

Introduction

Did you know that the history of Freemasonry extends over more than 3 centuries and that there has been a Freemasons Lodge in Okehampton since 1878?

The members originally met at the White Hart in Fore Street before starting the construction of their own building at the junction of Station Road in 1900. They have met there ever since.

The Myth

It is widely considered that membership is by invitation only. The reality is the exact opposite – if you are interested, let us know. We have regular open days and “White Table” meetings so come and say hello – we would love to talk to you.

Freemasons Lodges are open to men of ALL backgrounds and the only absolute requirement for membership is that you are 21 years of age and that you have a belief in a “Supreme Being”.

Freemasonry – what is it?

It is one of the oldest secular social and charitable organisations in the world, The roots of Freemasonry lie in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built our castles and cathedrals.

The aim of Freemasonry is to empower its members to be the best that they can be. It is about building character and supporting people and community.

In 1723 the first Book of Constitutions was written which pioneered the period of The Enlightenment. In particular it included:

- Religious tolerance, something wholly radical in a world characterised by religious conflict.
- Meritocracy, at a time when birth and wealth determined success.
- High standards of interpersonal civility.
- Scientific and artistic education.
- Societal and personal self-improvement.

You have to say it was pretty forward thinking given the date of publication.

Modern Freemasonry recognises the same core values but using modern language, Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Service. These values embrace diversity of opinion and approach to life without being judgemental and recognises that there is more that unites us than divides.

The Core Values

INTEGRITY – The structure of Freemasonry teaches you about you and, as the masons of old worked on the buildings of the day, modern-day Freemasons are given the tools to work on themselves, to build their character, and to focus on doing what is right.

FRIENDSHIP – As one of the oldest social organisations in the world, Freemasonry provides the common foundation for friendships that are not defined by an ideology. It is open to people from all walks of life, all belief systems and all political persuasions, and provides a common foundation for friendship between members, many of which will last for life.

RESPECT - With a membership of more than 150,000 people drawn from communities across the UK, Freemasonry brings people together irrespective of their race, faith or any other perceived difference that may divide us as a society.

SERVICE - Service and charity are in a Freemason's DNA. Kindness and giving are deeply ingrained within our principles. The structure of Freemasonry helps members to contribute to the community and to worthwhile causes through fundraising events or volunteer work.



What are the “ceremonies”

Freemasonry in Okehampton is a four stage experience starting with the three Craft Degrees and concluding with the Royal Arch Ceremony.

The ceremonies that we work have remained unchanged since the Lodge was formed. In simple terms, the ceremonies are morality plays which are intended to encourage you think about certain things. They are full of symbolism, but the way that you relate to that symbolism is likely to be as unique as your masonic journey.

Other than the ceremonial aspect of our meetings there is also the typical business administration and, after the meeting we all share a meal together.

What does it cost?

Not as much as you think! Our Craft Lodge currently meets 8 times a year and our Royal Arch Chapter 4 times.

Our dining and charity typically costs £30 per meeting plus there are Annual Dues.

Why should I join?

Every member has a reason personal to him, but reasons may include:

- Family connections
- Self-development
- Making new friendships
- Contributing to society
- Curiosity
- Being a part of something unique



Integrity



Friendship



Respect



Service

Where can I find out more?

Scan the QR code below to visit our web page <https://okehamptonmasons.co.uk> There is a contact us page if you would like to see our building or are interested in joining us for dinner after a meeting.

You can also follow us on Facebook

[@OkehamptonMasons](#)



We hope that you have found this information of use, and we look forward to hearing from you if you think that you may be interested in starting your masonic journey.

Foster Your Curiosity



**“From Initiation to Exaltation,
the Masonic Experience”**