FREEMASONRY

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

UNITED
GRAND LODGE
of ENGLAND

SIX MILLION REASONS

There are 250,000 Freemasons belonging to 8,000 Lodges throughout England and Wales, and districts overseas.

Worldwide, the figure rises to six million Freemasons, all with their own special reasons why they enjoy Freemasonry. For some, it's about making new friends and acquaintances. For others, it's being able to help deserving causes – making a contribution to family and society. But for most, it is simply an enjoyable hobby.

Every Freemason has his own reason for joining. What's yours?

1

PRINCIPLED

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations.
For many, its biggest draw is the fact that members come from all walks of life and meet as equals whatever their race, religion or socio-economic position in society.

Its values are based on integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness.

FREEMASONRY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOUR, RELIGION, POLITICAL VIEWS OR SOCIAL STANDING

The United Grand Lodge of England is the governing body of Freemasonry in England, Wales and the Channel Islands. Built in 1933, Freemasons' Hall is the headquarters of the Grand Lodge and is a classic example of Art Deco architecture in the heart of London's Covent Garden.

2

FRIENDSHIP

Freemasonry provides a unique environment for people from all backgrounds to learn skills, make lasting friendships, achieve their potential and, above all, have fun.

What is more, the organisation provides a valuable forum for discussion between members in an open environment, helping to build trust.

I WANTED TO BECOME A FREEMASON TO MEET A CROSS SECTION OF PEOPLE, MAKE LONG LASTING FRIENDSHIPS AND HAVE FUN!

Guy Delmage (centre) is a member of the Connaught Club, which encourages young Freemasons to meet and socialise with like-minded people of a similar age. The club has an annual picnic on Lincoln's Inn Fields in London for friends and family. It also meets more informally every month at the local pub.

3

OPENNESS

Freemasonry prides itself on its transparency. Not only are Freemasons completely free to acknowledge their membership, they are encouraged to do so.

There are no closed doors in Freemasonry – anyone can visit its headquarters at Freemasons' Hall in London – and Lodges throughout the UK regularly open their doors to visitors. For everyone, Lodges offer a place of harmony and tranquillity.

WITH HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTERS AND LANDMARK TV SHOWS SHOOTING HERE, WE WELCOME OVER 100,000 VISITORS EVERY YEAR TO FREEMASONS' HALL

During London Fashion Week, new and seasoned designers descend upon Freemasons' Hall in Covent Garden to promote their collections to a global audience of fashion media, buyers, celebrities and style authorities.

4

Freemasons make a major contribution to society through their own charities, as well as through donations to UK charities and worldwide disaster relief funds, with members playing an active role in their communities.

GIVING

WE DO NOT UNDERTAKE ANY EXTERNAL FUNDRAISING – ALL MONEY DONATED COMES FROM OUR OWN EFFORTS

Established in 1980, The Freemasons' Grand Charity has donated over £100 million to a range of charitable causes. It responds when natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes and droughts occur anywhere in the world.

5

PURPOSE

Freemasonry is more relevant and important to society today than ever, as it encompasses and embraces all the fundamental principles of good citizenship.

Many of these are learnt through traditional rituals that take the form of one-act plays, leading to increased self-esteem and confidence.

WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF TALENT, IT'S VITAL THAT YOU GIVE THEM THE SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THEIR LIVES

Joshua Tonnar is a 21-year-old rower who is pursuing his Olympic dream thanks to funding from TalentAid, a scheme run by one of the four central masonic charities. It has already helped two hundred and fifty exceptionally gifted young people.

6

GROWTH

Every Freemason embarks on his own journey of self-discovery when he enters the organisation.

With three levels of Freemasonry, the progression through to senior roles within a Lodge can be seen in much the same way as a person progressing in his career – each promotion bringing greater understanding and responsibility.

FREEMASONRY HAS HELPED BUILD MY CONFIDENCE, ENABLING ME TO TACKLE CHALLENGES I USED TO SHY AWAY FROM

Whether you want to meet up at a local Lodge to find a quiet haven from the rest of the world or push yourself to your limits, Freemasonry has a breadth that will appeal to anyone who wants to broaden his horizons. It is up to the individual to make his own journey and to find his own understanding.

FIND YOUR REASON

There are many reasons for joining the Freemasons.

We can answer any questions you might have about our history, our future, what we believe in, the kind of work we do or where your nearest Lodge is.

If you want to find out further information, please start by visiting our website at www.ugle.org.uk

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