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# THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT GEORGE

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Annual Report

April 2023 – July 2025



## THE OFFICERS OF THE ORDER

### **The Sovereign**

HIS MAJESTY THE KING

### **The Grand Master and First or Principal Knight Grand Cross**

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF KENT KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC

### **The Chancellor**

The Right Honourable Baroness Ashton of Upholland LG, GCMG

### **The Prelate**

The Right Reverend David Urquhart KCMG

### **The King of Arms**

Sir Mark Lyall Grant GCMG

### **The Registrar**

Sir David Manning GCMG, KCVO (*retired December 2024*)  
*Currently vacant*

### **The Secretary**

Sir Philip Barton GCMG, OBE (*stepped down December 2024*),  
Sir Oliver Robbins KCMG, CB (*appointed January 2025*)

### **The Gentleman Usher of the Blue Rod**

Dame DeAnne Julius DCMG, CBE (*retired April 2024*),  
Sir Jonathan Taylor KCMG (*appointed January 2025*)

### **The Deputy Secretary**

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Segrave

### **The Dean**

The Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett

### **The Honorary Genealogist**

Mr Timothy Duke (*retired September 2024*)  
Mr Peter O 'Donoghue, York Herald (*appointed January 2025*)

### **The Chancery of the Order**

Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood  
St James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BH  
Telephone: 020 7024 5762 Email: [info@ccok.org.uk](mailto:info@ccok.org.uk)  
[www.centralchancery.org.uk](http://www.centralchancery.org.uk)

**Investment Managers:** CCLA Investments

**Bankers:** Coutts & Co.

**Independent Examiners:** G. J. Lowe Ltd., Pennyweights, 163 Welcomes Road, Kenley, CR8 5HB

**WELCOME FROM THE KING OF ARMS:**

**SIR MARK LYALL GRANT GCMG**

The last three years have been particularly turbulent internationally. Russia's full- scale invasion of Ukraine - launching the first war in Europe since the Second World War - has already resulted in more than one million Russians and several hundred thousand Ukrainians being killed or seriously injured. Conflict and instability across the Middle East followed Hamas's terrorist attack on Israeli citizens in October 2023. Some twenty months later, Israeli hostages are still being held in Gaza and nearly sixty thousand Palestinians have been killed; Israel and then the United States have bombed Iran, and Syria remains in the midst of momentous change. Meanwhile, near-forgotten conflicts continue to rage in Sudan, Myanmar, across the Sahel and elsewhere. The major powers are at loggerheads and many international institutions appear powerless to address these and other global challenges.

As we enter the second half of 2025, the world is in a more uncertain state than I can remember in my 40 years in public service. President Donald Trump's second term in office has brought a further layer of unpredictability to the geopolitical and global economic picture. All this means that the UK is facing a bumpy period ahead, in which we shall perhaps rely more than ever on those serving in HM Diplomatic Service to help guide the way forward.

I am happy to report that inside the Order, the picture has been eventful, but much calmer. Highlights include the 2023 and 2024 Evensong services at St Paul's Cathedral, which were attended by some 250 guests (including the Ukrainian Ambassador last year), with the Duke of Kent as Grand Master doing the bible readings.

After our Chancellor, Baroness Ashton's tour de force in 2023, last summer's well-attended tea and lecture at the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office featured Helen Sharman CMG OBE, who gave a fascinating account of her time training with the Soviet space programme and her subsequent flight into space under the title 'From Cosmonautics to Commercial Moon Landers: is Space a new Ethical Frontier?'

I should like to thank Christopher Grech for his beautifully illustrated article in this year's Review on Foreign Service uniforms and their origin.

There are some recent changes in personnel of the Order's Officers to record. Dame DeAnne Julius has stepped down as Lady Usher of the Blue Rod with Sir Jonathan Taylor KCMG appointed to become our new Gentleman Usher of the Blue Rod. Timothy Duke as the Honorary Genealogist has also stepped down in his role with Peter O'Donoghue, York Herald being appointed. Sir Philip Barton has been succeeded as ex officio Secretary by the new Permanent Under Secretary at the FCDO, Sir Oliver Robbins KCMG CB, whom we welcome to the Order. The Order owes all three departing Officers a great vote of thanks for their service.

Finally, on behalf of all the Officers of the Order of St Michael and St George, may I offer a very warm welcome to all those who have recently joined. We look forward to welcoming you to the Order's key events in the second half of 2025.

## **2023 & 2024 EVENTS**

### **2023**

#### **Lecture and Reception – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The Order followed up the 2022 annual Lecture and Reception event with a wonderfully insightful talk by the Order's Chancellor, Baroness Ashton of Upholland LG, GCMG. Held at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Baroness Ashton, whose book "And then What?" highlights her extensive experience in international diplomacy, shared stories from her career. It was a fascinating insight into the world of diplomats, Somalian pirates, and world leaders at key moments in history.

#### **Evensong and Reception – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The annual Evensong and Reception took place at St Paul's Cathedral on 27<sup>th</sup> September. His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent attended along with around two hundred Members of the Order and their guests.

### **2024**

#### **Lecture and Reception – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The Officers of the Order were delighted to welcome the cosmonaut Helen Sharman CMG OBE to speak to Members and their guests at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. It was a captivating look into space exploration at a time of heightened international relations. Helen's passion for the current ethical debates surrounding the new race to the moon was truly engaging.

The Order would like to thank Helen for sharing her experiences.

#### **Evensong and Reception 2024**

The annual Evensong and Reception took place at St Paul's Cathedral on 25<sup>th</sup> September. His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent attended along with around two hundred Members of the Order and their guests.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Evensong and Reception 2025**

An Evensong and Reception will be held for the Order on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025** at St Paul's Cathedral. Evensong will begin at 5.00pm and followed by a drinks reception in the Crypt. Members are permitted to bring as many guests as they wish but tickets must be requested in advance. Further details on the event and how to book tickets can be found on the Central Chancery's website ([www.centralchancery.gov.uk](http://www.centralchancery.gov.uk)). Applications are now open.

The next Service of Commemoration and Dedication will be held in spring/summer 2026 with details announced on the Central Chancery's website in due course.

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS WITHIN THE ORDER**

### **June 2023**

Marcus Bleasdale Esq., CMG  
Ms Victoria Bowman CMG  
Sir John Chipman KCMG  
Mark Cutts Esq., CMG  
Sir Simon Gass GCMG, CVO  
The Honourable Sir Christopher Haiveta KCMG  
Robert Harrison Esq., CMG, OBE  
Dr. Michelle Haslem CMG  
Kumar Iyer Esq., CMG  
Geoffrey Knupfer Esq., CMG, MBE  
The Honourable Kerenga Kua CMG, MP  
Dr. Ian Levy CMG, OBE  
Sir Peter Lewis KCMG, CB  
The Most Reverend Gabriel Malzaire CMG  
Ms Jane Marriott CMG, OBE  
Sir Richard Moore KCMG  
Sir Terence Waite KCMG, CBE  
David Wereh Esq., CMG

### **December 2023**

Her Excellency The Most Honourable Cynthia Pratt GCMG

### **January 2024**

Ms Jennifer Anderson CMG  
Nicholas Catsaras Esq., CMG  
Roger Coventry Esq., CMG  
Sir Thomas Drew KCMG  
Sir Richard Evans KCMG  
Colin Evans Esq., CMG

Sir Crawford Falconer KCMG

Dr. Fiona Hill CMG

Sir Stephen Lovegrove GCMG, KCB

Dr. Rurik Marsden CMG, OBE

Ms Susanna Moorehead CMG

Ms Jane Nelson CMG

Dr. Sara Pantuliano CMG

Simon Penney Esq., CMG

Christopher Wood Esq., CMG

### **June 2024**

The Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon KCMG

Brigadier Telbert Benjamin CMG

Sir William Browder KCMG

Mrs. Marsha Campbell CMG

Paul Chichester Esq., CMG, MBE

Sir Alexander Ellis KCMG

Professor Melita Gordon CMG

Ms Fiona McIlwham CMG

Ms Blaise Metreweli CMG

Sir Keith Palmer KCMG, OBE

Antony Phillipson Esq., CMG

Sir Jimmie Rodgers KCMG

Sir Andrew Steer KCMG

Dr. Franklin Walkine CMG

### **October 2024**

His Excellency The Reverend David Kapu GCMG



**November 2024**

His Excellency Sir Errol Charles GCMG

**January 2025**

Ms Diane Corner CMG, OBE

John Edwards Esq., CMG

The Honourable Soroi Eoe CMG

Dr. Rachel Fentem CMG

Graeme Groom Esq., CMG

Sir Aziz Hadeed KCMG, CBE

Michael Harman Esq., CMG

Dr. Rachel King CMG

Dr. Huw Llewellyn CMG

Stephen Mannion Esq., CMG

Professor Ashley Moffett CMG

The Honourable Pila Niningi CMG

Sir David Quarrey KCMG

Dame Eleanor Sharpston DCMG, KC

Richard Squire Esq., CMG

Simon Walters Esq., CMG

Matthew Wyatt Esq., CMG

Sir Llewellyn Xavier KCMG, OBE

**April 2025**

John Bew Esq., CMG

The Rt Hon Sir Andrew Mitchell KCMG

*June 2025*

Christopher Anderson Esq., CMG

Sir Iftikhar Ayaz KBE, CMG

Sir Philip Barton GCMG, OBE

Mark Bassett Esq., CMG

Professor Frances Gardner CMG

Edith Heard CMG, FRS

James Kariuki Esq., CMG

Sir Stephen Kavanagh KCMG

Professor David Laloo CMG

Henry Lay Esq., CMG, OBE

Andrew Murdoch Esq., CMG

Christopher Rampling Esq., CMG

Mrs. Corin Robertson CMG

Katherine Rowe CMG

Dr. Paul Smith CMG

Mrs. Beverley Tew CMG

Charles Walker Esq., CMG, MBE

## **THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED**

The Central Chancery has been notified of the death of the following Members of the Order:

*(April 2023 – July 2025)*

### **Knights and Dames Grand Cross**

Dame Minita Gordon GCMG, GCVO, JP

### **Knights and Dames Commander**

Sir Adrian Beamish KCMG

Sir Mervyn Brown KCMG, OBE

Professor Sir Gordon Conway KCMG

Sir Timothy Daunt KCMG

The Rt Hon Sir Manuel Esquivel KCMG

The Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth GCSK, KCMG, QC

Sir Peter Harold Marshall KCMG, CVO

Sir James Mellon KCMG

Sir Patrick Moberly KCMG

The Rt Hon Sir Murray Stuart-Smith KCMG

Sir John Ure KCMG, LVO

### **Companions**

Sir David Brewer KG, CMG, CVO

John Carey Esq., CMG

Christopher Crabbie Esq., CMG

The Rt Hon Terence Davis CMG

Stephen Day Esq., CMG

Stanley Duncan Esq., CMG

Nicholas Elam Esq., CMG

Mark Elliott Esq., CMG

Sandy Gall Esq., CMG, OBE

Barrie Gane Esq., CMG, OBE

Terence Garrett Esq., CMG, CBE

Colin Gatt Esq., CMG

Hywel George Esq., CMG, OBE  
Oleg Gordievsky Esq., CMG  
Sir Peter Hall KBE, CMG  
Sir James Hennessy KBE, CMG  
Professor Newell Johnson CMG  
Professor Virgil Jordan CMG, OBE  
Peter Kent Esq., CMG  
Anthony Leohnis Esq., CMG  
Christopher Long Esq., CMG  
Ronald McDonald Esq. CMG  
David Montgomery Esq., CMG, OBE  
Richard Muir Esq., CMG  
Martin Nicholson Esq., CMG  
Timothy Giles Paxman Esq., CMG, LVO  
Peter Penfold Esq., CMG, OBE  
Sir Shridath Ramphal OCC, CMG  
David Roberts Esq., CMG  
Warren Rolle Esq., CMG  
Thomas Shadwell Esq., CMG  
Roland Smith Esq., CMG  
Bryan Sparrow Esq., CMG  
Sir Geoffrey Tantom CMG, OBE  
Arnold Turner Esq., CMG  
John White Esq., CMG  
Patrick Wogan Esq., CMG

## THE CHAPEL OF THE ORDER OF ST MICHAEL AND ST GEORGE IN ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

### Chapel Stalls



Interior of the Chapel of St Michael and St George - St Paul's Cathedral

The Chapel of the Order of St Michael and St George in St Paul's Cathedral was formally dedicated in 1906 with initial plans to decorate the Chapel with Stall Furnishings of Members of the Order.

Any Member can hold a Stall in the Chapel, with specific Stalls dedicated for GCMGs, DCMGs, KCMGs, and CMGs. The offer and acceptance of a Stall grants the Member the opportunity to affix a Stall Plate which will remain in place as a permanent historical record of the Stall's tenure by the Member of the Order. Knights and Dames Grand Cross also display an Armorial Banner bearing a representation of their Coat of Arms which remains above their Stall for their lifetime, after which it is removed and given to their family.

Stalls become vacant upon the death of a Stall Holder and the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood oversees the process of offering vacant Stalls. If you would like to register interest in being offered a Stall when eligible, please write to the Central Chancery.

### *Privileged Use of the Chapel of the Order in St Paul's Cathedral*

Members, including honorary, may hold the following Services in the Chapel of the Order of St Michael and St George, or St Faith's Chapel located in the Crypt, in St Paul's Cathedral:

- Marriage of a Member or the child of a Member
- Baptism of a child or grandchild of a Member
- Memorial Service for a Member

All take place according to the rites of the Church of England. Step-children and step-grandchildren will be treated as children and grandchildren, so long as their parent is married to a Member of the Order.

A Member wishing to make use of the Order's Chapel should apply to the Deputy Secretary of the Order, Lt Col Stephen Segrave, who will confirm the applicant's eligibility with St Paul's Cathedral. The service may take place only after approval from the Deputy Secretary, who will advise on the applicant's next steps and provide the necessary contact information for the Weddings and Baptisms Coordinator at St Paul's Cathedral.

The Order's Chapel will accommodate a congregation of approximately eighty. It should be noted that the Chapel of the Order is not ideal for weddings as it is often noisy due to its location in the main body of the Cathedral, which is open to visitors. The Chapel has limited seating and musical facilities.

The Cathedral authorities will advise the applicant whether the Chapel of St Michael and St George or St Faith's Chapel will be better suited for the service. St Faith's Chapel is more conducive to larger ceremonies, particularly weddings, as it is situated away from the general public and offers a larger seating capacity, approximately 350 people. The final decision on which Chapel may be used rests with the Dean. There are fees involved with the use of the Chapels and the Weddings and Baptisms Coordinator will be able to advise on current costs.

Applications should be made to the Deputy Secretary via email or post.

## **GUEST REPORT**

### THE FOREIGN SERVICE UNIFORM AND ITS ORIGIN

Christopher Grech

Members of the Order who served in the Foreign Service will remember the dark blue uniform trimmed with gold embroidery that was the formal court uniform of their service. Even those who didn't have the opportunity to wear these uniforms will no doubt recall senior members of the service or even forbears who did.

This article is based on the research conducted for the catalogue that accompanied the *Civil Splendour* exhibition of civil court uniforms held in Malta from December 2023 to January 2024 which traced the history of these uniforms from the early years of the nineteenth century to present times. See page 20 for details of the exhibition catalogue.

The simplified Foreign Service uniform that was introduced in the 1950s had its origins in the ornately embroidered uniform devised by the Prince Regent (later George IV). Liveries for servants of royal households had been commonplace in eighteenth century European courts however in 1777 King George III introduced a civil uniform to be worn by members of the British royal family and senior courtiers as well as cabinet ministers when resident at Windsor Castle. This became known as the Windsor Uniform and a version of this is still worn nowadays on formal occasions by male members of the royal family; in its present manifestation this consists of a dark blue tail coat with scarlet collar and cuffs.

Wanting to differentiate between his own household and the King's the Prince Regent devised a new, more opulent, uniform. This was intended to be worn for the first time at the celebrations marking the Queen's birthday in February 1817. These new uniforms were ostensibly developed to promote the British textile and tailoring industries as they struggled to recover after the Napoleonic Wars however they also satisfied the Prince Regent's interest in ostentatious attire. This was confirmed by the *Morning Chronicle* of 7 February 1817 which recorded that a new uniform had been in contemplation by the Prince Regent for some time; a superb uniform that would bring additional splendour to the court, to be worn by the great officers of state as well as the royal household. The uniforms demonstrated 'the nicest discrimination . . . in apportioning the breadth and richness of the embroidery'.<sup>1</sup>

The first 'grand costume' was to be worn by Cabinet Ministers only with the exception of the Lord Chancellor who was to retain his official robes. The Royal Household uniforms were divided into three classes with the first to be worn by the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward of the Household. In the next category were the Lords in Waiting and finally the Grooms in Waiting.

It is clear from this description that Cabinet Ministers had their own distinct uniform which was considered to be above that of the Royal Household. We can consider this to be the earliest manifestation of what would later become the First Class Civil Uniform.

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<sup>1</sup> *Morning Chronicle*, Friday 7 February 1817, page 3.

The Morning Chronicle also mentioned two distinct uniforms, one for ordinary Courts and the other for Galas thus establishing the custom for Levée Dress and Full Dress as was the custom in European Courts. The intention was to introduce the dress for ordinary courts at the Queen's birthday celebrations reserving the gala dress for the more prestigious national celebrations on St George's Day which, given the Prince's eponymous moniker, was the first occasion that this date was also chosen for his official birthday.

The new court uniforms made their first appearance at the Queen's birthday drawing room at St James's Palace on 21 February 1817. The Royal Household uniforms were described as having coats of dark blue cloth with scarlet velvet collar and cuffs both richly embroidered in gold, white kerseymere waistcoats and plain breeches. Even at this early date there is reference to the breadth of embroidery decreasing progressively for the lower grades.<sup>2</sup>

The new Cabinet Ministers' uniforms were not worn on this occasion; it is likely that the politicians wore their old Windsor uniforms instead. Various newspapers speculated that the new uniforms were 'not yet ready, owing, perhaps, to the deliberation due to its superior importance'. This delay could have been due to the time taken to complete the intricate embroidery or equally to the fact that they were being kept back for the Prince Regent's birthday celebrations however no contemporary accounts have so far been discovered which record the Cabinet Ministers' uniforms as having been worn on that later occasion.<sup>3</sup>



Figure 1

We are fortunate that an engraving of Sir Benjamin Bloomfield (Private Secretary to the King, Keeper of the Privy Purse, and Receiver of the Duchy of Cornwall between 1817 and 1822) was executed in 1819 showing him dressed in the new Household Uniform. [Fig. 1] This appears to be the earliest image we have of this uniform and it thus provides us with a great deal of useful information. The coatee is made of a dark coloured fabric with lighter coloured (presumably scarlet) cuffs. The front of the coat, the stand-up collar and the cuffs are all heavily embroidered in gold; these and the nine buttons up the front were all features that endured well into the twentieth century.<sup>4</sup>

The pattern of the embroidery is depicted in great detail giving us an excellent record of the features and motifs of these early uniforms. Again many of these motifs such as the oakleaf and palm frond were to become standard features as late as the 1950s.

<sup>2</sup> *Oxford University and City Herald*, 22 February 1817, p. 3; *Commercial Chronicle* (London), 22 February 1817, p.XX; *Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser*, 22 February 1817, p. 3; *Saint James's Chronicle*, 22 February 1817, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> Op. cit.

<sup>4</sup> The British Museum, Registration number 1864, 1210.228.





Figure 2



Figure 3

Unfortunately no detailed contemporary descriptions of these new uniforms have so far come to light thus the distinctions between the three grades of uniform introduced in 1817 remain a mystery however we do know from early sources that the household uniforms sported red cloth collar and cuffs whereas those of the cabinet minister's uniforms were of black velvet; again this detail persists in present times. [Figs. 2 and 3]



Figure 4



Figure 5

The precise date of the introduction of the new Cabinet Ministers' uniform has not yet been ascertained. David Wilkie's painting of Queen Victoria's accession of 1837 shows a number of cabinet ministers wearing the new heavily embroidered Full Dress Civil Uniform however an uniform recently acquired by the author indicates that the civil uniform was introduced before 1837 as the buttons on this uniform show the arms of the Kingdom of

Hanover superimposed over those of the British Royal Arms. This is a Levée uniform of second or third class, so does not have gold embroidery to the front. [Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7]



Figure 6



Figure 7

The Morning Chronicle also informs us that the tailor responsible for fabricating these uniforms was a Mr Meares of Conduit Street. There is little doubt that this was John Meyer, also registered on Conduit Street, who a few years later was to supply the new King George IV with the Coronation Surcoat, Imperial Mantle and Stole used at his coronation in July 1821.<sup>5</sup>

John Meyer's order books are now held by London tailors Meyer & Mortimer (who held a Royal Warrant from Queen Elizabeth II) however the volumes consulted thus far have drawn a blank regarding the fabrication of the new court uniforms. Recent conversations with Paul Mundy of Meyer & Mortimer have confirmed that the firm was frequently referred to, even in legal documents, by the name Meares which must have been adopted as an anglicisation of the original German name.

It is worth making a reference to the new court uniforms for the Officers of the Order of St Michael and St George which were introduced in 1832. These were clearly derived from the Prince Regent's new Household Uniform. A contemporary engraving showing the design of these uniforms is reproduced here.<sup>6</sup> [Fig. 8] It is interesting to note that the button depicted for the Chancellor's uniform is identical to the button shown in Fig. 7 which might indicate that this newly acquired uniform was worn by a high ranking official.

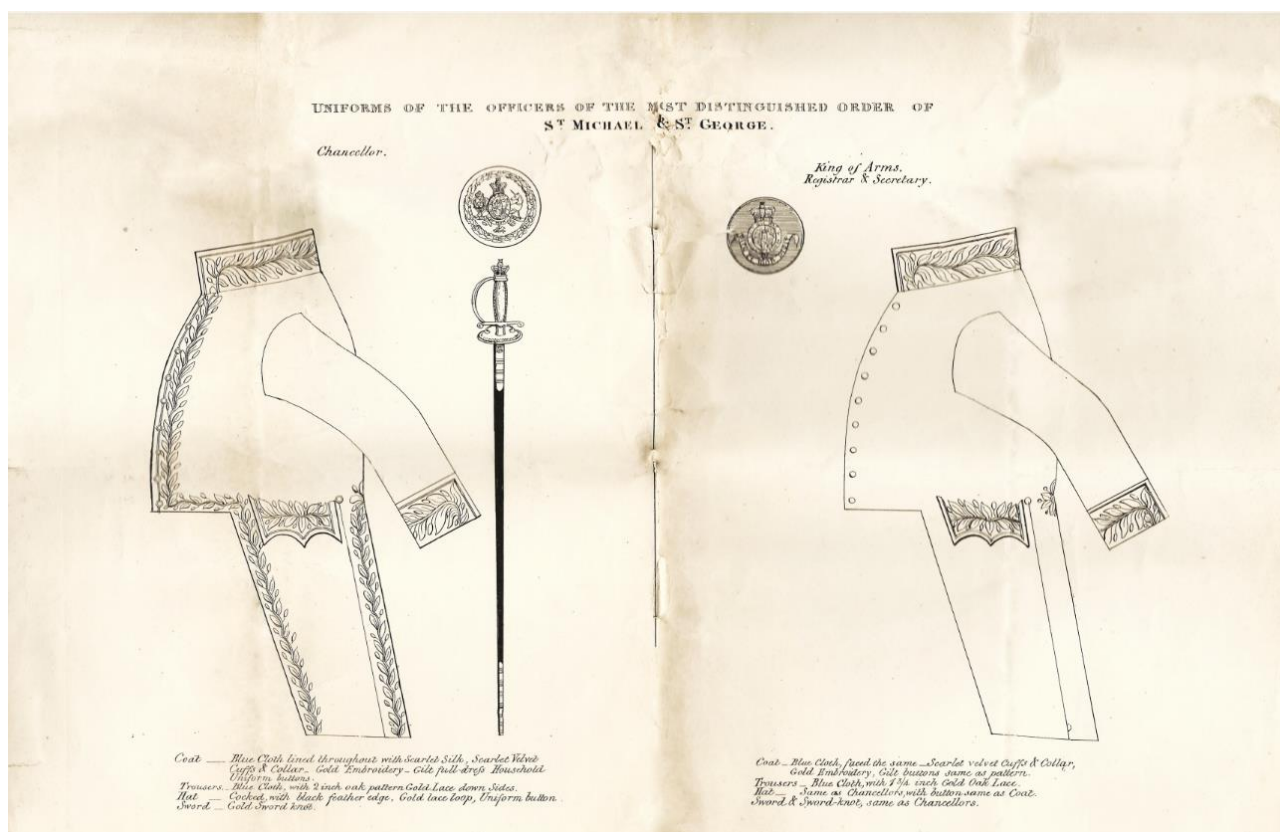


Figure 8

<sup>5</sup> The Royal Collection Trust: George IV's Coronation Surcoat 1820-21, RCIN 62955; Imperial Mantle, RCIN 31794 and Coronation Stole, RCIN 62953. Meyer's Imperial Mantle has also been used at the coronations of King George IV, King George V, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III.

<sup>6</sup> Grech, Christopher, *Court Uniform for the Officers of the Order of St Michael and St George*, 2021, pp. 39-53.

No printed patterns of the new civil uniform are known to have been made until the late 1850s when a pattern book was produced which allowed the designs to be widely distributed throughout the British Empire. The reasons for such a publication lay in the reorganisation of the Indian Civil Service following the Rebellion of 1857. After India came under crown control there was a concerted effort to put the administrative services in all the Crown Colonies on an equal footing with those of the Home Service. One way of achieving this was through the standardisation of Civil Uniforms throughout the Empire taking the uniforms at home as the model.

This is explained clearly in the despatch sent in 1859 by Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, to Governors overseas which announced:<sup>7</sup>

“I have received the Queen’s Commands to inform you that it is Her Majesty’s wish to mark in some distinctive manner the service of the Crown in the Colonies, as being in every respect on an equality with that of the mother country. Her Majesty has been, therefore, graciously pleased to confer on Her Majesty’s Civil Servants in the Colonies, the right to wear the Civil Uniform prescribed for Her Majesty’s Servants in Great Britain.”

The regulations included in this despatch established that this was the first instance where governors were given the option of wearing the first class civil uniform even if they came from military or naval backgrounds which entitled them to wear the full dress uniform of their service. Notwithstanding the prestige felt by some general officers in wearing military uniform some governors did choose to wear the civil uniform.

Bulwer-Lytton’s Despatch also stated that ‘The official regulation issued by the Lord Chamberlain of Her Majesty’s Household, with regard to Civil Uniforms, is herewith transmitted.’ This must be a reference to the large format publication entitled *Uniforms to be Worn by Her Majesty’s Civil Servants at Home and in the Colonies* which gives detailed written descriptions of all five grades of Civil Uniform; six large chromolithographic plates show the cut and patterns of the coatees together with the motifs for the trouser lace and goldwork embroidery in the actual size to be fabricated. [Figs. 9 and 10]

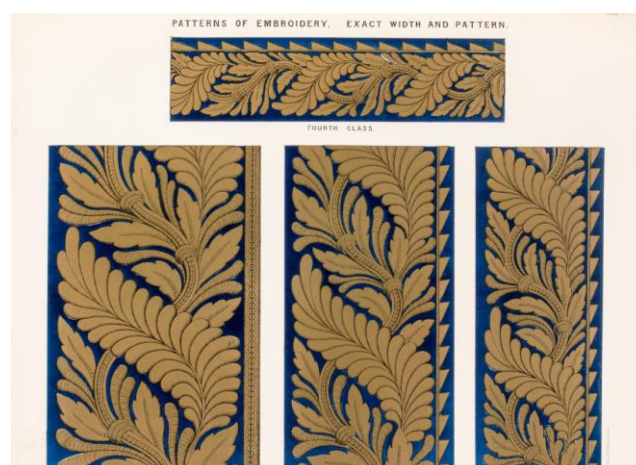


Figure 9

<sup>7</sup> Colonial Office, Bulwer Despatch, TNA, CO. 537/153, 1859.



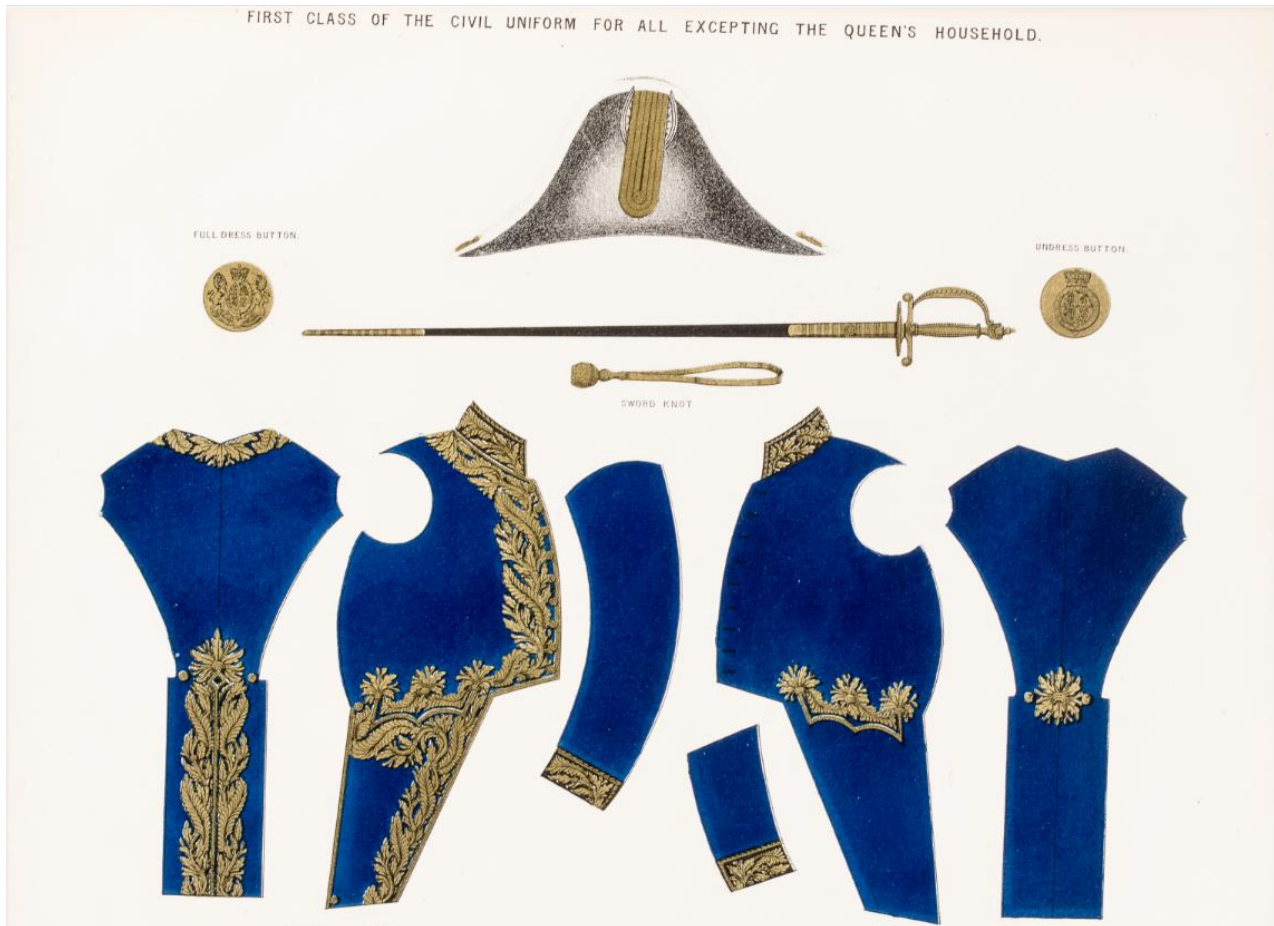


Figure 10

Although minor modifications were made to the designs of these civil uniforms over the years the patterns laid out in the 1859 publication remained more or less unchanged for a century. On the formation of the first Labour government in 1925 there were complaints about the expense incurred in the manufacture of the gold embroidered uniforms. As a result the frock dress option, worn traditionally by countries like the United States of America and Switzerland which had no royal courts, was offered as an option for cabinet ministers.



Figure 11

By the 1950s the expense of the hand-embroidered Full Dress uniforms was considered prohibitive and so in 1955 the Colonial Office introduced a new, much simplified design for Her Majesty's Foreign Service. In this design embroidery on the chest was eliminated in the Full Dress outfit so the distinctions of rank were restricted to the lace and embroidery to the collar and cuffs. Figure 11 shows a Second Class Foreign Service Uniform. This uniform was worn by Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps. The new designs will be explained in further detail in a future issue of the Order's Annual Report.

Unless otherwise mentioned all images are from the author's collection.

