

"Be prepared ...



... to make a
Daily Advancement."

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Introduction

This script was used by the brethren of Walesby Forest Lodge no 9674, in the Province of Nottinghamshire, on the occasion of their hosting of the Autumn Festival of the Kindred Lodges Association on 17 September 2005.

The script may be freely used by any other Lodge subject to the source being acknowledged. Should any Lodge wish to make a donation, it is the wish of the brethren of Walesby Forest Lodge that any donation be made to the charity funds of the Kindred Lodges Association.

Briefing notes for Preceptors /Directors of Ceremony

Walesby Forest Lodge uses 'Emulation' Ritual and this script is based on that ritual. There is nothing revealed within the presentation beyond the First Degree. Reference is made to the Chaplain reading from Psalms 133 vs1-3 shortly after the opening of the Lodge.

The script commences with the Calling Off of the Lodge for the purposes of the presentation. In the original presentation, all ritual elements and responses to the junior brother's questions were presented from memory. The Lodge allowed the junior brother to read the various questions posed to ensure that the presentation proceed as planned. It is therefore appropriate to ensure that suitable brethren are ready to prompt where necessary.

Contributors (with rank as at 17 September 2005)

The gratitude of Walesby Forest Lodge is recorded to those brethren who assisted in the creation of this presentation:

W.Bro. William Summers, PJGD
W.Bro. Bob Hunt, PPrJGW(Notts)
W.Bro. Colin Mackie, PPrSGD(Notts)
W.Bro. Tony Harvey, PM 9065
W.Bro. Martin Payne, PM 9674

Required Speakers:

Master
Junior Warden
Director of Ceremonies
Candidate
Tyler
Treasurer
Inner Guard
Junior Deacon
IPM
Charity Steward
Secretary
Senior Warden
Asst Director of Ceremonies
A Lewis (if not the Candidate)
The Father of the Lewis

WM - K / SW - K / JW - K

WM Principal Officers upstanding

WM, SW and JW rise

WM Bro JW, what time is it?

JW High time, WM

WM Your duty?

JW To call the Brethren from labour to refreshment

WM I will thank you to declare it

JW Brethren, it is the WM's command that you cease labour and go to refreshment. Keep within hail, so as to come on in due time, that profit and pleasure may be the result

JW one K and raises Cn. SW one K and lowers Cn. WM one K. IPM rises and closes VSL leaving Sq and Cs in position inside. TB is attended to.

WM Bro IG, please admit the Tyler.

IG rises and admits the Tyler.

DC rises and addresses all those present.

DC Brethren, in our ritual we describe Freemasonry as a "peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols". In this presentation, we will explore some of the meaning of those symbols. We seek to address some of the questions that new Brethren, and perhaps some not so new Brethren, have often asked.

As a Scouting Lodge, we will do this by employing a "Young Wolf", here represented by a junior brother, seeking help from an "Old Wolf", here represented by various Officers and Past Masters of our Lodge.

In presenting this lecture, we reproduce the presentation originally made by Walesby Forest Lodge no 9674 in the Province of Nottinghamshire. The brethren of that Lodge had called upon the wisdom of a number of distinguished Masonic authorities to help address those questions, so that we may all make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

Many of the questions have more than one answer. The answers provided come variously from ancient history (i.e. Biblical), from medieval history (i.e. from the time of the craft guilds), from early Craft history (i.e. before the Union of the two Grand Lodges) or from allegory.

We will start with the questions leading from the first to the second degree. These are known to us all as they are asked by the WM of a Candidate for the second degree.

DC sits. JD rises, goes to Can, takes him by r h and leads him to position N of the SW's pedestal both facing E and releases h.

