

The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters
of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas

Most Illustrious Companion Kessick John Jones, IX
Grand Master



The District Grand Council
of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire

Right Illustrious Companion Phillip John Purves
District Grand Master

Annual District Meeting
at
Berkshire Masonic Centre,
Mole Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham, RG41 5EA
on
Thursday, 17th July 2025 at 4.00 p.m.

<Label>

On behalf of the District Grand Officers, outgoing and incoming, we welcome you to the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the District Grand Council of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

We are delighted that you have been able to join us and trust that you will enjoy the proceedings in the Temple and the Festive Board afterwards.



District Grand Officers

2024 – 2025

Deputy District Grand Master	Ill.Comp. Malcolm R. Summers
District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work	Ill.Comp. Timothy Weller
District Grand Chaplain	Ill.Comp. Philip V.F. Kavanagh
District Grand Treasurer	Ill.Comp. Andrew W. Stephens
District Grand Recorder	Ill.Comp. Simon R. Jeffery
District Grand Director of Ceremonies	Ill.Comp. Paul R. Savage
District Grand Lecturer	Ill.Comp. Kevin M. Williams
District Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	Ill.Comp. Mark H.E. Ball
District Grand Captain of the Guard	Ill.Comp. Nigel H. Dyke
District Grand Conductor of the Council	Ill.Comp. Graham P. Dearing
District Assistant Grand Recorder	Ill.Comp. Eugène M. Gratwohl
District Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Ill.Comp. Stephen N. Pope
District Grand Sword Bearer	Ill.Comp. James E. Payen
District Grand Standard Bearer	Ill.Comp. Christopher J. Hodges
District Grand Organist	Ill.Comp. W. Richard G. Skym
District Grand Steward	Ill.Comp. Barry A. Prior
District Grand Manciple	Comp. Stephen P. Adamek
District Grand Manciple	Ill.Comp. John E. Bellamy
District Grand Manciple	Comp. Ian R.G. Hopgood
District Grand Manciple	Comp. Barclay R. Lawrence
District Grand Sentinel	Comp. Ivor R. Hawkins

Order of Proceedings

1. The Companions of the District and visiting Companions will take their places in the Temple, no later than 3.45 p.m.
2. The Companions will receive the Distinguished visiting Companions.
3. The District Grand Master, accompanied by District Grand Officers, will enter District Grand Council in Procession.
4. The District Grand Master will open District Grand Council.
5. The District Grand Master will be saluted.
6. To receive the Most Illustrious Grand Master.
7. The Roll of Departed Companions will be called.
8. The District Grand Master will greet distinguished visitors and Heads of Orders.
9. The Minutes of the twenty-seventh Annual District Meeting, previously distributed to members, will be put for confirmation.
10. The Roll of Councils within the District will be called.
11. The District Grand Recorder will present his Report.
12. To submit for approval, the revised District By-Laws previously distributed to members.
13. The District Grand Treasurer will present his Report and the Statement of Accounts.
14. The District Grand Treasurer will be elected.
15. The independent auditors (2) will be elected.
16. The District Grand Master will appoint and invest the Officers for the ensuing year.
17. The District Grand Master will welcome the new Companions in the District.
18. The Most Illustrious Grand Master will address the Companions.
19. The District Grand Master will invite the Most Illustrious Grand Master to present Silver Trowel Certificates.
20. The District Grand Master will address the Companions.
21. The Most Illustrious Grand Master will retire.
22. A collection will be taken for Good Causes.
23. The District Grand Master will close District Grand Council.
24. The District Grand Director of Ceremonies will form the Retiring Procession.
25. The District Grand Master and his Officers, accompanied by Distinguished Visiting Companions, will retire.

Report of the District Grand Recorder

Right Illustrious District Grand Master and Companions, it is with pleasure that I present my second report as District Grand Recorder.

The twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of this District Grand Council was held here on Thursday 18th July 2024 at which R.Ill.Comp. Paul Norman, IX, Dep.G.M., Installed R.Ill.Comp. Phillip Purves as District Grand Master. It was a happy and successful occasion, with a full representation from the Councils within the District and with the company of many visitors from other Districts.

The ensuing year proved active regarding admission of candidates resulting in a net increase of nine members.

All the Councils under your care have been visited by members of the Executive in the last 12 months and found to be in good heart and with District team visits to Eliot, Wallingford and Bearwood Councils. They are most grateful for all that has been undertaken on their behalf and look forward to the continuation of support in the coming year. In return, the executive extend their sincere thanks for the unfailingly kind and warm reception received during our visits.

