



The Antient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England
THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
and
ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF DURHAM

Learning and Development Team



Open Gavel Night Module – PowerPoint presentation

Some advice and guidance for Lodges wishing to consider holding a Gavel Night using the attached Power Point presentation. With thanks to the Provincial Attraction Team for sharing their experience of holding an Open Gavel Night and their advice and guidance.

What is an Open Gavel Night?

Quite simply an Open Gavel Night is the name given to a Masonic open night. It is designed to enable friends and family of Lodge members, who have a genuine interest in Freemasonry and becoming a member of the Lodge, to come along and enjoy an evening with the brethren.

Its purpose is to dispel the many myths which exist about Freemasonry by means of an open, interactive, informative and interesting presentation on what Freemasonry is all about.

What happens on an Open Gavel Night?

On arrival at the hall the hosts will introduce their guests to the Worshipful Master. The hosts then introduced their guests to their guardian for the evening. When the Worshipful Master, his Wardens and the Brethren remove to the Lodge Room to proceed with the formal business of the evening, the guardian will escort the guests into the committee room and proceed to give their guests an overview of the formation and management structure of Freemasonry under the United Grand Lodge of England.

On completion of the formal business in the Lodge Room, the lodge will be closed. Everyone will remain in their places in full regalia. The lodge room is then open for viewing. The hosts leave the room to collect and escort their guests into the lodge.

A member will then speak on the aims and objectives of Freemasonry and on Freemasonry in society, its duties and responsibilities. The layout of the Lodge Room is described, giving an explanation of the meaning, significance and history of its several parts. The duties and responsibilities of the various officers are then explained, along with some other symbolism on display in the lodge room.

The proceedings in the lodge room will close by the rendering of the closing him.

The Master, Brethren and friends then retire to the banqueting hall for refreshments and a convivial meal, when there is opportunity to relax, enjoy good company and informally debate and discuss the evening, Freemasonry in general and your lodge in particular.



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Notes

Most Lodges find on their Gavel Night that it is useful to have one member (the guardian) who stays outside with the prospective candidates whilst the lodge has its, usually brief, meeting. This should generally be someone who has met the candidates previously eg The Membership Officer or other Senior Member.

Your Lodge business meeting should be concluded before you admit your prospective candidates.

It is important to give a friendly welcome and to appear professional, so preparation is key. Ensure that the Brother greeting the candidates is properly briefed.

Give them a copy of your Lodge Outline or Prospective Candidate leaflet if they don't already have one.

Ensure you are familiar with the workings of your audio/visual equipment before the evening.

Ensure you have tested the audio/visual equipment prior to the arrival of the guests.

The attached script is a suggestion. It is up to the presenter if you use it or do your own presentation.

Once the presentation is finished, take the opportunity to show the candidates the lodge room and then invite them to the festive board.

Make sure the after proceedings are well planned to ensure you guests do not feel left out.



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OPEN GAVEL NIGHT SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS PART 1 – THE LODGE ROOM

6.30- Arrival of members, visitors, and guests accompanied by their hosts

1. Guests introduced to Worshipful Master and Guardian(s)
2. Masonic members and visitors in full regalia assemble in the Lodge Room

7.00 - Officers enter the lodge and proceedings begin: -

1. The lodge is opened and administrative business of the evening is attended to. Whilst the lodge is open the guests, assembled in the committee room, are introduced to the management and structure of English Freemasonry by the Guardian(s)
2. At the end of the business proceedings the lodge is closed. Members are free to 'stretch their legs' but remain in the lodge room in full regalia.
3. Hosts are asked to retire to escort their guest into the Lodge Room
4. The DC asks everyone to take their seats, the guests are shown to their reserved seats in the front row on the North side of the Lodge.
5. The Worshipful Master formally welcomes the guests and invites a Worshipful Brother to begin proceedings.
6. Worshipful Brother will deliver his presentation.
7. At the completion of the presentation the Worshipful Master will thank the presenters for his contributions and open up the floor for questions from the guests.
8. At the completion of the Q&A the Worshipful Master will declare the business of the evening being ended and call for the closing hymn to be sung.



