



Freemasonry in Queensferry

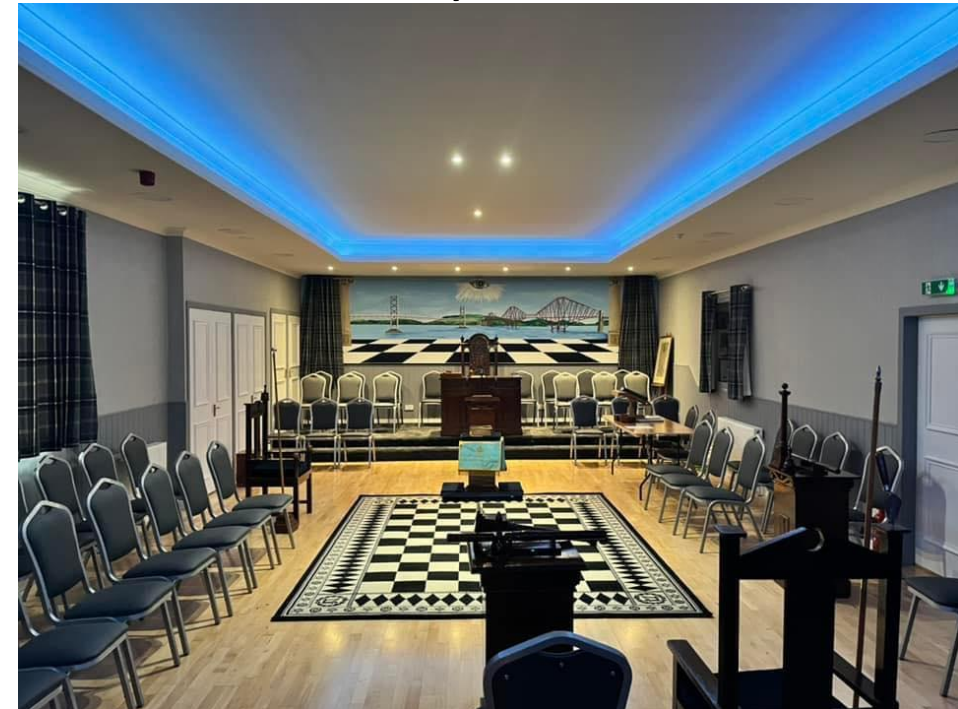
Open Day Display Boards

28 February 2026

What Happens at a Lodge Meeting



- A Masonic Lodge is the basic organisational unit of Freemasonry
- The Lodge meets regularly and conducts the usual formal business of any small organisation:
 - Approve minutes
 - Consider correspondence
 - Pay bills and prepare annual accounts
 - Elect new members
 - Appoint Office Bearers
 - Confer Masonic Degrees
 - Organise social and charitable events
- Lodge St Margaret meets on 2nd and 4th Tuesday from September to April



First Masonic Lodge in Queensferry

A Charter was granted on 6 November 1820, to consecrate St Margaret's Lodge No 288, sadly all minutes and records lost. The Lodge went dormant in 1837.

In 1935, Bro William Russell Past Master, presented 548 with the square and compasses used by 288 and which had been handed down to him from his great grandfather who was an office bearer of 288

At meeting of 548 on 26 April 1988 Bro James McCormack, RWM Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No 1 visited Lodge St Margaret and presented a rare artefact in the form of a 288 sash



Use image 6 and
Image 21

Lodge St Margaret N° 548



A new Lodge was formed and a Charter granted on 2 February 1874 and consecrated by Grand Lodge of Scotland at meeting in Queensferry School Room (now present premises) on 7 May 1874

On 25 December 1874 the Clerk of Dalmeny and Queensferry School Board sold the Burgh School of Queensferry and school house adjacent for £200. .

In 1882 the Lodge purchased the lower part of the school house for £73 from the Provost and Treasurer of Burgh Council



The Great War 1914 - 1919

In December 1914, the military authorities took possession of the hall at a rent of £3 per week for use by the Black Watch Regiment. Again, in May 1918 until March 1919 the Admiralty commandeered the hall for the purpose of storing hospital cots.

