

Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions, welcome to the District Grand Meeting of North and East Yorkshire in sunny Hull. It's an absolute pleasure to have the Grand Master in person and not in name only.

I would like to congratulate Ill Companions Michael Graham on his appointment as Grand Manciple, Michael Bunce's promotion to Past Grand Conductor of the Council and Bruce Lowis to Past Grand Standard Bearer, and to all of my District Officers appointed today. Your appointments are not just for the work you have done but what you will do in the future for, and on behalf of, the District.

We need to support the Craft, Chapter and Mark for without them we have no candidates and I would like to thank Comp Bob Clancey, the PGM, of the Mark for allowing Ken Eyre and his team to deliver a talk entitled "RSM Meets the Mark". Since Ken started last year, we have had 4 new members with more waiting to join us.

Both the Craft and the Mark are in Festival, and it is my intention to support them financially each year until their culmination. Which brings me to the Grand Masters Sesquicentenary Appeal. The appeal reached a fabulous £275000 and we, as a District, were granted £7000.00 and all four of our nominated Hospice's were acknowledged - Zoe's Place in Middlesbrough, St Catherine's in Scarborough, St Leonards in York and Herriot @ The Lambert in Thirsk. It was at the latter that we met one particular Trustee, Peter Wright, he of The Yorkshire Vet fame. I visited all of the venues with my companions and we were well received in all with conducted tours of the premises. The details are all on our Web Site. I would like to thank all my councils and members for their donations and support along with those donations from the Craft and Mark. (at this stage, the meeting was called-off for a donation to the Mark Appeal. In the absence of Comp Bob Clancey, DistGM of N&E Yorkshire Mark, Comp Clive Copley PDepProvGM was called forward and presented with a cheque from our District. The meeting was then called-on)

All good things come to an end Companions, and June 2014 now seems so long ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as DGM and I must thank all of the companions for their support and friendship, and our visiting District Grand Masters and companions for their support and friendship during my time in office. Yes, I have decided to stand down as your DGM but I will continue to support the District until my successor is installed. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.