

Joining our Ancient Fraternity

Freemasonry



Clayton-le-Moors
Freemasons' Hall

We have a lot of history dating from 1791, if you would like to be part of our history and feel that you could contribute to Freemasonry....

Then please contact our Lodge Secretary, details on our website: www.amityrf283.org.uk



We look forward to welcoming you.

The Lodge of Amity and Rossendale Forest No. 283 supports Masonic and Non-Masonic Charities alike and is:

- Grand Patron Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys
- Patron New Samaritan Fund
- Grand Patron RMBI 2015 Festival
- Vice Patron East Lancashire Masonic Charity 2012/13

From its earliest days, Freemasonry has been concerned with the care of orphans, the sick and the aged. This work continues today. In addition, large sums are given to national and local charities.

Freemasons are taught to practise charity and to care - not only for their own - but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals.

Freemasonry is second only to the National Lottery in the level of money donated to charitable causes in the UK.

www.amityrf283.org.uk

<<< For further information please visit our website



Please address all your enquiries to:

The Secretary
The Lodge of Amity & Rossendale Forest No. 283
Clayton-le-Moors Freemasons' Hall
Mill House
Corn Mill Yard
Off Whalley Road
Clayton-le-Moors
BB5 5HX

**Or email the Lodge Secretary at:
sec@amityrf283.org.uk**

Designed by raytononline.co.uk



Lodge of Amity & Rossendale Forest No. 283

A little bit of Masonic History

The Lodge of Amity No. 283

The Lodge of Amity received its Charter in the reign of King George III from the Grand Lodge of England on **14th June 1791 AD**, and has most consistently and regularly met from that time onward to perform its Masonic mission, and has thus handed on its work from Master to Master to the present day.

In the Eighteenth Century there were several ruling bodies of Freemasonry in England, each holding authority in its own sphere, known respectively under the titles of the Grand Lodge of England, the Athol Grand Lodge, the York Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge South of the Trent. Of these Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of England and the Athol Grand Lodge were in 1766 the two authorities by which the Craft was governed.

From the Charter we learn that the Lodge was to be opened at the house of John Percival, known by the name of the **"Swan Inn" (White Swan Hotel)**, Rochdale, in the county of Lancaster, by the name of the **Lodge of Amity**, being numbered 579 in the list of Lodges on the register of the Grand Lodge of England; and should meet on the Tuesday next to the full moon. The only means of travel available to our ancient Lodge Founders at that time was on foot, horse-back, stage-coach, or other horse-drawn vehicles, therefore, the full moon gave them light to travel by. Whilst this is not readily applicable today; nevertheless, the Lodge has retained one of its ancient landmarks, being a "Lunar Lodge".

The Lodge met in Rochdale from 1791 to 1815 when it moved to Haslingden. From 1815 until 1923 the Lodge met in various Taverns and Hotels, but in 1923 it moved into the newly created Masonic Hall on Deardengate, Haslingden. However in 2007 the lodge relocated to the Masonic Hall, Mill House, Clayton-le-Moors, where it holds its meetings at the present time.

The Lodge of Amity No. 283 is a Great-Great Grandmother, having three Daughter Lodges, seven Granddaughter Lodges, five Great Granddaughter Lodges and three Great-Great Granddaughter Lodges.

Rossendale Forest Lodge No. 4138

Rossendale Forest Lodge No. 4138 was a Daughter Lodge of the Lodge of Amity and was founded in 1920 by members of the Lodge of Amity No. 283.

In the petition to the United Grand Lodge on 29th April 1920 to form a new Lodge the following is recorded:

"The name suggested for the prospective Lodge is **'ROSSENDALE FOREST LODGE'**, from the fact that a part of the Borough of Haslingden includes a portion of the historic area known as the Forest of Rossendale, the particular area is said to have been (in the past) a training-ground for Falcons, for the Royal House. We thus suggest the name, as its ancient characteristic is in sympathy with our Ancient Craft.

The place of meeting will eventually be at the Masonic Hall, Regent Street, Haslingden, when the same is completed. In the meantime a suitable room; off licensed premises; (as the Lodge is intended to be conducted on purely temperance lines), is receiving the consideration of our petitioners".

The Lodge of Amity received a letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary dated 26th June, 1920, advising that the M.W. The Grand Master had been pleased to accede to the petition for the proposed **Rossendale Forest Lodge** to meet at Haslingden. The number of the Lodge will be 4138.

So Rossendale Forest Lodge No. 4138 was born and consecrated at the Public Hall, Haslingden on 25th October 1920, by the Very Worshipful Brother Lt. Col. Sir Alan J Sykes, Bart, MP, PGD, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The records show that thirty-one Grand and Provincial Officers were present and one hundred and thirty-five from thirty-two lodges attended. A lot of Brethren must not have signed the attendance book because the total number present was more than three hundred!

The first two meetings of the Lodge were held, by dispensation, in the Trinity Baptist School. On the 19th January 1921 the Lodge was the first to hold its meeting at the new Masonic Hall in Regent Street. The Lodge was also the first Lodge to meet in the Masonic Hall, Deardengate; one week after it opened on the 12th December 1923, with the Lodge of Amity meeting on the 20th.

During its 91 years Rossendale Forest Lodge has played an active role in both the Community and in Masonic circles. Having a Grand Lodge Officer, numerous high ranking Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, both acting and past ranks, District Secretary, District Chairman and Deputy District Chairman; whilst engaged on its Masonic activities and duties in the Rossendale District.

The Lodge relocated to Mill House, Masonic Hall, Clayton-le-Moors in 2007 together with the Lodge of Amity No. 283 and Commerce Lodge No. 215 when the Haslingden Masonic Hall closed.

The Lodge of Amity & Rossendale Forest No. 283

Two Lodges, the Lodge of Amity No. 283 and Rossendale Forest Lodge No. 4138 combined to form one great Lodge for the future.... dedicated to carrying on the good works of Freemasonry and became the Lodge of Amity and Rossendale Forest No. 283 in January 2012.

The obvious choice was to combine the Lodge names but to keep the number 283 as this is a very old number, first issued in 1755 to the Lodge of Friendship, Norfolk.

Rossendale Forest Lodge No. 4138 held its final meeting on 28th November 2011, however, the history of Amity and Rossendale Forest has long been entwined, and from 2012 a new chapter of Masonic history can be written for the amalgamated **Lodge of Amity and Rossendale Forest No. 283**.

For more history and information about Freemasonry please visit our website:

www.amityrf283.org.uk