- WM Where were you first prepared to be made a Mason?
- Can In my h.
- WM Where next?
- Can In a convenient room adjoining the Lodge
- WM Describe the mode of your preparation
- Can I was d...v...d of m...l and h...w...d. My r a, l b, and k were made b, my r h was s s and a c t placed about my neck.
- WM Where were you made a Mason?
- Can In the body of a Lodge, just, perfect, and regular
- WM And when?
- Can When the sun was at its meridian.
- WM in this country, Freemasons' Lodges are usually held in the evening; how do you account for that which at first view appears a paradox?
- Can The earth constantly revolving on its axis in its orbit round the sun and Freemasonry being universally spread over its surface, it necessarily follows that the sun must always be at its meridian with respect to Freemasonry.
- WM What is Freemasonry?
- Can A peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.
- WM Name the grand principles on which the Order is founded.
- Can Brotherly love, relief and truth.
- WM Who are fit and proper persons to be made Masons?
- Can Just, upright and free men, of mature age, sound judgement, and strict morals.
- WM How do you know yourself to be a Mason?
- Can By the regularity of my initiation, repeated trials and approbations, and a willingness at all times to undergo an examination when properly called on.
- WM How do you demonstrate the points of your being a Mason to others?
- Can By s n s, t s, and the perfect p t s of my entrance.
- WM These are the usual questions: I will put others if any Brother wishes me to do so.
- Pause. JD takes r h of Can and prepares to lead him towards WM. Can stops JD before reaching the Tracing Board. From this point, the JD will turn the Can to face the responder.*
- Can I have a few questions. May I ask them?

- WM Of course, if you wish.
- Can Thank you WM. Actually, I have a little list...
- Can reaches into jacket and removes his questions*
- Can You've just asked me how I was prepared. I remember the Tyler asking me to remove my belt and the coins I had in my pocket. Why was that?
- WM Lets ask Bro Tyler himself to address that question.
- Tyler WM, thank you. One reason for requiring you to remove your belt and coins was because the charge in the NE corner reminds us of "the moment when we were admitted into Freemasonry, poor and penniless" so that we can "cheerfully embrace the opportunity to practice the virtue" of Charity. Metal was precious at the time of King Solomon. By depriving a candidate of all metallic substances, he was prevented from buying the secrets of Masonry. He has to be admitted on account of his virtues, not his wealth.
- Can I was then blindfolded...
- Tyler That was so that you could not discover the form and layout of a Masonic lodge before taking your Obligation. The subsequent removal of the blindfold is a symbol of progress from ignorance to enlightenment.
- Can And why was my r a, l b and k made bare?
- Tyler The obvious answer is that baring the l b identifies the sex of the candidate as male. You were slipshod because, in the VSL, we are told to, "Put off thy shoes for the ground on which you standest is Holy Ground." The VSL also refers to the fact that, in Israel, a shoe was used as a token of a pledge. That is, it is a form of promise or payment that ensures a person won't go back on their word. By leaving a shoe outside the Lodge, the candidate is effectively promising that he won't go back on his word.
- Can Is there a significance with the c t placed about my neck?
- Tyler In practical terms, a c t prevents a Candidate from rushing forward or retreating before having been obligated. Candidates were originally brought in on 4 points consisting of one rope with slip-knots extending either side of the waist, and another one front and back around the neck. These were named c ts after the marine use of a thin cable to tow in a heavier line. By using ropes in this fashion, any candidate who was in truth a spy could be contained and punished. Betrayal of trade secrets was punished by actual death in ancient times.
- Can I was made a Mason in the body of a just, perfect and regular lodge. What is a just, perfect and regular lodge?
- Tyler Perhaps our Treasurer could answer that one. As an elected Officer of the Lodge, he will be very much concerned to see that the Lodge is indeed just, perfect & regular.
- Treasurer rises but stays in his place. Tyler takes a seat in the Lodge.*

Treas. You will notice that the VSL is open when the Lodge is open. It is the rule and guide of faith; the embodiment of the four cardinal virtues. These are the standard by which a man is seen to be "Just" and on which his last judgement will be given.

"Perfect" means that seven members are present, ideally including 2 EA's. This is the minimum number required for ceremonies.

"Regular" means that the Warrant of the Lodge is legally displayed.

Can As the Treasurer, perhaps you can clear up something that has confused me now ever since I first discussed becoming a Mason. Apparently Freemasonry is "free" – why did I have to pay?