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- Members and Visitors will leave the Lodge, remove their regalia, and accompanied by their hosts and guests proceed to the dining room.

SCRIPT TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESENTATION.

PURPOSE OF THE EVENING - INTRODUCTION



To provide further information to you our prospective members who have expressed an interest in joining our organisation and have come along to find out more and ask any unanswered questions.

Why do I say “in Durham” when our regional HQ is in Sunderland? Well, that’s because we are in the Masonic province of Durham which stretches from the Tees to the Tyne and across to Teesdale.

We will this evening have this short presentation then we will show you round this fantastic Masonic Hall which is one of 35 we have in Durham (and please don’t think that every Masonic Hall is as handsome as this one)and then we will retire to our Festive Board where you can meet the Brethren we can informally answer any questions you might have.

INTEGRITY SLIDE



So....what is Freemasonry...what do we do.....what’s our purpose?....

We are a Fraternity based on these principles.... Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity. These are our watchwords.....these are our values and how we try to live.



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WHAT IS FREEMASONRY SLIDE?



During our 300-year history, we have focused on our core principles of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity, and they continue to guide us today as we support our members and wider communities to build better lives together.

What is Freemasonry?

We are a unique members' organisation which has thrived for over 300 years. With no political or religious affiliations, we comprise members from all over the world seeking to expand their horizons and support their communities.

We meet in Lodges where we have ceremonial traditions that encourage us to be more tolerant and respectful, and to actively fulfil our civic and charitable responsibilities. We also make time to eat, drink and meet together, and form lifelong friendships.

To find out more about the history of Freemasonry please visit:

www.ugle.org.uk/about-freemasonry/history-of-freemasonry

Freemasonry is one of the oldest social and charitable organisations in the world...in the UK it is one of the biggest charity grant giving bodies behind the national lottery. We are a unique members' organisation which has thrived for over 300 years. We have absolutely no political or religious affiliation. We have members of all ages, races, religions, cultures and backgrounds

In the medieval era, Stonemasons often travelled around to find work in different locations. To demonstrate their level of qualification, they would use grips, words and signs in order to distinguish themselves from unqualified builders.

Freemasonry uses building analogies to teach members how to lead productive lives that benefit the communities that they live in.

We meet together in lodges....and this building for examples hasadd No. here.... lodges meet here.

We practice our ceremonial traditions, we eat together and we support both each other and the wider community together.

Lodges meet regularly...usually monthly and members are encouraged to visit other lodges which allows us to meet and make connections with people we wouldn't normally get the chance to meet.



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WORLDWIDE SLIDE

Freemasonry worldwide

Each Province and District is comprised of Lodges, and it is a lodge that you join when you become a member. There are currently over 130,000 Freemasons, belonging to more than 7,000 Lodges in the UK and 700 overseas. Membership gives you access to all of them and the fun that comes with them.

The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) oversees Lodges spanning London, 47 Provinces (regions across England and Wales) and 32 Districts located overseas.

UGLE is universally regarded as the Mother Grand Lodge of organised Freemasonry. In addition to our Provinces and Districts, we also recognise over 200 Grand Lodges around the world.

Freemasonry brings together an incredibly diverse range of individuals.

A Grand Lodge is the governing body of Freemasonry within a particular territory, where territory usually means a country or state.

If you join freemasonry you are part of a worldwide organisationnot just here and you are entitled to visit any lodge under our jurisdiction anywhere you go.

Lodges round the world practice the same traditions and the same ceremonies as we do in Durham.

