

How is Freemasonry is structured?



Every man who wants to become a Freemason, is firstly vetted by the lodge he wants to join. He must state that he is a law-abiding citizen and believe in a supreme being.

Once accepted he undergoes an initiation where he is

tasked to uphold the laws and regulations of Freemasonry. He then undertakes another stage later where he becomes a "Fellowcraft". The final stage is his "Third Degree" becoming a "Master Mason". No doubt you will have heard the term "Third Degree" before, but there is nothing sinister about it, it's just the progression of learning about certain aspects of Freemasonry. Throughout every stage he gets to wear a different style of apron signifying his rank.

The lodge is governed by the Worshipful Master and Wardens who are elected every year at an 'installation meeting'. There are also other officers: the Almoner, whose job it is to look after the welfare of the members; the Charity Steward who proposes ways of supporting various charities, and of course the lodge has a Secretary and a Treasurer.

The lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Lodge who in turn must follow the dictates

of the United Grand Lodge of England.

As mentioned, Freemasons wear aprons. There is nothing 'sissy' about wearing an apron. In fact aprons have been worn by ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and many other civilised societies through the ages.

After every ceremony is over, the members of the lodge and their guests retire to dine. It is an occasion where they relax with sometimes some rousing speeches and a lot of joviality.

There is so much more to Freemasonry than we can state here. We have not touched upon the many social and sporting activities including golf, fishing, bowls, clay pigeon shooting, or the club for newly-made Freemasons where they have fun, listen to interesting talks or even down a pint during a brewery tour. There's even a dedicated lodge for rugby enthusiasts, and if you are a graduate there's the University scheme to assist you.

But above all it is the camaraderie and pride amongst its members that is so striking about being a Freemason. It is fun and it cements life-long friendships. Freemasonry is not just only for men, women too follow the same ideals, but have their own lodges.

Curious? Why not take the next step and either find out more, or contact our Lodge representative to advise you?

The information in this leaflet has been brought to you by the

WAVERLEY LODGE No. 4723
Province of Surrey

A membership ranging in all ages and professions, meeting four times a year
at the Farnham Masonic Hall.

If you would like further guidance, we are only too happy to help you, by telephone, email, or a visit.

Contact: shoestring@ntlworld.com

Please see below for a centre near you, if our Lodge is not in your locality.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey is also able to advise and help you:

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SURREY

71 Oakfield Road, Croydon CR0 2UX. t: 0208 686 8388

e: provgsec@surreymason.org.uk or visit our website: surreyfreemasons.org.uk

Masonic centres in: Bisley, Bookham, Camberley, Chertsey, Cranleigh, Croham Hurst, Croydon, Dorking, Epsom, Esher, Farnham, Godalming, Guildford, Kingston, Redhill, Stoneleigh, Surbiton, Sutton

Answers: 1-to-r:

Rick Wakeman; Peter Sellers; Johnson Beharry VC;
Oliver Hardy, King George VI; Buzz Aldrin.