

In the Surrey Province of Surrey



CASTLE LODGE

No. 6657

CONSECRATED JUNE 4TH, 1948

An Introduction & Profile of our Lodge
To the Prospective Member.

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“In a room full of Masons there is no colour, no creed, nor religion; only masons”.

What is Freemasonry at Castle Lodge all about?

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal societies. The true origins of Freemasonry are clouded in both history and mystery; historical analysis shows aspects of Masonry date back to thousands of years B.C.

Today modern Freemasonry can be described as a society of men who are concerned with moral, social, and spiritual values. By using various allegorical symbols and playsets, Castle lodge 6657 encourages all its members, in simple terms, to ask basic questions about themselves concerning moral and ethical approaches to life, and the lodge seeks to encourage thoughtfulness for others, kindness in the community, and honesty in business, courtesy in society and fairness in all things, while having fun and enjoyment doing so. Castle lodge 6657 members are urged to regard and care for the less fortunate in society in need of help, and to enjoy the various social activities which the Lodge organises throughout the year so as to raise both awareness and charitable donations to aid the lodges chosen charities. In Freemasonry there is no religious or political structure allowed. All men are equal, be it race, religion or creed. Castle lodge 6657, happily practices these three "grand principles" within Freemasonry. These are described as: ***Brotherly Love; Relief; and Truth.***

Brotherly Love: meaning that every Castle lodge member should show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness and understanding to his fellow members.

Relief: meaning that we, as Castle Masons, are encouraged to practise charity and to care - not only for our own families - but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving and by voluntary efforts as a Lodge.

Truth: meaning that Castle Lodge Freemasons strive for the truth about themselves as men, clear moral standards, and aiming to achieve these standards in their own lives while enjoying that process with good friends.

Farnham Freemasonry Pre - 1948,

Prior to 1948, St. Andrews Lodge No.1046 and Waverley Lodge No.4723 were the only Craft Lodges in the Province of Surrey meeting in Farnham. In 1947 it had been twenty-one years since Waverley Lodge was formed, and there was a Masonic feeling abroad that Farnham was in need of a new lodge. Plainly advancement through the offices of the two existing lodges was slow, and there must have been keen competition for the duties available to Past Masters. Indeed, in our Mother Lodge of St. Andrews, twenty years was regarded as the norm from Initiation to Installation at that time. Accordingly, a meeting of interested local Masons took place at the Railway Hotel, Farnham on October 17th. 1947, and the wheels put in motion to form a new lodge. The Railway Hotel is now known as the Blue Boy, on Station Hill.

Castle lodges Sponsorship.

Sponsorship was obtained from St. Andrews Lodge No. 1046 as the senior local Craft lodge. St. Andrews had been in existence since 1864, and has in time spawned other local Craft lodges. It has also given its name to the St. Andrews Holy Royal Arch Chapter No. 1046, and also Mark and RAM side Orders. The Petition was duly submitted and on the 4th. March 1948, the petition was accepted. To the best of our knowledge Castle lodge was the first Masonic lodge Meeting held at the new home at the Farnham Masonic Centre at 42 Castle Street on October 5th. 1951.

Consecration

Masonic Lodges have always been “consecrated” (which means the Lodge is dedicated and given a number). The ceremony of consecration is performed by the Provincial Grand Master of Surrey, and when the ritual is finished the Lodge is said to be “Consecrated”. Castles Consecration was held at the Masonic Hall, Surbiton on Friday 4th. June, 1948. The Consecration was carried out by the R.W. Bro. Lieut. Col. HA Mann OBE MC in the presence of one hundred and seven members and visitors.

Our Motto

It is not clear who suggested the Lodge motto. A bland entry in the Committee minutes of 16th. January 1948 states:-

“The following motto for the Lodge was suggested: **“Absit Invidia”** meaning **“Let there be no ill will.”**”

No other comment is included, but it was duly accepted unanimously, and has remained ever since. It must be considered one of the best around as surely it epitomises all of the spirit of Freemasonry in just two words, albeit incomprehensible to most non-Latin speakers.

Our Meetings

Castle Lodge remains a very friendly and welcoming Lodge which meets five times a year; these dates are as follows; **the last Friday in September, and the first Fridays in November (Installation), January, March and May.**

While Castle Lodge hopes a member (“a brother”) will be as active as his time allows, the Lodge also make it explicitly clear to him that a Mason must never put his duties and responsibilities to Freemasonry ahead of his duties to his family, to his God and to his country. Castle are proud of the way we all see Freemasonry collectively as lodge members and we follow the view that the duty they own to their family, friends, and neighbours, to people in distress, and to you as an individual must come first in your life. Castle Lodge Masonry is designed to be “fun” and inclusive, while reaching for the best standards that can be achieved realistically given the time allowance you have in your lifestyle and commitments both personal and financial. Membership is open to men of the age of 21 and above, of any race, religion or creed and who can fulfil these essential qualifications and are of “good repute”.

Lodge of Instruction.

Castle lodge (along with many Lodges) do expect some level in involvement from members of the Lodge (at whatever Masonic level they are at) to attend the “Castle Lodge of Instruction” (or L.OI’s as they are known).