Pause here. There may be some laughter.

Treas. And you wouldn't be the first to be confused! Free here does not refer to money. It means that the candidate is "freeborn", not a "slave", and is free of any other obligations. This refers to the manner in which apprentices were introduced into craft guilds. No one could be apprenticed to a Master unless he was free from other indentures or from obligations to another Master.

Can I think I understand about the sns, but what actually are the perfect pts of my entrance?

Treas. These are often referred to as "Of, at and on". The first is "of" my own free will and accord; the second is "at" the door of the Lodge; and the third is "on" the point of a sharpened implement.

Can I was prepared outside the lodge by the Tyler. Why is there an Inner Guard as well?

Treas. Well, I think the IG himself might be able to help you there.

Treasurer resumes his seat.

IG The Tyler proves newcomers, to make sure they are qualified to enter the Lodge in the degree being worked. He gives warning to the Lodge via the Inner Guard of approaching strangers and cowans to Masonry.

The Inner Guard obeys the commands of the JW and responds to warnings given by the Tyler. He enforces the three "perfect points of entrance", that the Treasurer has just informed you of, and sees that Candidates come properly prepared, not allowing anybody into the Lodge unless they are prepared.

Thus the Lodge has a double security system to prevent intruders and cowans to Masonry from gaining unqualified entry to our proceedings.

Can While I was blindfolded outside the Lodge, I heard the Tyler knock on the door. Why didn't he just open it?

IG The Tyler's job is to prove newcomers and to communicate the result to the Lodge. He will use regular knocks, different for each degree, to signal the arrival of a Brother proven for the degree in which the Lodge is working, and an irregular (or non-Masonic) single knock, or alarm, to warn of a stranger.

Can After I entered the Lodge, I had to kneel and the JD lifted my right arm and put my hand in this position. *[sign of prayer or reverence]* Why?

IG The JD in fact conducted you around the Lodge. Let's get him to answer this question.

IG sits & JD returns to Can's side.

JD Thank you. When I moved your hand into this position, it was to help you make the sign of reverence. We use this sign whenever we pray to the TGAOTU.

Can I was then led round the lodge – why was that?

JD The perambulations have their origin in guild work. A would-be apprentice stood by his work for long enough for the Fellows to notice him and report any impediment to his being apprenticed. He would wait for about a fortnight. Having passed that scrutiny, he was tested on his ability to calculate lengths - heel to toe as a "foot", and elbow to fingertip as a "cubit". At the same time, by doing these tests on top of a wall being constructed, he proved his lack of fear of heights, and his ability to keep his balance while working in confined space. Such tests were part of his term of probation.

Can You then led me to the WMs pedestal and told me to take three steps forward but then held me back. Why?

JD The steps are a reflection of the journey of an ignorant man. He stops at a point where on his own, he can go no further. At this point, further progress is only possible with the help of the light that is to be given to him. The halting manner signifies ignorance and lack of judgement "or the unjustified growth of confidence in ignorant men".

Can What are the Ancient Landmarks and established customs of the Order?

JD I think the IPM is best able to answer that question.

IPM stands

IPM Of course at this stage of your initiation, you haven't been introduced to the Ancient landmarks yet. The ancient landmarks have been passed down from time immemorial. They are an expression of the spirit, more than the letter, of Masonic law. They are common to all recognised constitutions and include the requirement that all Candidates for Masonry have a belief in a supreme being, the GA of the U.

Customs are generally established by the Founders of a Lodge and must be consistent with Constitutions and Regulations. They are reflected in the local by-laws of private Lodges.

Can Immediately before my obligation, I heard a click above my head. What was that?

IPM That was where the Deacons crossed their wands.

Can Why did they do that?

IPM The crossing of wands alludes to the triangle. The triangle signifies the invocation of the GA of the U. In ancient times, the WM sat at the head of the triangle, and his wardens completed it. This practice is still retained in some historic Orders. Ideally the deacons should complete the triangle by arms across each other's shoulders.

