



An introduction to Freemasonry and the Bradstow Lodge

Our Membership.

Like so many Lodges, it is gratifying to observe in our records that we have had members from all ranks of society, Members of Parliament, Doctors, Publishers, Solicitors, Victuallers, Shopkeepers, Builders, Railway Station Masters, Teachers, Soldiers, Sailors, Greengrocers, Engineers etc, all with the same commonality; all were and are Brethren of Bradstow.



Bradstairs Masonic Centre

What is Freemasonry?

We are a unique members' organisation which has thrived for over 300 years. Having no political or religious affiliations, we comprise members of all ages, races, religions, cultures and backgrounds. We meet in our individual Lodges throughout the country where we have ceremonial traditions which encourage us both to be more tolerant and respectful and actively to fulfil our civic and charitable responsibilities; we also make time to eat, drink and meet together, and form lifelong friendships.

Operative Masons built buildings made of stone and worked on the building sites in Lodges. Speculative Masons try to build themselves into being better men, also working in Lodges..

In England, Regular Freemasonry falls under the auspices of The United Grand Lodge Of England

What do you do?

Our meetings consist of lessons that are centuries old, designed around the individual. The decisions you make, the way you live your life and how to become a better person can be found within them.

Helping those that are less fortunate than themselves is very important to us. Charity runs through Freemasonry, and many Masons give time and energy to this end.

We also have a lot of fun!

History of Bradstow Lodge.

Towards the end of the 1800's several Freemasons that belonged to Lodges in Ramsgate decided that they would like to have a Lodge in Broadstairs. After petitioning their own Lodges, and the Union Lodge in Margate they were eventually successful. Bradstow Lodge was consecrated on the 15th December 1892, and our first initiation was held shortly after on the 28th December. We Celebrated our 125th Anniversary in 2017.

At the beginning all we had was the Lodge Room itself (you can still see the now blocked up door on the side of the building.) Often there were so many visitors that the overflow had to be accommodated in the mezzanine that overlooked the main floor. Access was via ladders and step ladders! In the end a staircase was installed! As time progressed we bought the house next door and made use of the extra space with a Kitchen Dining room and Bar, and entrance to the Lodge room was internal! No more getting wet!

Meetings continued at Broadstairs throughout the last Century, including the two World Wars. In the centre of our Ledge Room we have a memorial to three of our brothers who gave their lives in WW1. At one time a meeting had to finish early because of "A visit from a German Zeppelin"! During WW2 the area became quite depleted through the threat of invasion so we shared Officers with our sister Lodge Kingsgate and enjoyed visits from Allied Personnel.

Why become a Freemason?

People join Freemasonry for many different reasons, some join for the friendships they will make; friendships that last a lifetime and encompass the key milestones in life for better or worse. You will meet people who are different to you, those of different ages with radically different life experiences and interests, drawn together by common experience through Freemasonry.

for three centuries, drawn from all walks of life. From Captains of industry and chief executives to manual labourers and forklift truck drivers, so you will find people with a wealth of different outlooks from all races, religions, classes and background

Principles of Freemasonry

BROTHERLY LOVE - 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 dependants.

RELIEF - The Freemason is by nature and teaching a charitable man. He will assist all those less fortunate. 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.

How much time does Freemasonry take up?

Some Lodges meet only 4 or 5 times a year, others many more. Bradstow Lodge meets Monthly from September to May. If you want to take an active roll in the Ceremonies then we also meet weekly at a Lodge of Instruction. (I do recommend that you attend!).

Don't forget that one of the joys of Freemasonry is visiting other Lodges!

In short...it's up to you how much time you want to spend! You will never be pressurised to do anything!

Is it expensive?

There are Lodges to suit every pocket! (As a rule of thumb, Bradstow fees work out at the equivalent of a couple of pints of beer a week!)



bradstow.org.uk



Baal's Bridge Square

(Discovered under Baal's Bridge, Limerick, dated 1507)

**"I WILL STRIVE TO LIVE
WITH LOVE AND CARE
UPON THE LEVEL
BY THE SQUARE"**

