

## Famous Freemasons

As you will know, some of the most notable figures in British history have been Freemasons, including:

### Monarchs:

*King George IV (1762-1830)*

*King William IV (1765-1837)*

*King Edward VII (1841-1910)*

*King Edward VIII (1894-1972)*

*King George VI (1895-1952)*

### Statesmen:

*Edmund Burke (1729-1797)* – Irish statesman, author and political theorist

### Writers:

*Robert Burns (1759-1796)* – Scottish poet and lyricist

*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)* – Scottish physician and writer of Sherlock Holmes

*Rudyard Kipling (1865-1907)* - English short story writer and poet, penned *The Jungle Book*

*Alexander Pope (1688-1744)* - English satirist and poet

*Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)* - Scottish historical novelist, poet and playwright

### Actors:

*David Garrick (1717-1779)* – English actor, playwright, theatre manager and producer

*Sir Henry Irving (1838-1905)* – English stage actor

*Peter Sellers (1925-1980)* – British film actor, comedian and singer

### Entertainers:

*Cyril Fletcher (1913-2005)* - English comedian, famous for his role in television show *That's life!*

*Nat Jackley (1909-1988)* - English comic actor who often played pantomime dames

*Sir Harry Lauder (1870-1950)* Scottish entertainer – “Scotland’s greatest ever ambassador!”

*David Nixon (1919-1978)* TV personality and British magician

### **Music:**

*Thomas Arne (1710-1778)* – British composer who penned *Rule Britannia!*

*Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)* - English organist and composer

*Sir Henry Bishop (1786-1855)* – English composer who penned *Home! Sweet Home!*

*Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)* - English composer who worked alongside dramatist W.S.Gilbert on 14 operatic collaborations

### **Artists:**

*Sir James Thornhill (1676-1734)* – English painter of historical subjects

*William Hogarth (1697-1764)* – English painter and social critic

*Sir John Soane (1753-1857)* - English Neo-Classical architect

### **Explorers:**

*Sir Richard Burton (1821-1890)* – British geographic explorer

*Captain Robert Falcon Scott (1868-1912)* – Royal Navy officer and explorer

### **Statesmen:**

*Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)* - British Prime Minister

*Cecil Rhodes (1852-1903)* – Founder of the southern African territory of Rhodesia

### **Scientists:**

*Dr Edward Jenner (1749-1823)* – English physician and scientist – discovered smallpox vaccine

*Sir Alexander Fleming (1881-1955)* – Scottish biologist, pharmacologist and botanist

*Sir Joseph Banks (1744-1820)* – English botanist who took part in Captain James Cook’s 1<sup>st</sup> voyage

### **Notable servicemen:**

*FM 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington (1769-1852)* – Anglo-Irish soldier and statesman

*FM Garnett 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Wolseley (1883-1913)* – Anglo-Irish officer so notorious for his efficiency it led to the common phrase “everything’s all Sir Garnet”

*Gen Sir Francis Wingate(1861-1953)* - British General and administrator in Egypt and the Sudan

**Sport:**

*(Michael) Colin Cowdrey, Baron Cowdrey (1932-2000) Cricket*

- For England, he was the first cricketer to play in 100 test matches

*(Thomas) Mervyn Davies (1946-2012) Rugby*

- "Merv the Swerve", a Welsh rugby union player who won 38 caps for Wales

*Eric Westwood Fiddian (1910-1995) Golf*

- English amateur champion. Fiddian once made two holes-in-one in the same round

*Sir Stanley Matthews (1915-2000) Football*

- Played for England 54 times

*Ronald ("Ron") Greenwood (1921-2006) Football*

- A player and subsequently manager of West Ham and England

**More recent figures, both here and in the United States of America, that have publicly announced their membership of the organisation include:**

*Harry Houdini (1874-1926) – American stunt performer, notorious for his escape acts*

*Nat King Cole (1919-1965) – American jazz musician*

*Bob Monkhouse (1928-2003) – British comedy writer, comedian, actor and presenter*

*Jesse Jackson (b.1941) – American civil rights activist*

*Rick Wakeman (b.1949) – English keyboard player, composer and songwriter*

*Phil Collins (b.1951) – English singer-songwriter, drummer, pianist and actor*