Can When I took my obligation, the VSL was open. Was that right?

WM I will answer that one, Brother IPM.

IPM sits.

WM The VSL must be open for the Lodge to be "Just". In our working, it should be open at the Book of Psalms for the first degree, the Book of Amos for the second degree and the book of Ecclesiastes for third degree. Indeed, Bro Chaplain read from Psalms 133 vs1-3 just after the Lodge was opened today. In other workings the VSL may be open at different pages. All have a relevance to the degree being worked.

Can After my obligation, you referred to the dangers of the ct and poignard. Why did you bother to do that, then?

WM That was to remind you of the historic, but now also spiritual or ethical danger of betraying the trust placed in you – not to reveal the secrets entrusted to you.

Can I was at your end of the Lodge when, again, I was asked if I had any money on me – and informed that the ceremony of my initiation would have had to be repeated had that been the case. Surely, the Tyler checked that – don't you trust him?

WM I think its time our Charity Steward said a few words!

Charity Steward rises and takes the Can to the NE and places him on the NE corner. JD follows and stands to one side.

CStwd It was here in fact. Of course we trust the Tyler. He is very thorough. However, we do need to demonstrate this truth to the brethren and to explain the matter to you. As for the need to repeat the ceremony if you had been carrying any money, the ceremony of initiation, symbolically or allegorically, is a re-birth. At birth we are all created equal, "poor and penniless". If we are not penniless on our entrance to the Lodge, the allegory will have been infringed.

Can Thank you. WM, I know that you are in charge of the Lodge, but what happens if you resign or die whilst you are WM?

CStwd returns to his place.

WM If the Master dies or resigns, the SW summons the Lodge, but if he has not previously been installed as WM of that Lodge, he cannot take the Chair. In such a case a Past Master will conduct the business. In practice, the IPM is usually "volunteered". The same applies if the Master is unable to attend a regular Lodge meeting. However it should be said that the IPM is not an officer of the Lodge.

Can WM, I wish you every good health! Brother JD, why do you lead me round the Lodge?

JD At one time, the Deacons were actually senior to the Wardens, like in the church hierarchy. Today, technically, the Deacons are the senior representatives of the Brethren. In earlier times, the Deacons' emblem was Mercury, the messenger, with a "key" as his passage through the underworld. Some Craft Lodges still use it.

Can Was Craft Masonry originally a Christian movement?

JD Our Secretary* (who is also the Provincial librarian) can answer this one much better than me.

** or some other suitably qualified brother. () indicates the qualification of the brother within Walesby Forest Lodge.*

Sec rises.

Sec Originally operative masonry was not restricted to Christians and did not include practices exclusive to Christians. It only became Christianised when the Church became the patron to Masonry. It was later de-Christianised with the development of overseas travel and the age of enlightenment around the end of the 17th century. The VSL used for any candidate need not be the Christian Bible but the VSL may be chosen by each candidate according to his religion.

Sec sits

Can I remember that, on my first time round the lodge, while I was still blindfolded, I had to hit somebody. When I saw someone else on their initiation, I noted that it was the JW. Why did I have to do that?

JD Lets go and ask the JW himself. That's if he has forgiven you!!

JW and Can move to JW pedestal

JW Of course I have - there was nothing to forgive. The candidate's first report is to the Junior Warden, the ostensible Steward of the Lodge. My duty as JW is to prove and report on all visitors lest the brethren in the Lodge be inadvertently led to violate their Obligations. What you need to bear in mind is that, in bygone days, the brethren would be seated at a table and would be approached from behind. In order that they would not be recognised, they would keep their heads bowed low. By hitting me on the shoulder, you were attracting my attention.

Can So what is 'proving'?

JW A Candidate is proved by being asked to give the Masonic sign and token as a test, so that his conductor can vouch for him to a higher authority, in this case, the WM.

Can On my second time round the Lodge, why did I have to prove that I was a Mason to the both the JW and the SW before I received the Badge? Surely they saw me take my obligation and for the WM to give me the sns and tns?

