

MAFEKING,

VINE STREET,

WORCESTER.

Free Masons

Accepted Masons.

A very ancient society or body of men so called, either for some extraordinary knowledge of masonry which they are supposed to be masters of: or because the first founders of the society were persons of that profession. These are now in all or most nations in Europe: what the end of these societies is, yet remains in some measure a secret, avers that they tend to promote friendship, society, mutual assistance and good fellowship or what Samuel Purchas has lately published in his pamphlet entitled "Masonry dissected." 1730.

The Universal Etymological English Dictionary  
B. N. Bailey

1731

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Masons were incorporated about the year 1419, having been called the Free Masons, a fraternity of great account, who have been honoured by several kings, & a very many nobility and gentry being of their society.

They are governed by a master and two wardens, 25 assistants, and there are 65 on the livery, the fine for which is £5 and that for stewards 10

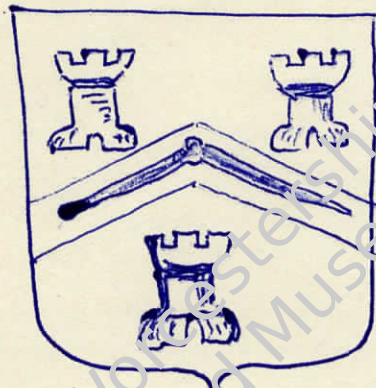
Their armorial ensigns are Azure on a chevron between three castles argent, a pair of compasses somewhat extended of the first. Crest a castle of the 2d

Their hall is in Basing Lane.

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Note: The above arms were granted to  
the London Masonic Company in 1477  
& incorporated when the Company was  
chartered by Charles II in 1677

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