

Next, I refer to those Companions who received well-deserved preferment in Grand Council. Similarly promoted to Acting Rank was Ill. Comp. The Rev Malcolm Lane, who is now the Dep G. Chaplain. Promotions were also given to Ill Comp. Keith Pearson, our past Deputy, as P.G. Lecturer. And to our present Deputy, Ill. Comp. Denis, who became P.G. Cond. of the C. Ill. Comp. Ryan Williams. Another Acting Rank went to Ill C Elfan Bell as a Grand Manciple, while Ill Comps Howard Thomas and Brian Richards were both made P.A.G. Directors of C. Ill. Comp. Emyr Hughes was appointed a P.G. Swd. B. and Ill. Comp. Colin Fielder a P.G. Std. B. My heartiest congratulations. I trust you all have many years to enjoy your new offices. Such preferment does not come automatically. It marks what has already been done and what will be done. Grand Officers would not rest on their laurels. This applies equally to those who receive District Grand Rank.

And last month it was pleasing to see that four new members joined the ranks of the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master, the Order of the Silver Trowel, at the meeting of Giraldu Cambrenis, where the Deputy presided so ably.

Earlier in the year I had the privilege of taking the degree of an Excellent Master in a ceremony in Mark Masons' Hall. It was made more special by my being the representative candidate, representing all those receiving the degree that day. I was followed last month, by the DistGPCW, Ill C Malcolm. Normally that degree is only worked in London but on Wednesday 15th February next year, only two months away now, there will be a special meeting in Bristol, under the patronage of the Grand Master, to award both degrees, the degree of an Excellent Master and the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master. It will be a special occasion.

I hope any Companion interested in either degree will make his interest known to his Council's Recorder. When we receive the arrangements they will be forwarded on to Recorders. Whether as a candidate or as a Visitor, I want to see a good presence from South Wales in Bristol that day. It will be special. Bristol is a uniquely appropriate setting and it neighbours South Wales. It may be a while before we have this opportunity again.

Now you should have noticed that envelopes to facilitate support for the South Wales Mark 2020 Festival have been distributed. I know you will do your best and the envelopes should produce more via Gift aid. As you would expect we will vary our support from year to year amongst parent Degrees and Provinces.

Finally, I want to say thank you to each one of you for coming today. Please continue to promote our excellent order; recruitment of the right candidates remains key to our best future. But above all enjoy what you do, if you are not enjoying it, why are you doing it.

May you, and your families particularly enjoy the fast approaching festive season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Apologies (Companions recorded:)

Graham Gubb / Peter Clee / Syd Smith / John O'Leary / Anthony Moore MBE / Anthony Seymour / Norman Simons / Hugh Bennett / Emyr Hughes / David Davies / David Woolfe / Keith Ferguson / Richard Bambery / Keith Pearson / Jeffrey Squirrel / Nigel Adams / Denzil Bartlett / Wynford Allen / Malcolm Clarke

Collection of alms

The alms collection for the South Wales Mark 2020 Appeal amounted to £509.13 which would be increased by the gift aid.

Note: £300 was also donated to the Royal Arch and £50 to Cardiff Organ Appeal

Any Other Business

The District Grand Recorder had no other business to present to the Meeting

Closing



Minutes Annual District Meeting 10th December 2016



BRIDGEND MASONIC HALL

108 Companions in attendance / 102 dining

The D.G.M. R. Ill. Comp. Gwilym Haydn Jones OStJ opened in due form.

Salutations

The Acting District Grand Director of Ceremonies (Chris Davies) gave salutations

Distinguished Guests.

Rt. Ill. Comps. George Deacon / Colin Helyer / Vincent Driver / Nicholas Murzell / John Harvey / David Rawlings / David Nelson / Christopher Lewis / Neil Woodward / David Malcolm Cordell / Dr Alan Beckerton / Kenneth Downes JP / Bernard Marchant / John Massey

V. Ill. Comps. Christopher Court / Timothy Hancock / Richard Moss / David Smith

Ill. Comps. Phillip Purves / Barry Chalkley MBE / Thomas Spinks / Jeffrey Bennett / George Paskins / Malcolm Thomas / Ronald Bentley / Glen Coneley / Colin Hume / Roger Deacon / John Patrick Green / Ivor Bryan Tynan / Jeremy Shaw / Keith Surry / Trevor Cooper / Shaun Higson / Paul Harrison / Julian Frost / Peter Stokes / Andrew Dive / Gareth Lewis

District Grand DC gave salutations to the Distinguished Guests.

