

# Lodge Waikato 475

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED FREEMASONS

JUNE 2021



' Freemasons Hall, London, England '

An imposing art deco building, covering two and one quarter acres, it was built between 1927-1933 as a memorial to the many Freemasons who died on active service in the First World War. Initially known as the Masonic Peace Memorial it reverted to the name Freemasons ' Hall at the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

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## NOTICE PAPER



### MASTER

**WBro. Andre Schenk**

11 Beaufort Place, Flagstaff, Hamilton.

Ph. 027 578 4060

### SENIOR WARDEN

**WBro. Alan Harrop**

18 Cherrywood St.

Pukete, Hamilton

Ph 027 499 5733

### JUNIOR WARDEN

**WBro. Darryl Gray**

3 Wymer Terrace,

Chartwell, Hamilton.

Ph 027 478 2574

### TREASURER

**V.WBro. Don Seath P.DGM**

14 Carnachan Street

Norfolk Downs, Cambridge.

Ph 027 497 5165

### SECRETARY

**Rt.WBro. Gary Salmon P.DivGM**

114 Briarwood Drive,

Flagstaff, Hamilton.

Ph 027 493 8709

Dear Brother,

You are hereby summoned to attend the Regular Monthly Meeting of  
Lodge Waikato, to be held in the Hamilton East Masonic Centre,  
285 Grey St., Hamilton East, on **Thursday 17th June 2021 at 11.00am & 6:30pm**

Ceremony: - Initiation Ceremony - Mr. Quintin Smith // MW visiting.

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Confirmation of Minutes | 2. Accounts payable        |
| 3. Treasurer 's report     | 4. Correspondence          |
| 5. Almoners Report         | 6. <b>Ballots</b>          |
| 7. General Business        | 8. <b>Notice of Motion</b> |

Candidates for Initiation -

Mr Quintin Smith. 23yr old Medical student . 49b Ohaupo Rd. Hamilton.

Mr Christopher Fulford. Group Manager, Active Faith Trust, 3/46 Peachgrove Rd.

Joining member -

WBro Etienne Gray (Eti) (Lodge Tuakau/Hamutana) Retired.

Summerset Retirement Village, Rototuna, Hamilton.

*Rt.WBro. Gary Salmon - Hon Secretary*

Lodge contact address -

Lodge Secretary, - e-mail - [lodge.waikato@gmail.com](mailto:lodge.waikato@gmail.com)

Lodge Waikato 475 - PO Box 9502, Waikato Mail centre, Hamilton 3240

Lodge Rooms address, 285 Grey St. Hamilton East.

Lodge Contact - Secretary Ph. 027 493 8709

## LODGE WAIKATO 475



**To be Initiated** - Mr Quintin Smith, Mr.Chris Fulford.

**To be Passed to the Second Degree** -  
Bro Jomar Figuerres & Bro Patrick Salmon.

**To be Raised to the Third Degree** - Bro Geralde Guinto, Bro Lowell Daquioag

Please contact the **Lodge Almoner**, - WBro. Wally Lee, in all cases of difficulty and where any help is needed. - **ph 07 824 4862. e-mail - wfnlee@gmail.com**

Please contact the **secretary** to update any items. Rt.WBro. Gary Salmon,  
**027 493 8709 - e-mail - lodge.waikato@gmail.com**

**Chairman of Management Committee** - WBro. Michael Tribe  
**Ph 027 249 8630 - e-mail - mtribe@xtra.co.nz**

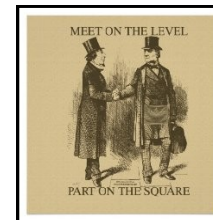
**Editor of the Plumblin**e - WBro. Graham Hallam.  
**Ph 027 855 5198. e-mail - mallah@xtra.co.nz**

**Lodge Waikato Monthly Diary - June 2021**

Thursday, 3rd June at 7:00pm. Management meeting .  
Thursday, 10th June at 7:00pm. Lodge monthly practice.  
Thursday, 17th June at 11.00 Business Meeting & 6:30pm Ceremony  
Regular Lodge monthly meeting. Grand Master visiting.

