



ADDRESS BY THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

Br, I must begin by thanking you all for making the effort to come and support our Annual Meeting here in these specular surroundings, possibly some of you for the first time. I hope that you are not disappointed and that you are all having an enjoyable day and more importantly that you get back home safe and well. Today is primarily for those brethren who are receiving their first appointment or promotion in Grand Rank and we congratulate you all and hope that you have many happy years to enjoy them; we all, I am sure remember with pride the occasions when we have been in a similar situation and appreciate the new responsibilities which these ranks bring. For some of us they are fond memories of days long gone by but they have succeeded in keeping us active in our Masonic involvement and I am confident that you to will continue to work hard for our Order in the future.

Our Order has had another very successful year and we continue to attract new members, but we must not be too complacent. We must continue to encourage the right Gentlemen to join the Craft, Royal Arch and the Mark Degree and hopefully they will see us enjoying ourselves in the Allied Degrees and come and join us. This increase in membership numbers is due in no small to the hard work of you all, by promoting the Order and spreading the news of how much we all enjoy the camaraderie of the Allied Degrees.

On the 21st Feb we Consecrated the Universal Council No 286 which will meet here in London, a very well attended meeting bringing up their numbers to 12 councils and only last month we went up to Carlisle to Consecrate the Hale Council of Installed Masters No 288 another most memorable day, increasing their numbers to 6.

I have also had the pleasure of installing 4 new District Grand Prefects:

On the 8th Feb I Installed W.Bro Brian Williams as the District Grand Prefect for Cheshire and North Wales in succession to R.W.Bro Peter Talbot.

On the 18th June we went to the Channel Islands to Install W.Bro Ian Crosby as their Grand Inspector succeeding R.W.Bro Ken Rondell.

On the 23rd Sept we Installed W.Bro Mark Barton as the new District Grand Prefect for West Lancashire in succession to R.W.Bro Paul Snape.

And only a few days ago I had the pleasure of Installing W.Bro Glenn Summerhayes as the new District Grand Prefect for New Zealand in succession to R.W.Bro Roderick Biel.

I thank them all for taking office and wish them well for the future, I must also thank the retiring District Grand Prefects for all the hard work and commitment which they have shown during their time in office, it has been much appreciated.

All these events were splendid occasions and well supported by the local brethren, but also by the Acting officers all of whom have supported me on these occasions, often travelling considerable distances to be present. I would therefore like to record my personal thanks to you all for your assistance and friendship. I must also thank my Deputy and all the Prefects for supporting me and the Order in your own Districts, your local knowledge is invaluable and because you have all worked so hard I am pleased to confirm your reappointments, for the time being.

I mentioned at the beginning of my report how delighted I have been with the growth of the Order and of vacant spaces which have been filled; my new team will be pleased to hear that there is still work for them to do in the forthcoming season. New Councils are planned and as you are all aware we are back in London on the 15th Nov for the Installation of V.W.Bro Scott Cargill as the new District Grand Prefect for London due to the elevation of R.W.Bro Woodcock to the high office of Deputy Grand Master. Can I therefore take this opportunity of thanking him publicly for all the hard work which he has done during his time as Prefect; as I said earlier I will try to ease him into his new job as painlessly as possible.