the expert guidance of Alan Colman and others provide quality training to new and not so new members.

Progression is the term used to illustrate a Brother's journey through the offices of the Lodge, what appears to be lacking is the question as to whether 'progression' is good for both the Lodge and the individual. The fourth of the Antient Charges makes clear that **"All preferment among masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only."** Seniority is not itself a justification for appointing a Brother to an office in the Lodge it must be supported by what we refer to as merit. Let me conclude on this subject by saying that I am aware of Brethren who have not just felt aggrieved at being 'passed over' but have chosen to resign from their Lodge as a result of such a decision; I have a very clear view on such matters, it is this - better to lose a member than to appoint one who fails to acknowledge the simple truth that Freemasons should be men who prefer honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune. It is also the case that I know of Brethren who have left Freemasonry having felt the pressure to take an office to be too much and not what they signed up for. It really is important that we recognise that holding an office in the Lodge let alone attaining the Master's Chair is not for everyone and we should allow members to develop at their own pace.

The Provincial Director of Ceremonies Richard Wright has invited Lodge Directors of Ceremonies and their Assistants to join him and his team at the Masonic Hall, Morris Lane Devizes on **Wednesday 15 July commencing at 7.00pm**. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm. This is an extremely important meeting, the Provincial Executive will be in attendance and all are strongly encouraged to attend. If a new DC or ADC is being appointed in your Lodge in the coming year they will also be made most welcome.

This edition of [InTouch > OnLine](#) contains the notice (Summons) for Provincial Grand Lodge on **Thursday 1st October 2026** at The Civic, Trowbridge (see page 6). I look forward to welcoming as many of you that can make the meeting. It also contains invitations to join Lodges that are holding social events ranging from Party Nights, an opportunity to dress up, and a Hog Roast where the invitation is to dress down (well a little more informally).



Smart glasses or AI glasses...

Sometimes we find ourselves having to answer a question or deal with a matter that really does come from a 'left field' position: this is one of those instances in which we have recently been asked by a number of members whether or not the Province and UGLE have any thoughts on the wearing of smart glasses in Masonic meetings. We're sure that for many of you the question you will be asking is "What are smart glasses?" - to which the answer is, smart glasses are products that resemble an ordinary pair of spectacles. In reality, however, they are wearable computer devices that, amongst other things, collect information with their microphones and forward-facing cameras.

Smart glasses are remarkably sophisticated, and they can quickly and effortlessly relay copies of footage and photographs to an external location without the user necessarily knowing that this is happening.

There is a clear privacy objection to smart glasses being worn in any Masonic gathering as, by their nature, they are recording devices and which as a result of their design to resemble normal glasses Members will not be aware that they are being worn and if so whether they are recording or not.

Some provide a "heads-up display" so that, for example, a pre-loaded ritual can be read by the wearer, which scrolls the text automatically as the device listens to all the other participants. While some might welcome the additional help such an aid can provide the position of Wiltshire Freemasonry is that all such devices have no place in a Lodge or Chapter meeting, even if the device is turned off.

Brethren and Companions are reminded of the following:

1. Any form of photography, or transmission of images, during a meeting is strictly prohibited. Breach renders the member liable to disciplinary proceedings, whether or not a breach of Rule 177 of the Book of Constitutions has been committed.
2. The same applies to taking or transmitting audio recordings.
3. All mobile telephones must be switched off (or set to **aeroplane mode**) in open Lodge and Chapter, by Grand Lodge Edict as long ago as 2014.

PROUD TO HOST PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE 2026



The Pleydell Lodge
No. 4687



St Edmund Lodge
No. 4714



Harry C Preater Lodge
No.8204



Supporting The Freemasons' Charity...

