



District Grand Council of London

The Order of The Allied Masonic Degrees of England & Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas



District Newsletter

August 2025

A message from the District Grand Prefect



Dear Brethren all,

Well, this is most definitely a summer message as we are now into our fourth heat wave, water is being rationed, the lawns are like straw, Masonry has ground to a halt and my beer is more than warm - even for an ale drinker like me! There is only one thing for it (yes, pour another one from the fridge!!) and that is to leave this place and go on holiday. The only problem of course is that it is just as warm wherever you go (maybe Iceland is a good bet...) and I expect the water shortage will be just as bad but at least the beer will be fine. I suppose this is all down to greenhouse gases - I make no comment on these things - but I do know that my greenhouse manages to get to some enormous temperatures! This means I must water everything twice a day, which does seem like a vicious circle to me. I have three water butts so hopefully they will see me through to the monsoons again.

We have had a busy AMD year, a new Council, a surge in membership, successful social events and good meetings throughout. In July we hosted the New Members Dinner at the Boot and Flogger in Southwark; it was a really good evening with some interesting stories as to how and why members had joined AMD, good conversation and plenty of laughter; it was very nice to meet with them all – and the food was good. But, now we are in the summer recess, for those of you who are off on holiday – have a very good break and enjoy yourselves. For those of us who remain here then our aim must be to enjoy the garden and family. There is much to look forward to when we do return to active duty: the Grand Allied Meeting on 28 October, our next social event on 6 November and our Annual District Meeting on 15 November (all dates for your diary), plus another cycle of visits to Councils. Please join us if possible as they are always good fun and make for a good night out. As a last teaser, there is a strong suggestion for a new Council in London and it has a very good chance of being supported; more will be announced very soon so listen out for details. All best wishes to you and your families, enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to being and seeing you all soon.

Colin

A round-up of District news in 2025 so far.

January



The new year got off to a fantastic start with a visit by the Deputy District Grand Prefect, W. Bro. (as he was then!) Scott Cargill to Metropolitan A TI Council at Mark Masons' Hall on Wednesday 15 January. This was the Dep. DGP's first outing in his new role and he was accompanied by a delegation of District Grand Officers. There were over 30 brethren present in the Grand Temple.

The Council conducted the degree of The Red Cross of Babylon for 10 candidates with Bro. David Daniel as the nominated candidate. The Royal Arch Council was conducted in fine style by the Worshipful Master W. Bro. Tony Pattison assisted by his officers.

W. Bro. Roger Keys then took the principal's chair to conduct the Persian Court, again with some fine ritual and assisted by members of the Council.



Also in January, Rumbelow held a superb meeting admitting 5 new members to the Order, one of which was the Brother of the District Grand Prefect. An excellent ceremony with the DGP acting as Junior Warden. As is expected at a Rumbelow meeting, a hearty and substantial festive board followed.



Finishing January off in fine style was the Council of the Four Kings, with 8 candidates receiving the Degrees of Knight of Constantinople and Grand Tilers of Solomon.

A picture story brought to you by Eve St Borer
A day in the life of a Mason - Part 1.



Siri, where are my glasses?

To be continued

February



February is usually a quiet month in the life of the District - but not this year. February saw the consecration of a brand new Council, Universal Council No. 286.

Friday 21 February saw the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson, and his team consecrate the District of London's 12th Council - the culmination of at least 2 years' work by the Secretary Designate Scott Cargill.

A particular highlight was the oration given by the Grand Chaplain V.W. Bro. Rev. Justin Parker who eloquently conveyed the significance of the new Council.

Consecration completed, the Grand Master invited the District Grand Prefect for London - R.W. Bro. Colin Woodcock MBE to take the chair to install the Primus Master V.W. Bro. Brian Sarre P.G.Reg. The Worshipful Master then appointed and invested his officers, following which the Grand Master then presented the warrant of Universal Council No.286 into the keeping of the Worshipful Master.

Before retiring from the new Council with his team, the Grand Master requested his DC to conduct W. Bro. Scott Cargill P.G.J.D. Dep.Dist.G.Pref. to him. The Grand Master then conferred a field promotion and promoted Scott to Past Grand Registrar, which of course means that our Primus Secretary became a Very Worshipful brother.

March

March saw the Metropolitan A and Rumbelow Councils hold their second meetings of the year.

Metropolitan installed Bro. Stephen Roberts as the new Worshipful Master, which was Steve's first time in the chair in the Order. The Council also introduced Bro. Ismail Bayildiran into the Order by conducting the St. Lawrence the Martyr degree.



Rumbelow likewise welcomed the District Grand Senior Warden, W. Bro. Peter Warner, and a delegation of District Grand Officers to their meeting. At the meeting 5 members and a visiting Brother were made Knights of Constantinople and admitted into the Grand Tilers of Solomon. Both ceremonies were conducted in an excellent manner with V.W. Bro. Steve Warwick, V.W. Bro. Scott Cargill, V.W. Bro. Jules Greenwall and W. Bro. Terry Hall taking the lead roles.



A picture story brought to you by Eve St Borer
A day in the life of a Mason - Part 2.



“Has anyone seen Paul’s glasses in here?”
To be continued

April

April brought us the District's Spring Social event, more of which can be found later in this newsletter. April also saw Britannic Council of Madeira and The Brigadier Galloway hold their meetings.

On Friday 11 April members of The Brigadier Galloway Council No.126 assembled in the Hong Kong Temple on the 3rd floor of Mark Masons' Hall to conduct their April meeting. After the Council was opened the Deputy District Grand Prefect V.W. Bro. Scott Cargill, accompanied by a delegation of District Grand Officers, was welcomed into the meeting.

What followed was extraordinary. The Council was conducting the ceremony of The Holy Order of Grand High Priest. They had 2 of their own members present to take the degree plus another 10 candidates visiting from other Councils, so 12 in total. The Worshipful Master W. Bro. Pierre Salem was totally unfazed by the numbers and gave a flawless delivery of the degree to those lucky candidates, members and visitors who were present to witness such a great ceremony.



May

The merry month of May brought us meetings of our Saturday Council Goose & Gridiron, our morning Council Londinium Matutinus and finally Londinium Council.

On Saturday 3 May members of the Goose & Gridiron Council No.275 assembled at Mark Masons' Hall. After being opened the Council welcomed the District Grand Prefect, R.W. Bro. Colin Woodcock MBE, and a delegation of District Grand Officers into the meeting. The Council then set about conducting the St Lawrence the Martyr degree welcoming in Bro. Zac Loader into the Order. The Council was then opened into Grand Tilers of Solomon to admit 2 brethren into that degree.



On Tuesday 20 May Londinium Council No.47 met at Mark Masons' Hall with a rather packed agenda. Firstly, a new first-time Worshipful Master, Bro. Marius Telespan, was Installed into the Chair by W. Bro. Colin Howard - the Council Secretary - who, with very little notice, most ably deputed for the Installing Master. After being Installed quite superbly, (the now) W. Bro Marius Telespan wasted no time in showing his Masonic qualities by immediately Admitting Bro. Simon Dodd, an Assistant Metropolitan Grand Inspector in the Craft, into the Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr in what was a superb ceremony. And just when it seemed the meeting could not get any better, Bro. [Gur Samuel](#) recited a quite flawless presentation of the Degree's Lecture.



June

June was a very busy month for AMD Councils, with Britannic Council of Madeira, Rose & Lily Council and The Council of the Four Kings all holding meetings. But this year they were joined by the newly-consecrated Universal Council which held its first regular meeting too.



On Friday 6 June, members and joiners travelled from far to be with Universal Council at their first regular meeting. At the meeting 8 new members were Admitted into St Lawrence and made Knights of Constantinople, with 2 brethren also joining the Council. A great time was had in the temple, and the brethren elected V.W. Bro. Brian Sarre to continue as Master.

July

As so to July, as we neared the end of our Masonic season there was still time for both Londinium Matutinus Council and Rumbelow Council to fit in one final meeting on the same day. With Londinium Matutinus meeting in the morning and Rumbelow in the afternoon, it was a long day for those who attended both!

July also saw our annual New Members' Dinner, more of which later...

A picture story brought to you by Eve St Borer
A day in the life of a Mason - Part 3.



“Hi it’s Siri here. They are on your head stupid!”

The End

The Spring Social Event

In glorious sunshine, over 20 members, partners and friends gathered at the Museum of London Docklands for a private guided tour. The 2-hour tour kept everyone captivated and interested, as the museum provides a fascinating history of the docks started from the end of the 18th century through to the present day.



Afterwards it was a short walk to the restaurant for a light lunch which concluded with a few words from Colin Woodcock, District Grand Prefect, that included a vote of thanks to Steve Roberts for doing all the organising, before we all headed home ahead of the rush hour.



District of London Council of Improvement

End of Season report

It's been a mixed season for the Council of Improvement. It started well in September and numbers attending were up slightly on the previous year. However, as the season progressed numbers dropped from the previous year which was disappointing. But, we still have a core set of brethren who attend on a regular basis and it would be good to get the numbers up again when next season starts in September.

This past season we held 14 sessions from September through to June. Practicing St. Lawrence the Martyr (SLM) and Knight of Constantinople (KOC) degrees twice, Grand Tilers of Solomon (GTS) and The Red Cross of Babylon (RCB) three times and, Grand High Priest (GHP) four times - which was a good spread. Meetings started at 7:30pm and usually ran for around 30 minutes for SLM, GTS and KOC, and around 40 minutes for RCB and GHP. No travelling and no cost, just a great opportunity to practice your ritual!

As members of the Allied we should try and ensure that we conduct our ceremonies to the best of our abilities and give new members a good experience as they progress through the degrees. We do not have to be perfect, but we do have to be proficient in conducting the ceremonies. The Council of Improvement is an excellent forum not only to practice but to pass on knowledge of the ceremonies. The sessions are not just for new members progressing through the offices but is also a way for more experienced brethren to attend and pass on their knowledge and experience. We have some excellent ritualists in the District, who conduct the ceremonies to a high standard, and it would be great to get some of you along to ensure that those high standards continue to be passed on. Please ensure that you make your members aware of the COI and encourage them to get involved.

Next season, due to the numbers attending we have decided to reduce the sessions from twice a month to once a month. Mostly, this will be the 2nd Tuesday of each month but will allow flexibility to shift the session when there are clashes with other Masonic events. Also, this will allow us to add in extra sessions if required; for example if a Council specifically wants a session to practice an upcoming meeting then we can facilitate this so that the Council can effectively run its own session for its members to take the offices but at the same time to allow others to join to just watch or fill in any gaps. Finally, we can also run a session to practice an Installation if any installing Master wishes to practice this ceremony. Just get in touch and we can set it up.

Finally a big thank you to all those who attended sessions this past season and also to our preceptors Roger Keys, Alan White and Barry Cooper who gave up their time to attend regularly to ensure that we were able to conduct the Zoom sessions. More information on the COI can be found on the District website [here](#).

Steve Roberts
Secretary – AMD London Council of Improvement

New Members' Dinner



On a hot July evening a number of new members to the AMD District of London gathered at The Boot & Flogger Public House near Borough market for the District's Annual New Members' Dinner. The evening was hosted by the District Grand Prefect, R.W. Bro. Colin Woodcock along with members of his executive, the Deputy District Grand Prefect V.W. Bro Scott Cargill, District Grand Senior Warden W. Bro. Peter Warner, District Grand Secretary W. Bro. Richard Criddle and District Grand Sword Bearer W. Bro. Terry Worrall.

As per the ethos of the District it was a very inclusive evening with Colin engaging all those new members to give their initial views on the order and what prompted them to join the Order. This provided some interesting and positive feedback for Colin and his team. The Councils in the District were discussed with an emphasis on visiting other Councils to complete degrees or simply as a social visit. The District website and Council of Improvement were also discussed again with encouragement to get involved.

If you have recently joined the District in the past 2 years look out for an invite to next year's dinner.

District Demonstration Team

The District has been looking at the idea of putting together a Demonstration Team made up of keen brethren and those excellent ritualists we have out there. The purpose of the team would be to provide support to any Council which is short of officers or which needs assistance in conducting a particular ceremony. Also, if sufficient numbers exist in the team then there is the possibility of holding a Festival meeting once a year where one or two ceremonies could be demonstrated. If this is of interest to you then please register your interest by completing the form [here](#).

Want to get more involved with the District?

Do you want to get more involved with the District? Well, if you do then the District Communications team is always on the look-out for anyone who would like to get involved. This could be writing an article about your Council meeting, taking photos or perhaps writing general articles for the District website. If you are comfortable with IT maybe you would like to help to maintain the District's website or if you are into social media maybe help manage the content on our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram channels. Maybe you would like to get involved in arranging and managing one of our social events? So if you feel you would like to get involved then drop us an email at comms@amdondon.org and we will have a chat.

Staying in touch via Zoom



Scott Cargill continues to host an informal Zoom meeting every 1st Saturday evening every month. It is a chance for a quick catch-up on what everyone has been doing over the last month with brethren joining from all over the world.

Please do join Scott who sends an invitation every month.

Dates for the Diary

24 Sep 2025 - Rose & Lily
03 Oct 2025 - The Guild of Freemen
08 Oct 2025 - Britannic Council of Madeira
10 Oct 2025 - The Brigadier Galloway
18 Oct 2025 - The Goose & Gridiron
28 Oct 2025 - AMD Grand Council Meeting
29 Oct 2025 - Perram
06 Nov 2025 - District Autumn Social event
15 Nov 2025 - District Annual Meeting
17 Nov 2025 - The Council of the Four Kings
19 Nov 2025 - Metropolitan A
25 Nov 2025 - Londinium

That's your lot!

So that brings to an end our summary of the past eight months. We hope you have enjoyed reading and if not please let us know what kind of things you would like us to include. It is your newsletter, after all!

Comms Team
AMD Towers