PROVINCES SLIDE

Provinces

1. Bedfordshire	26. Lincolnshire
2. Berkshire	27. London
3. Bristol	28. Shropshire
4. Buckinghamshire	29. Southwester
5. Cambridgeshire	30. Suffolk
6. Cheshire	31. Northumbria & Shropshire
7. Cornwall	32. Northumbria
8. Cumberland & Westmorland	33. Devon
9. Derbyshire	34. Dorset
10. Devon	35. Durham
11. Dorset	36. East of England
12. Durham	37. East of England
13. East of England	38. Essex
14. Gloucestershire	39. Essex
15. Greater London	40. Essex
16. Hampshire & Isle of Wight	41. South Wales
17. Herefordshire	42. North Wales
18. Hertfordshire	43. North Wales
19. Isle of Man	44. North Wales
20. Kent	45. North Wales
21. Kent	46. North Wales
22. Kent	47. North Wales
23. Kent	48. North Wales
24. Kent	49. North Wales
25. Kent	50. North Wales

Here in England and Wales...there are 47 provinces loosely based on the old counties. There are nearly 200,000 Freemasons in England and Wales (the Scots have their own Grand lodge) in 7,000 lodges with another 700 overseas. Membership gives you access to every single one of them.

UGLE SLIDE

Lodges meet throughout the year, with social events providing an excellent for members new and old to come together and network.

Members are encouraged to visit other Lodges under UGLE. Having great fun, the opportunity to meet and make new friends, people may bring and instantly have the chance to meet, knowing they share the same interests.

Our headquarters in London at Freemason's Hall, welcomes more than 200,000 people from across the world every year, including members visiting for meetings and guests attending special events. It is open to the public and offers free tours of the building including a museum and cafe - for details visit: www.ugle.org.uk/freemasons-hall

Special Interest and University Scheme Lodges

From the Universities Scheme and New and Young Masons Clubs, to special interest Lodges, Freemasonry gives members many opportunities to make a wide circle of friends for life. Finding bonds with people who share common interests and meeting people from all different backgrounds are only some of the ways Freemasonry can help outlast lasting friendships.

www.universitiescheme.com

Our headquarters is in London (in Covent Garden) in this magnificent building. It was built in 1933 and has been used in the filming of James Bond's Spectre, The Crown,



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Sherlock Holmes and weirdly as Saddam Hussain's palace in Green Zone. If you are in London it is well worth visiting

It is where the governance of Freemasonry takes place.

Our current Grand Master is the Duke of Kent.

We go on an annual visit to UGLE...the main lodge room there holds 1600 people and it's quite a spectacle.

Again.....despite some thinking we are all about secrets.....its wide open to the public to visit with daily tours a museum and a shop.

HELPING COMMUNITIES SLIDE

Helping communities
 Building on timeless values, Freemasonry helps you develop yourself, make lifelong friendships and play a more active role in today's society.
 UGLE provides a support structure that helps members make a positive contribution to their communities and other worthwhile causes, through fundraising events and volunteer work. The funds we raise are generated by our many members each giving small amounts.
 Through grants to local and national charities, Freemasons are helping to tackle some of the most important issues facing society.

To be a force for good by providing support, care and services to Freemasons and their families in need, and supporting other charities to help the most disadvantaged in society.

Helping our members and their families
 Grants are also awarded to alleviate financial strain faced by members and their families in crisis or distress.
 Funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons and their families, the aim is to build better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education, and promoting independence.
 For more details about the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and all their work please visit: www.mcf.org.uk

On a journey based on centuries old traditions, we are encouraged to live by our core values of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity in our private and public lives.

Charity is at the core of Freemasonry and has been for over 300 years

You have all probably heard critics say that the Freemasons only look after themselves!

This is....what's the word.....cobblers!

We do indeed look after our members and families. We are able to support them in times of crisis by giving grants for example when perhaps they have health needs that cannot be supported by the NHS or educational needs that their school can't provide.

BUT....and it is a huge BUT....a HUGE amount of the funds we raise goes to support non-Masonic charities or needs. In England and Wales Freemasonry as a whole raises £60000 per day....every day!

The Masonic Charitable Fund has a £1m partnership with AGE UK to help combat loneliness in the elderly.

It recently gave £30000 towards aid for the flooding in Pakistan, £90000 to help with research into Alzheimer's disease, funding for Stroke research as well as supporting hospices and children's charities.