Gary Dolphin and Ian Lever

Have you noticed the name change? Yes, the Masonic Charitable Foundation has changed its operational name and is now known as the **Freemasons' Charity**, the national charity of Freemasonry. While the name has changed other key elements of the charity remain the same including the fact that the Freemasons' Charity is funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons, their families, and their friends. The Freemasons' Charity remains **one** of the largest grant-making charities in the country - (Please don't claim it is the second or third).

The **Freemasons' Charity** helps to build better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence.

Values

Responding to Need

We listen, understand, and respond to the needs of individuals, families, and communities, providing practical and meaningful help when it is needed most.

Making a Difference

We dedicate ourselves to initiatives and grants that create positive, measurable impact, improving lives and strengthening communities.

Striving for Excellence

We act responsibly, transparently, and professionally in all we do, managing resources wisely and striving for the highest standards in support, governance, and collaboration.

Our strategy

These are the three strategic goals that have helped us to achieve our mission between 2018 and 2022:

- We will enhance our support and services
- We will improve our ways of working
- We will raise our profile

We are currently working with our staff, volunteers and trustees to create our next strategy that will take us up to 2030.

Your support donating to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival is key to enabling the Freemasons' Charity to continue its amazing work supporting the Royal College of Surgeons of England, medical research charities, local Hospices and many other worthy causes in Wiltshire plus providing a 'helping hand' to Wiltshire Freemasons in need.



Freemasons' Charity



In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons

JULY 2026



Your Events promoted here...

Members are reminded that Lodge Funds from a charity account or general account cannot be used in support of a Lodge Ladies Festival or similar event, in particular Lodge funds cannot be used to cover any deficit that might occur. However, a Lodge may establish a fund specifically for an event but Rule 153(e) BoC must be followed.

The editor will be pleased to promote a Lodge event in [InTouch > OnLine](#) (restrictions may apply)



NEW TEMPLE LODGE
NO.8435

ANDY AND LISA THORNE

DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY | **5th** | SEPTEMBER

6.30PM UNTIL LATE
carriages at 1.00am

HILTON HOTEL | LYDIARD FIELDS
GREAT WESTERN WAY
SWINDON | SN5 8UZ

THREE COURSE DINNER
£60 PER PERSON
TABLE WINE
courtesy of andy and lisa

TO RESERVE A TABLE CONTACT
ANDY THORNE 07909 544229
andy.thorne1@hotmail.com
EDDIE CHILD 07768055542
childeddied@yahoo.co.uk



CHRIS & JOHN WISE INVITE YOU TO THEIR
LADIES AND PARTNERS

Party Night

The Doubletree Hilton | Lydiard Fields
Great Western Way | Swindon | SN5 8UZ

» 24 OCT | LIVE MUSIC | 7.00 PM «

DANCING TO JON CLARE
AND THE FABULOUS DOUGHBOYS
AND
DJ JIMMY HANNAWAY

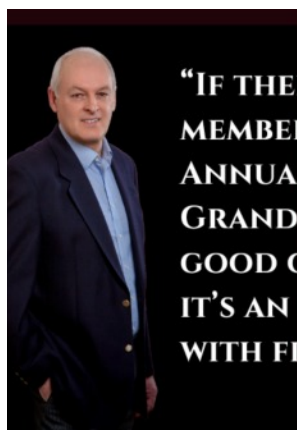
WELCOME DRINKS 7.00 PM - CARRIAGES 1.00 AM

THREE COURSE DINNER

TICKETS £60.00

Gentlemen - Black Tie | Ladies - It's your evening!

BOOK YOUR TABLE WITH ED COOMBS AT
ed_coombs@hotmail.com



"IF THERE IS ONE EVENT I WOULD ASK MEMBERS TO ATTEND IT HAS TO BE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE. IT HAS EVERYTHING, GOOD CEREMONIAL, GREAT MUSIC AND IT'S AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON SPENT WITH FRIENDS".

John Reid PrGM.



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER
2.30PM

THE CIVIC
TROWBRIDGE



In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons

JULY 2026



Supporting Masonic Events...

