

Discover Freemasonry in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

INTEGRITY
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT
SERVICE



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF
HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Building great friendships · Making a difference

What are your guiding principles?

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

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.



“If I could bottle the way that I feel, and sell it to men that are not Freemasons then I would be a millionaire.”

BRIAN
CLAUSENTUM 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.

"Freemasonry is much more than a hobby, it's a way of life to be enjoyed."

FRANCESCO
LODDEN 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.



"It's a great opportunity to meet men of a similar mindset from every possible background – that's what makes Freemasonry so rewarding."

SAM
SOUTHAMPTON
UNIVERSITY LODGE

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Freemasons are the longest supporters of the local air ambulance charity.



“Freemasonry, like life, teaches you that just as you have learnt or mastered one thing – another new way or experience has to be embraced.”

JON
ELVETHAM LODGE

At an individual level, being a Freemason gives members a sense of purpose, supporting and guiding them on their journey through life. Collectively, members are bonded through a sense of unity and equitability – principles fundamental to Freemasonry.

THE HISTORY OF THE HANDSHAKE

Historically, stonemasons travelled from place to place to secure work. At this time, handshakes were commonly used as a means for stonemasons to identify themselves, proving their level of experience and indicating what position they held. Today, in recognition of this practice, handshakes are used ceremonially as a way of identifying the various levels within Freemasonry.

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.

**Southampton Freemasons
break Atlantic rowing record**



"I like knowing that, no matter what life throws at me, I have a group of like-minded brothers that I can talk to and who will not judge, but will give sound advice I can trust completely."

PHIL
ST CHRISTOPHER LODGE

Photo: Ted Martin

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.



“There’s a strong bond of friendship in Freemasonry. I enjoy the company of a wide and diverse circle of friends with common aims.”

JOE
GEORGIAN 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.

*"I love how inclusive
Freemasonry is.
We respect and
welcome men from
all walks of life,
no matter your
background, race,
religion or what
you do for a living.
You are assured a
warm welcome."*

ASH
WILLIAM RUFUS
LODGE



“Freemasonry is great. It’s the whole package; formality, informality, camaraderie, friendships and more. It’s like an extension of the Sergeant’s mess.”

STEVE
NORMAN GATE
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.

SERVICE:

Building compassion

Whether participating in events, fundraising for a charitable cause or volunteering for public or community organisations, service is at the very heart of Freemasonry.

Our members make valuable contributions by donating time, resources and skills.



"Taking part for a second year in cycling from London to Paris, I raised over £5000 for the Southampton University cancer immunology unit. I am overwhelmed by the messages that I received from friends and well-wishers. I'm very proud to be a Freemason with such wonderful support by so many brethren."

SEAN

WILFRID ATTENBOROUGH
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.



"Freemasons have successfully demonstrated what can be achieved by working together. Our logo is emblazoned on the new vehicle!"

CHRIS
NEEDLES LODGE



*Photo:
Darren Greenman*

RECORD AMOUNT RAISED

Freemasons from Hampshire and Isle of Wight raised an astonishing record £7.7m in the 2016 Festival in aid of the children's charity the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. They continue to support local charities, donating over £200,000 each year.

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 18 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 also able to join one of the 81 University Scheme Lodges.

"I make new friends from different backgrounds and enjoy the laughs we have."

RICHARD
JAMES E BULLEN 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 a growing number of Lodges whose members share a particular pastime or interest from outside Freemasonry. These include football, rugby, aviation, sailing, scouting and country sports Lodges. There is also a Lodge of Brevity which aims to appeal to the busy Freemason.

Freemasonry for all

With over 8,000 Freemasons spread across its 250 lodges, Hampshire and Isle of Wight is the largest Province of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Structured in six smaller geographical areas the Province maintains a real sense of togetherness and friendship among its members whilst encompassing the wider scope and benefits of a large leading Province that's in the forefront of many new and exciting initiatives.

A fabulous night when the Province revealed the highest ever amount raised for a Festival.



MORE THAN JUST FLAG WAVING

In 2019 the Grand Ball was a great occasion marking the 150th anniversary of the amalgamation of the Provinces of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.



In recent years the number of younger members has increased considerably and now thanks to social media they are communicating and spreading their enthusiasm throughout the Province.

Many are passionate about being Freemasons leading to the formation of the Province's ten special interest lodges in as many years.

DISCOVER FREEMASONRY ON THE ISLAND

Often affectionately called the South Island by local Freemasons, the Isle of Wight is an important part of the Province and its Solent Area. Totally involved and represented in the Province, Freemasons from the Island enjoy their own brand of masonry reflecting Island life and are very much part of its close knit community to which they make an important contribution.



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Building great friendships · Making a difference

To find out more about Freemasonry or for information
on how to become a member, please email us at
membership@hampshirefreemasonry.com

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www.ugle.org.uk



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