Provinces and lodges also support their own local charities....

We raise money in many ways.....some of us are daft enough to run up mountains or cycle across the country.....some of us older and wheezier members just sponsor



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them. We also have raffles at our regular meetings, have specific charity social events and lodges can choose where their money goes.

We, here in Durham bought a big 4*4 for the North East Air Ambulance. We have provided many many defibrillators. We recently supported 2 out of school hour's projects to help give children somewhere to go, get positive role models and do constructive things after school

But....in my opinion the best community initiative we do both locally and nationally is the Teddies for Loving Care Scheme.....as you can see here. We provide these teddies to children in A & E departments, which can be very frightening for them, to distract them or even explain what is happening to them and they get to take them home.....please take the time to ask us about one of our proudest schemes.

YOUR FAMILY SLIDE

Your family and Freemasonry

Freemasonry is all about building character and supporting members so individuals like encourage all members to be open with their family about membership and what that teaches and brings to them personally, so please share the information available to you.

Lodges organise a range of social events to which family and friends are very welcome. These can include dinners, dances, community fundraising and less formal occasions such as barbecues and live music events. Many members' partners become friends and often help organise some of the events.

Freemasonry asks that every member places the needs of his family first, his obligations to his career second, and after these his enjoyment of Freemasonry.

First and foremost it is important that you discuss joining with your family..... family comes first and that is stressed throughout Freemasonry.

We try and involve families in modern Freemasonry....many lodges have family events like Sunday Lunches, BBQs and often they have dinners or dance events to which partners are invited. Your involvement in Masonry should never be to the detriment of your family.

The same is true of your work or business.... Like family, this must come before freemasonry.



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QUALIFICATIONS SLIDE



What are the qualifications for joining?
 You must be male, at least 18 years old and have completed your secondary education; be of good character and hold a belief in a supreme being.

What will be expected of me?
 Members can do as much as they wish. Participate as much as you can and ask questions. The administrative, ceremonial, accounting, fundraising and general running of the Lodge is carried out voluntarily by its members.

What is the time commitment?
 Each lodge has a different schedule of meetings. Most meet between four and ten times a year. Lodges also hold social events, providing an occasion for members, their partners and families to come together.

- Over 18 not in full time education
- You must acknowledge a supreme being BUT it is not religious.

Again please ask us more when we retire to the Festive Board.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST SLIDE

How much will it cost?
 There is a one-off joining fee and each Lodge will charge an annual subscription to cover its running costs. The membership team will discuss the options in your area with you.
 Lodge meetings are normally followed by a dinner, with the cost depending on the venue. There is no requirement to attend the dinner if you are unable to, but you will likely find the socialising to be a highly enjoyable part of your experience as a Freemason.
 Members are invited to donate to charity but this should always be within your means and it is entirely up to you how much you wish to contribute.

What is the dress code?
 The usual dress code is a dark suit, white shirt, black shoes and black (or other suitable) tie. Some Lodges are more formal and members wear dinner suits.

Why do we wear regalia in Lodges?
 Wearing regalia is historical and symbolic and has its roots in the use of aprons by ancient operative stone masons. There are different 'aprons' depending on which level in Freemasonry the wearer is which, like a uniform, serve to indicate to members where they rank in the organisation.

What I enjoy most is being part of something meaningful, which challenges me and provides friendship and support all at the same time.
 Terry - Walsley Forest Lodge

You should all have received a copy of our Lodge prospective candidate leaflet which contains information about our costs. We would be happy to discuss this further with you.

CAN WOMEN JOIN SLIDE

Can women join?
 There are two separate female-only Grand Lodges in the UK, which have about 5,000 members based here and abroad. To find out more please visit:
 The Order of Women Freemasons www.owf.org.uk
 HFAF - Fraternity for Women www.hfaf.org

How to join?
 There are two routes. You can be recommended by someone you know who is already a member or you can fill out the online enquiry form located on the UKGL website:
www.ukgl.org.uk/contact-us/interested-in-becoming-a-freemason
 From there, your enquiry will be sent to the most appropriate Province or District for where you live and/or work, we will contact and introduce you to a suitable Lodge. The Lodge will give you the opportunity to ask any questions and to find out more.

