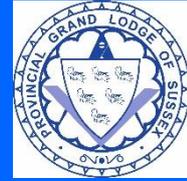


Sussex Matters



E Bulletin News for the Province of Sussex

Edition No 2

Christmas Message

**Message from RWBro, EComp Christopher Moore
Provincial Grand Master, Grand Superintendent.**



With the Festive Season fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and good health and happiness for the New Year. I trust that, for most of you, the year which is drawing to a close has been a happy and successful one on which you can look back with satisfaction.

I have the privilege of leading this Province but I cannot undertake this role without your assistance and support and for that I extend my appreciation to you all.

Enjoy your Christmas break and I am sure that as you relax it will recharge your enthusiasm for your Masonry in 2017.

Brethren, cherish the time with your families at Christmas, enjoy the festivities and may we all work in harmony to meet the challenges of next year with optimism and enthusiasm.

Veronica, and I, wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your friends and families, and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Above all we wish you good health to enjoy it.

Let the Festivities begin...



Freemasons and their families from across the Province turned out for our Annual Carol Service at the Royal Arch Carol Service held at Christs Hospital School, Horsham.

The Provincial Chaplain, the Reverend Stephen Terry led the service and this year we were blessed with the Sussex Police Choir who most definitely outshone us in what for many is a traditional and warming start to their Christmas festivities.

The Service of 9 Carols and Lessons centred on the Nativity. The Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent, Chris Moore gave the final reading and this year other readings were given by Martin Wilson, Provincial Grand Master, Mark Master Masons, Toby Pratt, Provincial Senior Warden and Provincial Prior of the Knights Templar, Peter Lang, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, Richard Wigmore, Deputy Grand Superintendent, Doug Jee, Assistant to the Provincial Principals, Guy Purser, Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah, Mrs Daphne Dedman and Mrs Carolynne Gosling.

After a most enjoyable and convivial Service, Tea, Coffee (soft drinks for our younger guests), Mulled Wine and Mince pies were consumed at an alarming rate.

Sussex4Sussex

This is a special notice regarding Sussex for Sussex which commences on 1st January 2017, and has been extremely popular with Sussex brethren in the past.

Lodges will be asked to put forward projects for Sussex registered charities from January, following due diligence being carried out by the Lodge. The Charities Team will then verify the project benefits for the community, and the first decisions will be taken by all the Trustees at the May meeting.

The first awards will be made at Centres around Sussex monthly from June (excluding August) to which brethren will be invited. The aim will be for awards made to reach £300,000 during 2017, the Tercentenary year.

There will be ongoing details over the next few weeks, but it is important that brethren are strongly discouraged from cancelling standing orders for their giving which are currently in place.

We are devising a form for the submission of applications, and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) sheet so please ask away now!

2017 Grand Charity Festival – Presidents List

The Festival Presidents list is being held open until the end March for Brethren and Lodges to contribute to, with a minimum amount of £25 and all contributors will be listed in the festival programme. To find out how to make donations contact the Provincial Charities Office.

Forthcoming Events



**JERROM HALL PRESENTS
BURNS' NIGHT
28th JANUARY 2017
7pm at E.B.M.C. £29.50pp**

**AN EVENING OF BAGPIPES,
POETRY AND A DISCO,
3 COURSE MEAL INCLUDING
HAGGIS OPTION.**

**FREE DRAM OF WHISKEY
FOR THOSE WEARING A KILT.**

**E.B.M.C.
16 SEAVIEW RD,
PEACEHAVEN,
BN10 8PX. Tickets from E.B.M.C. OR
01273 583918. Contact 0788 543 8656.**



Watch this space

More information
in the next Edition



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?



