

You want to be a  
Wiltshire  
Freemason?



# Freemasonry In Wiltshire

Over 2,000 Freemasons in the county meet in 44 Lodges held in 18 Masonic Centres, from Downton in the South to Highworth in the North.

Freemasons share common values of integrity, tolerance, kindness and fairness with more than 350,000 members in every part of the UK and millions more worldwide.

Freemasonry in Wiltshire has existed for over 240 years with Lodges operating in the county since before 1727. The first Provincial Grand Lodge (the ruling body) was formed in 1775 and continues to the present day.

Contrary to popular opinion you don't have to be invited by a member to become a Wiltshire Freemason. We welcome applications from men of good character wanting to make a difference in the community in which they live.



A wall light on the Masonic Hall at Bradford-on-Avon

# Why become a Freemason?

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FREEMASONRY :** Many people think they know what Freemasonry is and what it does, but sometimes you really do need to find out for yourself. Talking to a Freemason will give you a better understanding of what Freemasonry really is and does.

**MAKE FRIENDS :** For some it's about making new friends, and who doesn't like making friends? Joining a Masonic Lodge is like becoming a member of a big family, and it only gets better when you think there are 44 Lodges and 2,000 Freemasons in Wiltshire alone.

**SUPPORT CHARITY :** For others it's about being able to help others. Freemasons are huge supporters of charity, especially those that serve the local community. But we don't pretend that makes us special, after all many organisations support charities. If helping those less fortunate than yourself is something you want to do, you'll find yourself among friends.

**ENJOY A CHALLENGE :** You've probably heard stories about Masonic ceremonies, and we're not going to say there aren't any, because there are. However, our ceremonies are intended to have clear and positive purposes; not least, to encourage individual participation, public speaking, personal development and confidence building. They are most certainly not blood curdling and frightening ghoulish rituals - sorry to disappoint you.

**INCLUDE THE FAMILY :** Family and friends are important to Freemasons; fun days, barbecues and black tie evenings are a feature of many Freemason's Lodges. These events are an important part of the social calendar allowing friends and family to be included. Making friends and helping the community makes membership an enjoyable and fulfilling activity.

# What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is a society whose approach to life is based on integrity, tolerance, kindness, honesty and fairness. It means different things to each of those who join.

## CONCERN FOR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS.

That is having tolerance and respect for others and their opinions and showing them courtesy, kindness and understanding.

## CARING FOR OTHERS.

Showing and practising care and charity towards our own members and society as a whole, giving some of our time to look after those less fortunate and in need of help.

## TRUTHFULNESS

Freemasons aim to achieve integrity by adhering to high moral standards in their own lives and all their activities.

## Find out more

A booklet like this can only tell you so much. If you would like to know more about Wiltshire Freemasonry and discuss your interest in becoming a Freemason, please enquire via our website [www.pglwilts.org.uk](http://www.pglwilts.org.uk) or Email [info@pglwilts.org.uk](mailto:info@pglwilts.org.uk)



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