

I have though, told Ill C Malcolm and Ill C Richard that their terms of office will not be over-long. I am thinking probably two to three years for I want more Companions, possibly younger, to have the experience of executive office. That they might best know the work and have the chance to prove their worth. Ultimately, I am thinking of the next generation of leadership for the District. Of course, youth is desirable but it is not everything. While we want younger energy we also need older wisdom and experience. It is nigh impossible to achieve Grand Rank in most any degree without having grey hair. The time span involved is usually too long, and there can be too few appointments to fill.

Conversely, we are all living longer, the most obvious example being the way the state retirement age continues to be extended and there will not be the best future for Masonry, if we fail to make the best use of the grey haired brethren.

My greatest thanks today are reserved for my retiring Deputy, Ill C Denis Whitmore Cotter. He only goes to help the next generation and I thank him for his selfless devotion and his continuing commitment. He has readily agreed to take on a new and vital challenge. He will set up and lead a new District wide resource to promote the best standard of ritual throughout the District. Generally, our standards are good, but sometimes there is real room for improvement. In one case, general reading directly from the book, and that led by the Thrice Illustrious Master. In another, a Companion tried to join with the Master and the Candidate for the giving of the grip in the Royal Master degree.

Another area championed by Ill C Denis is our scope for expansion. He readily points to the geographical gap in the west and dearly wants to see that filled. Possibly, the eastern flank of furs much more opportunity, and earlier. Whatever. I ask Ill Cs Richard and Denis to positively pursue. I know Ill C Denis wants what is best for this Order. He will continue to work diligently and effectively. He also continues to figure strongly amongst those senior Companions to whom I know I can turn to for good advice. Simply, a warmest and very sincere thank you Denis As you would expect, I am optimistic, I believe our future is bright. Not only for this Order and this District. Not for nothing do we have the word "Select" in our title. We Royal Select Masters are exactly the Masons, who for the greater good of Masonry, will stick, will work and will succeed. Undoubtedly repeating myself, can I stress that we always should enjoy what we do. Else why would we do it.

Thank you for listening. Christmas fast approaches. For the Festive Season, for the coming year, I wish you and your families, peace, health and happiness. May God bless us all.

#### Apologies (Companions recorded:)

Paul Clememt/John Lloyd/Iwan Jenkins/Stuart Mo'es/Roy Woodward// Peter Clee / Syd Smith / John O'Leary / Anthony Moore MBE / Anthony Seymore / Norman Simons / Hugh Bennett / Emyr Hughes / David Davies / David Woolfe / Richard Bambery / Keith Pearson / Jeffrey Squirrel / Nigel Adams / Denzil Bartlett / Wynford Allen / Malcolm Clarke/Chris Davies/Stuart Moles/ Matthew Richards/Dr Robert Fountain/Chris Samuel/Sid Clench/Huw John/ Vernon White/Mel Davies/Allan Davidson/Alan Ford Thomas/

#### Collection of alms

The alms collection amounted to £435.15 and with gift aid of £74.91 giving a total of £501.06 to be shared equally between the 2021 Craft Festival and Madam Curie Cancer Research.

#### Any Other Business

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

#### Closing

District Grand Council was closed in due form



## Minutes Annual District Meeting 9th December 2017



### BRIDGEND MASONIC HALL

Companions in attendance 110 / dining 96

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

#### Salutations

The Acting District Grand Director of Ceremonies (Wayne Cowley) gave salutations

#### Distinguished Guests.

**Rt. Ill. Comps.** Shaun Crutchley / Colin Helyer / Nicholas Murzell / John Harvey / David Rawlings / David Rawlins / David Nelson / Christopher Lewis / David Blackburn / Jan Olszewski / Trevor Sharpe / Jeremy Shaw / Michael Graham / John Massey

**V. Ill. Comps.** Christopher Court / David Smith / Phillip Purve / Peter Hughes

**Ill. Comps.** Michael Saxon / Ronald Bentley / Ivor Bryan Tynan / Alan Thompson / Keith Surry / Ben Dykes / Andrew Dive / Michael Scanes / Tony Littleford / Bryan Hughes / Gareth Hughes / Brian Hithersay / Peter Stokes / Terry Carpenter / Simon McCarthy / 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 /

**Ill. Comps.** Gareth Jones OBE / Derek Thomas / T.R. Eirian Jones / Ivor Shuttleworth / Malcolm Lane JP / Gareth Gait / Graham Gubb / Keith Ferguson / Dr Vivian Thomas / Sir Paul Williams / Robert Tanswell / David Elsley / /Dr Paul Calderwood /

**Comps.** Gerald Rowbottom / Gordon Davis Evans / Alan Gardener

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. John Nicholls DFC	PDGPCW	Prince of Wales No 140	01-01-2017
Ill. Comp. Malcolm E.G. Clarke	PDG Cond. C.	Cartref No 169	02-06-2017
Ill. Comp. Alistair Swinford		Ambat Zaphan No 287	15-08-2017
Comp. David Westall		Ambat Zaphan No 287	21-11-2017

#### Minutes

The DGM proposed and the DDGM seconded that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016 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 249 subscribing members of the 10 Councils and accounting for dual memberships we have 185 actual members

The 185 individual members break down into age groupings of:

Companions in their 90s	4	2.16%
Companions in their 80s	22	11.89%
Companions in their 70s	66	35.68%
Companions in their 60s	65	29.73%
Companions in their 50s	30	16.22%
Companions in their 40s	7	3.78
Companions in their 30s	1	0.54%

### 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. 2016

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. Anthony Strachan / Roy Wigmore 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 appointed

Ill. Comp. Malcolm John Kidd as Deputy District G.M.

