

FREEMASONRY

**WHAT'S
IT ALL
ABOUT?**



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

SIX MILLION REASONS

There are over 200,000 Freemasons belonging to more than 7,000 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?

PRINCIPLED 1

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations.

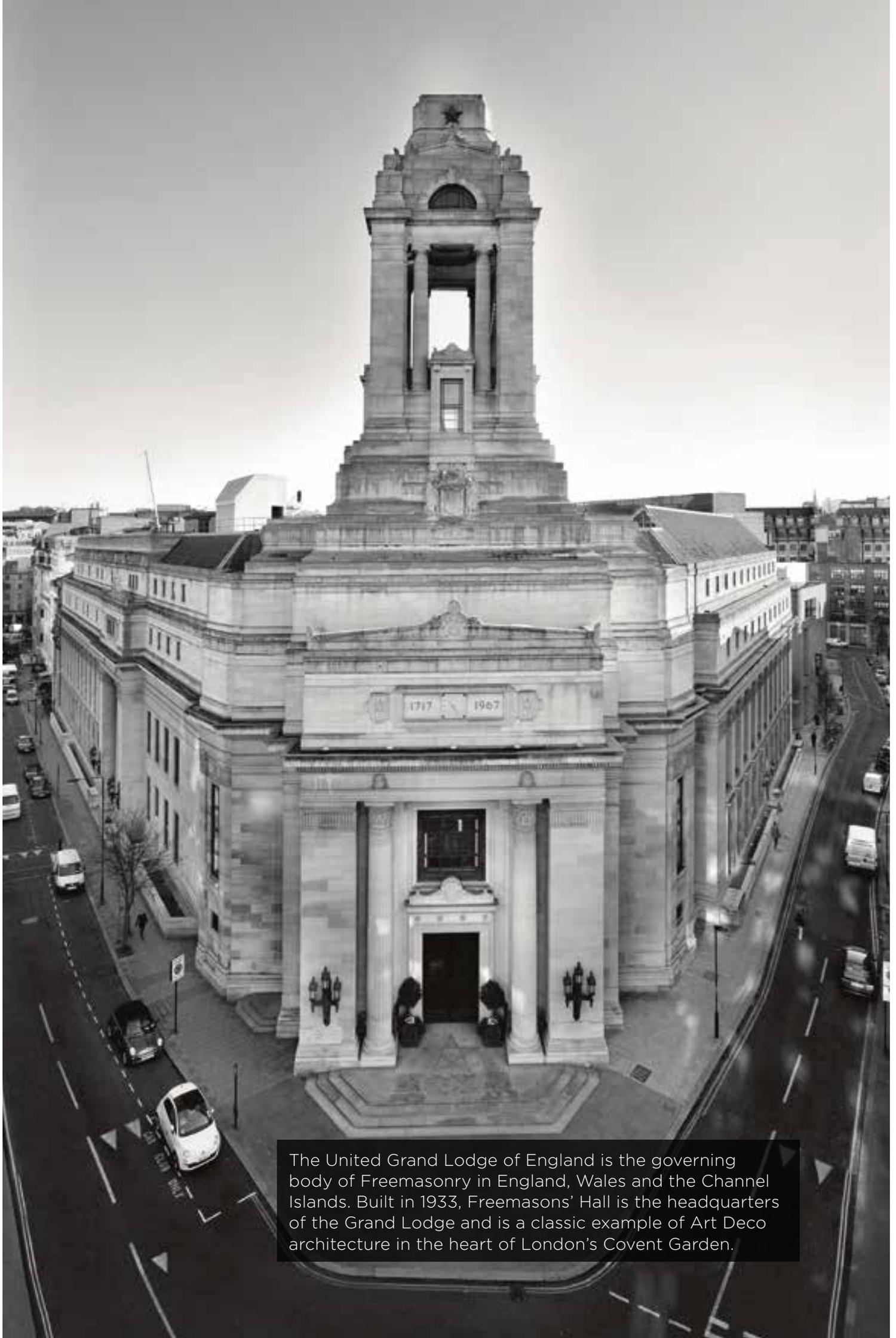
For many, its biggest draw is the fact that members come from all walks of life and meet as equals whatever their race, religion or socio-economic position in society.

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



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.

FRIENDSHIP 2

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.

OPENNESSES 3

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.

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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





Through the Masonic Charitable Foundation and its predecessor charities, Freemasons have given around £130m to charities across England, Wales and overseas in recent years, in addition to supporting thousands of Freemasons and their families in need.