## CAPTIONS FOR IMAGES

- 1 Sir Benjamin Bloomfield wearing the new Royal Household Uniform. Artist: Charles Turner, © The Trustees of the British Museum.
- 2 Second Class Full Dress Royal Household Uniform (early twentieth century).
- 3 First Class Full Dress Civil Uniform, (early twentieth century).
- 4 Civil Uniform, Levée Dress, coatee, Hanoverian period, front.
- 5 Civil Uniform, Levée Dress, coatee, Hanoverian period, back.
- 6 Civil Uniform, Levée Dress, coatee cuff, Hanoverian period. Although the embroidery appears to be silver experts have advised that this was originally gold which has tarnished with age.
- 7 Civil Uniform, coatee button, Hanoverian period. Note the superimposed Hanoverian arms.
- 8 Coloured engraving showing proposed uniforms for King of Arms, Registrar and Secretary of the Order. Courtesy of The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.
- 9 *Uniforms to be Worn by Her Majesty's Civil Servants at Home and in the Colonies*, Harrison, 1859, Plate V showing embroidery patterns.
- 10 *Uniforms to be Worn by Her Majesty's Civil Servants at Home and in the Colonies*, Harrison, 1859, Plate I. showing First Class Civil Uniform.
- 11 Foreign Service Uniform, Second Class, Uniform of the Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 1982-1986.

## CIVIL SPLENDOUR

### Civil Uniforms at the Court of St James's

An exhibition curated by Christopher Grech

In addition to an account of the evolution of Civil Court Uniform this 156 page fully illustrated catalogue describes the history of the bicorn hat; the types of footwear worn and the different types of goldwork embroidery used on civil uniforms.

Copies of the *Civil Splendour* catalogue can be obtained from the author. The cost of each catalogue is £25 + shipping. Regular MaltaPost rates to the UK are £20.

**Contact:** Christopher Grech, 220 Main Street, Mosta, Malta MST 1015.

**Email:** [xrisgrech@gmail.com](mailto:xrisgrech@gmail.com) **Mobile:** +356 99722158

## ACCOUNTS

The accounts for the 2023-2024 financial year are presented below.

### THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT GEORGE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE CHAPEL MAINTENANCE FUND FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

2023	RECEIPTS	2024	PAYMENTS	2024	2023
	<b>INCOME</b>		<b>CEREMONIAL SERVICE FEES</b>	£0.00	£0.00
£8,720.01	Subscriptions	£8,897.01			
£1,681.99	Donations	£117.95			
			<b>TEA AND LECTURE</b>	£4,679.42	£4,307.46
	<b>DIVIDENDS &amp; INTEREST</b>		<b>EVENSONG - St Pauls</b>	£5,681.28	£5,410.94
£4,005.60	Killik & Co LLP Income	£4,865.10			
£22.04	Coutts Money Market A/C	£150.68			
£1.62	Coutts 90 Day Notice A/C	£6.63			
			<b>LITERATURE AND BROCHURES</b>	£3,702.08	£3,373.00
	<b>INCOME TAX REBATE</b>		<b>INSURANCE</b>		
£1,416.75	2022-2023 Subs& Donations	£0.00	Chapel and Mantle Insurance	£2,339.78	£1,972.23
£0.00	2023-2024 Subs& Donations	£1,339.25			
			<b>PLATES &amp; BANNERS</b>		
			Name Plates	£130.00	£0.00
			Banners	£1,112.22	£1,081.06
			<b>POSTAGE</b>	£249.72	£243.30
			<b>INDEPENDENT REVIEW</b>	£450.00	£438.00
			<b>LEGAL FEES - governance review</b>	£0.00	£600.00
<u>£15,848.01</u>		<u>£15,376.62</u>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>£18,344.50</u>	<u>£17,425.99</u>
			<b>EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS</b>	(£2,967.88)	(£1,577.98)
<u>£15,848.01</u>		<u>£15,376.62</u>		<u>£15,376.62</u>	<u>£15,848.01</u>

### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st MARCH 2024

2023	LIABILITIES	2024	ASSETS	2024	2023
			<b>SHARES - MARKET VALUE AT 31.03.2024</b>		
			CCLA funds	705,008.27	
			Killik & Co	97,234.00	
				£802,242.27	£719,010.00
			<b>ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE</b>		
			Mantles	10.00	
			Property at St. Paul's	804,761.00	£804,771.00
			<b>FUNDS AT BANK</b>		
			Coutts Money Market	8,792.25	
			Coutts 90 Day Notice	182.63	
				£8,974.88	£15,535.01
				<u>1,615,988.15</u>	<u>£1,539,316.01</u>
£1,559,103.94	Fund at 31st March 2023	£1,541,526.11			
-£12,122.46	Change In Value of Shares & Property	78,367.17	Prepayments - Stall furnishings		£1,195.35
-£3,877.39	Funds Invested	-	Prepayments - gift aid	£1,339.25	£1,416.75
(1,577.98)	Excess of payments 2024	(2,967.88)	Accruals	(402.00)	(402.00)
<u>£1,541,526.11</u>		<u>£1,616,925.40</u>		<u>1,616,925.40</u>	<u>£1,541,526.11</u>

The Assets Retained for the Charity's own use is shown above at the valuation made for insurance purposes. The Property at St Paul's was last valued in December 2009 and the Mantles were last valued in November 2009.

----- Secretary of the Order ----- Prelate and  
Honorary Treasurer

The accounts for the 2024-2025 financial year are presented below. Previous accounts can be found on the Charities Commission website.

**THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT GEORGE  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF  
THE CHAPEL MAINTENANCE FUND FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025**

2024	RECEIPTS	2025	PAYMENTS	2025	2024
	<b>INCOME</b>		<b>CEREMONIAL SERVICE FEES</b>	£0.00	£0.00
£8,897.01	Subscriptions	£8,994.51			
£117.95	Donations	£17.95	<b>TEA AND LECTURE</b>	£6,336.30	£4,679.42
	<b>DIVIDENDS &amp; INTEREST</b>		<b>EVENSONG - St Pauls</b>	£8,243.83	£5,681.28
£4,865.10	Kilik & Co LLP Income	£3,678.13			
£150.68	Coutts Money Market A/C	£97.25	<b>LITERATURE AND BROCHURES</b>	£0.00	£3,702.08
£6.63	Coutts 90 Day Notice A/C	£6.63			
	<b>INCOME TAX REBATE</b>		<b>INSURANCE</b>		
£0.00	2024-2025 Subs& Donations	£1,333.00	Chapel and Mantle Insurance	£2,419.35	£2,339.78
£1,339.25	2023-2024 Subs& Donations		<b>PLATES &amp; BANNERS</b>		
			Name Plates	£0.00	£130.00
			Banners	£0.00	£1,112.22
			<b>POSTAGE</b>	£266.05	£249.72
			<b>INDEPENDENT REVIEW</b>	£462.00	£450.00
<u>£15,376.62</u>		<u>£14,127.57</u>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>£17,727.53</u>	<u>£18,344.50</u>
			<b>EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS</b>	(£3,599.96)	(£2,967.88)
<u>£15,376.62</u>		<u>£14,127.57</u>		<u>£14,127.57</u>	<u>£15,376.62</u>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st MARCH 2025**

2024	LIABILITIES	2025	ASSETS	2025	2024
			<b>SHARES - MARKET VALUE AT 31.03.2025</b>		
			CCLA funds	691,003.00	
			Kilik & Co	96,625.00	£787,628.00
					£802,242.27
			<b>ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE</b>		
			Mantles	10.00	
			Property at St. Paul's	804,761.00	£804,771.00
					£804,771.00
			<b>FUNDS AT BANK</b>		
			Coutts Money Market	10,063.78	
			Coutts 90 Day Notice	189.26	
				£10,253.04	£8,974.88
				<u>1,602,652.04</u>	<u>£1,615,986.15</u>
£1,541,526.11	Fund at 31st March 2024	£1,616,925.40			
£78,367.17	Change In Value of Shares & Property	(9,742.40)			
	Funds Invested	-	Prepayments - gift aid	£1,333.00	£1,339.25
(2,967.88)	Excess of payments 2025	(3,599.96)	Accruals	(402.00)	(402.00)
<u>£1,616,925.40</u>		<u>£1,603,583.04</u>		<u>1,603,583.04</u>	<u>£1,616,925.40</u>

The Assets Retained for the Charity's own use is shown above at the valuation made for insurance purposes. The Property at St Paul's was last valued in December 2009 and the Mantles were last valued in November 2009.

----- Secretary of the Order

----- Prelate and  
Honorary Treasurer

### **INSIGNIA VALUATION**

For insurance purposes, Members might be interested to know that the current replacement value of insignia is as follows:

GCMG Mens	£3,034
GCMG Ladies	£2,828
KCMG	£3,420
DCMG	£2,805
CMG Mens	£713
CMG Ladies	£749

Please note that insignia can only be replaced following loss by theft or fire and in the case where a Crime Reference Number, Fire Reference Number, or insurance claim reference can be provided. All replacements are at the discretion of the Central Chancery.

### **REGISTER OF THE ORDER**

The Register of the Order, as of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025, records the following numbers (including Additional Members but excluding Honorary Members):

Knights and Dames Grand Cross	71
Knights and Dames Commander	224
Companions	935
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,230</i>



### **SUPPORTING US**

The Order of St Michael and St George Chapel Maintenance Fund is charged with looking after the Order's Chapel at St Paul's Cathedral and is a registered charity; Charity Number 208482. Donations to the Order assist with the upkeep of the Chapel and support the services held for the Order at St Paul's Cathedral.

The Officers would like to thank those who continue to make donations and support the Order. Donations can be made annually or as a one off contribution. Should you wish to make a donation, a suggested amount of £25 is encouraged and greatly appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Order of St Michael and St George Chapel Maintenance Fund' and posted to the Central Chancery at St James's Palace. BACs donations should be made to the following account:

Account Name: The Order of St Michael and St George Chapel Maintenance Fund

Account Number: 06498752

Sort Code: 18-00-02

Bank: Coutts & Co

For International Payments: IBAN: GB64 COUT 1800 0206 4987 52

### **ANNUAL REPORT FEEDBACK**

Suggestions and ideas for content in the next Annual Report are very welcome and appreciated! Please submit any feedback to the Central Chancery.

## **UPDATING YOUR CONTACT DETAILS**

The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood is also the Chancery of the Order of St Michael and St George, overseeing all records for the Order. It endeavors to keep accurate records and relies on Members informing us of any changes to contact details, including notification in the event of the death of a Member. Up to date records will help the Order to keep Members informed by email and post. If you do not wish to be contacted by the Order, please email [info@ccok.org.uk](mailto:info@ccok.org.uk) The Order and Central Chancery will only contact Members regarding Order related events or information.

## **THE CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood can be contacted at the following:

**Deputy Secretary of the Order:** Lt Col Stephen Segrave

**Email:** [info@ccok.org.uk](mailto:info@ccok.org.uk)

**Postal Address:** St James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BH

**Telephone:** 020 7024 5762 / 020 7024 5761

**Website:** [www.centralchancery.org.uk](http://www.centralchancery.org.uk)