

EULOGY FOR LEN

Len was born in 1947 and brought up in Eastbourne with his older sister and younger brother. He was a keen member of the boys' brigade and gained his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award. On leaving school, he had several jobs including being an electrician and also working in a Jewellery shop while he waited to join the Fire Brigade at the age of 18.

After completing his training in Brighton, he was stationed at Eastbourne attending many incidents including an off-shore ship fire and also, a mini bus full of Orphans that had crashed into a cement mixer lorry. Len could turn his hand to most things, however, when he was asked to prune the roses, he did too good a job and pruned them to ground level.

He married for the first time aged 22 and had two daughters, Michelle and Leanne.

Around this time, he was finding working in Eastbourne too quiet, so he transferred to London where he served at Knightsbridge, Paddington and Euston Fire stations and it does not come any busier than those areas. He certainly found London more interesting, dealing with everything from incidents on the tubes and train lines to major fires in warehouses.

After his first marriage broke down, he met Gina and moved to South Yorkshire with their son Matt, as South Yorkshire were crying out for Fire Fighters. He rose through the ranks to Station Officer before returning to Sussex in 1990 to be closer to family. Len had always held an interest in joining Freemasonry as his Uncle was a member of a lodge in Eastbourne.

In April 1993, Len was Initiated into Rustington Lodge and went on to be the Master of the Lodge in 1997-1998 and again in 2013-2014. He was appointed Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 2004, promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in 2008 and further promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2015. His membership of Craft spanned 23 years.

In 2003 he joined Dependable Lodge No 6325 in London, performing most offices, taking the chair in 2006-07 and was appointed to LGR in 2014.

He joined a number of other orders in Sussex and in all of them, he has been through the chairs of those respective units.

He progressed his masonic career and held various Provincial and Grand ranks in nearly all the orders he was a member of.

After Craft and Chapter, the 3 longest serving orders he belonged to were Red Cross of Constantine, where he was a member of Rose of Sussex Conclave No 196 for 16 years and attained the rank of Divisional Standard Bearer (Constantine) in 2014, Knights Templar, where he was a member of the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn's Himalaya Preceptory No 137 for 19 years and attained the rank of Past Provincial Registrar and the Order of the Secret Monitor, where he was the Head of that Order, holding the rank of Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, his service in that Order totalling 21 years. He was very proud to have held that office even though it was for such a short time. He was a founder of 6 of the 14 units he belonged to and he has held office in them all.

He loved being a Freemason and the way that Freemason's conduct their charity work, that charity is its own reward and that you should seek no glory from it. He was a man that spent his life working to help others.

He is well loved in all the orders he belonged to and will be greatly missed.