At the Lodge meeting on 12 November 1918 the day after Armistice Day, the Master referred in appropriate terms to the cessation of hostilities after 4 years and mentioned around 60 brethren of the Lodge had been engaged in the war and sadly 6 Brethren fell in the line of duty.



The Second World War 1939 - 1945



In October 1939 the Lodge was commandeered again during the Second World War when the Royal Air Force used the premises. During the 4-year period of RAF occupation the Lodge met in the Stag's Head Hotel and The Vennel Hall across from the old Parish Church

In 1937 A Master's Memorial Table and Tablet was purchased by members' donations as a perpetual reminder of the 6 Brethren who made the supreme sacrifice during the Great War 1914 – 1918

In 1946 another Tablet was added to the Memorial Table in honour of the 5 Brethren of the Lodge who made the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War

Use image 7 and 9

During the War Years

In October 1927 the Lodge installed 21 lights, 5 sockets and one outside light for the sum of £33 19 6d. Then the heating was improved with the installation of three 40-inch-high radiators and six loop radiators at an annual rental of 13/- (65p) and gas consumption of 2d (1p) per hour.

In September 1930 the Lodge purchased the property adjoining the Masonic Hall known as the Old Library and land from Queensferry Burgh Council for £50 at a Public Roup (auction). The Old Library was converted by the Lodge into a kitchen and bar area.



The Post War Era



In 1949 the Lodge celebrated its 75th Anniversary and Brother Dr Douglas Radford, Substitute Grand Master carried out the rededication and unveiled the Past Masters Board. The celebrations concluded with an Anniversary Ball in the Rosebery Hall where over 120 brethren and partners were hosted by Master Bro Adam Forsyth and his wife Emily where a three-course meal followed by an evening of dancing.

In 1963 a Gents Toilet block was built to the right-hand side of the front door. This replaced the existing “outside” toilet below the walkway to front door

Use image 10 and do you have an image of the original PMs board

1974 Lodge Centenary

On 9th February 1974 Lodge St Margaret celebrated its Centenary, and the Rededication Ceremony was conducted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland headed by Bro Dr Ian H Thomson, Past Depute Grand Master and an Honorary Member of 548



Use image 14

Towards 2000

On 9th February 1979 Bro Alec Fraser a Past Master of Lodge St Margaret was installed as Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Linlithgowshire. This is the highest masonic honour ever conferred on a 548 member.



Use image 17

Towards 2000

During the summer of 1983 Bro Derek Milne RWM headed a party of 40 Brethren, Partners and two children on a three-week holiday to Kenya.

Use image 19

In January 1988 Bro Alec Fraser when installing his Brother James Fraser into the Chair placed a new Master's chain of office to the surprise of the 548 Brethren a fitting legacy from a well-respected Past Master.

Crop image 38

During the 1998 summer recess a painted mural of the Forth Bridge and Forth Road Bridge was commissioned and painted by Bro Michael Bower an affiliate member of Lodge Newbattle St Mary No 1063



May need to take this shot

Towards 2000

On 6th February 1999 the Lodge celebrated its 125th Anniversary. On that occasion, Bro Roienton Bhumgara and Bro Arthur Johnson presented the Lodge with their personal extensive Masonic Library



Use image 27

Post 2000

In the early hours of Thursday 14th June 2001 the Lodge premises suffered devastating damage caused by a serious fire. The lounge and bar area were gutted and the main hall suffered from flash fire. The lower floor suffered severe water damage. The main Lodge artefact lost was a framed oil portrait of Bro Alec Fraser, PM, in his regalia as Provincial Grand Master

The re-instatement works took 6 months during this time the Management Committee met in the Boat Club and Lodge meetings were held in Lodge Kirkliston Maitland premises



Post 2000

December 2019 Bro Norman Colborne was presented with Distinguished Members Service Award recognising 40 years of dedicated service.

