

“The new Millennium has brought fresh challenges, yet within those challenges there will always be some items that will remain static; the principles of Freemasonry and our mission, our values and our objectives.”

### Our Mission

- ☞ To be good citizens
- ☞ The highest social and moral standards
- ☞ Friendship
- ☞ Charity
- ☞ Integrity

### Our Objectives

To be good citizens by practising the highest moral and social standard in friendship, charity and integrity.

To encourage members to serve their own religion and community and to enjoy others company and develop team spirit and fellowship.

To build character and have respect for others.

### Our Values

Expressed in Single Words

Friendship – Understanding - Peace – Respect – Tolerance  
Patience – Virtue – Discretion – Self Discipline – Empathy  
Support - Care - Time

“Freemasonry offers members an approach to life which is based on thoughtfulness and care for those less fortunate than themselves, irrespective of whether those less fortunate are Masons or non-Masons.”

### CHARITY



Living in a world, which is both materialistic and divisive creates many problems for those less fortunate. Sussex freemasons believe in giving help to all. Masonic Charities provides assistance with child education, university fees, caring for the elderly either at home or in nursing homes and with medical care and financial aid for those in need. We are also taught that charity does not only mean the giving of money but is connected with giving our time and having time for others.

## Freemasonry in Sussex

About 6,000 Sussex Freemasons regularly attend Lodge meetings and there are around 170 Lodges based at more than 20 Centres situated throughout the Province of Sussex.

Geographically Sussex, which is one of 47 Provinces in England and Wales, encompasses the counties of both East and West Sussex.

The first stonemasons were highly skilled artisans who built cathedrals and other great structures. They developed ways by which skill levels could be recognised by employers throughout the country without the need for lengthy practical examinations. Many of the tools originally used have been adopted by freemasons and applied to a moral code of conduct. It is not known for certain when Freemasonry began, but records have been found throughout the last millennium.

England formed the first Grand Lodge in 1717. The oldest Sussex Lodge still meeting on a regular basis was founded in 1736 and the youngest was only founded in 1995.

As Freemasons did not permit the discussion of religious or political topics at meetings, men of all faiths and political persuasion could meet together for an enjoyable ceremony, a social meal and carry out charitable work. Freemasonry quickly spread from Britain to Europe and America and today it is a worldwide organisation. Freemasonry promotes character development, good moral conduct, fairness in all things and the ability to speak in public. It gives a feeling of self worth and provides challenges to self-discipline that helps one to have a positive mind and respect for others as well as creating many lifelong friendships.

## A Sussex Freemason – The Family Man

The majority of Masons are married men with daily work and family commitments.

A Mason is always expected and encouraged to put his family first.



Most Sussex Lodges have between four and six meetings a year. A Mason does not have to attend every Lodge meeting if family, work or personal commitments prevent him from doing so.

## What about my Partner?

We take great care to ensure that our partners understand the meaning of what we do. In fact, they can attend many social functions, such as 'Open Days', which explain Freemasonry, dinners and dances (new dress time) and many other social events. New friendships are made that last for many years.

## FREEMASONRY IN SUSSEX



### The Provincial Grand Lodge Of Sussex



### The United Grand Lodge of England

## Looking ahead in the Twenty-First Century

*“In this world of turmoil and conflict only  
Freemasonry provides an atmosphere of calm,  
where men of every nationality, colour and  
creed meet and enjoy good company without  
prejudice”*

## What do Freemasons 'Get out' of Freemasonry?

A large number of men who have joined Freemasonry have found that significant personal development has occurred as a result. For example, training in ceremonial duties, experience in speech making, leadership, charitable activities and community service. Freemasons also have a sense of pride and of belonging to an organisation that exists all over the world. Freemasons are part of a great heritage, sharing an identity with some of the greatest men of the past, and of today. They share a special bond with men of all walks of life, creating life-long friendships with them. They are members of an organisation that believes in tolerance; that lets each man think for himself and express his own opinions, without worrying about being wrong. Men of all religions, races, nationalities and colours join together in harmony and all share the same beliefs; to help one another whether or not he or she is a Mason. We believe in treating others as we would wish to be treated ourselves.

