

The Division of Sussex sadly said a very fond farewell to one of the most prominent members, Victor Alan Wisden, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 following his passing to the Grand Conclave above on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 after a short illness.

Vic was born in August 1935 and brought up in Hastings. At 21 years of age, he met Megs, then aged 16 years at a local church youth club. The following year they started going out together and got engaged on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1959. They went on to marry on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1960 and have been together a total of 59 years. Their Daughter Fiona arrived in 1962 followed by Mark in 1965. At this time, Megs looked after the home and children whilst Vic worked in the business, a sports shop.

Megs and Vic have 7 grandchildren whose ages range from 10 years to 32 years of age, with one great grandson aged 1 year.

Vic was a keen cricketer and played on a regular basis. Megs gave her support by usually preparing sandwiches and tea for the two teams or sitting knitting during the match.

Vic retired from cricket aged 40 years and joined Craft masonry. He was initiated into Thornton Lodge no 5556 in 1975 and finally achieved the rank of Past Provincial Grand Registrar. He joined Abbey Chapter no 1184 in 1977 achieving the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Vic enjoyed his masonry so much that after joining Chapter, he joined several other orders, those being Rose Croix in 1981, where he held 32 degree, Mark in 1982, where he held the Grand Rank of Past Grand Junior Deacon, KT in 1986, holding the Grand Rank of Past Great Herald, and in Malta, holding the Grand Rank of Past Great 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, OSM in 1988, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Red Cross of Constantine in 1991, Past Grand Chamberlain, RAM in 1992, Ram Grand Rank, Royal and Select Masters in 2006, Past District Grand Lecturer, Allied Masonic Degrees in 2006, Past Grand Standard Bearer and Scarlet Cord in 2010, Past Provincial Grand Summus. Of note is that he was the very first Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of OSM in Sussex, when London separated Surrey and Sussex when it was then the South-East Counties. He was also the first Provincial Grand Summus of Scarlet Cord in Sussex and was instrumental in the setup of the Province and assisting with the organisation of all the Consistories in Sussex. I think we will all agree that this constitutes a very grand and most impressive CV within Masonry.

He was a fantastic ritualist and a very genuine mason. He would always encourage younger members and if asked for advice on any matter masonic, could be relied upon to give sound advice always. He was a Mason for a total of 41 years and he served every order exceedingly well.

He is well loved, admired and respected in all the orders he belonged to. A true gentleman and brother and an inspiration to us all and he will be greatly missed by each and every one of us.

Megs said that she had a wonderful and eventful life with Vic and that they both enjoyed the company of all the people they have met both in the business, cricket, and masonic worlds, as well as the social life that accompanied them.

At his funeral, his coffin was carried by Heads of 6 Orders and passed through an arch of steel comprised of members of OSM and Scarlet Cord.

It will take a long time getting used to being without Vic and may he rest in peace.