

So, what happens at a Lodge Meeting?

Just like other formal meetings, there is a certain amount of business and administration to deal with which is followed by formal ceremonies, which includes our antient rituals, to progress and educate members through their "degrees". There are three degrees, Entered Apprentice, teaching you that we are all equal and the importance of Charity. The Fellow Craft Degree teaches you about productivity and how to become a better person. Finally, the Master Mason Degree reminds us that you only get one chance at life and that we should use the opportunity wisely. After the ceremonies there is usually an opportunity to relax and mix with other members socially.

How many Masons are there?

The Grand Lodge of Scotland has about 27, 000 members, The United Grand Lodge of England has about 180, 000 members and the Grand Lodge of Ireland has about 20, 000 members. Globally, there are about 6 million Freemasons.

What does it cost to become a member?

There is a joining fee followed by annual dues to support your Masonic Lodge which you should be able to pay without the detriment to you or your dependents.

Where do members meet in the Borders?

We have Masonic Lodges in Duns, Coldstream, Kelso, Jedburgh, Hawick, Selkirk, Melrose, Lauder, Galashiels, Innerleithen and Peebles.

Do you have a Pod Cast?

Yes, we do, it's called "Prov Pod", why not tune in and learn more about Freemasonry in the Borders.



How can I learn more?

Have a look at our website by scanning the QR code below and contact us through our "Connect" page. We are also on Facebook and Instagram, just search for the Provincial Grand Lodge of The Scottish Borders

pgltsb.org



Reasons to become a Freemason

Freemasonry is a community of like-minded individuals committed to personal growth, mutual support, and making a positive impact across local communities.

BUILD FRIENDSHIPS

Meet interesting people from all walks of life and the opportunity to build lifelong friendships.

BUILD YOUR CHARACTER

Freemasonry is all about personal growth and character building as well as the opportunity to support other members.

BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

We enjoy making a positive contribution to society and supporting our local communities.



What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is an ancient worldwide a community of like-minded individuals from all walks of life who believe in friendship, honour, morality and sound ethics who are committed to personal growth, mutual support, and making a positive impact across local communities. Freemasonry and Masonic Lodges in Scotland are governed by The Grand Lodge of Scotland which is based in Edinburgh

What Principles do Freemasons believe in?

Freemasons believe in three great principles, these are: **Brotherly Love:** is the concern which each Freemason has for his Brother, which is readily shown by tolerance and respect for the beliefs, opinions and practices of his fellows and his willingness to care for his Brother and that Brother's dependents. **Relief:** The Freemason is by nature and teachings a charitable man. He will cheerfully and kindly assist those less fortunate (whether Freemasons or not). He will care for and support his community - Local, National and International. **Truth:** The Freemason believes in Truth in all things, in honesty and integrity in his personal, business and public life, in fair dealings and in firm standards of decency and morality.

Why should I become a Freemason?

Our members each have their own reason for becoming a Freemason. Many join because they have family members that are members, some join because they fully understand our principles and want to promote these, some join because they have an interest in our ceremonies, traditions and ancient history, some join because of our charitable support we offer and our engagement with our communities. Others join for the social interaction with others from all ages and from all walks of life.

Is Freemasonry a Secret Society?

Freemasonry is often mistaken as a "Secret Society". If it were then we wouldn't have published this leaflet, neither would you be able to identify the Masonic Lodge in your town, many Lodges have plaques at the door. Members are free to acknowledge their Masonic membership to others and some Lodges even publish the dates of their meetings in local newspapers. Masonic processions are a common sight in many towns; these are hardly the actions of a Secret Society. The secrets of Freemasonry relate to the traditional modes of recognition and like many other societies, clubs and organisations it regards many of its internal affairs and actions to be of a private nature for its members.

Is Freemasonry a Religion?

It is not a religion, although an essential requirement to become a member is the belief in a "Supreme Being". Membership is open to men of any religion or race, and they are encouraged to follow their own faith and do their duty to their own "God". Religious discussions are not permitted at Lodge meetings.

Is Freemasonry a Political Party?

No! Freemasonry is not a Political Party, it is true that leading Politicians are members of the fraternity, however, discussions of a Political nature are forbidden at Lodge meetings, Freemasonry is neither a Subversive Organisation nor an Action Group and members must be peaceful, law-abiding members of the community who are of good repute.

Is Freemasonry a Charity?

It is not a charity either, although members contribute **THOUSANDS** of pounds to several worthwhile charitable organisations and good causes, making a difference.

Who are Freemasons?

Freemasons include members from all walks of life including members of the Royal Family, Business Leaders, Political Leaders, Government Agents, Writers, Entertainers, Actors, Artists, Sportsmen, Inventors, Designers, Pioneers, Founders, Patriots, Presidents, members of the Police Force, Judges, Justices, members of HM Forces, as well as Joiners, Janitors, Bin Men and other tradesmen, the ordinary man on the street and may be even your next door neighbour. You will most probably know of someone who is a Mason.

Who can become a member?

Men of the mature age of 18 who believe in a "Supreme Being" who are of sound character and judgment and are law abiding members of the community, free of any convictions and have never plead guilty to a crime, may apply to be considered to become a Mason.

If I joined, would I have to wear an Apron?

Yes, aprons form part of our formal regalia and are symbolic of the aprons that the operative stonemasons used to wear while executing their craft. When you first join you get a plain apron, however, as you progress and advance, aprons become more ornate and elaborate.