Use image 36

On Monday 23 March 2020 the Grand Lodge of Scotland suspended all Masonic Gatherings due to COVID pandemic, this lasted for 18 months

In 2019 major renovations to the main hall in preparation for the 150th Celebrations had commenced just at the start of the COVID suspension and due to the impact COVID had on material supplies the hall upgrade did not complete until September 2022



Lodge 150th Celebrations

- On 11 May 2024, the Lodge celebrated 150 years, when a large deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland headed by the Grand Master Mason, Bro Dr Joseph Morrow carried out the Rededication Ceremony. This was followed by a dinner for over 100 brethren in the Rosebery Hall. This was the finale to a year of Lodge events.



Lodge Charitable Donations



- A principal tenet of Freemasonry is Charity and over the years the Lodge has played its part
- The first donation recorded was April 1887 when 2/- was given to a visiting Brother from Lodge Cambuslang No 114, part of the Master's Relief Fund
- In 1931 the Lodge held a whist drive and raised £15 for the ERI
- In April 2000 a Lodge social raised £650 for Solway Harvester Appeal
- In April 2004 the Lodge raised £1500 for the Sam McLean Appeal
- In February 2015 the Lodge gave £500 each to First Aid Responders and Blood Bikes

Lodge Charitable Donations cont



Bro Richard Buffrey, a 548 member, in 2019 walked from John o Groats to Lands End at the age of 75 raising thousands for the Sick Kids Hospital in Edinburgh

In September 2022, Bro John Anderson RWM walked the West Highland Way and raised £1600 for Queensferry Churches Care in the Community

From 2006 until 2019 the annual Jim Liddell Memorial Dinner raised around £60,000 for local good causes. The main beneficiary being the Ferry Fair

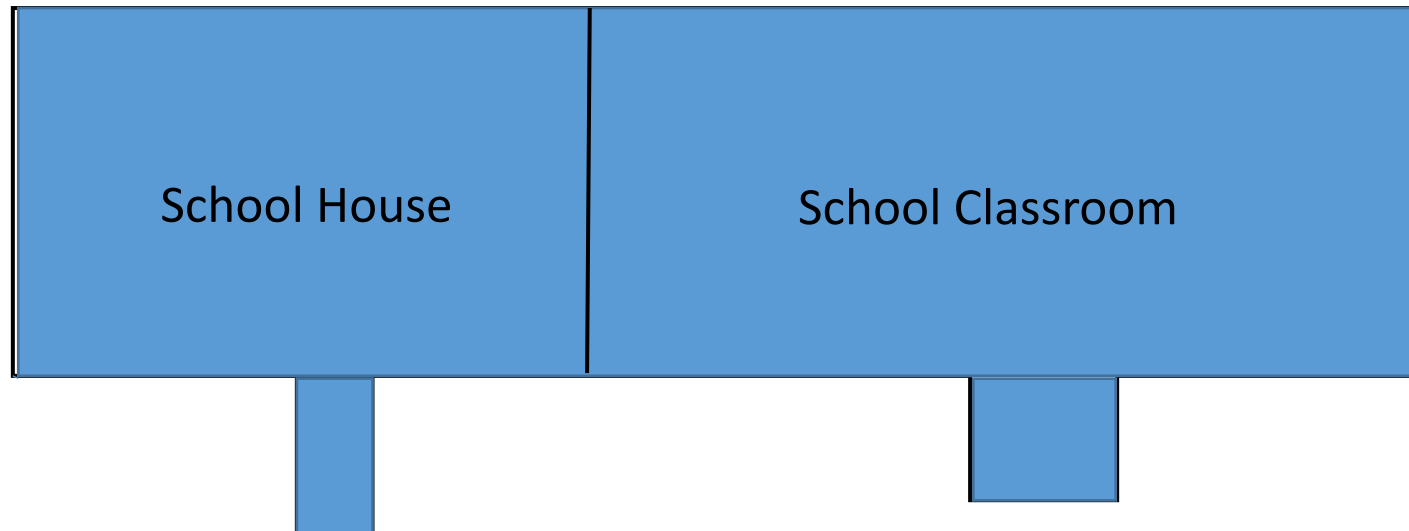
In 2024 and 2025 donations of nearly £10,000 were made to local good cause organisations

