

Companions may I thank you all for your attendance here this afternoon. It's great to see such a good turn out and the room so well filled.

As was expected following Covid, sadly we lost a number of Chapters last year. May I take this opportunity to remind everyone that there is a proper procedure to be followed should a Chapter be considering closure. Inform your Inspector and the District Grand Registrar immediately and they will provide the necessary help and guidance.

Having initiated a Mens Health & Wellbeing program during the Covid pandemic and in conjunction with South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, District Chapter will be holding an afternoon of activities in Banbridge Masonic Hall on Tuesday 29 April. More details will be circulated in due course. Please give it your support if at all possible.

During March the Senior District Officers will be holding meetings in various Halls throughout the District. The E.King, Registrar and Treasurer (or their proxies) from each Chapter have been invited to a local Hall for an informal get together and chat about the health of their Chapter and other topics. It also affords the Companions the opportunity to get to know their neighbours. A similar event was held in Holywood towards the end of last year and proved to be very successful. Please give this initiative your support.

The Treasurer has asked me to advise that payments due to District Grand Chapter can be paid online directly to our bank account Please contact the Office for account details.

After submitting my resignation as District Grand King on 2nd November last, I thought I would be looking forward to a nice quiet retirement. But it wasn't to be.

No one was more surprised than me when I received an invitation from the Supreme Grand King to be his Deputy.

I consider it a great honour, not only for me but for you the Companions of District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Down. I was delighted to accept and look forward to being installed at the next Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter in La Mon Hotel and Country Club on Wednesday 3rd May at 2pm. Lunch at 12 noon.

Our congratulations go to R.E.Comp. George M Graham on his appointment as Assistant Grand King. A well-deserved honour. I look forward to working with him for many years to come.

Our congratulations also go to V.E.Comp. Gerry Fleming who has been appointed Grand Sword Bearer in Supreme Grand Chapter. This is a personal appointment by the Supreme Grand King. Gerry will be Installed on 3rd May.

Companions I am delighted the Supreme Grand King has given me permission to officially announce that he has invited R.E.Comp. Roy J F Humphries to be our next District Grand King and he has accepted. Roy will also be Installed at the next Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter in La Mon Hotel and Country Club on Wednesday 3rd May at 2pm.

Thank you all for attending, have a safe journey home.

MEC Neil A Coey
Saturday 4th March
Belsize Road, Lisburn