

An Introduction to the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

The "Rose Croix" in East Cheshire



Under the Supreme Council 33° of the Ancient and accepted Rite
For England and Wales, and its Districts and Chapters Overseas





The Inspector General for East Cheshire Very Illustrious Brother Nigel Cooper 33°

"I would very much like to introduce you to the fascinating Masonic Order of the Ancient & Accepted Rite, more commonly referred to as "The Rose Croix".

I hope you find this e-brochure both interesting and thought provoking and be led into a serious contemplation of joining the Order in the District of East Cheshire.

The District I am proud to lead, made up of 11 Chapters Rose Croix, is warm, friendly and engaging, and will be very welcoming to you in a continuation of your Masonic journey to the 18th Degree and beyond.

You have already taken a step towards membership by reading this brochure and I very much hope to share a love of this Order in a Rose Croix Chapter with you very soon".

Joining

To join the Rose Croix you must have been a Master Mason for 6 months and have received the three Craft degrees in a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England. A clearance certificate will be required from your Lodge. Membership of any Masonic Order other than the Craft is not necessary.



The Ancient & Accepted Rite is a universal Order open to Freemasons of all faiths and draws upon the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth dealing literally with a journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem and metaphorically from darkness to light.

History

The Ancient and Accepted Rite is a Masonic Order of Degrees 'beyond the Craft'. It is the culmination of a series of Masonic developments which followed the creation of the first Grand Lodge in London in 1717. Its origins lie in the 'Rite of Perfection', which emerged in Bordeaux in the mid eighteenth century.

From France it travelled to the Caribbean islands of Dominique and Martinique with Stephen Morin, a prominent French Mason and West Indian merchant. Morin had been commissioned by the French Grand Lodge as its Inspector for the Higher Degrees in the New World. He enlisted the assistance of a Jamaican resident named Henry Franken, who later became his deputy. At this time the Rite operated as a system of 25 degrees which came to be known as 'Morin's Rite'.

In 1767, Franken visited the American mainland to propagate the 25 degree system. The 33 degree system we know it today appeared in Charleston, South Carolina, where in May 1801, the first 'Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of 33 Degrees' was held. This became the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, the Mother Council of the World as it legitimately proclaims itself today.

This was convened under 'the Grand Constitutions of 1786'. These claim to be of European origin under the authority of King Frederick the Great of Prussia, though historically there is considerable doubt about this. After over 200 years, these Constitutions nevertheless remain the basis of the organisation and governance of the Order worldwide.



Ceremony & Regalia

The Ceremony of the Rose Croix of Heredom is the 18th degree of the 33 degrees of the Ancient & Accepted Rite and forms the entrance in to the Order in a Chapter Rose Croix known as a “Perfection” ceremony. The Degrees up to and including the 17th degree are conferred in name and the 18th Rose Croix Degree itself conferred in a colourful and rewarding ceremony comprising two distinct parts in the same ceremony.

Once admitted a member becomes an Excellent and Perfect Prince Rose Croix. The only other ceremony worked in private Chapters is the annual ceremony of Enthronement of a new Sovereign in to the Chair. Chapters Rose Croix are opened and closed with a ceremony and, before closing, a secular feast of fraternal affection is performed which is a wonderful moment of shared Freemasonry.

Regalia in the 18th Degree consists of a reversible collar and jewel. The significance of the symbols depicted on the collar and jewel are explained during the ceremony of Perfection. The Higher Degrees (30th, 31st, 32nd and 33rd) have different regalia which include both sashes and collars bearing unique emblems of each Degree.

Dress for meetings is a dark suit and white shirt regardless of rank. Some members do wear morning suits but it is not necessary. Any tie may be worn and although many members wear dark blue ties bearing white spots there is no official design. The wearing of a Craft tie is not encouraged nor is the wearing of a tie bearing roses. Black ties are not worn; this is an Order of rejoicing rather than mourning. Gloves are not worn.



Structure



10 Duke Street, St. James's

The sovereign power of the Ancient & Accepted Rite in England and Wales is committed to a Supreme Council consisting of nine Sovereign Grand Inspectors General.

Each member of the Supreme Council holds the highest degree of the Order, the 33°, as do some 50 Inspectors General in England and Wales and 20 in Districts overseas, to whom authority is delegated to manage their appointed Districts. These include the Grand Patron, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

The headquarters of the Order are located at 10 Duke Street, St. James's in London known as the Grand East. All the Higher Degrees from the 30th to the 33rd inclusive in England & Wales are conferred in full cermeonies there and only there.

The district of East Cheshire has 11 Chapters of which 10 confer the Ceremony of Perfection and 1 whose members are Past Sovereigns of the Order. The District holds an Annual General Meeting open to all members at a different location each year around Easter time followed by a convivial lunch hosted by the Inspector General.

A Demonstration Team of enthusiastic members roams the District visiting Chapters to exemplify the ritual and conduct demonstrations and explanations.

