

Companions All,

The photographs of our meeting at Batley yesterday 4th August 2025 show the extent of the commitment of the members of our order. On a Monday morning, we had an attendance in the temple of 34, with 2 late and unavoidable apologies on the day. My thanks to you all, particularly those who had taken time off from business to fulfil their duties.

The agenda was extensive one, but thanks to Dist President Richard Middleton and Directors of Ceremonies Tim Crawshaw for Calder Vale 19TI and David Spivey Provincial DOC, we moved along at a brisk pace, spending just over an hour on the business at hand.

The Provincial team conducted a ceremony of preparation for 7 candidates, who all acquitted themselves well. The Deputy Provincial Grand Summus and the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus demonstrated their qualifications for their respective posts.

Em Comp Edwin Pugh was elected President for the ensuing year, an event welcomed by all those who have admired his dedication to the order since his admission to the First Grade in July 2012!! I am sure the companions will support his year in the same manner as yesterday, and plenty of candidates to keep him busy. Calder Vale now has 28 members with a First Grade to come in October. White Rose has 29 members, so barring unexpected losses, who will be first to 30?

We also conferred Honorary membership on RT Dist Graeme Hutchinson in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the order in the Province and the order in general. He is of course the only member of the Province to hold the 6th Grade of the order and is a Ruler of 2 other orders which makes the 3 hour return journey from home to Batley very tiring.

All those who did not dash off to keep the economy going enjoyed an excellent festive board. The speeches were mercifully short, and there was a great atmosphere of fellowship and enjoyment.

This year has certainly flown by. We have conducted ceremonies of all three grades, a preparation, and two installations. All the ceremonies have had good attendances, and I am pleased to see fewer books being used. Remember, ceremonies should impress the candidates and not give them the impression that they don't matter.

My thanks to my Provincial Grand Recorder, RT Dist Companion John Marrison, who, along with regular Recorder, Dist Comp Joe Simon, ensured we were on the right track. Joe indeed rejigged the order of the agenda on the morning of the meeting to make the flow more relevant.

The only sad note of the day was the remembrance of Comp Paul Albert Levey, who was taken from us far too soon. He will be remembered for his service in many orders and his willingness to undertake any task put before him.

The year is now drawing to a close with the installation of Em Comp Richard Drury-Smith on the 7th August. Please remember the Provincial Grand Senatus on Saturday the 20th September a day to enter in the diary and do your best to support your Province. Whilst distinguished guests are more than welcome, a good attendance of all those Companions of West Yorkshire (not just Provincial Officers) is more indicative of the health of our Province. For those of a more adventurous nature, Grand Senatus and a trip to London in May to support any members chosen by the Most Distinguished Grand Summus to receive Grand rank.

Next year begins with the consecration of a new Consistory in West Yorkshire to be named Maurice Bendig Consistory. With 22 petitioners, we have a good start, and with 2 candidates and 2 joining companions, we have a good number to start the journey. We also have candidates for Calder Vale, South Yorkshire, and White Rose, so there is plenty of work for next year.

May the G-d of our Fathers have you and all your families in his holy keeping.

YITFOTO

Alan P K Webster

Provincial Grand Summus

West Yorkshire