The Dep DGM designate entered the temple in procession (as below). The Patent was read by the Distirct Recorder and then prayer form the Chaplain. The obligation was then taken and the Dep DGM invested with his collar. He was then proclaimed by the District DC and followed by salutations of 5 x 9

#### **Installation Team:**

##### **Escort (3)**

Ill.Comp. Lindsay Rees  
St Augustine Council No 122

##### **Escort (1)**

Ill.Comp. Geraint Smith  
Merthyr Tydfil Council No 120

##### **Cushion Bearer (1)**

Comp. Stephen Harries  
Port Talbot Council No 147.

##### **Deputy D.G.D.C**

Ill. Comp. Stephen Waters

##### **Escort (4)**

Ill.Comp. Howard Vaughan  
Glyntaf Council No 40

##### **Escort (2)**

Ill.Comp. Neil Martin Evans  
Merthyr Tydfil Council No 120

##### **Cushion Bearer (2)**

Comp .William Davies  
Mynwy Council No 196

##### **Assistant D.G.D.C.**

Ill. Comp. Henry Barnes

### Appointment of the District Grand Principal of the Work.

Ill. Comp. Richard John Hill as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

The District GPCW designate entered the temple in procession (as below). The Patent was read by the Distirct Recorder and then prayer form the Chaplain. The obligation was then taken and the District GPCW invested with his collar. He was then proclaimed by the Deputy District DC and followed by salutations of 5 x 9

#### **Installation Team:**

##### **Escort (1)**

Ill.Comp. Geraint Smith  
Merthyr Tydfil Council No 120

##### **Cushion Bearer (1)**

Comp. Stephen Harries  
Port Talbot Council No 147.

##### **Deputy D.G.D.C**

Ill. Comp. Stephen Waters

##### **Escort (2)**

Ill.Comp. Neil Martin Evans  
Merthyr Tydfil Council No 120

##### **Cushion Bearer (2)**

Comp .William Davies  
Mynwy Council No 196

##### **Assistant D.G.D.C.**

Ill. Comp. Henry Barnes

### **DGM ADDRESS**

*Grand Council Appointments invested April 2017*

#### **Promotions:**

R. Ill Comp. Anthony Moles	P.G. Chancellor
Ill. Comp. Gareth Gait	P.G. Capt G.
Ill. Comp. Eirian Jones	P.G. Capt G.

#### **Active Appointments:**

Ill. Comp. Rev Malcolm Lane JP	Dep G. Chaplain
Ill. Comp Wayne Warlow	Dep. Grand Organist

#### **Appointments:**

Ill. Comp. Malcolm Kidd	P.A.G.D.C.
Ill. Comp. Dr Jeffrey Davies	P.G. Swd. B.
Ill. Comp. Richard Hill	P.G. Swd. B.
Ill. Comp. David Elsley	P.G. Std.B.

I welcomed earlier our visitors from other districts and I must mark the warm reception afforded when other members of the executive and I have visited them. During the year I have travelled to Chatham in Kent and Gateshead in Tyne and Wear, and several other points in between. They are learning opportunities, to talk to our opposite numbers, to find out what they are doing and, in so doing, to reflect on what we are doing, that we might be better, more effective. Likewise, I have travelled the District of South Wales, to every town and city where we have a Council. Covering three Craft Provinces, we are about 10,000 square miles. Much more again if it were to be hammered flat, and that could help, for we only have one motorway, running across the south of the district, and then stopping 60 miles short of the west coast. As such I am very aware of the efforts of some of our Companions in the west who find it necessary to travel between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen, by bus.

I do especially appreciate the warm welcome and very kind hospitality whenever I and my colleagues have visited for Council meeting. Not least I want to say that I have been glad to find overall, a good standard of Cryptic Masonry, supported by the right enthusiasm. More of that later. As such I do say welcome to all the Companions of the District. You are what this day is all about and, without you, there wouldn't be much point.

I must say a warm thank you to all my Officers, to those who have supported me on our various visits, and to those who work throughout the year. It is not possible to mention everyone but I would single out our Recorder, V Ill C Des who so well covers every aspect of his diverse role, our Treasurer, Ill C Jeff Davies who well manages our finances and our retiring D of C, Ill C Allan Davidson; Allan you have been a first class DC and it is a great regret but your health, your personal circumstances must now, instead be given the highest priority. You have set a very high bar for your successor, Ill C Wayne Cowley, to emulate. To those who have retired, thank you, to those new Officers, welcome aboard. And to all, particularly including those Officers continuing in office, I look forward to your further progress and wish you well. As you know I have made changes to the executive.

In promoting Ill C Malcolm Kidd, I know from many years, more years than we like to recollect, I know what a solid dependable Deputy I have. A Companion of great industry and enthusiasm, who will always keep pressing on, in an almost Churchillian fashion. Thank you Malcolm.

Ill C Richard Hill is of shorter acquaintance but I already know him to be most energetic and very hard working. He travels the District extensively and has a determined conviction for the success of our Order. I am confident that in the tradition of fine District Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, we have another formidable Officer. And I am looking to him to oversee the prime goal of increased recruitment into our Order.