use image from donation night May 2024

Development of Lodge Premises



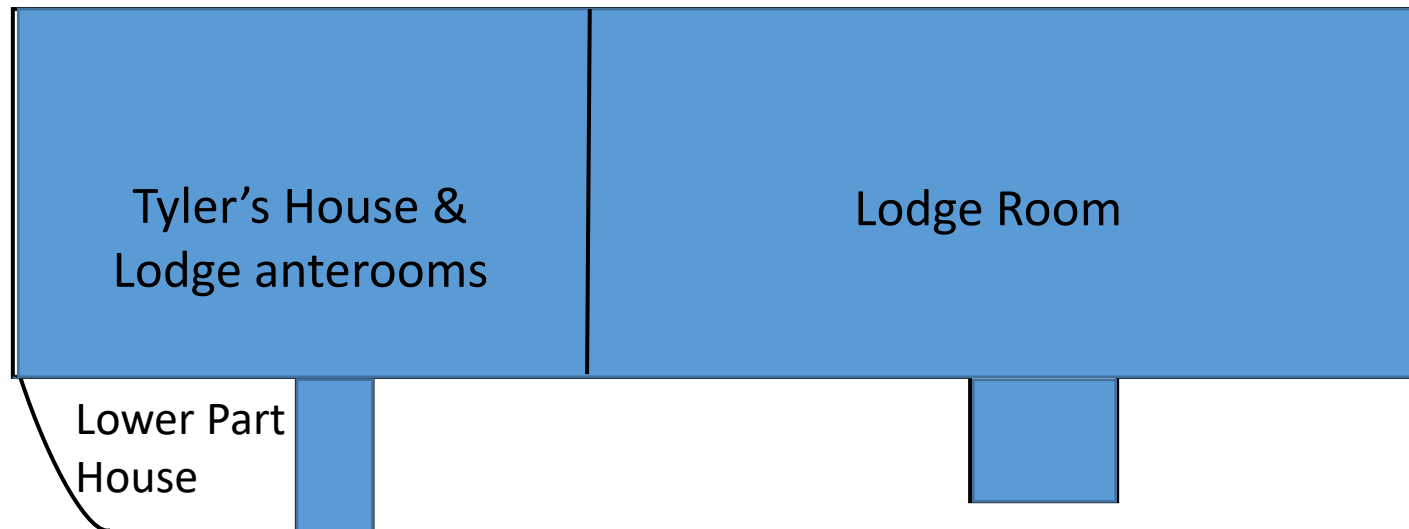
1874 building purchased from Dalmeny & Queensferry
School Board for £200



