



District Newsletter

December 2024

A message from the District Grand Prefect



Dear Brethren all,

So, at last, after all the ups and downs of a momentous year, in all areas of life, we slowly slip slide to the end 2024. This is a good time to look around, make a cup of tea, grab a mince pie, settle in an armchair and indulge in some quiet inner thoughts. The end of anything is a good time to review and assess successes and achievements and at Christmas it is also a time of peace, reflection, family and the real Christmas message. It is a good time for 'thinkers'.

Talking of 'that message', it has most certainly changed and evolved in some strange ways, the Victorians gave us Christmas trees, Walt Disney gave us cartoon Christmases and

Lego gave us a plastic one – now call me old fashioned but none of those were in the original story!! But, as I was driving home the other night, I nearly drove into the back of a parked car when I saw, in a front garden, a 5 foot blow up dinosaur with a Santa Claus hat on!!! I had to stop to check what I had seen, yes it was a large Diplodocus with a hat on – good grief. Happy Christmas!!!!

I like the traditional things, December started off with our usual attendance at a Carol Service in St Clement Danes church in the Aldwych – a beautiful Wren church which is also the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. The carols, the readings, the choir and our fabulous band (led by our very own Stephen Henderson - AMD London) all made for a fabulous evening. The splendour and spirit of the evening left much room for thought and reflection.

Interestingly (to me anyway) Clement was a Bishop of Rome in AD91 who was given a really hard time by the Emperor Trajan, it did not end well for the Bishop – sound familiar? The Danes part refers to the Aldwych area where Alfred the Great granted Danish settlers who were married to English women an area to establish their community. What an interesting parallel on the thoughts and actions of two leaders – one cruel and a tyrant and the other more peaceful and enlightened. London is full of such interesting history and places.

Anyway, as I was saying, we have also been to several Christmas White Tables which were fun and over the next two weeks we have two pantomimes booked up, we go as a family party of 15 and they always entail much laughter, and a good time is had by all – oh yes they did... oh no.... whoa stop there!!!

The fun side of it is very important at this time of year as it has the ability to bring us closer together as families, masonry and at work and in our communities, that coming together enables us to practice the teachings and stories of masonry and also to reflect on the original stories and teachings in our respective faiths. All encompass toleration, forgiveness and charity and by acting in this manner, in our small way, we can make the world a better place.

I wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year – even the dinosaur!

Colin

A round-up of District news since August to round-off 2024



Grand Rank preferments for London

In August, the details of Grand Rank preferments were shared with us. What great news it was for London too, when it was revealed the District had managed to secure nine this year. This was undoubtedly a fantastic result for the successful and deserving Brethren that reflects well on our District.

The well deserving Brethren were:

Pierre Doumit who was appointed to the Active rank of Grand Steward.

Vince Driver who was promoted to Past Grand Senior Deacon.

Roger Keys who was promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.

Barrie Goulding, Paul Nash and **Graham Thorn** were appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Roger Cogan, Chris Damp and **Terry Gilbert** were appointed to Past Grand Inner Guard.

As we reflect on this great achievement, we once more send them our hearty congratulations.

A new Master and two new Brothers at The Britannic Council of Madeira



On September 24th the new Master of **The Britannic Council of Madeira No. 46, W. Bro. Mark Nixon**, and his newly installed team of Officers, had little time to savour their installation as they welcomed **Brothers Derek Billingham** and **Augustine (Pepe) Francis** to our Order by conducting the St. Lawrence the Martyr degree.

Other highlights included **W. Bro. Alan White** installing Mark into the chair in superb style, and the lecture delivered in a fine manner by **W. Bro. Boon Tan** at very short notice.

*Newly installed **Worshipful Master, Mark Nixon** is pictured congratulating **Brothers Derek** (top) and **Pepe** (below) on their entering our Order.*



Two days later, on 26th September, members of **Rose & Lily No. 15**, held what was

primarily to be their installation.

Another busy meeting and eventful one, as the Council welcomed **V.W. Bro. Steven Warwick, Deputy District Grand Prefect** for what was to be his final official visit. He was accompanied by a delegation of District Grand Officers.