**Lodge Waikato Brethren with Masonic Birthdays in June.**

Ted Wilson - 12th June 1962 (59yrs )  
Don Seath - 7th June 1971 (50yrs )  
Willy Willetts - 3rd June 1974 (47yrs )  
Wally Lee - 7th June 1982 (39yrs )  
John Hawkins - 26th June 1989 (32yrs )  
Alan Harrop - 7th June 1993 (28yrs )  
Tim Heeley - 19th June 2014 (7yrs )



**Special Thanks —**

Lodge Waikato 475 would like to thank most heartedly the following  
business for their continued support throughout the year

James R. Hill.

**Greetings Brethren,**

I thought the May meeting was a particularly good night, I thank you all for your hard work. I feel that we can be confident that we will give a similar performance when the Grand Master is visiting our Lodge in June. I thought it was also a special night because of the large number of visitors we were honoured with. Thanks to the Brethren who are visiting on the Wednesday nights, this is also due to your efforts.



Hope everybody enjoyed the Lodge lunch at the garden, The steak burgers were very good.

We will still have two practises so that the receiving of the DGM (who will receive the GM) all goes smoothly with full decorum.

**VWBro Don Seath 50 years**

One of the reason that MW Bro Wrigley, Grand Masters is visiting our Lodge is to present a 50 years ' service medal to VW Bro Don Seath PDGM. Don' s family will be joining us in the Lodge rooms between 8 and 8.30, after the First Degree Ceremony. The day will look as follows: We will set up the rooms at 10.30 am and have our Regular meeting at 11.00 am in the morning, Calling Off after doing the business and a number of Ballots.

The second part of our meeting will start at 6.30 pm with Calling On and the receival of visitors followed by the District Grand Master who will receive the Grand Master. Following the receival and formalities we will have the 1<sup>st</sup> Part of the Initiation Ceremony for Mr Quintin Smith. This Ceremony will take 55-60 minutes after which we have the three Risings and close the Lodge. We will all stay in our Regalia in the Lodge room and receive family members/visitors and the Grand Master will give the 50 year Presentation after which we will retire for Refectory.

**Andre**

**' June 17th - Special Night' "**

**Please read this Brethren " -**

**Lodge has a very busy day and evening meeting on 17th -  
So, be aware. -**

**We are privileged to have the Grand Master, MW Bro Graham Wrigley  
and Grand Lodge Officers attend our meeting.**

**Lodge will ' Open ' at 11:00am on 17th and ' Call-off ' in 3rd degree.  
Lodge will ' Call-on ' at 6:30pm receive visitors, GL to follow.**

**Ceremony for evening will be 1st degree Initiation for Mr Quintin Smith.  
Followed by 50yr badge presentation to V.WBro Don Seath,  
by MW Bro Graham Wrigley.**

**Friends and family will be invited to attend the 50yr presentation.**

=====

**I also request your attendance during June at, at least one of my visitations as  
we do have one of our own brethren taking another step at another Lodge.**

**Please ring myself or the JW to seek a ride, there is always a seat available.**

**WM.**



Lodge Waikato No 475

Monthly planner

2021 -

We 've got lots to look forward to in 2021 —

The year ahead -

Ceremonial -

June Initiation - Mr Quintin Smith  
MW Grand Master visiting - Presentation Medal,  
V.WBro Don Seath. PDist GM.

July Lodge Installation.

Thanks once again for your support, and keep an eye on monthly newsletters so you can join me when visiting, always a seat available,

**Upcoming visits month of June -**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of June Lodge Tawhiri Third Degree of Bro Andrew Mulligan

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June Lodge Piako Second Degree, Bro Jomar Figuerres

**Try to make this a visit to support our own candidate.**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June Lodge Alpha First Degree Tracing Board.

**Those EA and FC who have not had this presentation please attend.**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June Lodge Beta Installation Meeting 7.00pm.

( Brethren, I strongly request your attendance during this month of June when Visiting, as we are having our own brethren taking their next step at another Lodge. )  
**Please contact myself or the JW to arrange a ride, as there is always a seat available.**

**Practices -**

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Management committee at 7pm, practise 7.45

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> June - Practice 7pm

**Brethren doing Charges for meeting on 17th June -**

Lesser Lights WBro B. Dawson

Secrets WBro G. Hallam

Investiture WBro A. Harrop

Charge After Inv Bro G. Guinto

Charge in NE WBro B. Ansell

Reasons for Prep WBro D. Mead

Working Tools Bros B. Walker, M. Bunting, M. Ashburner

Charter Charge R.WBro G. Salmon

**WM.**

Yes ??

Coming together is a beginning. - Keeping together is a progress.

