

THE BLACK COUNTRY WORKINGS

PROGRAMME OR EVENTS

You close your lodge and vacate all officers seats (including Secretary)

Our D.C. introduces the Black Country Workings.

Our D.C. requests all brethren in Lodge room to be upstanding.

Black Country Demonstration Team parade in and occupy their respective offices in the Lodge.

The Lodge is opened in the first degree to Black Country Workings.

The minutes of our last regular meeting are read

The demonstration ceremony of initiation is performed.

The Lodge is closed to Black Country Workings.

The Black Country D.C. parades the Team out of the Lodge.

Your own D.C. then takes over to vacate Lodge.

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Demonstrating That Masonry Can Be Fun With Dignity!

THE BLACK COUNTRY WORKINGS

For That Special Evening Of Masonic Enjoyment!

PERFORMED BY THE DEMONSTRATION TEAM FROM:



"A light hearted enactment of the ceremony of Initiation as it might have been carried out by Aynuk 'n' Ayli in the Black Country at the time of the Industrial Revolution".

WHO WILL IT APPEAL TO?

Warm hearted masons who believe ceremonies can be fun but still retain dignity and sincerity. If you prefer ceremonies that are solemn, the Black Country Workings are unlikely to appeal to you.

HISTORICAL MERIT

We make no claim to authentic historical reference; but our Workings accurately reflect the warm spirit of Black Country folk and their logic in the very hard times of the industrial revolution.

DURATION OF WORKINGS

Sixty to seventy minutes depending upon what occurs during ceremony.

SCENARIO (*Expect anything other than what you expect – fear the worst!*)

We take you back to a Black Country Lodge at the height of the Industrial Revolution, governed by an over zealous Overseer, who supports the Grand Lodge of England on the emulation of ritual. Our ceremony is based upon Emulation ritual, but strongly influenced by “Black Country logic.” We do it this way so that if you are unable to understand what we are saying, then at least you can follow the ceremony. Our Overseer is a very powerful and formidable figure in the Lodge whom no one will dare challenge. He is strongly supported by his Director Of Ceremonies, the local Undertaker, who is also a “stickler” for ritual. Between the two of them, *they* are the *real* rulers of the Lodge. (*They do know them onny acting so watch arrt!*)

Our W.M. is a solid Black Country man who graduated from the coalmines to managing the Black Country’s excavations of network of canals or “Cut” as it’s known in the Black Country. He is a dedicated warm-hearted mason but a little lacking in refinement, which causes frequent clashes with the Overseer. His first ceremony did not go too well, so the Overseer has been working on him and is expecting a marked improvement in his performance this evening. (*Wully or woee dooit?*)

The Candidate for initiation although of worthy character, is considerably down on his luck so don’t be surprised to see a poor and distressed candidate emerge through the threshold. (*Doe loff it might be yoe!*)

Take note that Black Country masons took ritual very seriously, so to them the penalty of an obligation was a penalty, and nothing less! Consequently they would not have hesitated in applying it, where Circumstances warranted it. (*Watch thee maarth or yoe might loose thee yed!*)

WHO AND WHAT IS INVOLVED

The demonstration Team consists of:-

Overseer	Chaplain
Worshipful Master	Director of Ceremonies Senior Deacon
Senior Warden	Junior Deacon
Junior Warden	Inner Guard

The Demonstration Team takes complete charge of the Lodge to perform the Black Country Workings, which consists of an opening (watch out!), the ceremony of Initiation, followed by closing of the Lodge. The workings are “interactive” therefore any brethren present may be called upon at any time to take part in the proceedings. As was customary in those days, fines for “indiscretions” were imposed instantly and to anyone (constantly!). Advise everyone to bring plenty of loose change on the night!

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FROM THE HOST LODGE

- [a] The assistance of your Tyler (*he can still come in and watch the ceremony*)
- [b] Your Lodge Organist – *to play us in and out.*
- [c] Two volunteer Candidates – *Need to be good sports!*
- [d] A room set aside for Demonstration Team to Change their clothes.
- [e] A good turn out of members and visitors to create a “Warm” atmosphere.

SUGGESTED TIMETABLE FOR THE EVENING

Black Country workings commence at 6-00pm. Dinner at 7-30pm. This will require you to conduct your own Lodge business earlier so that you can close your Lodge, vacate the chairs and allow a short intermission before the demonstration commences.

CONDITIONS OF THE BLACK COUNTRY WORKINGS DEMONSTRATION TEAM

- [1] There is no fee payable
- [2] Travelling expenses apply outside the West Midlands area.
- [3] Host Lodge pays the dining fee for Demonstration Team members.
- [4] We do not take your charity collection, but a token donation to our Provincial Grand Charity would be greatly appreciated.
- [5] All monies collected in fines are given back to your Charity Steward.