East Cheshire

The Rose Croix Chapters in the District of East Cheshire meet at:

- Altrincham on Tuesdays*
- Hyde on Thursdays
- Knutsford on Fridays
- Macclesfield on Wednesdays
- Middlewich on Fridays
- Nantwich (Willaston) on Wednesdays or Fridays
- Sandbach on Mondays (Daylight Lunchtime)
- Stockport on Mondays

* currently meeting at Stockport



Your Chapter

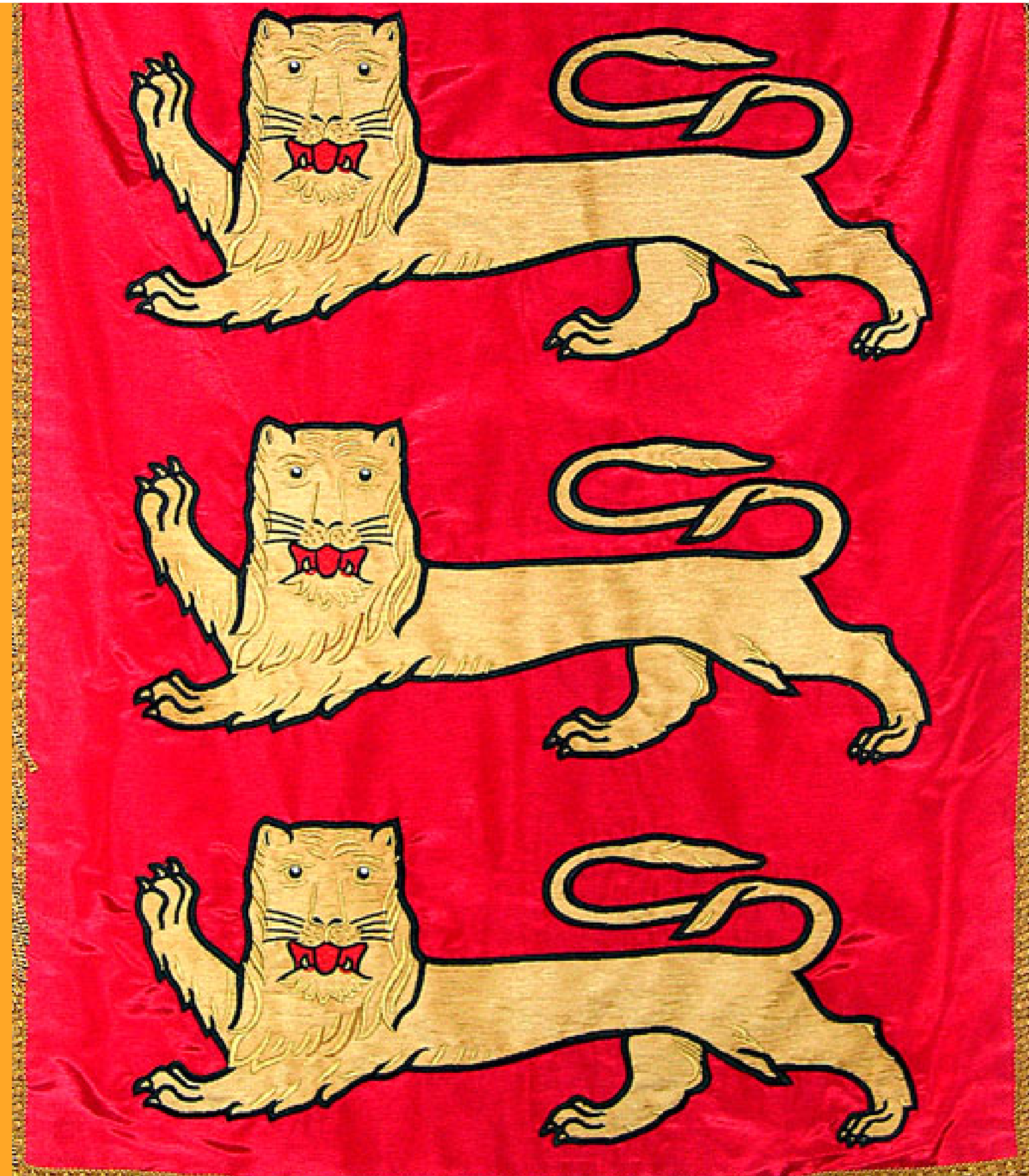
Your Chapter will meet 3 times a year. The annual Enthronement of a new Sovereign and investiture of officers is quite short and sometimes a ceremony of Perfection is conducted at the same meeting.

As you might expect every Chapter has a “ladder” of Officers leading to the Sovereign’s Chair. Although possessing different names some of the progressive offices are similar to a Craft Lodge but the layout of the Chapter Room is very different.

Much like the Craft, a meeting in the Chapter room precedes dinner and there is formal wine taking and a toast list. The toasts and limited responses are kept very short.

The first step in office in a Chapter is usually as Steward, having similar duties to Stewards in other Orders. There are 6 offices to fill before being Enthroned into the Chair. The Enthronement meeting is usually always attended by the Inspector General in person.

The requirement to learn ritual is initially very light but increases with progression in office. The work in ceremonies is now routinely shared as every member wishing to achieve promotion to the 30th degree must have demonstrated a proficiency in key parts of the ritual to the satisfaction of the Inspector General.





How do I join a Rose Croix Chapter in East Cheshire..?

In the first instance please contact the District Recorder for an informal discussion; **Richard Antipas** on **07881 805024** or **dr@eastcheshirerosecroix.org.uk**



If you do not already have a Proposer and Secunder for a particular Chapter the Inspector General for East Cheshire will discuss your application with you and help you select one of the ten Chapters which Perfect new candidates in the District.

This will be based on such factors as proximity to your home and work (if any) and by matching you with a Chapter for mutual benefit and enjoyment.

You will be introduced to the Chapter so that you can meet the members, be proposed and seconded and a date set for your Perfection.

You will be required to complete an application form, sign a declaration and you will have to show your Grand Lodge Certificate to the Recorder of the Chapter in which you are being Perfected.

As in all Masonic Orders certain fees are payable on being Perfected and subscriptions including dues to the District and Supreme Council are payable annually. These fees are much lower than your Craft Lodge subscription.

www.eastcheshirerosecroix.org.uk