Working together is a success.

Henry Ford.

**Report on Management Committee Meeting  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

This report is a summary of the Management Committee, held in April

There were fourteen members present and five apologies.

**The Master 's Report:**

The Master had circulated four discussion papers prior to the meeting outlining his plans for the coming eighteen months. They centred on -

Succession

Mentoring

Ritual training

A ceremonial conduct plan

These plans were accepted as a sound base for the coming year

Other points in the report included:

a copyright issue with the seats being built by Ngaruawahia High School

a Lodge lunch on 16<sup>th</sup> May at the Hamilton Gardens.

**The key points from the June meeting include:**

The treasurer, D Seath tabled a financial report for April

Property:

W Bro Cooper demonstrated a califont for the kitchen. He will follow the practicability of this system.

V W Bro Evered gave a report on the building WOF. He is waiting for a reply to a request he has made to an official.

The amplification of the Lodge is continuing. The W Master has this under control

The review of the role the Lodge widows ' is still in the hands of the Almoner. He will continue to work with W Bros Hallam and Morgan to develop some protocol.

Plans for the whiskey evening are progressing slowly, but the brethren have given the organisers some direction. It will be held on a Friday evening in early spring.

W Bro Loft reported that we had agreed a number of changes to the By-Laws of the lodge in 2019 they had never been actioned. He agreed to represent the detailed list of changes that were approved at that time for consideration at the next management committee meeting.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and participation and the meeting was closed in Peace Love and Harmony at 7:55pm

**Michael Tribe**

**Chairman**

**Management Committee**

**Tools -**

**“ To steer the bark of this life over the seas of passion, without quitting the helm of rectitude, is the highest perfection to which human nature can attain;  
And as the builder raises his column by the level and perpendicular,  
so ought every Freemason to conduct himself towards this world. ”**

**Nominations for positions of responsibility for year 2021 - 2022**

**These nominations for Lodge Installation meeting on July 15th 2021.**

<b>Master</b>	W Bro Andre Schenk
Deputy Master	W Bro Dennis Aplin
IPM	W Bro Adrian de Bruin
Senior Warden	W Bro Alan Harrop
Junior Warden	W Bro Darryl Gray
Senior Deacon	Bro Mark Ashburner
Junior Deacon	Bro Mark Bunting
Inner Guard	Bro Brent Walker
Almoner	W Bro Wally Lee
Chaplain	W Bro Bob Ancell
Director Ceremony	W Bro Kirk Spragg
Ass. DC	W Bro Willy Willets
Secretary	R.W Bro Gary Salmon
Treasurer	V.W Bro Don Seath
Organist	Bro Norm Weir
Tyler	W Bro Graham Hallam
Senior Steward	Bro Ged Guinto

***R.W Bro Gary Salmon, - Secretary.***

**LODGE BENEFIT**

**Lodge Waikato now has a Gilmours account.**

Any member from our Lodge can now shop at Gilmours Cash and Carry.

The address is 13 Simsey Place, Te Rapa Park, Hamilton

The account number for Lodge Waikato is 2259460, this allows you to shop and pay at the counter. When you want to make use of this please download the STOCARD app onto your phone, search Gilmours and enter the account number. When shopping just show the Stocard app.

Please do realise that prices at Gilmours are excluding GST and that for small quantities prices can be dearer than the supermarket.

For catering quantities prices are not only cheaper but the quality is mostly far superior to a supermarket.

**Kind regards  
Andre Schenk**

**' Without neglecting the ordinary duties of your station,  
endeavour to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. '**

## ‘ Freemasons Hall ’

The current building, the third on this site, was built between 1927 and 1933 in the art deco style to the designs of architects Henry Victor Ashley and F. Winton Newman as a memorial to the 3,225

Freemasons who died on active service in World War I.

It is an imposing art deco building, covering two and one quarter acres. Initially known as the Masonic Peace Memorial, the name was changed to Freemasons' Hall at the outbreak of the World War II in 1939. The financing for building the hall was raised by the Masonic Million Memorial Fund. This fund raised over £1 million.

