

**Address by R. Ill. Comp. Trevor M. Sharpe Distrist Grand Master to the  
Meeting of the District Grand Council of Kent held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
2016**

**Companions.**

To misquote Lewis Carroll “The time has come .....to speak of a few things”

The Grand Master has told me to be quick, as he would like to “meet and greet” as many of you as possible, so my address is restricted to thankyou and congratulations.

Firstly, thank you all for coming along today. I would particularly like to thank the other District Grand Masters , of whom we have 13, and one district Grand Master, designate. Many of them have travelled great distances to be with us. I would like to introduce you all individually, but time marches on, and anyway, I suspect you all know each other. One District Master, in particular has already invited me to visit his District Meeting – in the Cayman Islands, our very own Past, past, District Grand Master – Graham Smith.

I am very grateful to the Heads of Orders and other senior Masons, who have graced our meeting. Your support is always highly valued, and in turn, I promise to support your order, as much as I can. I would like to express my particular thanks to Peter Wise, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the OSM in Kent. I have been his deputy for some time and without his training, I suspect I would be nowhere near ready to even consider leading an order in Kent.

May I congratulate all those that I have had the pleasure to invest with District Rank, today. You have all made a significant contribution to your Councils and your appointments and promotions are richly deserved. I look forward to our team visits to Invicta Council in June and Godwyne in April. Please put them in your diaries. In turn, may I also congratulate all those of you who were appointed to Grand Rank on the recommendation of Roger O’Brien. Another honour richly deserved.

Lastly some special thanks.

Firstly to Roger O’Brien, who, due to etiquette, cannot be here this morning. Roger has been kindness personified in the handover and has given me enough

reading to keep me quiet for weeks. Roger has departed for bigger and better things and I hope that the big hole that he will leave by not attending our meetings this year, will soon be filled when he returns. He has left this District in a very healthy condition.

Ray Hudson has also been an ever-present. First as District Grand Secretary, then as District Principal Conductor of the Work and finally as Deputy District Grand Master. Anyone who has had the pleasure of his work as PCW in the Royal Master Degree has been the subject of a real treat. I hope he will continue to grace our Councils for many years to come. I owe a particular debt of gratitude to Ray, as it was he who got me into this Order.

Doug Bonomy has also been an ever-present for the last 10 years as District Grand Director of Ceremonies. I know he has tried to retire on at least three occasions, and with the change of District Grand Master, he saw his final chance. These District meetings, in particular, owe him a huge vote of thanks, for his calm organising ability.

Lastly, David Viggers, who has shouldered a huge burden as our acting District Grand Secretary, following the resignation of John Cruttenden. He has organised this meeting, often creating the paperwork from scratch. Rather than retire after the meeting he has also offered to Mentor our new district Grand Secretary. We are all deeply grateful to him.

If I have missed anybody, I apologise, but I feel the stirrings of thirst.