



## Enhancing Ceremonial - Tips for the Tyler

The role of Tyler goes back to the tradition when Freemason's lodges met in rooms in a local tavern and the Tyler was employed to guard the door 'from unqualified, malicious or simply curious people'. He is also responsible for ensuring that candidates for ceremonies in the lodge have been properly prepared. Other duties often involve preparing the room for meetings.

Here are a few tips to assist the Tyler in the role:

1. Liaise closely with the Inner Guard before any meeting – ensure that whatever the system is regarding the 'Tyler's light' and the opening of the door is fully understood.
2. Familiarise oneself with the knocker on the door – these are all different from Lodge room to Lodge room.
3. Ensure your equipment is on hand.
4. Understand the Lodge's tradition in announcing visitors to the Lodge.
5. It is useful to know the names of the lodges in the area from which Brethren are likely to visit so that you can pronounce the lodge names correctly and their correct name i.e. are they Lodge XXX or XXX Lodge.
6. It is tempting to leave your post outside the door to attend to other matters but one never knows when a question may be asked from inside or a knock is given for response.
7. If as Tyler there is responsibility to set-up the Lodge room then some lodges use a separate plastic box for the equipment for each degree. Include in each box a checklist and instructions so that the set-up is well understood.

These are a few pointers. There will be others which your Director of Ceremonies or Preceptor can assist with.