Development of Lodge Premises



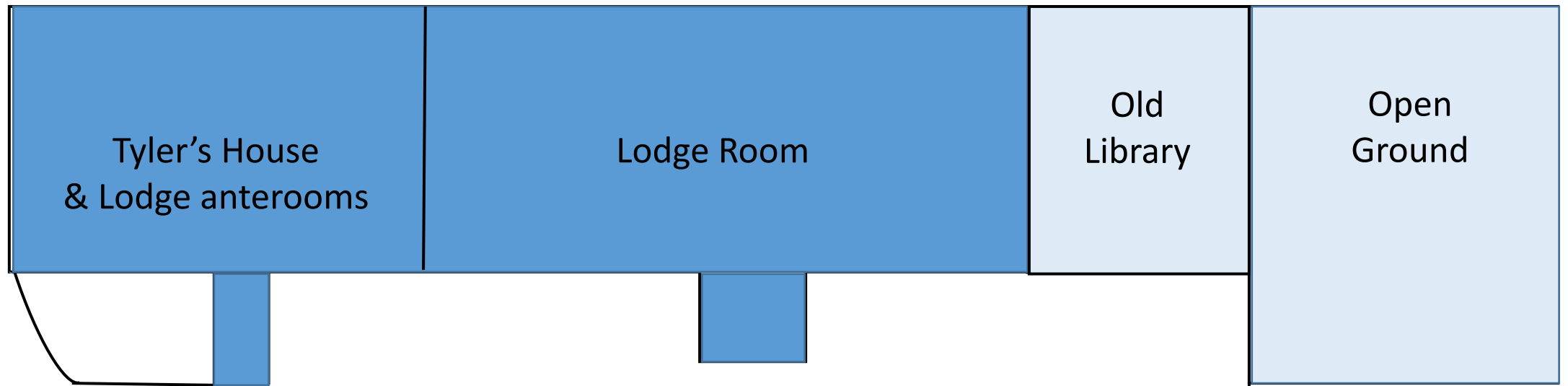
1882 lower part of School House purchased from Queensferry Burgh Council for £73



Development of Lodge Premises



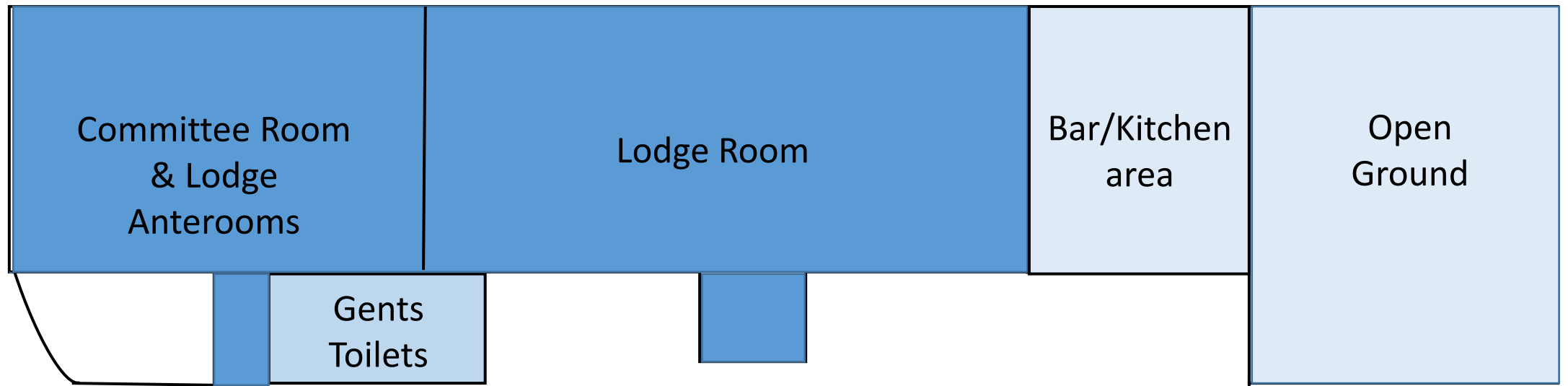
1930 Old Library and land between Lodge and Lilybank House purchased from Queensferry Burgh Council for £50