The editor is always pleased to promote Masonic events especially those raising funds for Masonic charities and causes. Events held with the intent to raise funds for charity and which are advertised beyond an individual Lodge must be approved by the Provincial Grand Master (via his appointee).

PARTY ON THE FIELD

- LIVE MUSIC
- ONSITE PARKING
- BRING OWN SEATING AND DRINKS
- HOG ROAST

SUNDAY 26TH JULY
ARRIVE AT 2PM • £16PP

Collection for The Prospect Hospice

RUSLAND COTTAGE FIELD, SN25 3JE

PAYMENTS TO
JOHN L J BRIDGEMAN REF HOG ROAST
BACS ACC: 11675990 SORT: 40 43 41

CONTACT JOHN WITH ANY QUERIES/
DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
07798743715

RACE TO THE STONES

Supporting the Wiltshire 2028 Festival

Liam East, Matthew Finnegan, Prinesh Patel and Jack McGeoch are running a 50km Ultra Marathon from Wantage to Avebury to raise funds for the Wiltshire 2028 Festival.

12th JULY 2026

Support our journey and donate today
<https://tinyurl.com/calley2026>

SCAN TO DONATE

Never miss a word...



Having trouble following your Lodge or Chapter meeting? Help yourself and the Wiltshire 2028 Festival by booking a hearing consultation with Reeds Hearing Care who will provide you with expert advice and guidance, while you contribute their normal fee (£85.00) to the Festival. We cover everything to do with hearing, tinnitus, wax removal and can provide help, support and advice for all issues.

Reeds Hearing Care is a professional, independent, caring, business based in Swindon.

e.mail: reeds@reedsear.co.uk or text: 07585 525993

Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England



RW Bro John C Reid
Provincial Grand Master

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

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

July 2026

Dear Sir and Brother

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 Pleydell Lodge No.4687, St Edmund Lodge No.4714 and Harry C Preater Lodge No.8204 on **Thursday 1st October 2026 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	10 West Park Road
	Corsham
John H Deane	SN13 9LN
Provincial Grand Secretary	Telephone 07484 386 566

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 Craft 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 online link:

USE THIS LINK

**BOOKINGS FOR LUNCH ARE NOW FULL - HOWEVER A RESERVE LIST IS OPEN
TO JOIN THE RESERVE LIST PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM USING THE LINK**

ADD ME TO THE RESERVE LIST



In Touch > On Line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons

JULY 2026



Membership Attraction...

The Provincial Membership Team in conjunction with the Communication Team is always keen to support Lodge initiatives. In order to make sure that any advertisement complies with UGLE and Provincial guidelines Lodge Membership Officers, and Lodge Secretaries are asked to submit any proposals to the team before placing material on social media or commissioning printing.



**WILTSHIRE
FREEMASONS**



THESE ARE OUR PRINCIPLES

**Integrity
Respect
Friendship
Service**

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED
IN DISCOVERING MORE
ABOUT FREEMASONRY

CONTACT US
contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



Downton Lodge No.9064

**RACE
NIGHT**

£10
Per Person

SAURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

**FREEMASONS' HALL
CRANE STREET
SALISBURY SP1 2QD**

7.00PM (FIRST RACE 7.30PM)
ADMISSION INCLUDES RACE CARD
LIGHT BUFFET SERVED DURING THE EVENING

Book Online: <https://tinyurl.com/DowntonRaceNight>
Email: chrispearse1957@hotmail.co.uk
dlittle9064@gmail.com
Call: 07836 203815 or 07979 692504

Supporting the Wiltshire 2028 Festival



Wiltshire Freemasons
One Journey • One Organisation

#DISCOVERMORE in the ROYAL ARCH



#WiltshireRoyalArch
Discover More Booklet

Q-Code Download

Wiltshire Freemasons



THREE DEGREES DRY GIN COLLECTION



DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER. PREMIUM PRESENTATION.

70cl • 41% ABV