**THE REGULAR
"WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?"
HOLYWELL CLUB SOCIAL**

**Pizza & Beer Night
Friday 6th January 2017
The Masonic Hall, South Street, Eastbourne
7-10pm**

Our regular social nights are a great event for new Masons, candidates and their friends & family to find out what a fantastic institution we're part of. Unlike "Light Blue Clubs" we have no age or rank restrictions. We welcome all with an enthusiasm for and an interest in Freemasonry. A fantastic social night of conversation, laughs, drinks and a few light bites.
www.holywellclub.org



2017 Grand Charity Festival Banquet

Excellent News – The 2017 Grand Charity Festival Committee have indicated that through your magnificent support the Festival Banquet is fully subscribed and they are no longer able to take bookings.

For those who have already booked – more information will be issued later.

Your support has really been appreciated and the Festival Committee have absolutely no doubt that this will be not just a success in helping the Province celebrate the end of a remarkable Appeal but also that the Banquet will be a most enjoyable social occasion with many surprises.

**SORRY THIS EVENT IS
SOLD OUT**

News from the Provincial Almoners Office

Webroot Bob Mulvey our Provincial Almoner tells us that he has emailed a Newsletter to Lodge Almoners. and that the Almoners team are planning to produce a new Newsletter every four months.

Membership in the Province



The Provincial Grand Master has asked W Bro Trevor Newman, Assistant Provincial Grand Master to oversee all aspects of Membership in our Province. This includes:

New Membership will be over seen by our Provincial Membership Officer W Bro Guy Purser. Bro Guy receives all membership enquiries from UGLE, Provincial Office and any other sources. He talks personally to interested enquirers and directs their membership application to appropriate lodges throughout the Province.

Mentoring will be overseen by our Provincial Grand Mentor, W Bro Geoffrey Draper. Bro Geoffrey is responsible for membership retention and has a team of Coordinators who liaise with Lodge Mentors.

Light Blue Clubs

Holywell Club, Eastbourne, and Pavilion Club Brighton.

The Light Blue Clubs are an excellent way of integrating new masons and non-masons with their peer group and by introducing them into the masonic fraternity through social activities which also involve families. It is intended to have a further Light Blue Club in the West of the Province.

Universities Scheme

Lodge of Union No 38 and Brighton & Hove Civic Lodge No 5223

W Bro Trevor is also keen to encourage the opening of Masonic Centres and offers the following guidelines.

- The Masonic Centre Management Committee should identify a date the Masonic Centre is to Open.
- The Secretary of the Masonic Centre should inform me of the proposed date and we can then discuss the extent of the Provincial support.
- The Centre Secretary should contact the Lodge Secretaries that meet at the Centre to agree their support in forming an organising committee.
- Small Lodge Centres should be invited to join the arrangements with larger ones. e.g. Burwash might want to join St Leonards or Uckfield.
- Once the Committee is formed a planning meeting date should be arranged. Please let me know as I would like to attend to offer support.
- The Open Day organisation is now in place and subsequent meetings will no doubt be necessary to firm the arrangements.

Provincial Support

- The Mobile Display Unit could be available to support the event.
- Display Boards are available showing Masonic history and other interesting information.
- The UGLE DVD called "WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?" which illustrates benefits of membership. The Provincial projector is available for this display.
- Handouts will be available on 'What does it mean to be a Freemason', 'Sussex History of Freemasonry' and the 'Partners Guide to Freemasonry'. The latter is of importance to wives/partners in explaining the commitment to Freemasonry and their involvement.
- Masonic Banners are available.
- A member of the Provincial Executive will be in attendance to support the open day event.

One further thought is that much of the above support is available if a lodge or masonic centre decided to have a table at their local town's Farmers Market or Fete. This has the great advantage of going to the public to promote Freemasonry.

Please don't hesitate to contact W Bro Trevor at trevor.newman@hotmail.com to discuss any matter concerning this initiative.

Sussex Masonic Bowling Fellowship.

The Province of Dorset is hosting the Masonic Association Charity Event (MACE) Bowls Competition in 2017. This is a national inter Province competition which has been held each year for the past six years.