I joined Freemasonry to spend more time with my father, to meet different people from outside of my own social circle and give something back to my community in the terms of charity. I joined at 37 - I should have joined when I was in my late 20s.
 Paul - Lodge of Stability

Yes and no.....there are 2 separate Grand Lodges specifically for women....The Order of Women's Freemasonry or OWF and The Honourable Fraternity of Antient Freemasons or HFAF.



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How to join.....

2 ways.....

1. If you know someone then just ask and they will gladly take you through the process or
2. Fill out the online form (if you haven't already) on the Durhamfreemasons or UGLE website.... We will then get in touch with you and help you choose which town and which lodge might suit you best.
3. Via the Lodge website at www...lodge name...org

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? SLIDE



Let's wait and see.....its entirely up to you...if you are still interested in half an hour's time then we will help you and guide you every step of the way.

Please free to join WBro/Bro on a tour of the Lodge room and we will shortly retire to the Festive board for a meal.

SOCIAL MEDIA SLIDE



If you want to find out more you can also find us on social media.

Our Lodge contact details are on the leaflets we have given out tonight or you can ask one of us directly as the evening goes on.



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OPEN GAVEL NIGHT SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS PART 2 – THE FESTIVE BOARD

1. Members, visitors, and guests will assemble in the dining room in the normal manner.
2. Seating should be planned to ensure guests are seated with their hosts.
3. Masonic Brethren should make a point of talking to the guests – this is key
4. The events of the Festive Board will develop in the normal way.
5. There will be a **full toast** list but **no firing**.
6. Special emphasis will be placed on the Absent Brethren's Toast and the Tyler's Toast
7. Guests will be invited to come to the front of the top table to receive from the Worshipful Master the small package of leaflets which the guests can keep and take home with them.



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Appendix 1

Frequently asked questions (A copy of this information can be given to your guests)

What is Freemasonry?

What are we (purpose)

We are a unique members organisation which has thrived for over 300 years. Having no political or religious affiliations, we comprise members of all ages, races, religions, cultures and backgrounds. We meet in our individual lodges throughout the country where we have ceremonial traditions which encourages us to be both more tolerant and respectful and actively to fulfil our civic and charitable responsibilities - we also make time to eat, drink and meet together, and form lifelong friendships.

What we aim for (vision)

To attract those from all backgrounds and walks of life, enabling them to develop into more thoughtful and confident people. To inspire and challenge them to practise the core values we celebrate; Integrity, Friendship, Respect, Charity; in their private and public lives. To cement our reputation as a force for good in our communities and society at large and as a thriving organisation that people aspire to join.

Our values

Integrity: rather than working on buildings like the Masons of old, today's Freemasons focus on building themselves as people of integrity, and membership provides the structure to help achieve that goal

Friendship: one of the oldest social organisations in the world, Freemasonry is not defined by an ideology. It is open to people from all religions and political persuasions, and provides the common foundation for friendships between members, many of which will last for life.

Respect: with a membership of more than 150,000 people drawn from communities across the UK, Freemasonry brings people together irrespective of their race, religion or any other perceived differences that can divide us as a society.

Charity: kindness and charitable giving are deeply ingrained within the principles of Freemasonry. The organisation provides a support structure that helps members make positive contributions to communities and worthwhile causes through fund raising events or volunteer work.



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Why become a Freemason?

People join Freemasonry for many different reasons, some join for the friendships they will make; friendships that will last a lifetime and encompass the key milestones in life for better or worse. You will meet people who are different to you, those of different ages with radically different life experiences and interests, drawn together by common experience through Freemasonry.

All members are, and have been for three centuries, drawn from all walks of life so you will find people with a wealth of different outlooks.