### **Grand Temple**

Central to the present building is the Grand Temple, meeting place for Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and the annual meetings of a number of the Home Counties Provincial Grand Lodges, and occasionally for other Masonic degrees and orders and indeed non-Masonic organisations. Bronze doors, each weighing one and a quarter tonnes, open on to a Chamber 123 feet ( 37 m ) long, 90 feet ( 27 m ) wide and 62 feet ( 19 m ) high capable of seating 1,700. The ceiling cove is of Mosaic work and in addition to figures and symbols from Masonic ritual includes, in the corner, figures representing the four cardinal virtues – Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude, and Justice – and the Arms of Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn ( second youngest son of Queen Victoria ) Grand Master 1901 – 1939, at whose suggestion the Masonic Peace memorial was built. A large pipe organ is installed, built by the leading British organ builders Henry Willis & Sons.

### **Other Temples**

In addition to the Grand Temple, there are a further 23 masonic temples, or meeting rooms, within the building, used by Lodges and Chapters of Freemasons. All are highly ornate in their various art deco styles, and no two are identical. Amongst the temples which are of particular note: Temple No 1 is very large ( seating up to 600 ) and contains a series of portraits of former Grand Masters of England and Wales; Temple No 3, although of no unusual style in itself, contains a recently restored nineteenth-century chamber organ of note; Temple No 10 ( where the designers had additional height and space due to its location beneath the large clock tower ) is built in a style which combines classic art deco with Egyptian design, and includes an impressive domed ceiling, and also a Willis pipe organ ( awaiting restoration ) ; Temple No 11 was largely funded by donations from Japan and the Far East, and is consequently decorated in a lavish style, dominated by stylised Chrysanthemums, the national flower of Japan; Temple No 17 enjoys a more than usually ornate decorative style and far more ante-room ( storage and changing ) space than most temples of its size, and is used in particular by the most ancient lodges in London, including the three remaining lodges ( of four originals ) which pre-date 1717 and the formation of the Grand Lodge itself; Temple No 23 is the smallest ( seating approximately 25 people ) and contains a series of portraits of former Grand Secretaries of England and Wales. In addition to these 23 Temples, and the Grand Temple, there are several very simple and plain temples reserved for 'Lodges of Instruction' and 'Lodges of Rehearsal'. Unlike the Grand Temple ( of which public tours are available daily ) the other 23 temples are not normally open to the public, as they are in constant demand by private London Lodges and Chapters for their regular meetings.



In addition to the Grand Temple, the other temples, and the Library and Museum, the building contains extensive administrative offices, storage space for the property of the many hundreds of lodges meeting in the building, a masonic shop ( open to the public during normal trading hours ), board rooms, workshops, a tailoring and embroidery suite, archives, a members' drawing room, and an entire floor of charities administration, where the four major national masonic charities house their headquarters and administration ( these being the Freemasons' Grand Charity, the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and the Masonic Samaritan Fund ).

#### **Recent uses.**

Like Sandby's Grand Hall, the Grand Temple is also used for concerts and musical events – having excellent acoustics and clear sight-lines.

The building is used both internally and externally as a stand-in for Thames House ( the home of MI5 ) in the TV series Spooks and in the TV series Spy and has also featured extensively in the long-running series of TV films Agatha Christie's Poirot; the building makes frequent one-off appearances in episodes of other television series, such as its extensive use in Hustle, series 5, episode 2. Both its exterior and interior were used in an episode of New Tricks, and the interior has been used for the film adaptation of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy ( 2005 ) where Freemasons' Hall becomes the temple in which the "Jatavartid" people pray for "the coming of the Great White Handkerchief". It has also been used in many other feature films, including Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London ( 2004 ), The Line of Beauty ( TV ), The Wings of the Dove ( 1997 ) and Johnny English ( 2003 ). The building has also featured as a backdrop in music videos, including extensive use ( internally and externally ) in the music video for the Westlife single Mandy.

On visiting the Grand Lodge rooms we were met and had a grand tour with a few others, the guide was excellent and, of course, was very knowledgeable about the entire centre.

The Grand Lodge room where we were able to see, seats just on 2,000, the entry double-doors into the Lodge room are extremely huge, made of Australian Teak timber, an extremely solid hardwood, weigh several tons, but they have been so exactly swung that they can be opened by just pushing with a finger.

There are 21 Lodge rooms, each lodge room having it ' s changing/dressing room attached, all are on different levels, there are seven floors, the building would stand any earthquake, it is so solid.

It is extremely ornate, the Teak timber is everywhere, the floors which are solid stone are in-laid with very special meaning stars and Masonic symbols. Gold fittings are all around, it is a very impressive building to walk up to as well as the complete interior. The ceiling in the Grand Lodge room is very ornate as well showing the large emblazoned star.