The RSM Sesquicentenary Appeal concluded in December and the District exceeded its target guide by raising in excess of £8,000. Five local charities have subsequently each received a grant of £1,500 from the fund. Other details are contained in the Report of the District Grand Treasurer.

At the meeting of Grand Council held on 15th April 2025, we were able to offer our congratulations to five members of the District when the Most Illustrious Grand Master honoured them with promotion in, or appointment to, Grand Rank:

V.Ill.Comp. James Hilditch	Re-appointed	Grand Treasurer
R.Ill.Comp. Graham Seeman	Re-appointed	Grand Director of Ceremonies
V.Ill.Comp. Richard Floyd	Promoted	Past Grand Lecturer
Ill.Comp. Paul Kiefer	Appointed	Past Grand Standard Bearer
Ill.Comp. James Payen	Appointed	Grand Steward

I personally am most indebted to the whole of the District Executive for their unfailing support throughout the year. Also to the Recorders of the Councils within the District for the work which they undertake in the administration of their Councils and in the assistance and co-operation which they have given to me whenever I have requested help or information from them. Once again, my special thanks go to my predecessor, Ill.Comp. Malcolm Summers and Assistant, Ill.Comp. Eugène Gratwohl for their continued support and assistance.

Finally, Right Illustrious District Grand Master, I should like to extend on your behalf our thanks to Sindlesham Centre for allowing us to use their facilities to hold this District Meeting.

Simon Jeffery

District Grand Recorder

Report of the District Grand Treasurer for Year Ended 31st August 2024

I am delighted to present my Third financial report for Royal and Select Masters Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

The 100 Club

I am most grateful to all the members who entered the 2024 100 Club draws, with many congratulations to all our winners. For this year's draws, we have sold 58 tickets; 50% of the sales will go towards supporting the district. If you are interested in joining our 100 club please send me an email. Flyers and application forms will also be available at the district meeting.

The General Account

The income for our General account 2023-24 totalled £2437.13. With our expenses being £2526.25, we had a small deficit of £89.12 leaving us with a closing Balance of £5433.44

Recruitment account

Last year we opened a recruitment account to help us be more proactive in finding candidates for our order. We have designed and purchased folded leaflets and postcards to be handed out to Brethren who may be interested in joining. Leaflets are also on display at our Masonic Centres.

The Charity Account

All donations received in our Charity account have been donated to the RSM Sesquicentenary Appeal, Closing Balance £146.65.

The Relief Chest

From our Relief Chest, we donated £850.00 to the RSM Sesquicentenary Appeal leaving us with a closing balance of £159.04. Donations to our Relief Chest can be made using the relief chest envelopes; a QR code can also be used to make a donation to the District Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters.

RSM Sesquicentenary Appeal

The RSM Sesquicentenary Charity Appeal target has been to raise £150,000 for redistribution to various charities. Our aim as a district was to contribute £6,000.00 to the appeal. We far exceeded expectations; Our total contribution including tax reclaimed stands at **£8809.39**. A huge thank you for all your donations. Individual payments have been allocated to your Council detailed below.

Oxford	£1,114.88	Wokingham	£672.00	Bearwood	£600.00
Terra Sancta	£500.00	Wallingford	£300.00	Thame	£563.75
Bekenesfelde	£647.38	Wantage	£750.00	OBB District	£911.38
Oxfordshire Mark	£500.00	Berkshire Mark	£500.00	Buckinghamshire Mark	£250.00
Oxfordshire Craft	£1,000.00	Royal Order of Scotland (Southern Counties)			£500.00

We have sufficient funds to prevent the need for an increase in dues this year; the 100 Club is a fantastic resource for this and I am most grateful for your continued support.

It has been a pleasure looking after the District accounts for 2024. Thank you to the Executive Team for their Guidance and to the Council Treasurers and Recorders for all their help and support.

