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January 2024

ANNUAL CIRCULAR No 141

Dear Sir and Brother,

This Annual Circular comprises a report on the activities of the Order since 1st January 2023, notices of forthcoming events, announcements of administrative changes, reminders about certain Rules and guidance and instructions on relations with foreign jurisdictions.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

Following the recent retirement of M.:P.:Bro G D A Elgood 33°, Past Sovereign Grand Commander, Membership of the Supreme Council 33° stands as follows:

M.:P.:Bro John Boyington CBE 33°	Sovereign Grand Commander
V.:P.:Bro D K Williamson 33°	Lieutenant Grand Commander
M.:Ill.:Bro J A F Thom KC 33°	Grand Chamberlain
M.:Ill.:Bro N G I Bosanquet 33°	Grand Chancellor
M.:Ill.:Bro the Revd Dr S A Thorn 33°	Grand Prior
M.:Ill.:Bro Gareth Jones OBE 33°	Grand Treasurer General H.: E.:
M.:Ill.:Bro H I Sabin FRCS 33°	Grand Marshal
M.:Ill.:Bro Sir Andrew Parmley PhD FRCO 33°	Grand Captain General
M.:Ill.:Bro Dr G R E Shilson 33°	Grand Secretary General H.: E.:

SUMMARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

During the period under review Members of the Supreme Council held eight meetings of the 33° at which 12 candidates were promoted, conducted ten meetings of the Higher Degrees (during which 533 Brethren were invested), installed seven Inspectors General, re-presented patents to ten Inspectors General and visited the Districts of: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridge & Isle of Ely, East Cheshire, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Devonshire, Dorset, Hampshire & Isle of Wight (Solent), Isle of Man, East Kent, North East Lancashire, South East Lancashire, North West Lancashire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Surrey, Warwickshire, South Wales & Monmouthshire, Worcestershire, the St James and St John Groups of London Chapters and Ghana. Higher Degrees Meetings were also held in Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa. Eleven visits to foreign jurisdictions were conducted, to the Supreme Councils for Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States of America (both jurisdictions) and the Grand Lodge of Denmark—Danish Order of Freemasons. During the year, Members of the Supreme Councils for Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, the United States of America (Northern Masonic Jurisdiction) and the Danish Order of Freemasons attended meetings at Duke Street.

33RD DEGREE

The Supreme Council records with great regret the death of the following members of the 33°:

M.:Ill.:Bro Robin Furber 33°	Past Grand Captain General
V.:Ill.:Bro David Parkes Bowen 33°	Past Inspector General for Leicestershire & Rutland
V.:Ill.:Bro Cedric Gunnery 33°	Past Inspector General for St Peter Group
V.:Ill.:Bro Anthony Strong 33°	Past Inspector General for South Africa, Western Natal
V.:Ill.:Bro The Rt Hon the Viscount Gough 33°	Past Inspector General for St Matthew Group
V.:Ill.:Bro Dr Harry John White 33°	Past Inspector General for Worcestershire
V.:Ill.:Bro John Everett 33	Inspector General for Dyfed
V.:Ill.:Bro Mike Green 33°	Past Inspector General for St James Group

The 33rd and last Degree was conferred on the following Brethren:

M.:Ill.:Bro Sir Andrew Parmley PhD FRCO 33°	Grand Captain General
V.:Ill.:Bro N A Z Bowrey 33°	Inspector General for Isle of Man
V.:Ill.:Bro J A J Curtis 33°	Inspector General for Cambridge & Isle of Ely
V.:Ill.:Bro R Hannam 33°	Inspector General for Norfolk
V.:Ill.:Bro C A F Lambert 33°	Inspector General for Somerset
V.:Ill.:Bro N M Bridges 33°	Inspector General for Gloucestershire & Herefordshire
V.:Ill.:Bro M V Eckley 33°	Inspector General for Dyfed
V.:Ill.:Bro I O Hood 33°	Inspector General for Ghana
V.:Ill.:Bro M T Stollery 33°	Inspector General for St John Group
V.:Ill.:Bro Sir David Wootton 33°	
V.:Ill.:Bro Allan Rosengren 33°	Grand Superintendent, Camp of Baldwyn
V.:Ill.:Bro C W A Mawer 33°	Inspector General for Yorkshire, North & East Ridings

The Supreme Council has been pleased to extend the following patents for a further period of five years:

V.:Ill.:Bro Phil Gardner 33°	Inspector General for North West Lancashire
V.:Ill.:Bro Moses Taiga 33°	Inspector General for Nigeria
V.:Ill.:Bro Roger Waltham 33°	Inspector General for East Kent
V.:Ill.:Bro Robert Bethel 33°	Inspector General for Middlesex
V.:Ill.:Bro Steve Read 33°	Inspector General for Northumberland
V.:Ill.:Bro Ernest Malherbe 33°	Inspector General for South Africa, Eastern Natal
V.:Ill.:Bro Paul Whitmore 33°	Inspector General for Hong Kong
V.:Ill.:Bro Ivan Carrol 33°	Inspector General for Sierra Leone & The Gambia
V.:Ill.:Bro Professor Gareth Jones 33°	Inspector General for South East Lancashire
V.:Ill.:Bro Ralph Robertson 33°	Inspector General for Suffolk
V.:Ill.:Bro the Rt Revd A K O Lewis 33°	Inspector General for North Eastern Caribbean

OFFICIALS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

V.:Ill.:Bro G D M de Margary 33° retired after 5 years' service to the Supreme Council as Grand Director of Ceremonies. His contribution is greatly appreciated and the Supreme Council wishes him well in retirement.

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the following promotions and appointments:

V.:Ill.:Bro W N C Hale 33°	Grand Director of Ceremonies
Ill.:Bro J D A Smithdale 32°	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
Ill.:Bro M F T Beckwith 31°	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Ill.:Bro M Rizzardi ARCO 32°	Deputy Grand Organist
Ill.:Bro S R Lindley FRCO 31°	Assistant Grand Organist

STAFF

During the year, John Gallogly moved on after four years as Membership Administrator and we welcomed Kim Halifax as Doorkeeper and Assistant House Manager on a fixed-term contract.

CHAPTERS

A warrant was granted for Maiden Upland Chapter No. 1221 (to meet in Accra, Ghana).

Centenary Warrants were granted to All Saints Chapter No. 217 (Staffordshire & Shropshire), Wingfield Chapter No. 218 (Nottinghamshire), Sydenham Chapter No. 235 (St John), Kynggestone Chapter No. 236 (Surrey), Star of the East Chapter No. 239 (Norfolk), Hope Chapter No. 240 (Buckinghamshire), Oudh Chapter No. 241 (Leicestershire & Rutland), St Bride's Chapter No. 243 (Dyfed) and Maridunum Chapter No. 244 (Dyfed).

Daybrook Chapter No. 745 (Nottinghamshire), St Kenelm Chapter No. 876 (Worcestershire), Mossley Chapter No. 982 (South East Lancashire) and George Washington Chapter No. 1072 (Durham) surrendered their Warrants to the Supreme Council during 2022 (not previously reported). The following Chapters surrendered their Warrants to the Supreme Council during 2023: Mark Wilkinson Chapter No. 194 (North East Lancashire), Colonel J D Murray Chapter No. 196 (South West Lancashire), Herga Chapter No. 280 (Middlesex), Wyke

Chapter No. 306 (Yorkshire, North & East Ridings), Walesho Chapter No. 331 (Staffordshire & Shropshire), Albany Chapter No. 462 (South West Lancashire), Matthew Arnold Chapter No. 533 (Middlesex), St Theodore Chapter No. 887 (Worcestershire), Archbishop Laud Chapter No. 996 (Surrey) and Ferneberga Chapter No. 1096 (Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Wessex).

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

909 candidates were Perfected in the year to 30th June 2023 compared with 734 in the previous year. The number of subscriptions received fell by 581 to 22,326. The number of extant Chapters on 30th June 2023 was 885 with an average membership of 25. The average age of candidates for Perfection was 55.

FINANCE – YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance Sheet:		
Fixed assets	1,045,072	1,044,942
Investments	370,955	326,265
Net current assets	<u>810,748</u>	<u>850,985</u>
Net assets	2,226,775	2,222,192
Capital Fund	2,226,775	2,222,192
Income and Expenditure Account:		
Income from:		
Members	598,813	587,610
Rent/hire of rooms	213,301	213,046
Investments & deposits	7,716	4,157
Other income	<u>67</u>	<u>12,573</u>
	819,897	817,386
Expenditure:		
Staff costs	405,827	377,706
Building admin./maintenance	140,434	84,299
Office administration	92,487	58,770
Council activities	146,958	130,900
Other expenses	<u>29,609</u>	<u>96,463</u>
	815,315	748,138
Surplus for the year	4,583	69,248
Capital Fund brought forward	<u>2,222,192</u>	<u>2,152,944</u>
Capital Fund carried forward	2,226,775	2,222,192

The above is extracted from accounts that remain subject to examination by haysmacintyre LLP, Chartered Accountants. If any member of the Order wishes to view the accounts, he may do so by prior arrangement.