Rulers in the Other Orders in the 3 Provinces in which our District meets:

R.III. Comps Hywel Davies / Neil H. Matthews / Paul R. Clement / Dr John Lloyd

Ill. Comps. Gareth Jones OBE / Derek Thomas / T.R. Eirian Jones / Ivor Shuttleworth / Wayne B. Warlow / Dr Paul Calderwood / Malcolm Lane JP

Comps. Gordon Evans

Distinguished guests and Companions all, welcome to this our District Meeting

Valediction (The District Grand Chaplain gave the valedictory prayer)

The Deputy District Grand Master announced the passing of the following Companions

Ill. Comp. Peter Lane PG Std. B. St Augustine No 122 26-12-2015

Ill. Comp. Alfred Spencer PG Dist. G. Std. B. Henfynyw No 130 10-03-2016

Minutes

The DGM proposed and the DDGM seconded that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 12th December 2015 be accepted as a true record, which was duly approved by the Comps

Roll of Councils

The D.G. Recorder called the Roll of Councils and all ten Councils were represented

Annual Report (Membership age demographics)

The District Grand Recorder presented the District Grand Recorder annual report based on the current information available from the "live" database of Keystone Online. We have members of **10** Councils and accounting for dual memberships we have **250** subscribing members of the 10 Councils and accounting for dual memberships we have **179** actual members

The **179** individual members break down into age groupings of:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| Companions in their 90s | 3 | 1.66% |
| Companions in their 80s | 22 | 12.29% |
| Companions in their 70s | 55 | 30.73% |
| Companions in their 60s | 59 | 32.96% |
| Companions in their 50s | 33 | 18.44% |
| Companions in their 40s | 7 | 3.91% |
| Companions in their 30s | 0 | 0.00% |
| Over Age 70 (80 / 44.69%) | | Over Age 60 (139 / 77.65%) |
| Over Age 50 (172 / 96.09%) | | Under Age 50 (7 / 3.91%) |

Election of the District Grand Treasurer.

The DGM called on the Deputy District Grand Master to propose and the DGPCW second that Ill .Comp. Dr. Jeffrey Davies be elected District Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. The proposition was unanimously accepted by the Companions by a show of hands

To receive the audited accounts for the y/e 31st Dec. 2015

The audited accounts had been previously made available to the Companions through email, District website and postage through District Recorders. The Treasurer formally presented the accounts which were duly proposed, seconded and accepted.

To Elect two Companions to serve as members of the Executive Committee.

Ill. Comps. Richard Hill / Anthony Strachan were appointed to serve on the Executive Committee

To Elect two Companions to serve as auditors.

Ill. Comps. D. Gareth Gait / W.H.G. Thomas were appointed as auditors

Appointment of the Deputy District Grand Master

The DGM re-appointed Ill. Comp. Denis Whitmore as Deputy District G.M.

Appointment of the District Grand Principal of the Work.

The DGM re-appointed Ill. Comp. Malcolm Kidd as the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