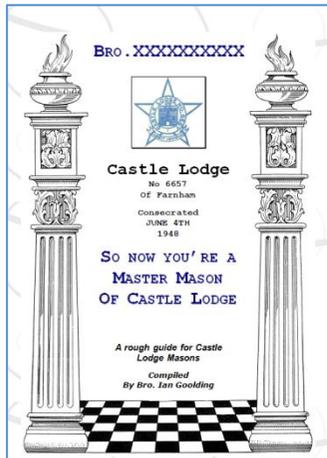
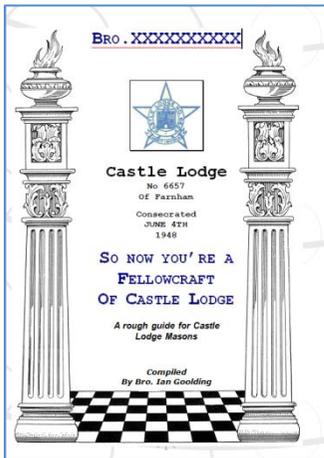
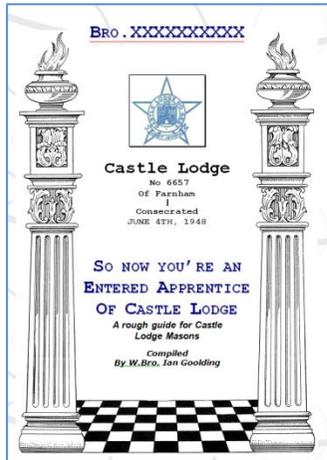
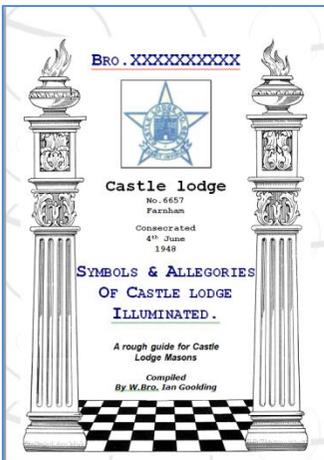
The purpose of the Lodge of Instruction is to provide an opportunity for the younger Brethren to become versed and practised in the ritual and symbolism of Freemasonry. They are also able to practise the ritual in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where they can make mistakes and gain guidance. The meetings are usually overseen by the Master, Wardens and in particular his “Director of Ceremonies” (think of him as a kind of Lodge “teacher”) who is an experienced member of the Lodge, and helps you practice what you may need to know so that you build confidence as an individual in what you are doing for a particular meeting.

We meet on an informal basis (**on a Friday**) and practise the various rituals so that at our ‘actual’ meetings we feel confident and well-rehearsed and thus feel pride in our own achievements. There are always experienced brethren there to guide and instruct the newer brethren as necessary. The Lodge of Instruction is key to the guarantee of a good meeting of which the members can be proud and which hopefully gives pleasure to our visitors.

The rehearsal of a ceremony normally takes place with the officers of the regular Lodge occupying the positions they either hold or expect to fill next year. Members who are in other positions within the Lodge and will move into that particular role (as part of their next advancement within the Castle lodge structure) are also given the opportunity to practise any of the offices if they so desire. This gives them a chance to practise a ceremony in an office which until then is unfamiliar to them. There are also opportunities for any member to practise any additional ritual or signs should they so desire. Although, of course, the ceremonies are always practised in earnest to make sure we give of our best at the actual meetings, Loi’s could not be classified as a totally serious event and there is always a lot of fun and banter to be had.

Help & advice for the Members at Castle lodge

Castle is proud to have their own “in house” Mentorship scheme as well as those provided by Surrey Province and United Grand Lodge. These “booklets” have been created to aid the newer Mason and are designed to back up what he is being shown at Lo’s and Lodge meetings. Designed to be fun, they are written simply and are given out when the next stage has been reached.



Personal Mentorship at Castle is actively encouraged at Castle at all levels.

Extra lodge activities.

From time to time Castle lodge hold social activates which all members are encouraged to attend. These range from very formal Provincial events to more “home grown” events.

This “extra Lodge activity” is often takes the form of a formal “Ladies night” where all Castle members are invited to bring along their wives or partners or older children to a slightly formal dinner and dance where everyone can join in, meeting up with the families of their “Brothers in Lodge” and expand their friendship network.

Less formal social events revolve around the sporting involvements of Castles members, and which range from Golf days at the Farnham Golf Club (run under the banner of “STAGS”) with competitions and cups to be won which are presented at a more formal meal, to nights out at competitions such as boxing events at which Castle members are involved in.

After each LOI usually many of the members go down to the local pub and share a drink or two and share the humour generated within the practice and invite others to join them at other meetings or social events.

What’s next?

I expect you are wondering how you could personally fit into Castle Lodge Freemasonry? It’s Easy!!! No mystery, No Secret, “JUST GET INVOLVED AND HAVE FUN”. It really is that simple. You go as far as you want to, go as often as you want to and visit other lodges when you want to.

The Masons at Castle lodge 6657 will warmly welcome you into their Lodge and will extend that welcome for a lifelong and enjoyably supported journey through your Masonry, however far on the personal journey you wish to go. Many Masons you meet will become lifelong friends!

It is down to you! Masonry is fun. Never forget that fact!