The large Grand Lodge room is only used a few times a year, more especially when the Grand Master, M.W.Bro The Duke of Kent, is to visit, this may only be a few times a year. Other Lodge rooms, which are set out very similar to our own Lodge room, are able to seat 600, 300, and down to 25-30, so are able to cater for all Lodge sizes and reasons for meeting. It is a very busy place during the day and many evenings, many London Lodges meet there.

**W.Bro Graham Hallam**

## ' THE FIRST DEGREES '

*Through the Universities Scheme, Freemasonry is reaching a young, community-minded generation. Sophie Radice finds out what attracted five university recruits to Leicester's Wyggeston Lodge.*

*It 's very exciting to see the lodge filling up with the younger generation, all of whom seem to have great ideas about the future of the lodge. ' Dr Andy Green*

University is a place that encourages self-expression and personal discovery. Surely not a time when you would consider joining Freemasonry, with all its traditions and structures? Dr Andy Green of Wyggeston Lodge, No. 3448, disagrees: ' Freemasonry is a sociable and supportive fraternity. It works very well with those just starting out on their adult lives and looking to meet a range of people with a solid moral code – it 's also a lot of fun. ' The first university lodge, Apollo University Lodge, No. 357, was founded at Oxford almost two hundred years ago, with Isaac Newton University Lodge, No. 859, following some years later at Cambridge. Since then, many thousands of young men have been introduced to Freemasonry through these two lodges, and they provided the inspiration for the Universities Scheme. Set up in 2005, the scheme establishes opportunities for undergraduates and other university members to learn about Freemasonry and to bring fresh minds and ideas into the organisation. There are now more than fifty lodges pursuing a similar course. Their membership consists of undergraduates, postgraduates, senior members of the university and alumni, ranging in age from eighteen upwards.

Wyggeston Lodge in Leicester joined the Universities Scheme in 2011 to try to revive membership numbers – in the 1950s the lodge had one hundred and twenty members and in 2010 it had dwindled to thirty-two. In the past few years, however, the lodge has initiated twelve students. Last summer, four students from the University of Leicester were part of a special meeting of the lodge, when it carried out its first ever quadruple initiation ceremony. This saw Valentin-George Tartacuta, Yusif Nelson, Peter Clarke and Peter Shandley joining the Craft. ' It 's very exciting to see the lodge filling up with the younger generation, all of whom seem to have great ideas about the future of the lodge and what might make Freemasonry more attractive to their age group, ' says Andy, Universities Scheme Subcommittee Chairman at Wyggeston. ' We have already made good use of social networking sites – we have a strong Facebook and Twitter presence, as well as a website with film clips of our new members talking about why they joined, and a blog. I realised that it was essential to be able to contact and attract young members through these forums. It has made the lodge communications more dynamic, because we have all had to up our game in a way. ' Provincial Assistant Grand Master Peter Kinder, who is also the Provincial Universities Scheme Liaison Officer, says: ' We are very lucky in this area with potential next-generation Freemasons because we have three very good universities – Loughborough (with the Lodge of Science & Art), De Montfort (with Castle of Leicester Lodge) and Leicester itself.

When we first went to the University of Leicester freshers ' fair three years ago, we were really surprised at the interest. So many people wanted to talk to us and asked us to explain what we were doing there. We spoke about the history of Freemasonry and if they seemed interested, we suggested that they came and had a tour of the lodge. ' Peter recalls how, at the end of the freshers ' day, the floor was filled with flyers.

' But you couldn't see any of the Freemasonry ones chucked away. I suppose we were a little bit more unusual than the pizza and taxi firms. We gave out seven hundred leaflets that first year and one thousand this year.

We seem to be going from strength to strength. ' LEARNING THE ROPES Peter Clarke is in his third year studying history and knew very little about the Freemasons when he came across the stand at the freshers' fair. ' It took me a year to think about it and by the time my second freshers' came up, I had done a bit of research and found out about the history of the Freemasons. I thought it would be something a bit different to join and take me out of my normal social circles. I like the feeling of being part of something bigger and, as a history student, I was fascinated by tracing back the roots of Freemasonry. ' Business and finance student Jeff Zhu also came across Freemasonry for the first time at a freshers' fair.

