

General behaviour:

Please:

- Return your notice to attend meetings and functions or tender an apology promptly;
- Be punctual in your attendance and recognise that the success of the Lodge is in your hands. It is your duty to give your Lodge your best service;
- Address the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy by their titles. and never in familiar terms no matter how well you feel you know them. Observe strict protocol;
- Seek advice if you have any doubt or problem. Your Sponsors have a duty to guide and instruct you. In their absence, see the Secretary;
- Attend meetings properly dressed as instructed on most Summonses;
- Be sure that when visiting another Lodge you make the correct greeting which is, 'Hearty good wishes, Worshipful Master, from **Lodge No.**'. (Not 'Greetings and congratulations' or the like). You only represent yourself and not your Lodge.

Never:

- Use Masonic Titles on mail sent to a brother;
- Frame your Grand Lodge Certificate but always carry it with you;
- Address the Master Elect as 'Worshipful Master Elect';
- Address a Past Master as such as well as Worshipful Brother. They say the same thing.

And:

Always remember that your Lodge enjoys a high reputation within the Province. As a member of it you will always be seen to reflect that reputation. Be proud that you are a member and be loyal to its precepts, not just good at ritual. Your conduct both inside and outside your Lodge and the practice of common etiquette is of equal importance. Thoughtful etiquette is the unwritten code of our profession.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire



Masonic Etiquette

(Information and Guidance for Masonic Behaviour)

For circulation to every member

Information and Guidance Group

Masonic Etiquette (Advice and Guidance for Masonic Behaviour)

In Lodge:

Try to remember to:

- Address the Master as ‘Worshipful Master’ and nothing else;
- Say that Minutes are ‘approved’ and then ‘confirmed’ when the Worshipful Master has signed them;
- Enter an apology for unavoidable absence on every occasion;
- Address an Officer of the Lodge by his title, such as ‘Brother Secretary’, ‘Brother Treasurer’ etc—no need for ‘Worshipful Brother’
- Refrain from the word ‘upstanding’.

Try to avoid:

- Blackballing a candidate before first speaking with the Master or Secretary—plenty of time should be available to settle differences and objections;
- Using first names when referring to another member except when two brethren share a surname. Business should be conducted formally and in a friendly manner both in Lodge and at ‘after proceedings.’;
- Any conversation when a Ceremony is taking place. This is both distracting and rude;
- Prompting when visiting a Lodge - someone should have that responsibility within the Lodge.

When Dining:

Remember:

- To always ‘propose’ a Toast - never ‘give’ one;
- to say that ceremonies have been ‘worked’ or ‘rendered’ - not ‘performed’;
- That Fire after a Toast should begin with ‘Brethren, take the time from me’ and should be steady in pace;
- To speak of ‘visiting Masters’ or ‘Masters of other Lodges’ - not ‘reigning Masters’.

Avoid:

- Referring to the taking wine with ‘absent brethren’ as ‘the Nine o’clock toast’;
- Apologising at the beginning of a toast. No excuses need be made, except if you have forgotten your papers, but be positive at all times;
- Using the term ‘the most important toast of the evening’. It debases the status of all other toasts, all of which are important in their own way;
- Delaying the reply to a toast once it has been honoured;
- Telling risqué or smutty jokes. The golden rule is ‘when in doubt, leave it out.’ As a safeguard, it should not cause offence either in a religious, political or moral way;
- Taking wine with anyone unless directed by the Worshipful Master. All wining should be concluded before the main course is finished;
- Failing to honour the Gavel at once and stop talking;
- Indulging in ‘self praise’ to the Lodge - the Responder to the Visitors’ Toast will do what is necessary.

Ladies’ Festivals:

These are not truly Masonic functions and not all Lodges hold them. They should be seen as ‘shop windows of Masonry’ and so judged by the Ladies and non-Masonic guests by the degree of decorum and propriety by which they are conducted.

Remember:

- To address the collective assembly as ‘Ladies, Brethren and Gentlemen’ in order to be correct.

Avoid:

- Using Masonic titles.
- Discarding your jacket without the President’s permission, irrespective of how warm it is. Seek permission from the Master of Ceremonies first who will probably make a general announcement.