JW At the building of the temple there were three Grand Masters who shared a triumvirate responsibility. In a Craft Lodge the two other Grand Masters are effectively represented by the SW & JW. So, having been entrusted by the WM, the two other principal officers must be assured of the newly made Brother's understanding of the secrets and of his determination to be cautious. This is just as the two other Grand Masters would have had to have been in ancient times.

Can It got very confusing when I had to letter the word with the JW – because I was being prompted by the JD. Couldn't I just spell it?

JW The word should NEVER be uttered complete outside of a Lodge that is open in the appropriate degree. Outside of a Lodge, we test a stranger by lettering the word, each person giving an alternate letter. In this way both persons can prove that they are indeed a Mason, or not. If only one person spelt out the word, we run the risk of revealing a secret if the other person is not a Mason.

Can You mentioned that the brethren used to sit at a table. Obviously that has disappeared but only a few brethren now have a pedestal. Why do you have one?

JW Each pedestal is the base of a column. The WM's pedestal supports the VSL. The three principal officers, namely the WM and his Senior and Junior Wardens, are identified by, and with, their columns.

Can And is there a connection to the candles that the Ws and the WM have?

JW I think I'll defer to my brother SW to answer that question!

SW I'll be glad to answer it. The WM, together with his two Wardens, are the rulers of the Lodge. The candles represent the fact that together they are the dispensers of Masonic light. The WM's candle is always lit in Lodge and should never be extinguished or shielded.

The three columns support the Lodge.

SW rises and takes the Can to each column in turn.

The WM's column is of the Ionic order and refers to the Wisdom of Solomon.

The SW's is of the Doric order and refers to the Strength of Hiram, King of Tyre.

The JW's column is usually of the Corinthian order and refers to the Beauty of Hiram Abif's work.

The three columns also allude in turn to the Omniscience, Omnipotence & Omnipresence of the Creator.

The SW and Can return to SW's ped.

Can Why do Lodge Officers wear collars and some also carry wands?

SW Collars are emblems of Office. Movable jewels, or emblems, are appended to a collar to indicate a Brother's specific office. Wands are a badge, or means of identification, of authority and echo similar usages of wands for parliamentary, civic and religious ceremonial purposes.

Can You said 'movable jewels' – are there any other type?

SW The movable jewels signify the Principal Officers and are transferred to their successors on nights of Installation. Immovable jewels, now being indicated by the JD, are the rough and perfect ashlar and the tracing boards, which lie open and "immovable" within the Lodge for the brethren to moralise on. Masons' tools became Jewels for their inestimable value in teaching morality.

Can Now, I have been told that one member of my Lodge can tell me what a Lewis is.

IPM * I would like the privilege of doing that, Bro SW.

** or other suitably 'qualified' brother.*

Bro "Can" *, you came into this Lodge as a Lewis, because you are my son and I am a Mason.

** or other suitably 'qualified' brother.*

Pause to let the audience realise the relationship. Suitably qualified brother comes down to SW's pedestal.

This definition of a Lewis is derived from the Operative working and Masons' use of a physical lewis to raise and lower a stone to its proper setting. What is very interesting is that within every Freemasons Lodge, there is a Lewis. Perhaps the SW can show you as we speak.

SW takes apart the Lewis within the Ashlar suspended from the tripod on his pedestal (If possible a large model could be prepared to more readily indicate the workings of the lewis).

Physically, it is a dovetailed cramp that is inserted into a corresponding hole in a stone. The effect of its design is to get stronger the more pressure is applied. Therefore, it is a strong support.

Masonically speaking, just so that you know, a Lewis, the son of a Mason, is expected to be a strong support to his parents to "bear the heat and burden of their day".

Can * So that's why you were so pleased that I become a Mason! Seriously, thanks for explaining that - Dad.

** or other suitably 'qualified' brother.*

Suitably qualified brother returns to seat.

Can Bro SW, while you're putting that back together, I just have a few more questions. The JD has led me on this occasion, as on my initiation, around the lodge in a clockwise direction – why couldn't he just take me directly to the relevant part of the Lodge?