### A tremendous fund-raising force



What many people fail to realise is that Masons give their time and money freely towards helping many local and national charities. Every year Freemasons give millions of pounds to non-Masonic charities.

**No pressure** is exerted on members to do this. Social functions, raffles and incidental donations amount to a considerable sum. There are around six thousand Masons in Sussex and between them; their Lodges provide much needed financial aid within the community.

**The Freemasons Grand Charity** publishes a list of donations made annually to non-Masonic groups, societies and charities.

Being a Freemason makes you feel that you are doing something positive for other people. As with many other societies, part of the annual income is spent on providing for its members in need, but by far the greatest proportion and second only to the National Lottery is given to non-Masonic groups.

Freemasonry works hard within the community to provide assistance whenever needed. Many Lodges decide for themselves which local causes they wish to support and even organise social events specifically for assisting a worthwhile cause.

## Sussex Freemasons Your Questions answered

### What makes Freemasonry so special to a Mason?

Ask any member. Enjoyment is the cornerstone. There is no substitute for the experience of a Masonic ceremony. That and our charitable work and helping all kinds of people, makes it special. Freemasonry is fun, not a riot but highly enjoyable.

### What about the rolled up trouser leg?

You must not believe all that you have heard. Yes - true! but only by one person in one part of the ancient plays that are acted in certain ceremonies. It symbolises the Middle Eastern tradition of touching Mother Earth with your bare knee.

### What does a Freemasons meeting entail?

Most lodges meet at around 5.00pm. The formal business is conducted first, usually followed by a meal with a few short speeches. The evening usually ends at around 10.00pm.

### What kind of person can become a Freemason?

The principle qualifications are that he is usually 21 years or older, of good character and believes in a Supreme Being - his God. He is expected to have good morals, compassion and a kind and charitable disposition.

### Is there any personal gain from being a Mason?

No. A Mason should not expect to gain any advantage from membership. If he seeks to do so, he may be expelled.

### What would be expected of me?

Members do as much as they wish. The administration, ceremonial, accounting, fund raising and general running of the Lodge is carried out voluntarily by its own members.

### Where can I find out more about freemasonry?

Public libraries hold books on the fascinating subject. Our websites will tell you more about us and there are links with other Provinces and indeed the United Grand Lodge of England.

Our website can be found at [www.sussexmasons.org.uk](http://www.sussexmasons.org.uk)

## Sussex Freemasons Who Can Join?

We encourage men from all social backgrounds to apply.

### To become a Freemason you must

- :: Be a man of at least 21 years of age
- :: Be of good moral character
- :: Have a personal belief in a Supreme Being (the definition of a Supreme Being is a personal matter for each individual)
- :: Decide to become a Mason of "your own free will and accord" without expectation of any material gain or benefits
- :: Be loyal to your country
- :: Be dedicated to providing for your own family
- :: Have a sincere determination to conduct yourself in a manner that will earn the respect and trust of others
- :: Possess a desire to help others through community service and universal benevolence

Sussex Freemasons' Lodges are spread across the whole of our wonderful county.

Anyone wishing to enquire about joining Freemasonry can do so in several ways. If you know a member of a Lodge, he can put your name forward. Alternatively, you can contact the Provincial Office in Brighton by post or by visiting our website.

Which Lodge you join depends upon where you live and which Lodge you wish to join.

### Any Questions?

Browse through our website at:

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

or write to the Provincial Office at:

Sussex Masonic Centre  
25 Queens Road  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN1 5YH

or by e-mail to:

[edinfo@sussexmasons.org.uk](mailto:edinfo@sussexmasons.org.uk)

