



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

January 2017

How do you explain what Freemasonry is to your friends and colleagues?

Further to the Provincial Grand Master's recent New Year Message in which he states:

"As Freemasons we enter 2017 with thoughts of the Tercentenary and the enormous opportunities which this great occasion will present for our Lodges".

"Our brethren should be prepared for this and be able to talk openly about our organisation which has stood as a force for good for three centuries."

Talking openly about Freemasonry comes easily to some brethren, but it is actually quite difficult to condense what it means to each of us into just a few sentences. The Masonic experience is a personal journey and consequently there are many different views.

The front page of our new public-facing web site (<http://hampshirefreemasonry.com/>) expresses the views of four brethren on what Freemasonry means to them. For example;

*"Gives me confidence in life"
"I make new friends from different backgrounds"
"It's good to be part of a close team of friends"
"I enjoy the company of friends with common aims"*

It is incumbent on all of us to be able to express what freemasonry means to us when asked. It would therefore be helpful if all brethren were to consider what their response to the question, "What does freemasonry mean to you", would be. An example of a personal statement from a brother is shown below:

"Before I became a Freemason I was quite shy and introverted. I am now a much more confident person. It has made me a better, more tolerant and forgiving man and consequently a more useful member of society."

"Freemasonry is a great way for men of all ages and from all walks of life to meet on equal terms and form life-long friendships. As well as being encouraged to give to charity, Freemasonry offers increased self-confidence and betterment through participation in a series of morally themed dramatic plays which focus on civic duties and basic values of caring, fairness, honesty, and integrity, which are sadly lacking in today's society."

Freemasonry - Building Great Friendships - Making a Difference