' It was my second year at university; I had just split up with my girlfriend and was feeling a bit down, so I went to the freshers' day. I come from China and I have to say that I liked the historical look of the Freemasons' stall, but I had never heard of them before. Many Chinese students just stick together but I really wanted the chance to branch out. I also like the values of integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness. It fits in with the way I want to live my life. ' Peter Shandley, who reads law and has just finished a year studying in Germany, was taken aback when he made his first visit to Wyggeston Lodge, which holds its meeting in Leicester's Freemasons' Hall – a Georgian building with stunning interiors. ' From the outside it doesn't look like much, but when I came inside and saw the main hall I was really interested in the heritage. The hall was built in 1910, when this area was really booming from the textile trade, and is one of the most impressive in the country. I feel really privileged to have been initiated into this lodge because it is such a distinguished one. I have so enjoyed my experience here that I have brought someone else into the lodge.

He was initiated in December.' While initially surprised by the decision to join, friends of university lodge members have been receptive to hearing about the general ethos of Freemasonry. Andrew Slater, who is in his third year reading medical biochemistry, says that he was attracted by the international aspect of Freemasonry and the fact that ' pretty much anywhere you end up in the world you could find a Freemasons' lodge and be welcomed there '. He also goes to other lodges in the UK and enjoys being part of the events that they hold. ' It's a good feeling to know you have people who will welcome you everywhere. ' RECRUITMENT For Andrew, joining a brotherhood that brings him together with new people is important. ' Andy Green is so great at promoting the values of decency, charity and brotherhood that it is hard not to be enthused by him. There is also the feeling that as well as having a great deal to teach us, the Freemasons here are very receptive to what we have to say about the way forward to keep membership alive. I have also become friends with students from different departments that I would never have met if I hadn't become a Freemason. ' Alex Pohl is twenty-two and has enjoyed acting in the ceremonies. ' I'm often nervous and things never go exactly to plan but it really helps with a sense of belonging and fraternity.

I am really committed to the Freemasons – it is a lifetime thing – and I joined because I knew about the huge amount Freemasons do for charity. I also really like the modesty behind the charitable giving. It's not something that the Freemasons make a big deal of but so much of what we are about is the desire to help others as much as we can. I really respect that, and I am excited about being a part of a new generation of Freemasons

## ' Things you didn 't know, or did you. ? - Freemasonry. '

Freemasonry is the perfect example of how presumed secrecy "injures" those not privy to the secret: Exclusion is an insult, and those not in the know *must* learn the secret — or else they get creative with the truth. Thus since their conventional establishment in 1717, Freemasons have been a whipping boy for paranoids.

In reality, however, Freemasonry is a fraternal organization dedicated to charitable work. Also, Freemasons most likely descended from guilds established by Scottish and English stonemasons. Highly skilled and valued, these stonemasons had plenty of work throughout history: the Pyramids, Stonehenge, the Parthenon, and some Renaissance and Gothic architecture. Guilds wisely kept a lid on their lucrative trade skills, which were passed down through generations.

In time, the stone work dried up, but the guilds and their compass-and-square symbolism, standard apron, and other rituals and imagery, stayed afloat as a fraternal order open to non-masons. Today, with as many as five million people worldwide belonging to a Masonic Lodge, it 's time we looked at five things you didn 't know about Freemasons.

There 's a pretty good chance these will be the first five things you 've ever learned about Freemasons as well.

### **They are not a secret society**

While not being a secret society is one of the five things you didn 't know about Freemasons, they evade this status only because the term itself is so poorly defined.

On its website, the United Grand Lodge of England, the oldest and most respected Lodge in the world and the cradle of modern Freemasonry, denies being a secret society. It 's hard to blame them, however, when the many definitions of the term include groups like La Cosa Nostra.

The Freemasons aren 't really even *secretive*. In fact, the only thing that is truly secret about a Freemason is his "traditional methods of proving he is a Freemason when visiting a lodge where he is not known," which is probably some variation on a fancy, complicated handshake. Other than that, everything is pretty much out in the open for folks to learn about. Their meetings and what goes on aren 't secret, but they are closed to non-members.

### **They have been blamed for assassinating JFK**

Of course this is no great distinction — who hasn 't been blamed for that? This accusation, however, goes a ways in pointing out how often this fraternal order has been targeted as a basic bunch of conspiratorial good ol ' boys, all the way to being suspected of controlling a " One World Government " that is in global power at this moment.