The Worshipful Master being delayed and unable to make the meeting was not enough to stop this hardy Council going about their work. **W. Bro. Vincent Fattorusso** stepped in at the last minute and skilfully delivered the St. Lawrence the Martyr ceremony to introduce **Bro. Dr. Syed Ali Abbas** into the Order. With the Worshipful Master still detained he then went on to install **Bro. Richard Morgan** into the chair with equal aplomb. His work done, Vincent then took a well-earned rest in his Treasurer's chair while the newly installed WM installed his officers.

The District of London Annual Meeting



Probably the highlight of the year of our year, on Saturday 16th November, in the splendour of the Grand Temple in Mark Masons' Hall, **R.W. Bro. Colin Woodcock MBE District Grand Prefect**, welcomed **R.W. Bro. Clive Manuel P.Dep.G.M.** and a retinue of other District Grand Prefects as well as representatives of other Districts and London members, to London's Annual Meeting. Welcoming the brethren with the requisite banter and ribbing, in turn generating much laughter and light heartedness with his opening speech, the District Grand Prefect perfectly set the tone of what was to be an very enjoyable meeting.



First highlight of the day was the investiture of **W. Bro. Scott Cargill P.G.J.D.** as the new Deputy District Grand Prefect. His predecessor, **V.W. Bro. Steven Warwick P.G.Reg.**, has been in post for 14 years and our District Grand Prefect paid fulsome praise to the huge amount of work and support provided by Steven during his time in office. **Scott** was previously the District Grand Secretary for 4 years, and we are all sure he will prove to be an excellent choice in his new role and wish him every success.

The investitures and congratulations done, our District Grand Prefect gave his annual address which you can be read by clicking on this link: [DGP's AGM Address 16th Nov 2024](#)

The alms collection raised almost £500 which will be topped up by the District to £1,000 and will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society. Each year the charity is selected by one of the District's members or, in this case, his wife.



The business done, a formal, and as befits such a meeting, long parade out of the Temple saw the Annual Council meeting officially closed for another year. This was followed by a far less formal parade to the bar where a chattering hum, interspersed with much laughter, indicated what an enjoyable time the Brethren were having and that much catching up and reveling in each other's company was the order of the day. More of a reluctant amble, rather than a parade, to the dining room was next, where the fun and laughs continued over a two course lunch.



The smiles, the laughter and the tangibly convivial atmosphere clearly demonstrated this was an excellent way to spend a cold grey and wet November Saturday in London!

One DGP, One Dep DGP, one new Brother, three new Grand Tylers and one old Jewel at Metropolitan TI Council



The **Metropolitan TI** November meeting was graced by the presence of our District Grand Prefect **R.W. Bro Colin Woodcock** and the Deputy District Grand Prefect **W. Bro. Scott Cargill**, who attended as members of the Council.

The Worshipful Master, **W. Bro. Tony Pattison** opened the meeting, before admitting into the Order **Bro. David Daniels** by conducting the degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr in fine style with the lecture being given excellently by **W. Bro. Roger Keys**.

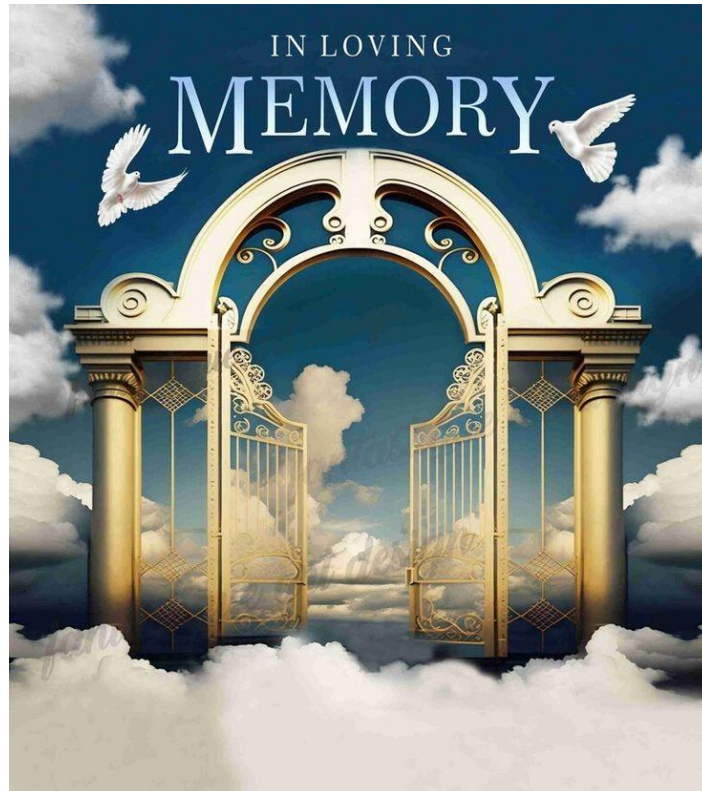
W. Bro. David Green then took the Principal's chair to conduct the Grand Tilers of Solomon. David was on top form to create three Brethren as Grand Tilers with an equally flawless lecture from **Bro. Jake Mossom**.

