

Informal Guidance For Lodges Receiving Deliveries Of The Prestonian Lecture

1. The Prestonian Lecture is the only official lecture sponsored by Grand Lodge. The Lecturer is appointed by Trustees on the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes. The MW The Grand Master has approved a collarette and jewel to be worn by the present and past Prestonian Lecturers as part of their Craft regalia.
2. The Lectureship is a memorial to William Preston (1742-1818) the foremost Masonic educator of his age, who left a legacy to Grand Lodge to perpetuate his system of ritual lectures. The Lectureship went into abeyance in 1856 but was revived in a new form in 1924.
3. The Lectureship runs for one calendar year. The Lecturer must choose some aspect of Freemasonry which is not controversial but will educate and entertain a general Lodge audience. Each year the Lecturer is announced in the Board's report to the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in the preceeding June. Usually, he must give three official deliveries of his Lecture during his tenure, but may give as many unofficial deliveries as he desires.
4. Although deliveries of the Lecture shall be sponsored by one particular Lodge or Masonic Association they will be expected to permit members of neighbouring Lodges to attend the meeting. They may also ask for their co-operation in providing facilities for the delivery.
5. The Lodge or Masonic Association which has been allocated an official delivery or has requested an unofficial delivery is responsible for the travelling expenses of the Lecturer and any overnight expenses incurred if the Lecturer is unable to return home after the meeting.
6. To enable as large an audience as possible to attend the Lodge shall, if necessary, arrange alternative tyled premises to their usual meeting place for the Lecture meeting.

7. To cover the expenses of the Lecturer and any rental for the meeting accommodation it is permissible to charge a nominal ticket fee for entry to the meeting. Any after-proceedings must be self-financing.
8. The Lecture shall be the main business of the meeting, at which no degree work shall be undertaken.
9. It is suggested that the announcement of the Lecture on Lodge summonses should be on the following lines, drawing a distinction between the official and unofficial deliveries:

(for the official deliveries)

*“To receive a delivery of the Prestonian Lecture for 2012, **“Scouting and Freemasonry: two parallel organisations?”** by W Bro Antony D G Harvey, PProvGReg, ProvGMen (Derbyshire)”*

(for the unofficial deliveries)

*A paper entitled **“Scouting and Freemasonry: two parallel organisations”**, The Prestonian Lecture for 2012, will be delivered by W Bro Antony D G Harvey, PProvGReg, ProvGMen (Derbyshire)”*

10. As the Lecture is sponsored by Grand Lodge the Lecturer should, regardless of his Masonic rank, be treated as the principal guest of the Lodge and be seated at the right of the Master allowing for a seat for the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master (or a brother specifically deputed to represent them for the occasion) should they be present.
11. It would also be a courtesy at the after-proceedings to have a special toast to the Lecturer to enable him to return thanks to his hosts.
12. It is customary for the Prestonian Lecture to be printed in booklet form for sale, the profits going to a Charity or Charities (Masonic and non-Masonic) of the Lecturer’s choice. It would be helpful if brethren could be co-opted as Stewards to deal with sales of the booklets in the ante-room after the meeting or at the dinner table.

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J M Hamill
Director of Special Projects