

Footing Corner Stone Fund

This Fund was started at Grand Assemblage in 1990 and was set up to provide an administrative base. The Grand Master Masons also make annual charitable donations of up to 20% of the donations made to the Fund each financial year to Craft and Mark Festivals.

Further information concerning the Fund may be obtained from the Fund Representatives at Regional and Assemblage level. The Fund is administered by the Footing Corner Stone Fund Administrator, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

Qualifying levels for the Footing Corner Stone Fund are published in the Year Book, which are:

Iron	Doner	£60
Bronze	Subscriber	£120
Silver	Benefactor	£180
Gold	Patron	£300
Gold Bar	Grand Patron	£600
Great Corner Stone Award		£1000

The Worshipful Society of Free Masons

Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters,
Paviors, Plasterers and Bricklayers

The Operatives



Further information is available:

The Society Website: www.operatives.org.uk

Regional Clerk:

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A message from the Deputy Grand Master Mason
and Senior Passed Master.



Dear Brother

I trust that you will find this pamphlet about a somewhat special society within the Masonic family useful.

Hopefully in due course I might have the pleasure of welcoming you as a member.

Miguel

Rt.W.Bro. Dr Miguel A J Godfrey, VII°

The Society exists to perpetuate and preserve a memorial of the practices of operative Free Masons which existed prior to, and continues independently of, speculative Freemasonry.

It is not the successor of, or connected to, any former society of the same or any like name, nor do the ceremonies replicate precisely the practice of stonemasons, although some elements certainly reflect former practices.

Historically, one could learn the craft of stonemasonry in one of two ways; by Sitting by Nellie (i.e. watching and practising next to an experienced workman), or by entering into an Apprenticeship deed with a Master. This latter method is reflected in our Society where, on admission, a Candidate becomes an Indentured Apprentice.

Time and experience should allow an Apprentice to progress through the seven degrees of the Society, which are:

I°	Indentured Apprentice	Bro.
II°	Fellow of the Craft	Bro.
III°	Fitter and Marker	Bro.
IV°	Setter Erector	Bro.
V°	Intendent, Overseer, Super Intendent and Warden.	Wy.Bro.
VI°	Passed Master (<i>Note for Masons: Not Past Master</i>)	W.Bro.
VII°	Passed Master VII° <i>honoris causa</i>	Rt.W.Bro.
VII°	Grand Master Mason	M.W.Bro.

These seven degree ceremonies expand on, and add to, the ceremonies of Craft, Mark and Chapter. In particular they reflect what might

reasonably be considered as the way Masonry was in pre-union times.

A local unit is called an Assemblage and is, in reality, four separate Lodges, although for ease of administration it operates as a single unit like any other Masonic unit.

Annually, at the Grand Assemblage meeting, the murder of Hiram Abif is enacted. This is a very interesting drama and all members are encouraged to attend, at least once, to witness this unique piece of Masonic ritual.

Regalia is minimal and consists simply of a blue collarette or cord from which is suspended the badge of one's grade. Badges are exchanged as progression is made.

Qualification for membership is Master Mason, Mark Master Mason and Royal Arch Companion.

I oversee the South Eastern Counties Region which covers Surrey and Sussex and currently has the following four Assemblages:

Bodiam Castle - East Brighton Masonic Centre, Peacehaven, Sussex. Rt.W.Bro. Eugene Earland, VII° gene.e@ntlworld.com

Market Cross - Chichester Masonic Hall, Sussex. W.Bro. John Hickman, VI° john.hickman9@sky.com

Guildford Castle - Guildford Masonic Centre, Surrey. Bro. Andrew Lynch III° lynchaa37@googlemail.com

Nonsuch Palace - Sutton Masonic Hall, Surrey. W.Bro. Graham.hancock VI° graham.hancock36@gmail.com