Once the Council was resumed in St. Lawrence the Worshipful Master reported that **W. Bro. David Green** had tracked down a Past master's jewel which appeared to have been

owned by **W. Bro. Gordon Little** a member and Past Master of the Council. The Worshipful Master thanked **W. Bro. David** for securing the jewel and presenting it back to the Council.

The obligatory pre-dinner drinks at the second floor bar, was followed a most excellent festive board with wine and port. Toasts were given, responses made and finally the Worshipful Master wished everyone a happy festive period and toasted to their next merry meeting.

In Memoriam



As we look back on the past three and a half months we are poignantly reminded of those that have moved over to that greatest of all councils. On September 3rd we learned that **Worshipful Brother Ivor Cook** recently passed away. Ivor was a member of **Perram** and **Londinium Matutinus Councils**.

As well as **Ivor** we remember all of our other Brethren that passed away in 2024:

Bro. Richard Thornton - Metropolitan

W. Bro. Ivor Cook - Perram, London Matutinus

W. Bro. Brian Ennever - Guild of Freeman

M.W. Bro. Michael Herbert - Rumbelow

W. Bro. Frank March - Guild of Freeman

W. Bro. Howard Beber - London Matutinus, Metropolitan

W. Bro. Derek Weobley - London Matutinus

W. Bro. Jeffrey Slonnem - Council of the Four Kings

V. W. Bro. Elias Dangoor - Guild of Freeman, Council of the Four Kings

W. Bro. Kevin Huggett - Perram

W. Bro. Peter Fotheringham - Rose & Lily

W. Bro. Peter Hill - Goose & Gridiron, Guild of Freeman, Rumbelow

Christmas can be a difficult time with memories of lost loved ones and friends more prominent than they might otherwise be, so please keep all of our lost Brethren, their families and their friends in your thoughts and prayers during the festive period.

District of London Council of Improvement

Half term report

The AMD District of London Council of Improvement has continued to run to provide a forum for brethren to come along and practice their ritual. Since resuming in September, we have held 7 sessions via zoom covering all 5 of the degrees. The numbers have improved over the same period last year with an average of 7 attending each session and the largest attendance being 13. Not large numbers but slowly improving, it would be great to see more of you attending future sessions. Sessions will always run while there is a demand from brethren for it to run.

Our **District Grand Prefect** made it clear at the start of the year of the importance of our ritual and not to let standards slip. We have a duty to all new and existing members of the Order to conduct the ceremonies they are taking to the best of our ability and the Council of Improvement is a good way of practicing your ritual without the cost and time of travelling into London. You can attend these online sessions in the comfort of your own home and most sessions only last around 30-40 minutes.

Although we cycle round the 5 degrees, we can also run sessions to cover installation if you need to practice this. As this requires Past Masters only we run these on demand and as separate to the normal degree sessions. But if you have a need for it then please get into touch via the contacts on the website (details below).

Thank you to those who have attended and if you have not had a chance yet to do so please try and come along in the new year. All information can be found on the District website at <https://amdondon.org/council-of-improvement/info>.

Finally, a big thank you to Roger Keys, Alan White and Barry Cooper who act as preceptors, without whom we would not be able to run these sessions.

Steve Roberts

Secretary

Council of Improvement - AMD District of London

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 are 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.

The Bookies' Favourite?



First contestant for Strictly 2025 is revealed

Eager Brethren take to their smartphones to place early bets!