ANNUAL DUES, FEES AND LEVY

The Supreme Council has decided that the Annual Dues payable on 1st July 2024 will yet again remain at £20.00 (plus VAT where applicable) for every subscribing member of each Chapter during all or part of the preceding year. Districts overseas (except where special arrangements apply) will continue to remit £16.00 per subscribing member, retaining the balance of £4.00 to help defray District costs. The maximum levy that each Inspector General is authorised to make on each subscribing member in his District/Group to help defray District/Group costs remains at £2.00.

CHAPTER TREASURERS

All Chapters are asked to give careful consideration to the consequences that may arise should their Treasurer become indisposed. In particular, Chapters should avoid having only one signatory on their bank accounts and should ensure that a second responsible person has access to the online banking details.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

The Supreme Council is currently in amity with the following jurisdictions:

- a) The Supreme Councils for the United States of America (the Southern Jurisdiction and the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction), Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, **Czech Republic**, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, India, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, **Serbia**, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela; and
- b) The Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish Orders of Freemasons. (new relations in **bold**)

If you intend to visit a Chapter of a jurisdiction with which we are in amity, other than Scotland or Ireland, please obtain your Inspector General's approval in advance. **This is particularly important in the case of territories, such as Brazil, Cyprus, France and Greece, in which there are several Supreme Councils of which only one is considered regular.** The same applies if you wish to invite a member of another jurisdiction to visit your Chapter. If you wish to visit a Chapter under the Supreme Council for Ireland, you must contact the office of the Grand Secretary General beforehand.

Communications between Supreme Councils are normally conducted by Grand Secretaries General. Brethren should therefore not attempt, without the Grand Secretary General's prior permission, to make direct contact with another jurisdiction.

DUAL ALLEGIANCE/AFFILIATION

Brethren are reminded that except in New Zealand and India, where specific arrangements are in force, allegiance to more than one Supreme Council is not permitted. Enquiries about this subject are to be submitted to the Grand Secretary General.

THE 2024 RITUAL AND YEAR BOOK

You are reminded that the Supreme Council has decided that, with effect from 1 March 2024, membership of the Order will be open to all Master Masons regardless of their faith. This has necessitated some consequential amendments to the 18° and Enthronement Rituals and a new Ritual book will be available shortly. All Chapters are to adopt the new ritual by 31 December 2024 at the latest.

The Supreme Council requires that a copy of the Year Book be given to every new member on his Perfection. The Year Book provides detailed lists of Districts, Groups and Chapters. It also contains an Historical Section, with chronological lists of Members of the Supreme Council (and the offices they have held), of the South African Branch Council and of other members of the 33°. A copy of the Year Book, the cost of which is £12, is sent to each Chapter Recorder. You may order copies of the 2024 Year Book through your Recorder or purchase one in person from Reception at 10 Duke Street St James's.

KING EDWARD VII CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT – DEMONSTRATIONS

In 2024, by permission of the Supreme Council, demonstrations of the 17° will be given on: Monday 29 April at Freemasons' Hall, London; Saturday 8 June at Gateshead Masonic Hall (hosted by Northumberland and Durham); and Wednesday 17 July at Moseley Masonic Hall (hosted by Midlands Chapter of Improvement).

In 2025, the 4° and 5° will be demonstrated on: Monday 28 April at Freemasons' Hall, London; Saturday 14 June at Maesgwyn Masonic Hall, Wrexham (hosted by North Wales); Saturday, 21 June at Botley Masonic Centre (hosted by Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Solent); Saturday 28 June at Queens' College, Cambridge (hosted by Cambridge & Isle of Ely); and Saturday 20 September at Freemasons' Hall, Douglas (hosted by Isle of Man).

The Members of the Supreme Council send all members their very best wishes for 2024.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,



Dr G R E Shilson 33°
Grand Secretary General H.:E.: