

Companions, the moment you have all been waiting for my address. I would like to welcome our visitors and members to the District Meeting of North and East Yorkshire I will start by congratulating R Ill Comp. John Vince and Ill Comp. Graham Fenwick on their promotions to Past Grand Chancellor and Conductor of the Council and Ill Comp. Denis Stubley on his appointment to P.G. Std. Bearer my District officers not just for what they have done but what they will be doing in the future on behalf of the District and I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead. As I have said before I may be the figure head but the District is yours I thank you all for the support you give to your Councils and the District.

During the year I have visited many other Districts and I would like to thank the DGM's and Companions for their hospitality and the warmth of the reception. Companions without the Craft, Mark and Chapter we cannot survive so we must as a whole support them and, on our visits, attempt to recruit new members. To this end I must thank the PGM of our Mark Province, Comp Bob Clancey, for allowing Ken Eyre to deliver a paper RSM meets the Mark. Thanks, Ken, for having the initiative to write and deliver the paper and your support of the District.

Charity starts at home, and I would ask you all to support our Grand Masters Sequa Centenary appeal.

Our Craft started its charity appeal 3 weeks ago and our Mark will follow in March of next year.

It is my desire and wish to support both appeals financially in the years ahead.

Companions you may remember that last year we dedicated a new Banner it was felt by one Companion that the Banner and sword stands had seen better days, and I am pleased to announce that David Kirwin, a carpenter extraordinaire, has designed and replaced both items. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to David and present him with this Plaque lest we forget who.

Meetings such as these do not happen by accident, they are the result of some very hard work to my recorders Tom and Mal to Neil and his DC's and to you companions for making the day happen Thank You