Development of Lodge Premises



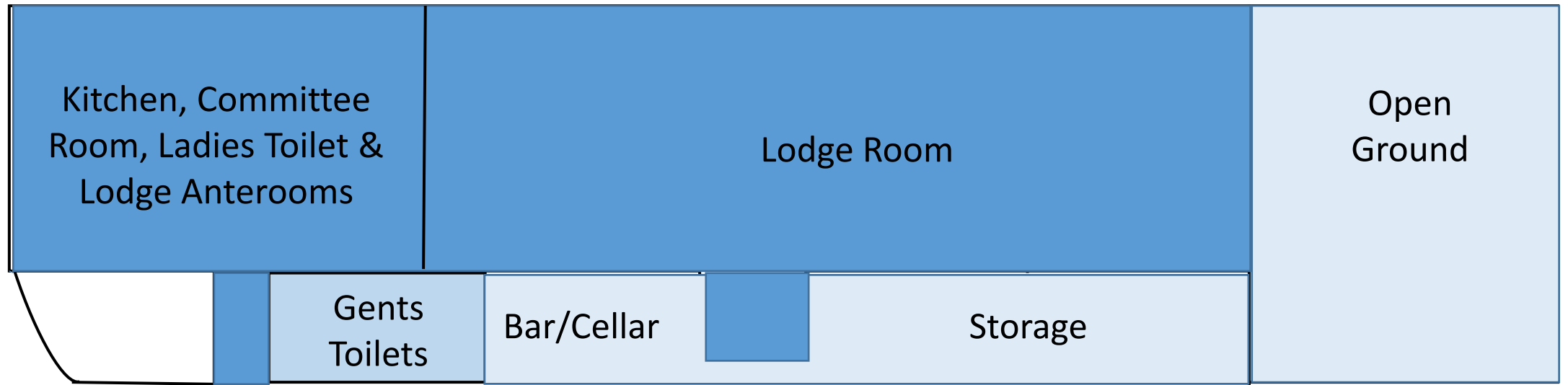
1963 new Gents toilet built, new staircase between upper and lower hall and Tyler's House converted to Committee Rooms



Development of Lodge Premises



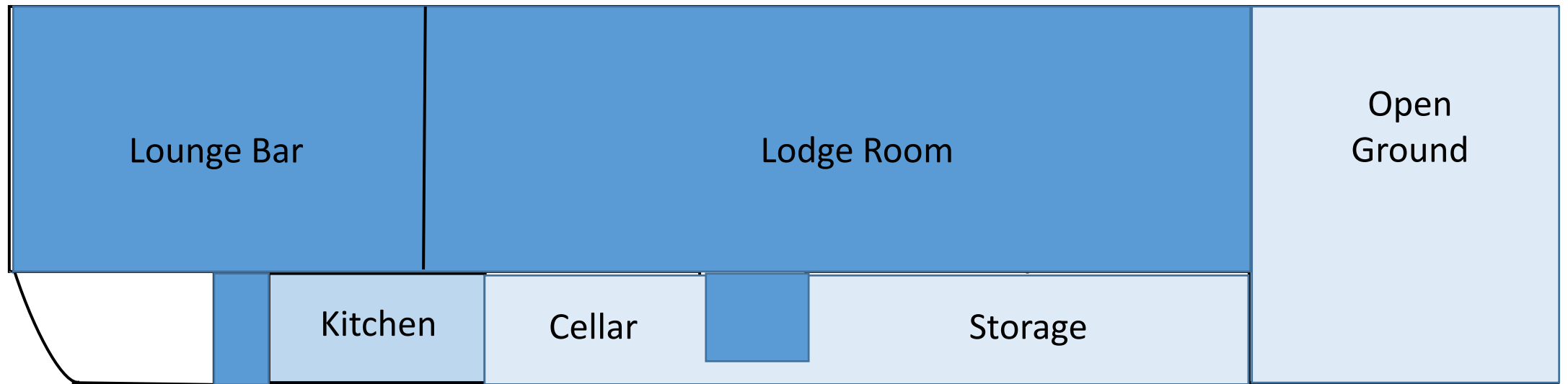
1970 Lodge Room extended to east gable wall, new kitchen on west gable wall, ladies toilet, new bar /cellar and storage space built



Development of Lodge Premises



1982 west end of Lodge converted to create a new lounge bar and kitchen on upper floor and new gents/ladies toilets and committee room on lower floor