Conspiracy, however, does tie into some things you didn 't know about Freemasons. Some groups, including the Nazi regime, have used Freemasonry as a scapegoat to express their anti-Semitic views. Much of that stems from a literary hoax *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a nonsense, fraudulent anti-Semitic text that argues that Jews + Masons = world domination. Compelling stuff, primed to fool a towering intellect like Hitler.

No less an authority on ignorance, the Catholic Church dubbed Freemasonry "the kingdom of Satan" (Pope Leo XIII 's *Humanum Genus*). This denouncement is part of a long papal tradition denouncing the group, one that continues today: the bull *Quaesitum est* issued in 1983, and written by Cardinal Ratzinger (current Pope Benedict XVI), expressly denies Holy Communion to Catholics who join Masonic lodges.

This is because they have been misinterpreted as anti-clerical, stemming in part from an early belief in the separation of church and state.

#### **Some orders admit women**

Although the major Masonic orders do not admit women (in general, they don't permit interaction with women in a ritual context) there are Orders *associated* with them that admit women and that have their own variation on the secret handshake and other rituals, such as Order of the Eastern Star and Order of the Amaranth. Additionally, there is also a form of Freemasonry known as Co-Freemasonry. Not surprisingly, Co-Freemasonry does not enjoy any formal recognition from the major Masonic orders.

#### **They have one qualification for membership**

Beyond being an adult man, there is just one essential qualification necessary to become a Mason, and one's lineage, wealth or association with the ghostly inventions of conspiracy theorists have nothing to do with it.

According to the United Grand Lodge of England, Freemasons require members to believe in a Supreme Being. It doesn't matter which one because Freemasons consider themselves a secular group of religious individuals.

In a paper titled *Masonry's Love/Hate Relationship with Esoteric Traditions*, Jay Kinney (the Librarian and Director of Research for the San Francisco Scottish Rite Bodies) writes that Freemasons believe that people from different religions can "share a brotherhood, despite their theological differences — as long as they believed in God, Who was neutrally called the Great Architect of the Universe."

#### **They have no single governing body**

Perhaps the single most insidious accusation against Freemasonry is that it is a cult. By definition, a cult is easy to join, difficult to leave and it revolves around the blind worship of a single, dominating figure. Freemasons do not recruit; if you want in, you have to go to them. It is not easy to join, but it is easy to leave. There is no governing body of Freemasons, no holy vicar, Jim Jones or Grand PooBah. The organization is not an organization at all — not on a global, unifying level.

Also, Freemasons do not send representatives to foreign countries hoping to save your soul, nor do they meter your body for "areas of concern." They have no official publication or doctrinal book, no special oversight authority. From one to the next — Swedish Rite, Scottish Rite, sponsored youth service organizations like Job's Daughters International, DeMolay International FDC (of which Mickey Mouse is an honorary member), and on — they have differing signs, symbols and rituals while following a shared set of very basic principles.

**Freemasonry - "Ask Men."**

**Just Remember -**

**The objects of Freemasonry are to help others, to build a society of trust, to develop good men into even better men, to be charitable and to embrace all races and religions in one family - one Brotherhood in the sight of whatever supreme power you believe in - and in all these things are good.**

**Anon**

## Te Ara - Encyclopedia of New Zealand

Freemasonry is an international fraternal organisation. It emphasises ritual and supports charity and community service.

### Origins

The origins of the movement were the medieval lodges of British stonemasons, builders of cathedrals and castles. Lodges had been established to protect the secret skills of their trade. By the 18th century the lodges had lost their occupational role, and freemasonry spread among the middle-class men of the UK and Europe. By 1726 grand lodges had been established in England, Scotland and Ireland.

### New Zealand beginnings

The first New Zealand Masonic meeting was in 1837 at Port Levy, Banks Peninsula, with a gathering of French masons on board the whaling ship *Le Comte de Paris*.

The first lodge was the New Zealand Pacific, under the English constitution, which met in Wellington in November 1842. The next year saw the inaugural meeting of the Ara Lodge in Auckland, under the Irish constitution. By 1861 Masonic lodges had opened in all the main ports, and Dunedin hosted the first lodge under the Scottish constitution.

Most early members had been Masons in the UK, but membership spread steadily. By 1890 there were 151 lodges, and a movement emerged to create a New Zealand Grand Lodge.

### Ritual

Ceremony, symbolism and regalia were central to Masonic meetings. The members dressed up in formal clothes, with each rank marked by distinct aprons, gauntlets, chain collars and finely decorated 'jewels'.

