

# Discover Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire

INTEGRITY  
FRIENDSHIP  
RESPECT  
CHARITY



# What are your guiding principles?

Freemasons use four important guiding principles to help define their path through life: integrity, friendship, respect and charity.

In today's world filled with uncertainty, these principles ring as true as they have at any point in the organisation's history.

One of the oldest social and charitable organisations in the world, Freemasonry's roots lie in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built our cathedrals and castles.



*"I joined Freemasonry 3 years ago. I have met some fantastic people that I am now very pleased to call friends. Together we support our local community, charities and each other."*

MARK  
BOWEN LODGE

Membership is open to people from all backgrounds and the organisation's aim is to empower members to be the best they can be – it's about building character, supporting members as individuals, and helping them make a positive contribution to society.

*"I joined in 2004  
and my only regret  
is that I did not  
do so earlier."*

JOHN  
ADDINGTON  
LODGE



Freemasonry provides a structure for members to come together under these common goals, enabling people to make new friendships, develop themselves and make valuable contributions to charitable causes.

# ■ INTEGRITY:

## Building good people

Rather than working on buildings like the masons of old, today's Freemasons focus on building themselves as people of integrity, and membership provides the structure to help achieve that goal.



*"I feel I've always been a Freemason without realising it. The fundamental principles of friendship and charitable assistance, ties in perfectly with my personality and my faith as a proud Sikh."*

RANJ  
CHALFONT ST PETERS  
LODGE





# FRIENDSHIP:

## Building together

One of the oldest social organisations in the world, Freemasonry is not defined by an ideology.

It is open to people from all religions and political persuasions, and provides the common foundation for friendships between members, many of which will last for life.



*"I have been a Freemason for five years. My love of art and history have been richly rewarded through the things that I have discovered about Freemasonry. I feel proud to be part of this beautiful organisation and would encourage others to look into being part of it too."*

GRAE  
VERNEY LODGE

Being a Freemason means something different to each person who joins, but whether looking to make acquaintances or develop their own potential, all members share a sense of togetherness that strengthens their ability to succeed and grow.



*"In my 18 months in Freemasonry I have learnt to approach life in a different and better way. I never knew the true meaning of brotherhood until I joined."*

ANDREW  
CHRISTOPHER LODGE



## BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS FOR LIFE

From university schemes, to new masons clubs, to special interest Lodges, Freemasonry gives members many opportunities to make friends for life. Finding bonds with people who share common interests and meeting people from all different backgrounds are only some of the ways Freemasonry can help cultivate lasting friendships.

# RESPECT:

## Building unity

With a membership of more than 200,000 people drawn from communities across the UK, Freemasonry brings people together irrespective of their race, religion or any other perceived differences that can divide us as a society.

*"Milkman or  
Millionaire,  
Bricklayer or  
Banker, Labourer  
or Lecturers. There  
are no wages in  
Freemasonry  
only rewards."*

BILL  
HADDENHAM  
LODGE







*"It's not a society or club, it's not political or economic. It's the only thing in life where everyone wants me to do the best I can, and where everyone wants me to be the best I can, and hopefully that makes me a better man."*

BOB

BUCKS CLASSIC CAR LODGE

Our members are proud to be Freemasons, and they are encouraged to talk openly about what the organisation does and what it means to be part of it.

## FEMALE FREEMASONS

There are two female-only Grand Lodges, the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF) and the Order of Women Freemasons (OWF). The HFAF and OWF follow exactly the same ritual and wear the same regalia as male Freemasons – and they often work closely with community and charity projects.

Female Freemasons Annie Besant and Charlotte Despard were prominent figures in the push for universal suffrage in the early twentieth century. Besant was a British theosophist and women's rights activist who also established the first UK lodge of the International Order of Co-Freemasonry (Le Droit Humain) in 1902. Despard, an Anglo-Irish suffragist, pacifist and novelist, was a founding member of various reformist organisations whose presence lives on today in the North London pub named in her honour.



# CHARITY:

## Building compassion

Kindness and charitable giving are deeply ingrained within the principles of Freemasonry. The organisation provides a support structure that helps members make positive contributions to communities and worthwhile causes through fundraising events or volunteer work.



*"For me Freemasonry is about being the best person you can be. For yourself, for your fellow man, and for society in general. When you are faced with any crisis, be it yours, a friend's or even a stranger's, if you ask yourself "what can I do to help?" then Freemasonry is definitely for you."*

MIKE  
CESTREHAM LODGE

Individuals can make an important contribution at local, national and global level by giving both their time and money. Thanks to their efforts, Freemasonry is one of the largest charitable givers in the country, contributing more than £48m to deserving causes in 2018 alone. Freemasons don't only donate money – over 5 million hours of volunteer work was undertaken by Freemasons in 2018.