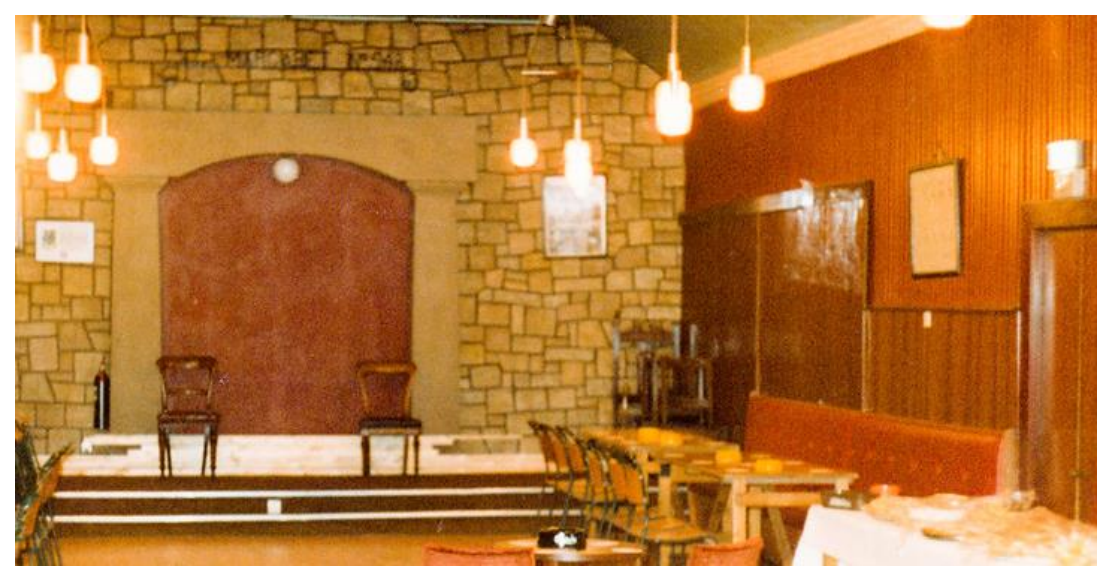




Circa 1963



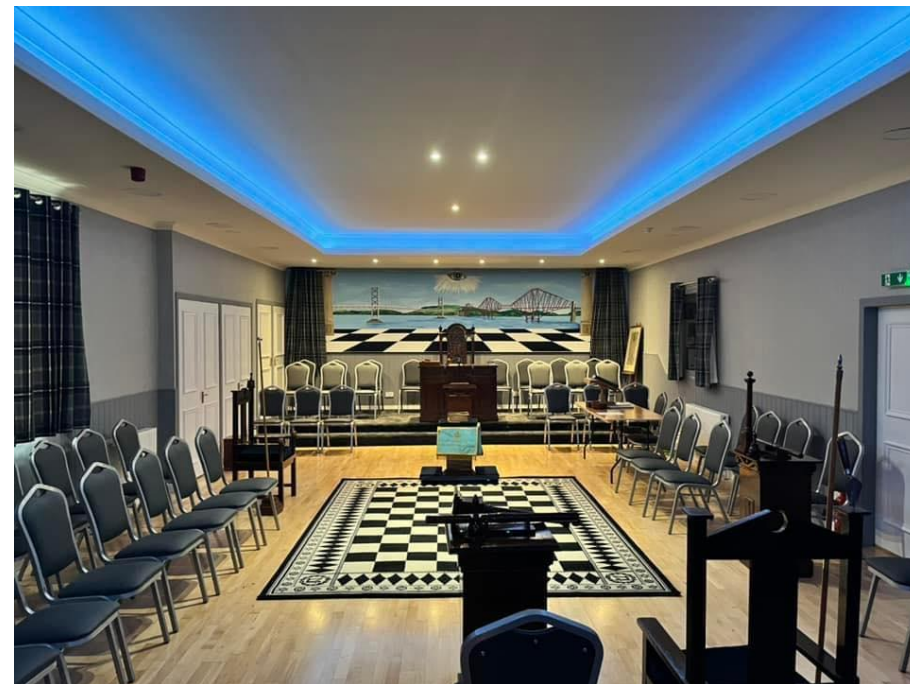
Circa 1971



Circa 1974



Circa 1999



Today