The initiation of new members and the installation of officers involved complex ceremonies. Initially meetings were often held in hotels, but most lodges built their own halls where their symbols could be displayed. The ritual and the signs and passwords exchanged between members were secret.

### Roles

Following the formal monthly meetings, Masons would share a drink and a meal.

Socialising was part of the attraction. There was frequently music and singing.

There were also other social gatherings such as balls, ladies' nights, Christmas parties, picnics, indoor bowls and banquets. In the 19th century Masons also took part in public ceremonies, such as the laying of foundation stones, parading in all their finery.

Freemasonry was never a benefit society, but it provided support to members in distress and assisted members' widows and children. The movement also provided charity for the wider society. It had particular interests in the aged, youth and medical research.

### Brotherhood

Masons believed in one supreme being, but within this they claimed to welcome all Christian denominations. There was, however, a long history of mutual antagonism between Masons and Catholics.

Freemasonry grew until the 1960s. Then it declined, as the existing membership aged and younger men found alternative forms of entertainment and activities involving their spouses.

### Other lodges

There were several other societies closely modelled on the Masons.

The Loyal Orange Order emerged in Ireland to represent Protestant political interests.

Soldiers and settlers from Northern Ireland brought the order to New Zealand in the 1840s, with the first lodge in Auckland in 1842. Along with its fraternal role and its Masonic ritualism, the order was a vigilant defender of British Protestantism. It regularly held celebrations, and occasionally parades, on the anniversary of the battle of the Boyne, and Guy Fawkes Day. There were about 5,000 members by the mid-1880s, but supporters declined after the Second World War, leaving only the many Orange halls.

The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes was initially started in England by members of the theatre profession, and spread to New Zealand in the 1920s. mere (clubs).

The Savage Club, founded in London by journalists and artists, was established in Invercargill in 1885 and spread around New Zealand. The club provided members with the opportunity to perform on stage, with regular evenings of singing, musical items and recitations. In New Zealand members adopted a quasi-Māori ritual. Their leaders were called 'rangatira' and 'ariki'. Members dressed up in piupiu (flax kilts) and carried plastic mere (clubs).



**Did you know we used to hold the record for largest ever sit-down meal?**

When HM The Queen had a party for her 90th birthday, 10,000 guests attended.

But for years it was Grand Lodge which used to hold the record for largest ever sit-down meal. The event was in aid of the Masonic Million Memorial Fund which raised money to build our beautiful Freemasons' Hall in London.

The historic lunch was held on Saturday 8th August 1925 at Olympia. Special trains were laid on to transport the over 7,000 members to the venue, who dined on five courses and coffee, served by 1,250 waitresses in just over an hour!

Five miles of tables were laid with 50,000 plates, 30,000 glasses, 30,000 knives, 37,000 forks and 15,000 spoons. The assembled enjoyed salmon, lamb, chicken garnished with tongue and York ham.

A central conning tower was erected in the gallery which was fitted with electrical signalling devices for the caterers to supervise the event. There was also a loudspeaker system with amplifiers that allowed all the diners to hear the speeches clearly. Music was provided by the band of the Welsh Guards.

Books of matches were issued at the end of the meal, featuring an image of the event jewel on one side and the coat of arms of the United Grand Lodge of England on the reverse.

Cigars and cigarettes packed in specially designed cases were also distributed.

Wow - what an incredible image of the special day.

**Freemasonry Today. UK.**



# June 2021 (New Zealand)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 Visit Lodge Tawhiri Barton St. 7:30pm 3rd Degree	2 Visit Lodge Piako Morrinsville 2nd degree	3 Management Meeting and practice. 7.00pm	4	5
6	7 Queen's Birthday	8 Bro A. Mulligan Visit Alpha Lodge Cambridge 1st degree Tracing Board	9 Bro J. Figuerres Visit	10 Practice meeting 7.00pm	11	12
13	14 Visit Beta Waikato Installation 7:pm W.Bro Ralph Evans	15	16	17 Monthly meeting 1st degree working Mr Quintin Smith G.M Visiting 50yr	18 7.30pm	19
20			23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Monthly Lodge meetings, visiting dates, and other activities.



# July 2021 (New Zealand)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1 Management Meeting and practice 7.00pm	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Practice meeting 7.00pm	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Monthly meeting Installation Ceremony W.Bro Andre Schenk	16 7.30pm	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31