SW Lets see if the ADC * can help with this one.

** Walesby Forest Lodge avoided using the DC during the presentation to enable him to ensure the smooth running of the entire presentation. There is no particular reason why the following responses could not be given by the DC.*

SW sits.

ADC Moving clockwise represents the passage of the sun, which brings with it light. In addition, enlightenment came from the East.

Can But there is obviously no problem with me walking on the carpet.

ADC No, in this Lodge, as with many other Lodges, it is a custom. However, some lodges have very small carpets, or even no carpet, making perambulations on the carpet impossible. Also some Lodges insist that you walk around, and not across, the carpet. Those Lodges are actually introducing traditions from another degree in freemasonry, the Holy Royal Arch degree. You should note that in King Solomon's temple purification was necessary before even the High Priest could enter, and so defile, the Holy of Holies. Those Lodges that permit walking on or squaring of the carpet are referring to the historic use of a drawn tracing board.

Can The SW invested me with my apron. But why do other people wear different aprons?

ADC Our aprons are NOT different. At the background of every apron is the white "badge of innocence" (innocence meaning "lack of unworthy motive") and "the bond of Friendship". The different coloured embroidery and special logos are purely for administrative purposes of identification. Remember that the first regular step that you took towards the WM put the feet in the shape of the old mason's level, signifying that all masons are essentially on the same level - bound by the same standards as illustrated by the white apron.

Can I have seen some people wear aprons with a red border. Why is that?

ADC Red aprons are worn by Grand Stewards. To explain, 19 Lodges* each have the privilege[#] of nominating each year one subscribing Brother who may be appointed by the Grand Master as a Grand Steward. Provincial Grand Stewards also wear red aprons. They are appointed each year by their Provincial Grand Master.

(* Lodges 1,2,4,5,6,8,14,21,23,26,28,29,46,58,60,91,99,197,and 259.)

(# Granted in 1731)

Can After I received my apron, the ceremony of my initiation was continued. I was allowed to "restore my personal comforts" and then I took part in more ritual. Why the break in the ritual?

ADC This is to allow you to have a period of contemplation before receiving further instruction in the meaning of the ceremony through which you had just passed. Also this was to enable you to recognise Freemasonry is for everyday life and not just ceremonial, so you practice out of the Lodge the excellent precepts taught within it.

Can And when I got re-dressed outside the Lodge, I had to put on white gloves. Why was that?

ADC Gloves are referred to as another mark of innocence in the third degree. Some Lodges do not use gloves at all and others do not wear gloves until after the third degree. However, in our Lodge *, we wear gloves once you have been made an EA unless making an obligation on the VSL.

* The above response should be re-phrased according to the custom of the Lodge.

Can Is there a connection between the dark suits and white gloves, and the black and white carpet?

ADC Not specifically, no. In Masonry, we are concerned with darkness, meaning ignorance and prejudice, and light, meaning education and enlightenment. The chequered pavement, or flooring, marks the contrast of the good and the bad, the joys and the sorrows, the right and the wrong.

Can Both you and the SW have mentioned Tracing Boards. What are they?

ADC well, the SD has not had a lot to do yet - perhaps he should answer.

SD rises and goes to Can. ADC resumes his seat.

SD The Tracing Boards are used to teach the Brethren by design or symbol. The first reference to Tracing Boards comes from the thirteenth century. They were originally drawn, or traced, on the floor by the Tyler before the opening of the Lodge. Inevitably, because of that, their designs varied. Later, floor cloths were used for this purpose. As immovable jewels, they are in the Lodge on a constant basis and once were the central focus of the Lodge.

Today's Tracing Boards follow a pattern designed by John Harris in 1820 and adopted from 1845. Being shortly after the Union, the United Grand Lodge of England was seeking to ensure uniformity between Lodges. UGLE organised a competition to gain consensus over the design.

Can Now you are losing me. What union was that?