The competition is being organised by the Dorset Masonic Bowling Association and will take place at the Dorchester Bowling Club on **Friday, the 4th August 2017**. Sussex has been approached to host the Competition in 2018.

The Fellowship proposes to enter two teams under our Captain Gordon Leaman and any bowler who would like to be considered should contact the Fellowship secretary Mark Spindler at masonicbowlers@gmail.com .

Mark will also be happy to supply a copy of the Fellowship's summer fixture list. Membership is open to all freemasons in Sussex and also their wives' partners and widows.

Ian Lay
President

A date for your diary ...

Some may recall that in 2010 the Province organised a very successful service at Brighton and Hove Hebrew Congregation's Synagogue.

The Provincial Grand Master has asked that another service be organised and this will be held on Sunday 17th September 2017. We are in the early planning stage so further details will be posted as and when they have been agreed.

Now this doesn't happen very often

On Saturday 12th November 2016 W. Bro Jim Stedman was presented with his 75 years in Masonry Certificate by W. Bro Maurice Adams, Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Bro Jim was Initiated into L4307 Royal Pavilion Lodge on 8th November 1941 and joined L4905 Richard Collyer Lodge in 2008. Bro Jim has not taken a Masonic back seat - he was Worshipful Master of Royal Pavilion in 1957, Worshipful Master of Richard Collyer in 2011 and held various posts in both Lodges including Charity Steward and Chaplain.



In addition to his 75-year Certificate, his Son W. Bro David – a member of Richard Collyer Lodge presented “W. Bro Dad” with a special 75-year lapel pin and both Lodges made presentations and gifts on what was a special and emotional evening. W. Bro Maurice Adams had already presented W. Bro Jim with his 70 years in Masonry Certificate so they were seen later checking their diaries for a date to make the 80-year presentation.

The Sheriff came to town ...

At a recent meeting of L9862 Sussex Scriveners' Lodge W. Bro Mark Spofforth, OBE gave an interesting and enlightening talk about his role as the High Sheriff of Sussex.

The office of High Sheriff of Sussex is over 1000 years old, with its establishment before the Norman Conquest. The Office of High Sheriff remained first in precedence in the counties until the reign of Edward VII when an Order in Council in 1908 gave the Lord-Lieutenant the prime office under the Crown as the Sovereign's personal representative.

Largely a Ceremonial role, the principal formal duties of High Sheriffs today include attendance at royal visits in the County and support for Her Majesty's High Court Judges when on Circuit.

These days, however, High Sheriffs play an increasingly active and supportive role within their Counties both in relation to the Police and emergency services and in lending encouragement to public sector agencies such as the probation and prison services and to voluntary sector organisations involved in crime reduction and social cohesion. The High Sheriff does have one power however and that it to form a Posse if needed!

W. Bro Mark is actively supporting charities during his year of Office and his chosen Charities are Chestnut Tree House and Winston's Wish (the charity for bereaved children).

A most informative meeting followed by a most convivial Festive Board. At the Festive Board the Lodge presented a cheque for £200 to the Limbless Association and £150 to W. Bro Mark for his charity Winston's Wish



W. Bo Mark is THE High Sheriff. At over 6' 5" tall he towers above all others.

Pictured from left to right are R.W. Bro Chris Moore, Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro Mark Spofforth in his Ceremonial Dress and W. Bro Stuart Lewis, Worshipful Master of Sussex Scriveners' Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master and Worshipful Master are standing on the raised platform – W. Bro Mark is not!

(Next meeting of Sussex Scriveners' Lodge is the Dedication of the Lodge Banner)

Visiting Officers Scheme

The Provincial Master has asked W. Bro Keith Schofield, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, to introduce and oversee a Visiting Officers Scheme for our Province with effect 1st January 2017.

It is our intention that each Lodge (excluding Installed Masters) should have a Visiting Officer tailor made for Sussex.

The Visiting Officer will visit his designated Lodges at least twice a year and it will facilitate a better understanding of the individual stresses experienced by a Lodge.