Andrew Stephens

District Grand Treasurer

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters
District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire
Statement of Accounts Year Ending 31st August 2024
General Account

	2023 - 2024
	£ £
Income	
Council Dues	780.00
Year Books	40.00
Fees of Honour	599.00
100 Club Ticket Sales	580.00
Regalia / Ties – Sales	270.00
Recovered Dining District Meeting 2022-23	37.00
Donations received	131.13
	<u>2,437.13</u>
Expenditure	
Nett Cost of District Meeting	1,276.23
Lottery Registration	20.00
Administration Expenses / Charges	171.02
Temple Rent	646.00
Year Books / The Link	73.00
Prize Money – Quiz	50.00
100 Club Prize Fund 2024/25	290.00
	<u>2,526.25</u>
Excess of Income over expenditure	<u>-89.12</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024

Assets

Balance at Lloyds Bank	5,702.07
Yearbook unpaid	10.00
Fee of Honour unpaid	52.00
	<u>5,764.07</u>

Liabilities

Cheques unrepresented uncleared	40.63
Deferred Expense 100 Club Prize Fund for 2024/25	290.00
	<u>330.63</u>
	<u>5,433.44</u>

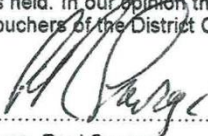
Capital Account

Balance brought forward	5,522.56
Surplus for the year	-89.12
Balance carried forward	<u>5,433.44</u>

District Grand Treasurer:  Ill. Comp. Andrew Stephens

We have examined the Income and Accounts and the Balance sheets of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire as at the 31st August 2023 and have verified the balance at the bank and the investments held. In our opinion the said Income & Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet are in accordance with the books and vouchers of the District Council and give a true and fair statement of the affairs of the District Council.

Account
Examiners:

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 Ill. Comp. Paul Savage

..... 
 Ill. Comp Richard Skym

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters
District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire
Statement of Accounts Year Ending 31st August 2024
Recruitment Account

		2023 - 2024	
		£	£
Income		-	
Expenditure		-	
Shortfall of donations over receipts			
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024			
Assets	Balance at Lloyds Bank	250.00	
	Cheques uncleared	-	
			250.00
Liabilities			
	Cheques unrepresented	-	
			250.00
Capital Account			
	Balance brought forward		250.00
	Shortfall for the year		-
	Balance carried forward		250.00

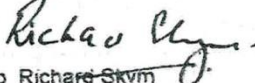
Charity Account

		2023 - 2024	
		£	£
Receipts	Donations received	1,293.13	
			1,293.13
Donations	Donations made	1,293.13	
	Transfer to Relief Chest	-	
			1,293.13
Shortfall of donations over receipts			
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024			
Assets	Balance at Lloyds Bank	146.65	
			146.65
Liabilities	Cheques unrepresented	-	
			146.65
Capital Account			
	Balance brought forward		146.65
	Surplus for the year		-
	Balance carried forward		146.65

District Grand Treasurer:  Ill. Comp. Andrew Stephens

We have examined the Income and Accounts and the Balance sheets of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire as at the 31st August 2023 and have verified the balance at the bank and the investments held. In our opinion the said Income & Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet are in accordance with the books and vouchers of the District Council and give a true and fair statement of the affairs of the District Council.

Account
 Examiners:  Ill. Comp. Paul Savage

 Ill. Comp. Richard Skym

**Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters
District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire
Statement of Accounts Year Ending 31st August 2024**

Council Relief Chest

		2023 - 2024	
		£	£
Receipts	Income	25.00	
	Personal donations direct from QR code	-	
	Tax reclaimed	7.50	
	Interest	28.36	
			60.86
Donations		850.00	
			850.00
Shortfall of donations over receipts			-789.14
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024			
Assets			
	Balance at Masonic Charitable Foundation	159.04	
			159.04
Liabilities			
			-
			159.04
Capital Account			
	Balance brought forward		948.18
	Shortfall for the year		-789.14
	Balance carried forward		159.04

District Grand Treasurer:  Ill. Comp. Andrew Stephens

We have examined the Income and Accounts and the Balance sheets of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire as at the 31st August 2023 and have verified the balance at the bank and the investments held. In our opinion the said Income & Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet are in accordance with the books and vouchers of the District Council and give a true and fair statement of the affairs of the District Council.