Looking Ahead

Consecration of Universal Council No. 286

Friday 21st February 2025



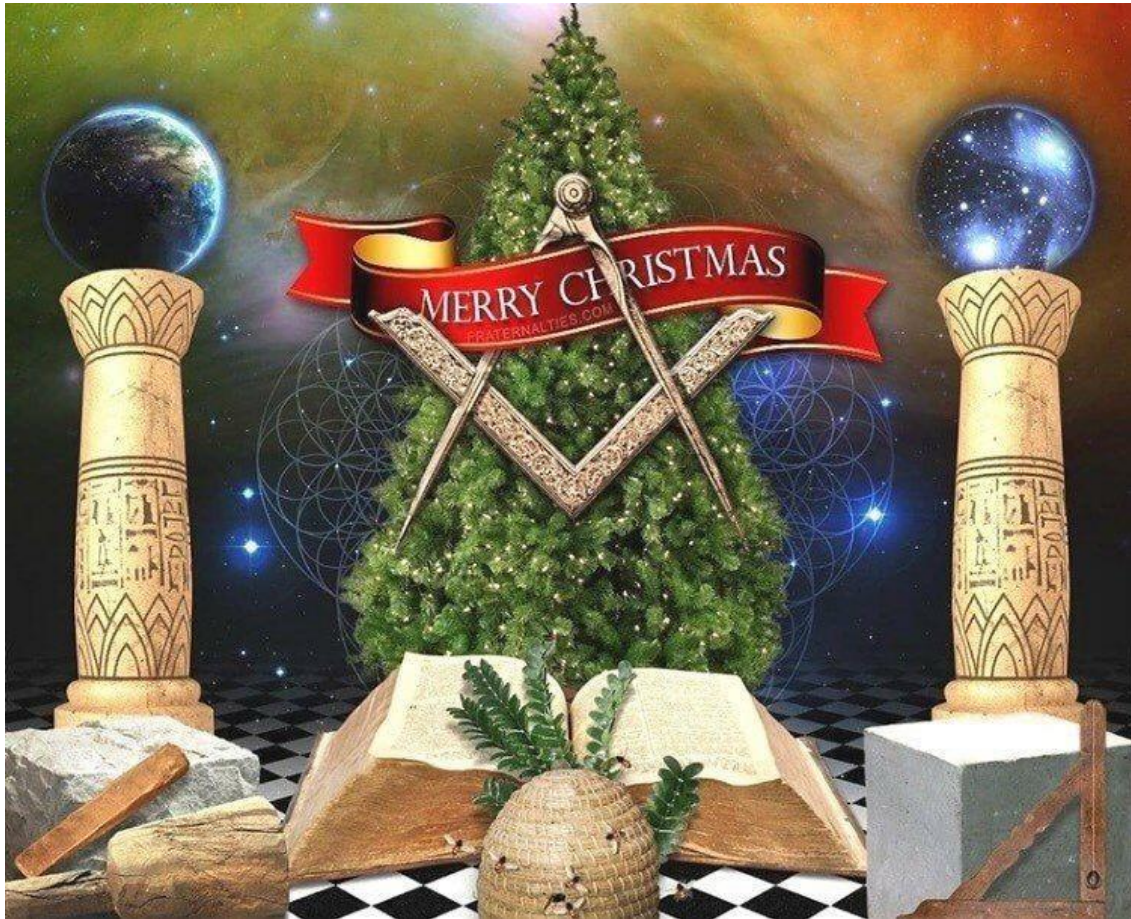
An exciting event comes to us in February 2025, a new District Council will be consecrated. On Friday 21st February **Universal Council No.286** will be consecrated by the Grand Master and his team at Mark Mason's Hall.

A great opportunity to come along and experience the consecration of this new London Council and to support the Founders. The ceremony will commence promptly at 11am and be followed by lunch at 1pm. If you wish to book in and come along to witness this historic event, then please click on the link here <https://forms.gle/177McHoiSxT46yLk6> and submit your details.

Dates for the Diary

14-Jan-2025 - The Guild of Freemen
15-Jan-2025 - Metropolitan 'A'
28-Jan-2025 - The Council of the Four Kings
29-Jan-2025 - Perram
29-Jan-2025 - Rumbelow
21-Feb-2025 - Universal Council No. 286 Consecration
19-Mar-2025 - Rumbelow
26-Mar-2025 - Perram

That's your lot!



So that brings to an end our summary of the past three months, and indeed the last newsletter of 2024. 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!

All that remains then is to wish all of you, your family and friends a very **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year**, from all of us on the **Communications Team**. Enjoy the time with your loved ones, and remember to check in on, and say a prayer for Brethren and non-Masons who may be on their own, or have fallen on hard times.

See you in 2025!