



# Maeides Stana Lodge

NO. 7868

## A short history and Lodge overview

## **Meeting Place**

Maidstone Masonic Centre  
Courtenay Road  
Tovil  
Maidstone  
ME15 6LF

## **Meeting Times:**

7 meetings per year - **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month**, from October to April  
Lodge of Instruction (LOI) – every **Thursday**, September to May (except when main meeting is held)

## **Brief Lodge Overview**

Since its inception in 1963 Maeides Stana Lodge No. 7868 has grown in numbers and currently has a membership of circa 30. It is in good health with a steady stream of new members – both Initiates and joining members. It provides for its members a varied programme of Masonic and social events thereby cementing the fraternal bond between brethren and their families. Although we are a relatively small Lodge with a mainly professional membership we pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming Lodge. There is a very strong commitment to Lodge of Instruction (LOI) which provides the ideal forum for mentoring of new members. Maeides Stana Lodge is the only Lodge in East Kent to practise “Stability Ritual”.

The Lodge has played its part in the promotion and development of Masonic Life in Maidstone.

## **The Lodge Name - “Maeides Stana”**

The title of the Lodge “Maeides Stana” is the old Saxon name for Maidstone, meaning town on the Medway (*taken from the Book of Saxon Charters, edited by W. De Grey Birch*).

## **Lodge Origins**

It was in May of 1962 under the leadership of Worshipful Brother Frederick Bertram Brown that the 21 petitioners, who became the Founders, first submitted their application to form a new Masonic Lodge in Maidstone. They were from diverse professions – 4 Fire Officers; 3 Company Reps; 3 Master

Grocers; 2 Company Directors; 2 Master Taylors; 2 Licensee's, 2 Estate Agents; 2 Government Officers and 1 Builder. The diverse mix of members of the Lodge exists to this day.

The Lodge was consecrated in 1963 by the Right Honourable and Right Worshipful, the Baron Cornwallis of Linton, Provincial Grand Master at the time. The ceremony took place at the Royal Star Hotel in Maidstone – and the Lodge afterwards held its meetings at the Masonic Temple at Bower Place.

The reason for forming a new Lodge in Maidstone is unclear. Membership numbers in Maidstone at that time were fairly static, and only 2 of the signatories of the New Warrant had been initiated into Maidstone Lodges. 10 were members of Lodges meeting in the Medway towns (6 from Balmoral Lodge No. 7188 – which is considered as our Mother Lodge). The origins of other members ranged from Karachi, Pakistan, Portland, Dorset to Dover, London Sidcup and Ashford. However, as well as the pursuit of charity, assisting both civil and Masonic causes in Maidstone and the surrounding areas, one of other main objectives of the Lodge was the promotion of “Stability Ritual” within the Province of East Kent. Stability Ritual is, in essence, the oldest ritual recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England, and Maeides Stana is still the sole Stability Lodge in the Province, and one of only 16 in the country.

Membership numbers in the Lodge have fluctuated over the years – reaching over 50 members at its pinnacle. Today the number of members is steady at around 30.