Account
Examiners:  Ill. Comp. Paul Savage

 Ill. Comp. Richard Skym

District Grand Officers to be Appointed 2025 - 2026

Deputy District Grand Master	Ill.Comp. Malcolm R. Summers
District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work	Ill.Comp. Timothy Weller
District Grand Chaplain	Ill.Comp. Raymond J. Head
District Grand Treasurer (subject to election)	Ill.Comp. Andrew W. Stephens
District Grand Recorder	Ill.Comp. Simon R. Jeffery
District Grand Director of Ceremonies	Ill.Comp. Paul R. Savage
District Grand Lecturer	V.Ill.Comp. James R.G. Hilditch
District Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	Ill.Comp. Stephen N. Pope
District Grand Captain of the Guard	Ill.Comp. A. Huw Hopkin
District Grand Conductor of the Council	Ill.Comp. John K. Palmer
District Assistant Grand Recorder	Ill.Comp. Eugène M. Gratwohl
District Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Comp. Paul J. Tomlinson
District Grand Sword Bearer	Ill.Comp. Andrew J. Trueman
District Grand Standard Bearer	Comp. Ian R.G. Hopgood
District Grand Organist	Ill.Comp. W. Richard G. Skym
District Grand Steward	Ill.Comp. Paul A. Wilding
District Grand Manciple	Ill.Comp. Graham P. Ellis
District Grand Manciple	Ill.Comp. Steven J. Field
District Grand Manciple	Ill.Comp. Stephen W. May
District Grand Manciple	Comp. Nicholas G. Wilson
District Grand Sentinel	Comp. Ivor R. Hawkins

Promotions in Past District Grand Rank

Past District Grand Lecturer	Ill.Comp. Peter N.I. Harborne
Past District Grand Captain of the Guard	Ill.Comp. Eugène M. Gratwohl
Past District Grand Conductor of the Council	Ill.Comp. Stephen A. Talbot
Past District Grand Sword Bearer	Ill.Comp. Reginald J.H. Austin
Past District Grand Sword Bearer	Ill.Comp. Michael F. Sanders

Roll of Councils within the District

Oxford Council No. 105

Oxfordshire Masonic Centre, Baldon Lane, Marsh Baldon.

Fourth Saturday (morning) in February and October (I).

Recorder: Ill.Comp. Andrew Trueman, Dist.G.Swd.B. email: andytrueman@yahoo.co.uk

Wokingham Council No. 125

Masonic Hall, Reading Road, Wokingham.

Third Saturday (morning) in April and September and First Saturday (morning) in July (I)

Recorder: Ill.Comp. Richard Wood, P.G.Cond.C. email: rjwood@btinternet.com

Bearwood Council No. 134

Masonic Centre, Ragstone Road, Slough.

Third Saturday (morning) in March and May and Second Saturday (morning) in November (I)

Recorder: Ill.Comp. Simon Jeffery, P.A.G.D.C., Dist.G.Rec. email: simon_r_jeffery@hotmail.com

Terra Sancta Council No. 151

Masonic Hall, Marlborough Road, Banbury.

Fourth Friday in January (I) and May and Third Thursday in September

Recorder: R.Ill.Comp. Ronald Bridger, P.G.Coun. email: ronaldjbridger@gmail.com

Wallingford Council No. 176

Masonic Hall, Goldsmith's Lane, Wallingford.

Fourth Wednesday in April, Second Thursday in June and Second Tuesday in August (I)

Recorder: Comp. Paul Tomlinson, Dist.A.G.D.C. email: ptomlinson55@gmail.com

Thame Council No. 210

Masonic Hall, High Street, Thame.

Second Saturday (morning) in April (I) and Third Saturday (morning) in August.

Recorder: Ill.Comp. Paul Kiefer, P.G.St.B. email: paul.kiefer2446@gmail.com

Bekenesfelde Council No. 264

Masonic Centre, The Old School House, Windsor End, Beaconsfield.

Second Friday in May (I) and Second Thursday in December

Recorder: Ill.Comp. Malcolm Summers, P.G.Capt.Gd., Dep.Dist.G.M. email: malcolmsummers@btinternet.com

Wantage Council No. 282

Masonic Hall, Alfred Street, Wantage.

Second Tuesday in January, Fourth Tuesday in May (I) and Third Tuesday in October

Recorder: Ill.Comp. Eugène Gratwohl, Dist.A.G.Rec. email: egratwohl@googlemail.com

Eliot Council No. 286

The Eliot Hall, Church Street, Winslow.

First Tuesday in March, July and December (I)

Recorder: Ill.Comp. David Tremaine, P.G.Cond.C. email: bucksmarkdet@gmail.com

Unity Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters No. 299

Masonic Centre, The Old School House, Windsor End, Beaconsfield.

Fourth Thursday in July (I) and a second meeting with another Council in the District.

Recorder: Ill.Comp. Simon Jeffery, P.A.G.D.C., Dist.G.Rec. email: simon_r_jeffery@hotmail.com