PURPOSE

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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's Olympic aspirations were funded thanks to TalentAid, a scheme run by the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which has helped over 300 exceptionally gifted young people.

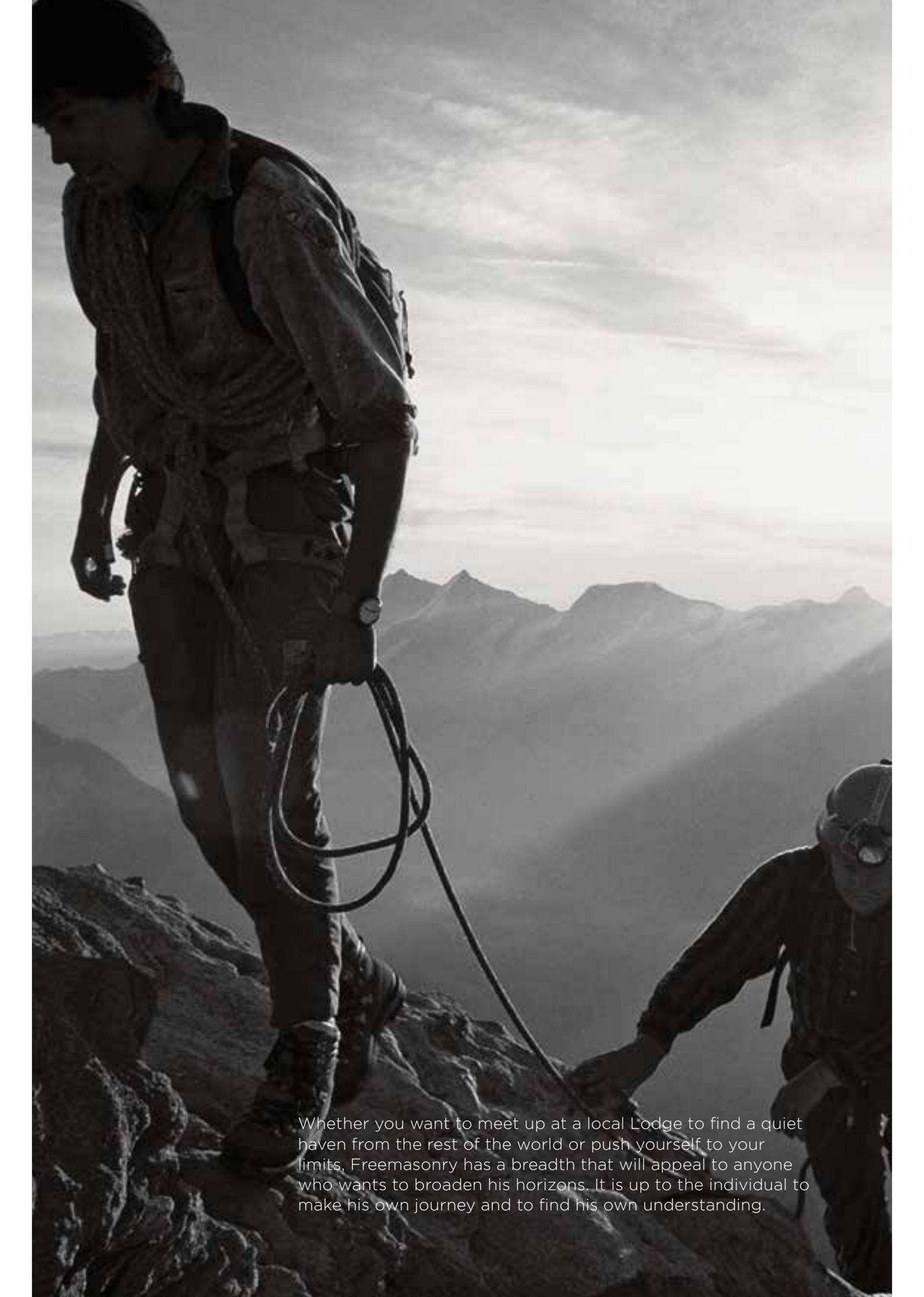
GROWTH

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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.

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FREEMASONRY HAS
HELPED BUILD MY
CONFIDENCE, ENABLING
ME TO TACKLE
CHALLENGES I USED
TO SHY AWAY FROM
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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 would like to find out more, please start by visiting our website at www.ugle.org.uk



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