

Freemasons share their history with Wells Senior Schools.

Following the publication of the excellent history “**Freemasonry in the Province of Somerset from 1733**”, Somerset Masons have been visiting some of the senior schools in the Province to explain a bit more about freemasonry and possibly to dispel some of the myths. The decision to make a presentation of the books to local schools was made by the PGM so that young people throughout Somerset could have access to reliable and accurate information about freemasonry and its historical position in modern society.

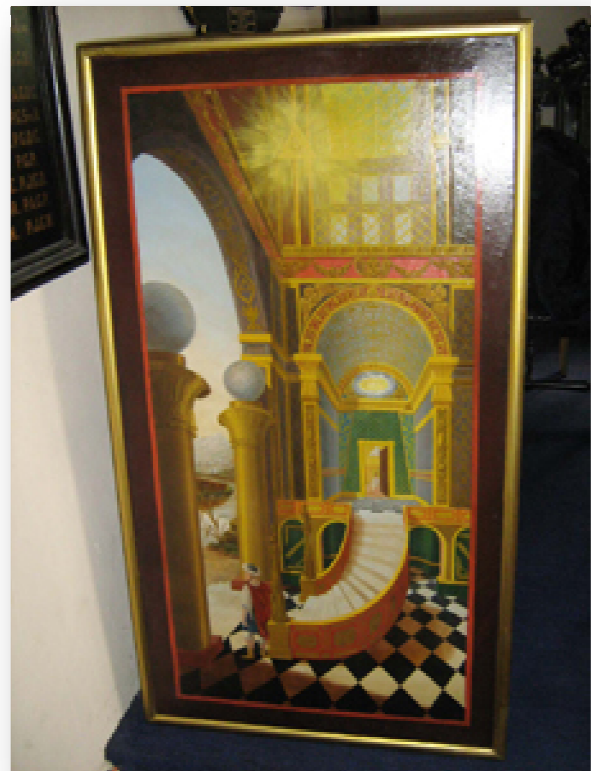


Benevolent Lodge No. 446 have joined in the activity, presenting a copy of the book to Elizabeth Cairncross of the Wells Cathedral School at a special presentation afternoon in the Lodge Room adjacent to Wells Cathedral and at a subsequent presentation, to Steve Jackson, Head of the Blue School, Wells.

During the presentation to the Cathedral School, guests were also able to hear from

Helen White, a highly acclaimed conservator from Bath, who assisted the Lodge in restoring a number of the ancient artefacts used by Benevolent in their ceremonies. These included three fine Tracing Boards which had been presented in 1858 by two members of the Lodge and had subsequently become quite faded and damaged by age.

Helen studied Fine Art before taking a post-graduate Diploma in Painting Conservation at the Courtauld Institute of Art, after which she was Mellon Fellow in the Conservation Department of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has worked part time as a painting conservator at the National Portrait Gallery since the 1980's and also works as a private conservator in Bath restoring paintings for institutions and private collections.





Guests were also fascinated to hear from David Lyons, a furniture restorer who had provided the skills and expertise in restoring the framework and backing of the Tracing Boards.

Lodge Information Officer Rod Deane commented: "We are not setting out on a recruiting campaign and although we are happy to talk to anyone about membership and what it means, we are really much more anxious to present a truly accurate picture of our everyday

activities so that the society around us can see where Freemasonry sits in the Community. Much help is available to outside organisations and individuals, as is evidenced by grants of just under £3,000,000 from the Grand Charity to non-Masonic organisations last year."