

**What is
Freemasonry?**

Freemasonry means different things to each of those who join. For some, it's about making new friends and acquaintances for others it's about helping deserving causes and making a contribution to family and society. But for most, it is an enjoyable hobby - 'to be happy ourselves and to make others so'.

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal societies of men concerned with moral and spiritual values. It is multi racial and multi cultural and spans the world. It is not a 'religion'.

The Three Grand Principles

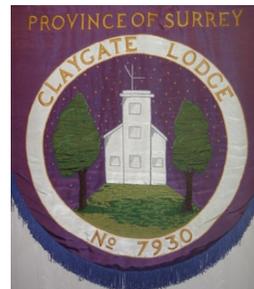
For many years, Freemasons have followed principles which represent a way of achieving higher standards in life

- *Respecting everyone*
- *Looking after others*
- *Being honest and truthful*

A Freemason will show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness & understanding.

Freemasons are taught to practice charity. To care not only for their own but also for the community as a whole by charitable giving and voluntary works.

Freemasons will strive for truth and require high moral standards and aim to achieve them in their own lives.



**Who do I
contact for
further
information?**

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Provincial Grand Lodge
of Surrey



United Grand Lodge
of England

**UNITED GRAND
LODGE OF ENGLAND**



**Making friends
and helping the
community since
1963**



Claygate Lodge

Cheque
presentation
to Princess
Alice
Hospice
(June 2015)

Charity

The values of Freemasonry are based on **integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness**. From its earliest days, Freemasonry has been involved in charitable activities. It continues to provide support for the widows, orphans and dependants of Freemasons as well as many others within the community. Until the National Lottery began, it was the largest provider of charitable funds and even now ranks second in the UK. It donates large sums to national, regional and local charities ensuring that money is well spent with minimal administration costs. A good example is the £220K raised (in six weeks) around the country to



Cheque presentation to 4th Tolworth Air Scouts Troup

support those affected by the flooding of the Somerset Levels in 2014. Whilst government support was added to this, Somerset masons were at the forefront of distributing these funds to ensure that they were well spent, supporting not only individuals but also helping communities to get back on their feet by rebuilding village halls and providing 'support wardens' to give advice and use contacts in the area to get things done.

It is entirely up to the individual Mason as to what he gives to charity, it is always private and should always be undertaken without detriment to his other responsibilities. Many members make regular monthly contributions which in many cases is around £5 a month. You give what your circumstances in life permit and what you are comfortable with - there is never any pressure.

Enjoyment

It's not all about raising money for Charity. We meet four times a year during the autumn, winter and early spring. Our meetings take place at Surbiton Masonic Hall, normally commencing around 5.00pm and comprise a short 'business' gathering when lodge matters are discussed, new candidates admitted and social events discussed. This is followed by a convivial dinner which we refer to as 'The Festive Board'. Toasts are proposed and short speeches made in order that members can be homeward bound before 10.00pm.

In addition we meet regularly on an informal basis throughout the winter months in order to maintain social contact and to practice the little stories that we enact when new members join us and which are based on the ceremonies practiced by operative stonemasons going back through the annals of time.

Involving your partners or wives

Becoming a Mason is very much a family decision and one of our ways of thanking our partners for allowing us to participate is to hold our annual Ladies Night at which we welcome our ladies and partners to a fine evening of wining, dining and dancing.

We hold a summer BBQ, visits to places of interest and other events at which our partners and friends are very welcome. We seek to ensure that the cost of events are



reasonable and accessible to everyone.

One of the joys of Freemasonry is that a member can visit other Lodges both throughout the UK and internationally. Contacts established abroad lead in many instances to fraternal visits to these Lodges by UK Lodges which are great fun.

What does it cost?

There is a one-off joining fee of £166 which includes all registration fees with what we refer to as Grand Lodge.

The annual lodge fee is currently £100 and the cost of dining (4 courses including wine) amounts to £30 per meeting (4 meetings per year).

Over £500,000 has been given by Surrey Masons to Surrey Charities in the last 3 years, £22,000 of which has come from Claygate Lodge which has supported the following:-

4th Tolworth Air Scout Group

Richmond Vineyard Project

Sam Beare & Princess Alice Hospice's

British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society

Friends of Walton Hospital

R.M.B.I Educational Bursary

PGL Surrey 2019 (Charity) Festival

R.M.B.I Boys & Girls Educational Fund

Friends of Shannon Court & James Terry Court (Nursing, Care and Dementia homes)

Surrey Provincial Grand Charity

The Grand Charity

Brief History of Claygate Lodge

Formed in 1963 as a 'daughter' to Sudbrook Lodge (founded 1947) by Orville Westlake and Royston Low, both residents of Claygate, it was intended to be a small, local Lodge, open to all. Tony Budd, also a Claygate resident was the first 'initiate'. Originally meeting at Esher Youth Centre and dining at The Bear, it subsequently relocated to Glenmore House (Surbiton Masonic Centre) where it continues to meet to this day. The Lodge Banner and emblem depict the Semaphore Tower situated on Telegraph Hill, which is a local Claygate landmark and was part of a military communication link between London and Portsmouth originally built in 1822.