

METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE AND METROPOLITAN GRAND CHAPTER of LONDON



Second Rising No 4 Jan 2025

Welcome back after the festive break. It is probably now a bit too late to wish you a happy new year. But please be assured of our best wishes for the year ahead.

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Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of Metropolitan Grand Lodge, including the Investiture of Metropolitan Active Officers and brethren awarded Senior London Grand Rank, is an afternoon meeting starting at 3pm, followed by a drinks reception and dinner:

Wednesday 5th March 2025 in the Grand Temple

The Metropolitan Grand Master will be writing to you soon to apply for your ticket.

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Annual Convocation

Save the date. The Annual Convocation of Metropolitan Grand Chapter is an afternoon meeting followed by a drinks reception and dinner:

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 in the Grand Temple

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Portal

Portal the brand new "UGLE membership app" is being finalised for roll-out. This is stage one in what will eventually be an inter-active membership portal enabling the organisation and its members to move further into the 21st Century. There are some very exciting features in the pipeline which are

under development, of which more in due course. The first stage is to get the basic platform out to the membership as a signpost to the future.

Portal will be available for download as an 'app' via an individual invitation to join which will include all the information that you need to gain access and set up your account. Invitations to join will be sent out in stages in the first third of 2025, to ensure that the support team is able to provide any assistance required in a timely manner.

Once downloaded you will be able to access information held on the central database about you, your lodge(s) and chapter(s). This will include some details of other lodge or chapter members.

Other initial featured will include:

- easily update your contact details
- upload your profile image
- view details of your lodges and chapters
- see details of forthcoming meetings, and easily download them to your calendar
- explore other lodges and chapters across the organisation
- access your personal masonic history (quite limited in London at this stage as most of your progress through lodge/chapter offices has never been recorded by MetGL/C)
- manage who has access to your data through your privacy settings

It's the next step in our journey to bring Freemasonry into the digital age, making it easier than ever to connect with fellow brethren and manage your masonic life.

And this is just the beginning! Your input will help us add even more exciting features in the future.

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Rule 175 Certificates (Clearance Certificates)

In a nutshell, the practice of applying for clearance certificates (for a lodge which a member wishes to join), will change. The member making the application will confirm to the lodge that he is good standing in his other lodges.

At the March 2025 Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, a resolution, of which notice was given in December 2024, to amend Rule 163 (c & d) will be considered.

...paragraph (c) of Rule 163 be amended to read:

“Before the ballot is taken the candidate must produce to the Secretary of the Lodge his Grand Lodge Certificate, and the Secretary must satisfy himself that the candidate is in good standing in each of the Lodges of which he is a member and that all dues have been paid; he must also ascertain whether the candidate is indebted to any Lodge of which he has ceased to be a member and (unless he shall have resigned in good standing) the circumstances in which he left such Lodge, and whether at that time all dues were paid, or have since been paid. If any of such Lodges has ceased to exist, the Secretary shall ascertain from the Grand Secretary all relevant facts so far as they are known.”

...paragraph (d) of Rule 163 be amended to read:

“If a Lodge accepts as a joining member a Brother who has been excluded from a Lodge or who has resigned without having complied with its by-laws or the general regulations of the Craft, it

shall be liable for any arrears that may be owing by him to the Lodge or Lodges from which he has been excluded or has resigned. The circumstances of such exclusion or resignation shall be stated to the Lodge before the ballot is taken, the better to enable the Brethren to exercise their discretion as to his admission, but the failure to make such a statement shall not exonerate the Lodge from its liability for such arrears, unless the Secretary shall be able to demonstrate that prior to the ballot he had had taken all reasonable steps to satisfy himself in accordance with paragraph (c) of this Rule that the Brother was not at the time of the ballot indebted to any Lodge of which he was or had been a member.”

Amended Registration Forms M will be released as soon as the new wording is approved. The amended form will enable the candidate to self-certificate his good standing to the secretary of the lodge he is seeking to join.

This will mean less work for secretaries as it will be entirely up to the candidate to demonstrate he is in good standing. However, lodges will become liable for unpaid dues if they have not ensured that the form M is properly completed.

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Changes to Royal Arch Registration Fee

At the Quarterly Communications of 2024, changes to the way applicants are registered as new members of the organisation were approved.

The effect is that since 1st January 2025, for candidates who are initiated into a lodge under UGLE, the initial registration fee will cover their later exaltation into a chapter under Supreme Grand Chapter. Accordingly Supreme Grand Chapter registration fees for most exaltees will no longer be payable. During the coming year the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter fees' structures will be adjusted to match the UGLE/SGC model. **In the meantime, the ME Metropolitan Grand Superintendent has approved, as of 1st January 2025, the waiver of the MetGC Registration Fee in these circumstances.**

There will be a slightly different registration sequence for those applicants who are seeking exaltation based on membership of a foreign Grand Lodge.

Please be aware that annual subscriptions will still be payable to SGC and MetGC!

I expect you have already noted the increase in the 2025 UGLE registration fee for an initiate from £76.00 (£91.20 inc. VAT) to £105.00 (£126.00 inc. VAT)

I am asked to draw [this document](#) to the attention of chapter treasurers, where it can be seen there is no additional payment of a registration fee for an English Mason's Exaltation.

Please also especially note the details of the bank account to which future Royal Arch payments should be made.

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Notice for Chapter Treasurers

Please note from 1st January 2025, all payments for Supreme Grand Chapter, should be sent to the UGLE bank account namely:

Account Name: United Grand Lodge of England

Sort Code : 20-32-29

Account Number : 40920592

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Mental Wellbeing



The Metropolitan Grand Almoner emailed all London Freemasons on 4th January with information and a short video about Mental Health. You can view the video [here](#).

You are invited to sign up to attend the launch webinar.

And if this is the kind of opportunity you've been looking for, you can register to become a Mental Wellbeing Ambassador [here](#)

There will also be provision for ambassadors to undertake the nationally recognised Mental Health First Aid course this year.

Your leadership can make the difference. Together, we ensure that no Brother faces a mental health challenge alone.

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Prostate Cancer Testing

Free prostate cancer testing is available to London Freemasons. Please click [this link](#) to book an appointment. There is a discount code for London masons to get a free test, thanks to the generous support of the London Freemasons' Charity. The code is **free**

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St Michael's Chapter No 211



The Royal Arch returns to the South East London Masonic Centre. On 3rd February 2025 SELMC welcomes St. Michael's Chapter 211.

The Centre is found in the leafy suburbs of Beckenham, within sight of the famous Crystal Palace aerial.

You are invited to a double exaltation. New conventions and old traditions combine to make this event very special from the opening of the chapter to the end of the festive board.

Make a note in your diary of 3rd February 2025 and click on the QR code to request a summons and to book your place.

Please access the QR to request a summons and book your place.

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Chapter Meeting with Added Theatre

The next Chapter of Reunion meeting will be held on 1st March 2025. There are six candidates for a multiple exaltation. This exaltation will be with 'Added Theatre'. If you would like to attend, please email the Scribe E colin19@colinring.co.uk .

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Sincerely and fraternally,

Matthew

Matthew Christmas

Metropolitan Grand Secretary & Metropolitan Grand Scribe Ezra

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