There are also those who enjoy the ceremonial aspects. Our meetings consist of centuries old lessons centred around you as an individual. How you live your life, the decisions that you make and how to become a better person are all found within our meetings.

Freemasons are taught to look after those less fortunate than themselves; Charity is our lifeblood and many members devote their time and energy to helping those less fortunate than themselves.

We also have a huge amount of fun along the way, we eat, drink, and meet together and form lifelong friendships.

What goes on in a Lodge meeting?

There are three degree ceremonies performed during Masonic meetings. They are essentially one act plays and teach members how to be better people with each play representing a different stage in life.

As an initiate or Entered Apprentice, Freemasons are taught we are all born equal. We learn that in life some do better than others and it is up to those that do well to look after the less fortunate. From this stems our belief in the importance of Charity.

The next stage is to become a Fellowcraft where Freemasons are taught the importance of improving yourself as a person, and finally as a Master Mason, where we learn that we have but one life and the importance of using it wisely.

The details of the ceremonies can easily be accessed online but nothing beats experiencing it for yourself.

After the meetings members dine together informally in order to enjoy good food, good wine and company. Most importantly to have fun together.



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Why do Freemasons wear aprons?

The apron stems from our historical and symbolic roots as stone Masons. Being leather, they were designed to protect them from sharp tools and rough stones. For today's Freemasons the apron is a mark of their membership. They are presented with a white leather apron and as they progress this becomes more elaborate.

Can Women be Members?

Only men aged over 18 are allowed to join The United Grand Lodge of England in England and Wales.

Two leading Women's Grand Lodges, that we have the closest relationship, with are: Freemasonry for Women and the Order of Women Freemasons. These two groups only admit women because that is the choice of their memberships. Both Women's organisations, and ourselves, prefer to practise our Freemasonry in single sex environments. The United Grand Lodge of England regularly hires its facilities for meetings of the two Women's Lodges due to our mutual respect and close relations.

What is different about the way Freemasons give to Charity?

It is the sheer scale. We are one of the biggest charitable givers in the country and gave £51.5 million to charities in 2020 alone.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemasons Charity – our national charitable grant giving arm, tackles some of the most significant challenges facing society; in particular, reducing loneliness in later life and ensuring a positive future for young children. We work in partnership with some of the biggest charities in the country to deliver our support.

Freemasonry also does a huge amount for medical research into treatments for cancer, diabetes, heart disease and a whole range of other conditions. In addition it makes donations to support those affected by overseas disasters as well as those at home, such as the Grenfell Tower disaster.

During the COVID pandemic, Freemasons worked together to help their communities. The United Grand Lodge of England, and its members, did all they could to help in the fight against coronavirus. We saw remarkable stories from across the country of how our members came together – from helping to raise vital funds for the NHS and delivering food to the community, through to purchasing ambulances and manufacturing vital personal protective equipment (PPD). To support Freemasonry's charitable response to the Coronavirus pandemic, UGLE and the Masonic Charitable Foundation, established the Freemasons COVID-19 Community Fund.



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This fund has helped to support a range of local and national charities and projects which helped people through the coronavirus pandemic and in total donated £3m pounds.

Is Freemasonry international?

Freemasonry exists throughout the world and the United Grand Lodge of England has districts in many overseas countries. Home members are free to visit any of our Lodges abroad and will often find a warm welcome from fellow members who know the local country very well.

In addition to our Lodges, many other countries have sovereign Grand Lodges, which our members are free to visit and their members visit us in England and Wales when travelling.

How many Freemasons are there in the UK?

The United Grand Lodge of England has 180,000 members. The Grand Lodge of Scotland has approximately 27,000 members and the Grand Lodge of Ireland has approximately 20,000 members, whilst the two female Grand Lodges in England are comprised of around 5,000 members. Worldwide there are estimated to be around 6 million members.

How much does it cost to become a Freemason?

On average annual dues and other fees amount to £200 pounds a year although there are local variations.

Do you have to believe in God?

