



Freemasonry, what's it all about?

www.dorset-freemasonry.org

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What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is probably the largest fraternal organisation in the world. There are well over 250,000 masons under the English Constitution.

The principles of the order are said to be Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. In other words supporting society as a whole, charity and observing the qualities of an upright, law abiding citizen

How is it organised?

Under the English Constitution there are 47 Provinces, which more or less follow the County boundaries before 1972, Dorset being one of those Provinces

Each Province has a number of Lodges, which meet at different locations or buildings. In days gone by these could have been the town hall or local pub but now most Lodges have their own buildings. In Dorset there are 49 Lodges who meet in 17 buildings

How often do Lodges meet ?

In Dorset, Lodges generally meet regularly throughout the year once a month, with most taking a summer break or recess, so eight or nine meetings each year

What does it cost ?

Like all organisations or clubs there is an annual membership fee and an initial joining fee to cover the costs of administration

After every meeting there is normally a formal meal with other members of the Lodge, during which collections and raffles are held for our various charities and causes

The cost of meals is very reasonable and of good quality, with a pay bar open for refreshments

How many tickets you buy or how much you put in the collection bag is purely your decision. There is no obligation to give beyond your ability



Is Freemasonry for everyone?

Dorset has several Lodges where members from a particular interest or trade meet, such as sport, the military and other professions

We also have a dedicated Universities Scheme Lodge, specifically for those who have attended or are associated to Bournemouth Art College or University

Charity

Charity and benevolence are a basic teaching of Freemasonry. Members have always been involved in charitable activities

There are many charities we support within the community. These include the care of young people, orphans, the sick, the aged, medical research and services and those affected by natural disaster. Money is raised through National, Provincial and Lodge level initiatives

A small portion of a member's contribution is through the annual membership fee

Other contributions are entirely voluntary and members are constantly reminded that whatever they contribute must be "without detriment to his family"

How to Join

The basic criteria are:-

- Have a personal belief in a Supreme Being
- Be of good character
- Be 21 years in age or over*

(* there are some exceptions for those over 18)

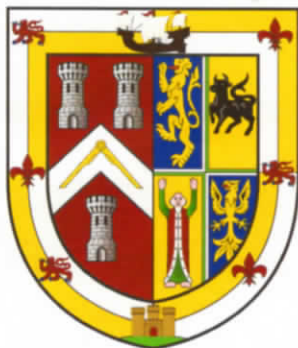
If you'd like to know more about joining you can take a look at our website, email or simply ask someone you may know who is already a member.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset

enquiries@dorsetfreemasonry.info

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United Grand Lodge of England

www.ugle.org.uk

Masonic Charitable Foundation

www.mcf.org.uk