

**Order of Royal and Select Masters
District and Council of Kent – District Grand Recorder's Report 2016**

Although I have been in post for less than half a year this report will I am, afraid, not be half the normal length. This has been an eventful year for the District of Kent.

We have seen the resignation of a long serving and highly respected District Grand Master. His personality and dedication to the Order has ensured steady progress during his term of office.

White Horse of Kent Council No 93 celebrated their Jubilee with the consecration of an Honours Board and the dedication of a Council banner, becoming the third Council in the District to achieve this. We look forward to the 25th anniversaries of Octavian Council No 180 in 2017 and Council of the Ninth Arch No 185 in 2018.

Despite losing six companions through death and a number of resignations, membership has held up. We end the year with 238 subscribing members (although this of course includes dual or multiple memberships). This is around a 15% increase since I last wrote a District Grand Recorder's report in 2007.

The strength of our Councils is not evenly spread. All have experienced peaks and troughs. If we fail to progress our new Select Masters quickly we risk losing their interest. I would suggest that Council Recorders on a crest seek assistance from those in a trough to progress their Select Masters by conducting subsequent degrees on their behalf.

The members of the Executive have continued to make extensive visits to other Districts who we thank for their hospitality.

On a personal level I was flattered to be invited to "stand in" as District Grand Recorder following the resignation of my predecessor. However I found that the requirements of the post had moved on over the intervening 9 years. My computer skills were exposed as Dark Age if not prehistoric.

During my interregnum I have benefitted from the support of the staff at Mark Masons' Hall, the co-operation of our Council Recorders, the help and friendship of other District Recorders but above all the tolerance and help of the District Executive.

My successor has my best wishes in his office, I will give him any help I can as he takes over my scratchy records. I would also ask the Recorders of the Councils in the District to treat him kindly and give him every co-operation and support.

V.III. Comp. D.G. Viggers
District Grand Recorder