



## The Members' Pathway: Level 3

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### EXAMPLES OF LODGE INFORMATION SHEETS & CANDIDATE PROFILES

The following examples of Lodge Information Sheets and Candidate Profiles provide details from the relevant Lodge.

*The Members' Pathway, and its site at <https://b.ugle.org.uk/Membership>, will evolve. If you have examples of good practice that you would like to share, these can be forwarded to the Members' Pathway Team by your Metropolitan / Provincial / District teams.*

#### CASTLE LODGE No. 3219

Castle Lodge No 3219 is a Lodge in the Province of Nottinghamshire, warranted by The United Grand Lodge of England. It is a progressive and growing Lodge that has a good reputation for some of the best ceremonial and ritual in the Province. This makes it an ideal first choice to start Freemasonry.

Formed in 1907, the Lodge was founded on temperance lines, as the majority of founders appear to have been Wesleyan Methodists or Salvation Army Officers, and was the first Lodge of this type in the Province. This has been relaxed for social occasions, but the by-law continues, so there is still no alcohol at Lodge meetings while dining.

The Lodge meets at The Freemasons' Hall, Welbeck Road, West Bridgford. Regular Lodge meetings start with the Annual Installation meeting on the last Thursday in September. We then meet on the first Wednesday of the month in November, February, March, April, and May. It is usual to start these meetings at 6.00 pm, but the start time can vary depending on the content of the meeting.

The Lodge also meets socially; the two main social events being a Christmas Meal arranged for the 1st Saturday evening in December where we invite all our family and friends. We also hold a Ladies Festival in spring / early summer; this being organised for all the Ladies of the Lodge. Other social and informal gatherings are arranged by the Committee or the Lodge membership. Friends, family and others who are not Freemasons are especially welcome at our social events.

Castle Lodge's membership comprises individuals from all backgrounds and age ranges, and is acknowledged to be, by the many who visit us, a friendly Lodge.

We ask members to attend all regular meetings of the Lodge and we actively support every member in his progress through the Offices of the Lodge. The Lodge has a strong nucleus of experienced members, with some more-recent and younger members who are progressing in their understanding of Freemasonry and who will secure the Lodge's future.

#### *Ideal Candidate*

We would encourage any man over 18, who lives his life according to a set of values and who has a belief in a Supreme Being, to contact us. We will also welcome any existing Freemason looking to join a new Lodge. As with all Freemasonry, neither religion nor politics are discussed at meetings.



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We seek as members those who can commit to a regular attendance at Lodge meetings and who wish to contribute to the life and work of the Lodge itself. We are particularly interested in candidates who can enhance our reputation for the ceremonial aspects of Freemasonry.

### DE VERE LODGE No. 1794

De Vere Lodge No. 1794 was sponsored by Newstead Lodge No.47 and consecrated on 3rd March 1879 by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire, W Bro. John Watson, in the Council Chamber of the Mechanics Institute in Nottingham. The name of the Lodge comes from the family name of His Grace The 10th Duke of St. Albans, the Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire, who gave his permission for it to be used by the Lodge.

Over the years De Vere Lodge has been known as a musical or singing lodge due to our unique ritual and sense of fun at social events, a sailing lodge when a number of friends with a common interest in dinghy and yacht sailing became members and is now a diverse lodge with members of many different backgrounds and interests.

Our members enjoy feeling part of an organisation that is charitable and has an impact on society, built on a value system they can share with like-minded men who also want to improve themselves and enjoy Freemasonry's history and tradition. The Lodge still enjoys very friendly and enjoyable dinners mixing formality with fun. It has a reputation for making new members and visitors feel very welcome.

De Vere is one of very few lodges in Nottinghamshire that uses a ritual different to Emulation. The 'De Vere Ritual' we perform today is reputed to be based on Old York Workings that can be traced back to the 18th Century. It makes our ceremonies unique.

Meetings are held at The Masonic Hall, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham, on the third Friday of September, October, November, December, January, February and March each year. A number of social events are also organised throughout the year, when the involvement of family and friends is encouraged. Rehearsals for brethren involved in an upcoming ceremony are held at Goldsmith Street at 6pm on the Friday and Wednesday preceding regular meetings. There are also three practices held during the summer. These all last about an hour and do not cost any extra.

There is normally a Ladies Evening held on a Friday near to St. Valentine's Day and a couple of social events during the Summer.

Our joining fee is £100 and annual subscriptions are £150. The cost of dining plus raffles and charity collections at each regular meeting is between £20 and £30 depending on how much you wish to donate to charity. On taking your third degree the cost of regalia is around £60. Brethren are expected to wear a dark suit, white shirt, black or Craft tie and black shoes at all meetings.



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### *Ideal Candidate*

The ideal candidate for De Vere Lodge will share our values, which are built around having a positive impact on society, becoming better people and an interest in masonic history and tradition.

It is important that candidates understand the time and cost commitments they are making when seeking membership and that they can expect to attend meetings, rehearsals and practices regularly.

### **DOMINION LODGE No. 4289**

As its name suggests, Dominion Lodge attracts members from far and wide. A Lodge of 24 Subscribing members, only 13 are based locally whereas 11 come a significant distance to attend meetings. Despite this fact, 21 are regular attenders which is a turnout of 87.5%. This is testament to the entertaining style of the Lodge meetings and Festive Boards. 4 members attend regularly from Cumbria. We have a member in Northumberland who only attends at Installation but who always does a job at that meeting.

We currently have 4 Entered Apprentices, 1 Master Mason, 6 Past Masters, 12 Provincial Officers and 1 Grand Officer. Of our 24 members, 12 are 60 or over and 12 are 59 or younger. The average age is 58.

The membership generally has a Transport, Engineering or sales background. We also have a retired Head Teacher. Two of our Members are former regular Soldiers and we have three former Territorial Army Men, giving us a military flavour.