*“Freemasonry is a way of building strong foundations which grow and enhance your life experiences. It is a hands-on way to give back, positively touch hearts and minds and have fun during the process.”*

DEVINDER  
IVER LODGE

## FREEDOM OF THE CITY

In 1894, facing financial crisis, Manchester City Football Club was offered a helping hand by the Freemasons. In acknowledgement of the organisation's act of charity, the club adopted Masonic colours, giving them the light blue shirts that are so recognisable to football fans today.

# Membership

Becoming a Freemason means you'll be joining more than 200,000 members throughout England and Wales as well as Districts overseas.

Membership is open to any man over the age of 21 irrespective of their race or religion, and women are invited to join one of two female-only Grand Lodges: The Order of Women Freemasons and the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons.

In total, we have more than 7,000 Lodges, with students over 18 able to join one of the 81 University Scheme Lodges.

*"Freemasonry is  
my anchor and  
has given me  
both strength and  
support when I have  
needed it most."*

SCOTT  
CLAYDON LODGE



Lodge meetings are typically held in two parts. The first involves more administrative procedures, such as proposing and balloting for new members and receiving news about charitable fundraising.

The second part focuses on ceremonies, which might relate to areas such as the admittance of new members or the installation of the Master of the Lodge and his officers – a process made up of three degrees, or stages, each one marked by a special ceremony.

True to the sense of friendship and togetherness among Freemasons, meetings are also social events, providing an occasion for members to dine together.

Outside of the Lodge, activities include community fundraising and volunteering activities as well as a varied programme of events where spouses, partners and families are welcome.



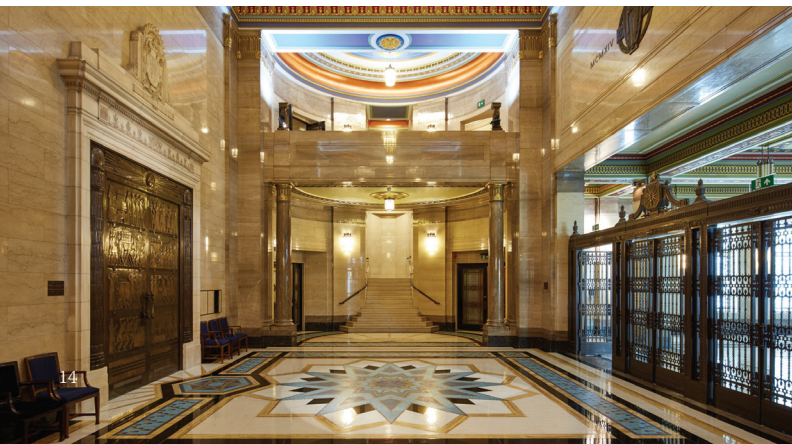
## FINDING THE RIGHT FREEMASONRY FOR YOU

There are many specialist Lodges in Buckinghamshire ranging from Classic Cars to Motorbikes, Camping to Country Pursuits as well as traditional Lodges whose history dates back many centuries. They will all give you a warm welcome, so don't wait to be asked, join us and join in.

# Buckinghamshire Freemasons

Soon after the end of the First World War, the United Grand Lodge of England decided to establish a memorial to the Brethren who made the supreme sacrifice during that terrible conflict.

The memorial was the erection of a new headquarters and an appeal was made to every member for contributions to a fund which became known as the Masonic Million Memorial Fund. The memorial is Freemasons Hall situated in Great Queen Street in London.



TRIP ADVISOR QUOTES:

*'Beautiful architecture  
and very interesting  
displays'*

*'It's a great place to visit'*

*'An amazing experience'*

*'A stunning building  
and a very interesting  
museum'*





#### TRIP ADVISOR QUOTES:

*'An absolutely superb guided visit'*

*'Join one of the free tours for an unforgettable visit'*

*'A magnificent building, very friendly, helpful and informative staff and volunteers and an excellent (free) tour. Lots to see and a really interesting insight into the world of Freemasonry'*

The Province of Buckinghamshire has the distinction that all of their Lodges contributed an average in excess of five hundred guineas. In recognition of this achievement, a jewel of gold and coloured enamel on a dark blue collarette, was presented to be worn by successive Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Masters. In addition, room 17 in Freemasons' Hall was named the Buckinghamshire room. A bronze plaque within this room shows this commemoration.

## AN ART DECO MASTERPIECE

Freemasons' Hall is one of the last remaining Art Deco buildings in England still used for its original purpose. Did you know, the mighty bronze doors to the Grand Temple weigh one and a quarter tonnes each and the original cloakroom can hold 1,700 coats, bags and top hats?

The building and Museum of Freemasonry are open to the public Monday-Saturday; be sure to take a guided tour to discover all that Freemasons' Hall has to offer.



To find out more about Freemasonry  
or for information on how to become a member  
please contact us via our website [buckspgl/info.org](http://buckspgl/info.org)  
or email [pmo@buckspgl.org](mailto:pmo@buckspgl.org)



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