SD Our sovereign body, the United Grand Lodge of England, was formed in 1813. To explain, the first Grand Lodge was formed in 1717. But over the years other "break away" Grand Lodges were formed, following accusations that certain Lodges had altered the ancient landmarks of the order. By the early nineteenth century, the Grand Masters of the two main Grand Lodges, the "Antients" and the "Moderns", happened to be brothers in life as well as brothers in masonry, namely their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and of Sussex. They worked towards uniting the disparate Grand Lodges but it took some time.

The Lodge of Promulgation (1809) negotiated the compromise resulting in the Lodge of Reconciliation (1813) leading to the United Grand Lodge of England (1813). HRH the Duke of Sussex became the first Grand Master of UGLE.

Can Thank you. Now I have some questions to ask about the administration and running of the Lodge.

SD In that case, you are best to ask the Secretary.

SD sits. Sec rises.

Can Does a Lodge need a Lodge committee and, if so, what is its purpose and to whom should it report?

Sec No, a Lodge does not need a Lodge Committee. The WM may call one for guidance and advice, especially on precedent and discipline. The Lodge by-laws may mandate that a Lodge committee be held at intervals.

Can Do I have the right to insert an item on the Lodge Summons?

Sec No, as an EA you do not, but, once you become a Fellowcraft, you may, after consultation with the Secretary, enter an item on the summons. This restriction is to "guard the landmarks against encroachment".

Can How many people must be present to hold a Lodge meeting?

Sec Five members are the minimum number required to hold a Lodge. Subject to local bylaws, this is normally a quorum for everything except performing ceremonies, when more officers are needed. Three are said to rule the Lodge, five may hold a Lodge and seven or more are said to make the Lodge perfect.

Can Am I allowed to visit other Lodges?

Sec Yes, and it is encouraged. But, while Masonry is universal, and you would be welcomed gladly at Lodges at home and overseas, there are societies claiming to be "Masons" or "Freemasons" that are not regular, or recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England, and by visiting them you can jeopardise your Masonic career. You should always consult the Provincial Secretary before arranging a visit, especially if you are visiting an overseas Lodge.

Can I was initiated in this Lodge – could I receive my 2nd and 3rd degree ceremonies in another Lodge?

Sec Yes but only at the request of, and on behalf of this, your Mother Lodge. As you have not yet received your 3rd degree, you do not have a Grand Lodge Certificate so you would be unable to join another Lodge as a EA or a FC.

Sec returns to his place. JD and Can to ensure they are to N of SW pedestal / tracing Board.

Can WM, brethren all, thank you. That was most useful.

WM Thank you for your questions and your interest – and to all those brethren who assisted in answering them. However, we no longer have time to continue with the ceremony of your advancement to the Second Degree so we will have to return to that business on a future day. I trust you will be as proficient in answering the questions on that occasion, as you were earlier. Bro JD, return the Can to his place in the Lodge.

JD acknowledges, returns Can to seat and returns to his place and sits.

DC stands

DC Brethren, that concludes the presentation and I trust that you are all able to consider that you have made a daily advancement in your Masonic knowledge. On behalf of the WM and the Lodge, we wish to record our grateful thanks to the experienced brethren who have contributed to this presentation, in particular W.Bro. William Summers, PJGD in UGLE, and senior members of the Walesby Forest Lodge in the Province of Nottinghamshire.

At this point in the original presentation, a question and answer session was allowed.

WM - K / SW - K / JW - K

WM Principal officers upstanding

WM, SW and JW rise

WM Bro JW, what time is it?

JW Past high time, WM

WM Your duty?

JW To call the Brethren from refreshment to labour

WM I will thank you to declare it

JW Brethren, it is the WMs command that you cease refreshment and return to labour for the further dispatch of Masonic business

JW one K and lowers Cn. SW one K and raises Cn. IPM rises, opens VSL, checks that Sq and Cs are correctly positioned, and sits. TB is attended to.

WM Bro Secretary, would you please record my thanks to Walesby Forest Lodge, no 9674 in the Province of Nottinghamshire, and also to all members of this Lodge who contributed in the delivery of the presentation today.

Continue with labour as per the summons.

