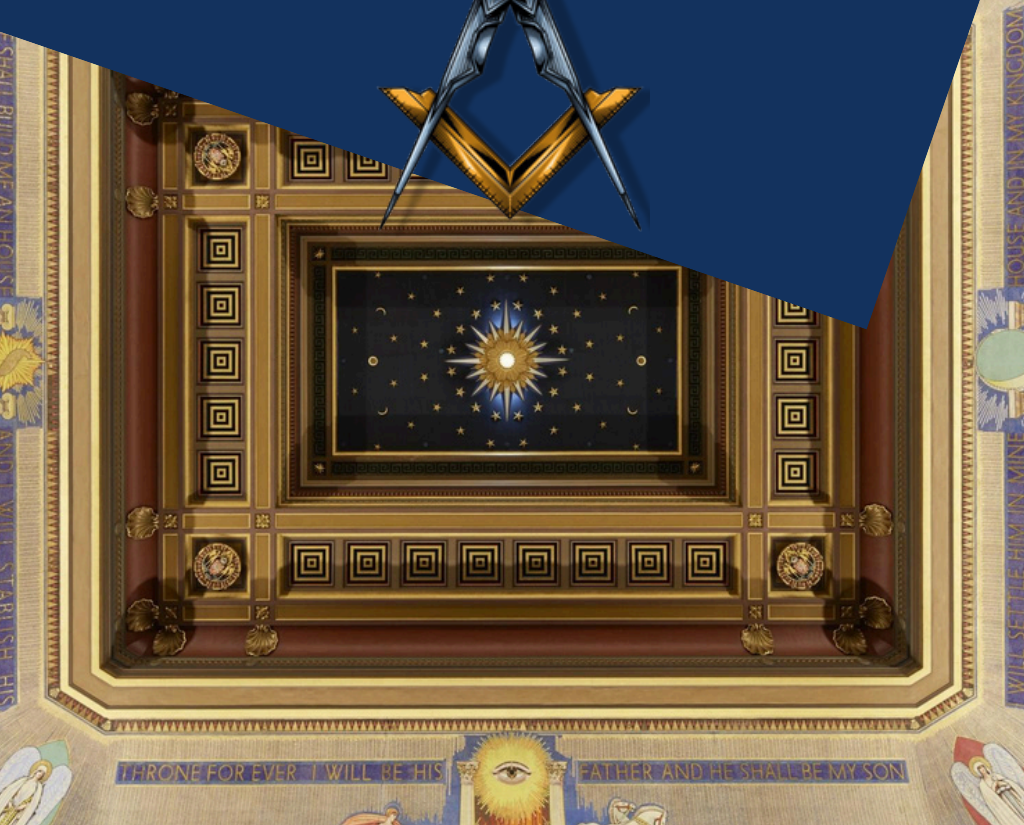


OKEHAMPTON MASONS

Helping Okehampton since 1878



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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?

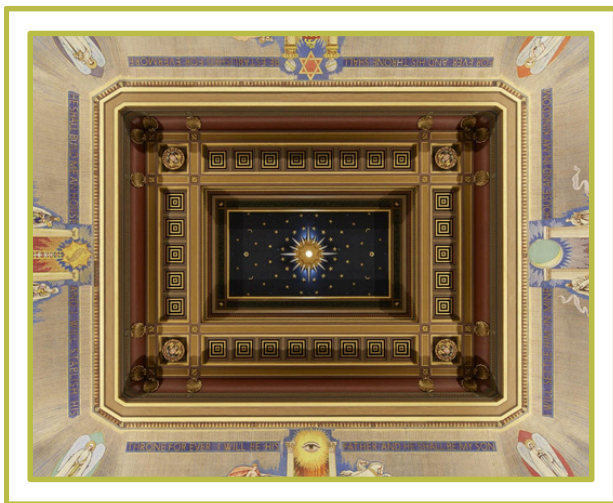
The members originally met at the White Hart in Fore Street before starting the construction of their own building at the junction of Station Road in 1900. They have met there ever since.



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.

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.



Freemasonry - What is it?

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. In today's world filled with uncertainty, these principles ring as true now as they have at any point in the organisation's history.



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 is not defined by an ideology. It is open to people from all belief systems and political persuasions and provides the common foundation for friendships between members, many of which will last for life.



The Core Values

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 differences that can 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?

Our Craft Lodge currently meets 10 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



Where can I find out more?

Please see the United Grand Lodge of England web page at www.ugle.org.uk or email us at The Lodge of Obedience using the contact email below.

Email; 1753secretary@gmail.com





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



One Journey - One Organisation

Initiation to Exaltation

