

## ABOUT FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry is a secular, fraternal organisation. It teaches its members moral lessons and self-knowledge through participation in a progression of allegorical two-part plays. These are learnt by heart and performed within each Lodge, following ancient forms and symbolically using stonemasons' customs and tools.



Learn more about Freemasonry and its history at the Warrington Museum of Freemasonry which houses a fine and growing collection of Masonic material.



## MUSEUM

The Museum collection consists of a wide range of items with Masonic connections such as:-

- Regalia and Jewels
- Silverware
- Glassware
- Pottery
- Furniture
- Textiles

Within the library and archives there is a collection of Masonic books as well as documents, certificates and warrants, all associated to Freemasonry.

.

## DISPLAYS

Within the museum are displays which explore the progression from entered apprentice to master mason and onto other branches of Freemasonry.

A series of temporary exhibitions are used to portray Masonic life and other aspects of Freemasonry.



## THE FOUNDATIONS OF FREEMASONRY

The questions of where, when, how and why Freemasonry originated are still the subject of speculation. The general consensus is that Freemasonry descends directly or indirectly from the organisation of working stone masons who built the great cathedrals and castles of the medieval period. Their organisational unit, the lodge, began to admit men who were not working stonemasons beginning in England, with Sir Robert Moray who became a Freemason in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1642. In 1646 in Warrington, Elias Ashmole became the first recorded Englishman initiated into an English Lodge. On 24 June 1717 four London lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron tavern in St Paul's Churchyard, declared themselves a Grand Lodge and elected a Grand Master. This was the first Grand Lodge in the world. It began to hold regular meetings and published the first rule book.



The Museum is located within the Warrington Masonic Hall: Winmarleigh House, 15 Winmarleigh Street, Warrington WA1 1NB.

Tel: +44 1925 651468

**Museum Opening Times:**

Wednesday 9:30am – 12:00 noon

Other times are available by appointment

**Curator:** Vic Charlesworth

Tel: +44 1925 655416

Email: [wmfcurator@gmail.com](mailto:wmfcurator@gmail.com)

<http://museum.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk>

**ADMISSION FREE**

**DISABLED ACCESS:** The first floor temples are accessible by lift and the museum by four shallow steps

# Warrington Museum of Freemasonry