Appointment of the District Grand Officers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Deputy District Grand Master | Ill Comp. Denis COTTER |
| District Grand P.C.W. | Ill. Comp. Malcolm KIDD |
| Ill Comp. District Grand Chaplain | Ill Comp. Rev. Malcolm LANE JP |
| District Grand Treasurer | Ill Comp. Dr. Jeffrey DAVIES |
| District Grand Recorder | Ill Comp. Desmond C. PREECE |
| District Grand D.C. | Ill Comp. Allan DAVIDSON |
| District Grand Lecturer | Ill Comp. Dr Anthony STRACHAN |
| Deputy District Grand D.C. | Ill Comp. Wayne COWLEY |
| District Grand Captain of Gd. | Ill Comp. Roy WIGMORE |
| District Grand Cond. of C. | Ill Comp. Graham THOMAS |
| Assistant District Grand D.C. | Comp. Stephen WATERS |
| District Grand Sword Bearer | Ill.Comp. Michael CROSS |
| District Grand Standard B. | Ill Comp. Dr Stephen BASSETT |
| Assistant District G. Recorder | Ill Comp. Michael LEWIS |
| District Grand Organist | Ill Comp. Wayne B. WARLOW |
| District Grand Steward | Ill Comp. Peter Frost |
| District Grand Manciple | Ill. Comp. Stephen LEWIS |
| District Grand Manciple | Ill Comp. Vaughan WATKIN |
| District Grand Manciple | Ill Comp. Gordon KING |
| District Grand Manciple | Ill. Comp. Stephen HARRIES |
| District Grand Sentinel | Comp. Richard ELMES |

Appointments

Past Dist. G. Std. B.

Ill. Comp. John Aylward

Promotions

Past Dist. G. Capt Gd

Ill Comp. Keith Evans

DGM ADDRESS

Companions, it is my very great pleasure to address you today. Inevitably I think back over the last twelve months, a year that has meant a deal of travelling. I have sought to visit every Council, and almost succeeded. I have to apologise for not making it to Llanelli, to the Prince of Wales Council. That omission is to be corrected as soon as possible in the New Year.

Also, I have been able to represent our District at meetings of the other Districts, and to come to know the other District Grand Masters and their officers. It is a delight that we have 13 District Grand Masters here, and that they were saluted. I felt their presence among us, deserved to be so marked.

Self evidently we are in Bridgend today and not Swansea, our previous venue. The change is certainly not any criticism of Swansea or of its excellent Masonic Hall, and I am aware that Companions coming from west of Port Talbot have travelled further. In turn, Ambat Zaphan Council has again to meet in the afternoon.

The change in venue attempts to provide better arrangements for the greatest number attending. We are slightly more central in the District and Bridgend Masonic Hall does offer, for example, much better parking. Nonetheless, we will carefully consider how everything worked in making our decision to come back here next year, or where else we might be.

It appears that South Wales is in good heart, and recruitment is encouraging. I know that one Council is planning to bring in two candidates in February and another has three for March. Mynwy Council deserves a special mention for acknowledging four new Companions at its last meeting and are planning to bring in five more at their next meeting.

All Councils are striving to bring in new Companions; I applaud what each Council is doing and I look forward to the results.

Naturally it is teamwork. Teamwork within Councils, and teamwork among the District Officers. May I particularly express my appreciation and offer my thanks to my team. They contribute so much. It was my easiest decision that they should be reappointed.

Ill C Denis Cotter, the Deputy District Grand Master, and our foremost ritualist. His ultimate fate in our ritual is a delight to behold. and Ill C Malcolm Kidd, an indefatigable enthusiast, my most dependable District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, who I know I can turn to on any occasion.

Then there is the District Grand Recorder. It may have been said before but it deserves repeating that events such as today, do not just happen. They come about by proper planning and hard work by our excellent Recorder, and all those he involves. Happily, this was recognised by a promotion to Acting Grand Rank this year. Now it is Very Illustrious Companion Desmond Preece, the Grand Lecturer. Well done, congratulations Des and thank you.

Next I would mark the essential role of our Treasurer, Ill C Jeffrey Davies, who keeps our finances in due bounds, leaving us able to do what we need to do. and Ill C Allan Davidson, our immaculate D of C who cannot be with us today while he waits for important heart surgery. We wish him well and look forward to hearing of his full recovery. I do thank Ill C Chris Davies, assisted by Ill C Wayne Cowley, for immediately stepping up to fill the gap. Likewise can I thank Ill C Roy Wigmore the Sword Bearer and Ill C Bill Davies the Standard Bearer. Also the District Grand Manciples, Illustrious Companions David Weston, Brian Leahy, Graham Thomas and Mark Nicholls. And of course all the other District Grand Officers, all the other members of the team, they have all been immeasurable in their contribution.