



**Internet Lodge 9659**  
**United Grand Lodge of England**  
**Province of East Lancashire**  
<http://internet.lodge.org.uk>

**Short Papers Competition 2007**

*The opinions reflected by the author are not necessarily those of Internet Lodge,  
The Province of East Lancashire or the United Grand Lodge of England.*

**Paper 11/2007**

**Title**                    **Top 10 Reasons I Do Not Talk About Masonry – Outside The Lodge**  
**Author**                    **Bro Scott Warner – Canada**

**10 No one is interested in Masonry anymore**

How can this be true? In fact interest in Masonry is actually at a very high level, with thousands of internet sources, documentaries and pop culture movies about our craft. I would say indeed there is great interest, if not an even greater need.

**9 I do not want to reveal any secrets**

With a lodge in almost every town, village and city in Canada and the USA it is unusual to associate anything secret with our craft. If there is a secret it is why those lodges are almost always located on the main street of those places. Unless you are giving away pass grips or passwords there is very little that cannot be discussed with a suitably interested party.

**8 People might think I am silly or something**

The problem most people have today is they have nothing to belong to, no immediate and reliable moral compass. On the contrary, it is my experience that people who have or belong to something they hold close and respect greatly are most often to be admired, respected and not easily dismissed.

**7 I am not recruiting for the craft**

Which is good since recruiting is what you do when people do not want to join or belong voluntarily; our craft seeks willing entrants free of persuasion and places the more important criteria on the candidates as men as opposed to the sheer numbers of membership.

**6 I do not feel comfortable speaking about the craft**

It is odd to hear that one might have trouble sharing information or the excitement of a craft they hold so dear. Perhaps we might think of it not as "speaking" per se, but rather simply sharing your experience and passion for Free Masonry.

**5 I do not know anyone who would be a good candidate**

As you are not recruiting, talking about the craft is not about seeking candidates. Appropriate candidates will find themselves to the craft in their own good time.

**4 What candidate would have the time for this these days**

We hear this almost every time we talk of anything beyond home or work. Some folks think this is an easy out provided for those who simply would not participate in activity that did not directly benefit them, others may cite this as a point of consideration for modern organizations, encouraging them to be more flexible in their time demands on the family today. If you were speaking to a potential candidate be honest about the time commitment, but not so arrogant as to assume the decision for them.

**3 Lodge is one thing, but all the concordant bodies make it seem like a never ending maze**

This is perhaps somewhat true, without an explanation it may seem as though there are endless bodies and other aspects of the craft. This is just an appearance and is no reason not to share your passion for Freemasonry.

*Short papers are intended to be read aloud in lodge meetings as a form of Masonic Education.  
Whilst we encourage you to use them for their intended purpose they must not be reproduced for  
publication in any manner without the prior permission of Internet Lodge No 9659 E.C. or the author.  
© 2008 Internet Lodge and the author*



**Internet Lodge 9659**  
**United Grand Lodge of England**  
**Province of East Lancashire**  
<http://internet.lodge.org.uk>

**Short Papers Competition 2007**

*The opinions reflected by the author are not necessarily those of Internet Lodge,  
The Province of East Lancashire or the United Grand Lodge of England.*

**2 I never talk about it in front of women, why would they be interested**

Thus far I personally have encountered no less than 3 different stories about women or partners, who, once exposed to Freemasonry encouraged membership of their husbands, who then subsequently joined the lodge. Freemasonry is a benefit to the family, not just the man, all of the family.

**1 I never think about it once I leave the lodge**

For all the memory work done on behalf of the craft it seems odd that we would forget the craft once we leave the lodge. Still we all do and only our continued effort will assist us to become more open, more visible and of continued value to our society.