

# Discover Freemasonry in East Kent

INTEGRITY  
FRIENDSHIP  
RESPECT  
SERVICE



# 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.



*"Freemasonry is by far the best thing that I have done. Friendship has no bounds and I am humbled by the difference that we make in our local communities."*

PHIL  
MILITARY JUBILEE 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.

*“The Light Blues Club caters for the younger mason. It is fun and it introduces you to so many new friends.”*

GRAHAM  
UNITED  
INDUSTRIOUS  
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.



*"In East Kent, we are blessed with having our own 5 piece band, the Cymbolic Penalties. Here they performed the music for The Christmas Pantomime Aladdin and entertained over 1,000 people including 400 children from very diverse backgrounds."*

PAUL  
LORD WARDEN LODGE



*“I thoroughly enjoy supporting our local communities. We are able to support many people and make their dreams come true. What could be better than that!”*

RICHARD  
DE SHURLAND 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.



*“You meet many new masons for the very first time but it is always like you have known them as friends for a long time. This shared experience is unique and creates the making of life long friends, together with mutual trust and support.”*

JOHN  
BELVIDERE 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.



*“Having fun is compulsory, not just with your fellow masons but with your family and friends as well. Yes, Freemasonry is for everyone.”*

CHRIS  
BROWNRIGG LODGE  
OF UNITY



## 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.

*“Christmas time is such a lovely time of year and we have a great team of motorcyclists who collect toys for children. This helps to relieve the effects of hardship, disadvantage and poverty for individuals and families living across East Kent.”*

MARK  
OLD RUYMIAN  
LODGE





*“Our ceremonies are over 300 years old and they help me to reflect on my true daily values in life. Treat people how you would like to be treated and you will not go far wrong.”*

ANDREW  
PENTALPHA 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.



*“Supporting various charities in our local communities is a wonderful thing to achieve. Today, so many local charities and other good causes really do rely on our support.”*

MIKE

BRADSTOW 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.



*“The Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons’ charity is the corner stone of our charitable giving in East Kent.”*

PETER  
AGRICOLA 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 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.

*“Organising local events really is great fun.”*

MATT  
ARDEA 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 Freemasonry; Lodge of XV No. 9944 in Essex, for example, is one of a vast number found throughout the country. The Lodge is for those who are also keen rugby fans. Other specialist lodges embrace motoring and other sports, and there are younger-member lodges too.

# Discover East Kent Province

East Kent is a diverse county that is home to the Iconic City of Canterbury, garden villages and seaside towns. The area stretches from Gravesend in the north to Dymchurch in the south and from Broadstairs in the east to Paddock Wood in the west.

As a large proactive province, with nearly 6,000 members, we are very proud of our achievements, from helping local people and local charities through to our overseas aid and national charitable work. Helping to change thousands of people's lives for the better.



THE KENT MUSEUM  
OF FREEMASONRY

*East Kent's hidden jewel boasts a rare collection of exhibits of national and international importance. This hidden treasure is a five minute stroll from Canterbury Cathedral, free and open to members and non-members alike.*



## WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

*Freemasonry means different things to everyone who joins. For you, it could be making new friends, helping deserving causes, making a contribution to family and society or even an enjoyable hobby or a journey of self-fulfilment. As a Freemason, you will be part of an organisation whose members meet as equals irrespective of faith, ethnic group or position in society.*

## Becoming a Freemason

Freemasonry is one of the UK's largest charitable contributions raising over £33 million. Our guiding principles to help us define our path through life are Integrity, Friendship and Respect, with Charity being at the heart of everything we do. Ultimately:

***“It's about the right way to treat our fellow human beings”***

Do you want to be part of an organisation like this? Are you looking to make new friends, help others, follow a family tradition perhaps? If so, you will be joining more than 200,000 members throughout England and Wales, as well as Districts overseas.

## HOW DO I JOIN

If you don't know anyone who is a member that you can talk to, or you would like to find out more, then check out our Contact Us page in the QR Code or visit [www.justaskone.org](http://www.justaskone.org) and let us help you through the process.



We have a number of different lodges that may share one of your interests, for example sports, motoring and young member lodges (University Scheme). We also have a number of Societies for our members, including golf, bowls, fishing and clay pigeon shooting. Something for everyone.



## Contact Details

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 [eastkentfreemasons](https://www.facebook.com/eastkentfreemasons)

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[www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk)



[www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)