When becoming a Freemason members are expected to be able to affirm a belief in a 'Supreme Being'. This is deliberately phrased so as to be fully inclusive; most of our members generally believe in a God; Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Jewish etc; of some sort, and there is no requirement to be an active practitioner of any particular religion.

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Appendix 2

Notes for the Guardian(s)

1. *It is essential that you plan what you would like to talk about with your visitors prior to the evening. If you intend to show any videos or use audio visual equipment, then it is essential that you test this out prior to your evening.*

2. The United Grand Lodge of England

Is the governing body of Freemasonry in England Wales and the Channel Islands. It's headquarters is at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen St, London and is headed by the Grand Master - His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

Lodges in London (an area within 10 miles radius of Freemasons Hall) are organised into groups administered by Metropolitan Grand Lodge.

Lodges outside London and within England, Wales and the Channel Islands are grouped into Provinces, each headed by a Provincial Grand Master.

The United Grand Lodge of England has some 175,000 members grouped into lodges further subdivided into 48 Provinces.

The Book of Constitutions The Book of Constitutions is the rule book of the United Grand Lodge of England that regulates all Lodges and Freemasons. - first published in 1723.

3. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham

Is the body that governs Freemasonry locally. It's headquarters is 8 the Esplanade, Sunderland, Tyne and Weir, SR27BH.

The Provincial Grand Master is John Paul Thompson and the Provincial Grand Secretary is Thomas Fred Gittins.

The Masonic Province of Durham is one of the oldest in the country being founded in 1734 with the appointment of Joseph Laycock as the first Provincial Grand Master.



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Area covered by the Province of Durham - The area of the country covered by the Masonic Province of Durham lies between the River Tyne in the North, the river Tees in the South, the North Sea to the East and the Pennines to the West. It embraces the Boroughs of Sunderland, South Tyneside, Gateshead Darlington, Stockton on Tees and Hartlepool as well as the current County of Durham.

Membership - the 4300 Freemasons of the Province of Durham meet regularly in 153 lodges and 35 centres throughout the Province

4. Please talk about your Lodge, it's history, its current membership, what is an installation and what you get out of Freemasonry. A good place to start is with your Lodge profile.
5. **You can also look through the FAQ section for more information.**



The Antient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England
 THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
 and
 ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF DURHAM

Learning and Development Team



Appendix 3 – Suggested template letter

LODGE NAME & No.

Address/other details

Secretary details

.....

Tel:

Email:

(Date).....

Dear Brother Secretary

OPEN GAVEL NIGHT

(Date).....

A Gavel Night is the name given to a Masonic “Open Night”. It is designed to enable friends and family of members, who have an interest in Freemasonry and who are considering becoming a member of the Craft, to come along and enjoy an evening with the Brethren.

The purpose of the evening is to dispel the many myths, which exist about Freemasonry by means of an open, interactive, and interesting presentation about Freemasonry.

The evening will conclude with the Master, Brethren, and Guests retiring to the banqueting room for refreshments and a convivial meal, where there will be an opportunity to relax, enjoy good company, and informally discuss the evenings events.

On behalf of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Lodge I cordially invite any of your members to this meeting. The evening will commence with the Lodge being opened at 7.00pm after which the normal business will be conducted and then it will be closed. Members and visitors will then be asked to bring their invited guests into the Lodge after which a presentation will be given. Following the presentation dinner will be served at approximately 8.30pm.

Guests will need to be accompanied by a member of a Lodge. Unaccompanied members of the public will not be admitted.

If any of your members intend to be present on this evening, will you please contact me by (date)..... so that necessary catering arrangements can be made.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally

.....

Secretary



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Appendix 4 - Suggested response letter

LODGE NAME & No.

Address/other details

OPEN GAVEL NIGHT

(Date).....

Please delete one of the following

1. It is my intention to be present on this evening and I will be accompanied by _____ guests.
2. It is not my intention to be present on this evening.

Member's Name	
Guests Name	
Guests Name	
Guests Name	
Guests Name	

Please return by **(date)**..... to

Name of Coordinator