The Visiting Office would provide support and be a Friend of the Lodge and he will help the early detection of problems and help the Lodge find solutions.

He can provide a sounding board and provide gentle advice when called for.

He will help speed up the communication between the Lodge and the 'departments' within the Province when more serious response is called for.

The introduction of this scheme does not alter the current arrangement of the PGM's Representative visiting every Installation.

Each Lodge has its own unique character with its own aims and desires. The Visiting Officer will want to be part of the Lodge's life and help the members achieve their own ambitions. Their Motto is **HERE TO HELP**.

We need help



As you will be aware, the Province now has a highly visible and successful Mobile Information Unit which is taken to various shows, events and Centre Open Days throughout our Province.

When not in use the Unit was located at W. Bro Mark Buckles business premises free of charge and we thank Bro Mark for his generosity.

With grateful thanks to the Centre Management Committee in 2017 the MIU will be located at Peacehaven Masonic Centre where W. Bro Peter Martin will take it to the various locations and we are now looking for Volunteers to cover a range of functions and who can support Bro Peter and the Communications Team.



Firstly, we are looking for Volunteers able to tow the Information Unit to locations within Sussex and assisting in the set up for which training will be given. Volunteers must have experience in towing and we are told by Bro Peter that the Unit weighs 1360 kg but is a 4-wheeled trailer so has as much drag as one around 1750 kg. (This will of course make sense to our experienced towers).

We are also looking for Volunteers who can act as Provincial Ambassadors on the Unit at public shows and events and be prepared to "do a shift" for part or a whole day.

Full training will be given to all our Provincial Volunteers. If you are interested in supporting the Province and raising the profile of Freemasonry in the Community, please contact W. Bro Maurice Adams at communications@sussexmasons.org.uk.

In our next Edition



Which of our members is about to be awarded the Legion d'Honneur which was established by Napoleon in 1802 and is France's highest decoration

..... Also, which of our Members was in Jail with Reggie Kray. It may surprise you.

Persons of special interest

W. Bro Dennis Burnet a member of South Down and Taurus of Sussex Lodges was in a former incarnation a Professional Footballer of Note.

He started his career as a youth team player at West Ham United, making his first team debut in October 1965. He played 66 games in all competitions for West Ham scoring three goals. In 1967 Dennis moved to Millwall, where he made over 250 appearances, taking over the captaincy whenever Harry Cripps was injured. In October 1973 he signed for Hull City. He also played for St. Louis Stars, Brighton & Hove Albion and Shamrock Rovers.



WEST HAM UNITED'S FIRST TEAM SQUAD AT THE START OF THE SEASON 1967.
Back row, left to right: MARTIN PETERS, DENNIS BURNETT, EDDIE BOYINGTON, JIM STANDEN, JOHN CHARLES, JACK BURRETT, BOBBY MOORE.
Front row: PETER BRABROOK, RON BOYCE, JOHNNY BYRNE (row with Crystal Palace), GROFF HURST, JOHN SEDGONS.

Dennis signed for Shamrock Rovers under John Giles in October 1977 and made his debut the same day as Gordon Banks made his League of Ireland debut. He made a total of 11 appearances before departing in December 1977. Burnett went on to be assistant manager with Sussex side, Lancing and played in their 2-1 defeat by Horsham YMCA in the FA Cup in 1994, a month before his 50th birthday.

Dennis ran a painting and decorating firm in the south of England after retiring from football and has been involved in club hospitality for West Ham United at Upton Park.

Congratulations and welcome



Welcome to W. Bro David Burditt from Simon de Montfort and Sussex Masters Lodges who has been appointed to the Team of Provincial Escorting Officers who take the Provincial Executive to and from Installation Meetings. Congratulations on your appointment. Bro David is pictured with his Baton of Office.

Sussex Matters is an E Bulletin compiled and distributed by the Communications Team. Feel free to share this E Bulletin with families, friends and colleagues who are not Freemasons. We do incredible things – let us be proud of what we do.