Without exception every member of Dominion Lodge has a good sense of humour. The ethos of the Lodge is that every member brings a different gift; not all are great ritualists, organisers or Secretary or Treasurer material. However every brother is afforded the opportunity to become better at what they enjoy doing and indeed those things that they find a challenge. No Brother is looked down on; all are encouraged to succeed. We have all bought in to the Idea of excellence in the Lodge room and enjoyment at the festive board – in every case with a smile on our faces.

### *Ideal Candidate*

Our Ideal Candidate should have a sense of humour and enjoy life. Though he may have risen to great heights he should not have forgotten his roots.

Given that the Lodge has a wide age range we are able to welcome new members at any point in their adult life. However, the younger a man wishes to join the better for him.

Current members include former Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, tradesmen, engineers, salesmen and people involved with transport such as railwaymen, drivers and motor mechanics, etc. People from similar backgrounds would find they have much in common with us.

However, such is the nature of the Lodge that any person, of any calling, would fit in as long as they had a good sense of humour. A stuffed shirt would not be happy with us.



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### SAINT PETER'S LODGE No. 8493

Saint Peter's Lodge No. 8493 was founded in 1973 by a group of Mansfield Freemasons who wanted an additional Lodge in the town to accommodate a growth in membership. Many of the founders were connected with the town's Parish Church, although this has never been a requirement of membership. The Lodge meets at Mansfield Masonic Hall on the first Monday of the month from October to April each year. With the exception of the March Installation meeting, regular Lodge meetings start at 6.15 pm and are generally concluded by 10.00 pm. Rehearsals are normally held on the Monday preceding a regular meeting.

There are currently 35 members, ranging in age from early thirties to mid-eighties. The Lodge normally admits a new candidate each year with occasional joining members adding to our numbers. The most recent members to join are in their thirties and forties. Our meetings are well attended by our own members and regular visitors, who are attracted by the friendly atmosphere, the high quality of our ceremonial work and the convivial environment.

The Lodge is committed to supporting its new members and assisting them in learning about Freemasonry. We have actively adopted the mentoring scheme and believe this will help us to attract and retain more members in the future.

Our meetings are business-like, efficient and dignified, and conducted in a warm and friendly manner. The standard of our ritual is high and the work is shared out among brethren. We encourage all members to learn the ritual by heart and provide support where required. Members are also encouraged to widen their circle and increase their understanding by attending the Mansfield Lodge of Instruction.

The meal, or festive board, following each Lodge meeting has a convivial and lively atmosphere. There is plenty of conversation and speeches are short. Once a year our partners join us at the meal. A number of social events are held throughout the year and the Lodge makes regular contributions to charity.

Members are encouraged to attend every meeting, although allowances are made when family or business demands prevent it. Personal mentors provide the support a new member needs and advise when he is ready to deliver ritual or take office. No one is ever coerced into doing either but the Lodge hopes that all members will want to do so. It will always make adjustments to accommodate members and their changing circumstances.

In summary, the members of Saint Peter's Lodge enjoy a happy, friendly and convivial atmosphere in which they practise their Freemasonry. Lodge meetings comprise good ceremonial and ritual work as well as a sociable festive board. New members are encouraged to participate and are well supported. Members consider the Lodge to be a valuable and enjoyable part of their leisure time.

#### *Ideal Candidate*

The ideal candidate will be able and willing to commit to attending the regular meetings of the Lodge and can afford the costs of membership, including charitable donations if possible. In addition, he will be asked to attend rehearsals once he starts to contribute to ceremonies and committee meetings as he takes office. We hope all members will want to contribute to the life and spirit of the Lodge and that and their families will want to participate in the Lodge's social events.



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The Lodge age range and the backgrounds of members being quite diverse, we have no specific requirement in these areas to which new members are expected to conform.

### WOODTHORPE LODGE No. 5645

Woodthorpe Lodge meets at the Masonic Hall, Goldsmith Street, on the fourth Tuesday of September, November, January and March, normally starting at 6.00 pm. We also hold rehearsals and committee meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the same months and an Instruction Circle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday.

We are a small Lodge with an age range extending from 25 to 86 years. Our members come from a wide range of backgrounds with different religions, ethnic groups, occupations, skills and leisure interests represented. Despite being low in numbers the Lodge is in excellent spirits and has a high attendance rate with a number of regular visitors. We recognize that we need to progress and adapt.

Our members are happy to get involved in ceremonies and deliver ritual. We divide the work into manageable segments. Newer members are encouraged to contribute without any pressure applied while the more experienced are always happy to stand in or assist when required.

We are quite flexible in our management of our festive boards and shorten toasts on most occasions. Among our idiosyncrasies and traditions we regularly visit particular Lodges and hold joint social functions at Christmas and during the summer.

We give a warm welcome to new members and encourage them to take an active part in the Lodge, its ceremonial and its administration. We offer encouragement and support for all members to help them achieve their full potential. In doing so we are flexible in dealing with each individual, recognizing that there should be no hard and fast rule for everyone.

We are constantly looking for new opportunities to raise charitable funds and have held events such as a Burns Night, and the Woodthorpe Pub Olympics. We are especially keen to link up with other Lodges for joint ventures.

#### *Ideal Candidate*

We wish to build our membership numbers and are keen to welcome candidates and joining members who want to contribute to the life and work of the Lodge. The Lodge may be attractive to existing Freemasons who want to progress or take an administrative role in a Lodge. We recognise we may need to change or adapt some of our practices and so would hope that new members may bring some flexibility and fresh ideas.

*We acknowledge with thanks the assistance of Lodges in the Province of Nottinghamshire who provided examples of their Lodge and Candidate profiles and from which the above are taken.*