

# The Sussex Gridiron



**W**elcome to **issue 7** of the "The Sussex Gridiron" a newsletter for members of the Allied Masonic Degrees in Sussex, to keep in touch with News, Views, Leisure Events, Fundraising Events and articles of interest. A regular slot for things such as Council news and events, birthdays, jokes, fun anecdotes to make you all chuckle, or anything else which you think would interest others. You supply it and we will print it **"within reason"**.

## **REMINDER**

### **March 20th 2010 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & BANNER DEDICATION of Ashdown Council No 218**

**St Leonards-on-Sea Masonic Centre, East Sussex**

**ALL Brethren are requested to attend particularly newly Admitted Brethren**

Welcome to a New Year of Allied Masonry in Sussex. This time of year is an opportunity to reflect on the previous year as well as looking forward to the coming one.

The District has much to reflect on – that hot July day when we once again welcomed the Grand Master to Peacehaven for the Consecration of our seventh Council – Friars' Bay – that equally delightful day when we enjoyed lunch and afternoon tea overlooking the South Downs and Adur Valley, the first Festival of Council in Uckfield, the Dedication of Sussex Councils' Banner, etc., etc..

We welcomed new brethren into every Council and the Grand Master was pleased to appoint Grand Rank on six Sussex brethren (see article on this page) at the Meeting of Grand Council in October. My congratulations go to those who have recently joined our Order as well as to those who have received rewards for long and meritorious service.

Well, what of the future?

2010 promises to be another busy year with the District Meeting scheduled for 10.45am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March in St Leonards-on-Sea, during which the Ashdown Council Banner will be dedicated. I particularly look forward to welcoming those Brethren admitted to our Order during the last year.

The Earl Godwin Council will be hosting this year's Festival on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, when the Red Cross of Babylon will be worked – a suitable way to celebrate St George's Day! The design of the Banner for the Francis J. Walton Council has been approved and I look forward to its completion and dedication later in the year.

Plans for this year's social event are in hand, although the date has still to be finalized, and Mike Newth will let you have the details as soon as possible.

As the District approaches its third birthday, it is very pleasing to be able to report an increase in membership of over 55% in that period and it is also encouraging to hear that more Brethren are coming to join in our fellowship and friendship. I thank you all for your continued support and wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*R.W. Bro Martin Wilson - DGP - Sussex*

### **Grand Council Appointments.**

At the Annual General Meeting in October, the MW Grand Master was pleased to appoint to Grand Council, the following Brethren from Sussex: WBro Gene Earland as Grand Steward - the first active rank awarded to the District since its inception - and W.Bro Eyo Nkune as PGIG, and promoted WBro Arthur Rich to PGReg, WBro Charles Hasler to PGSD, with WBro's Harry Johnson and Graham Griffiths both promoted to PAGDC.



W. Bro Gene Earland

**Why not visit our very own website at [www.alliedmasonicdegrees.org.uk](http://www.alliedmasonicdegrees.org.uk)**  
It can only be as good as we make it, **but requires your co-operation in keeping it updated.**

## EVENTS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE - AND THINGS TO COME



**Intensive Care**

Fortunately, we have had no reports of anyone warranting inclusion in this section.

*Any Brother who knows of someone unwell please let me know*

### and Important Contact details

<i>Council</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>email</i>
Grafton - 26	Gene Earland	01273 709047	gene.e@ntlworld.com
Sussex - 86	Brian Prevett	01825 768300	brianprevett@lineone.net
The Earl Godwin - 187	Terry Brown	01323 845545	terry_suebrown@btinternet.com
South Downs - 198	Jack Handford	01243 863647	jack@melita-group.co.uk
Francis J Walton - 211	Dries van der Burgh	01273 501757	dries@callnetuk.com
Ashdown - 218	Geoffrey Cornwell	01444 471353	geoff@cornwell99.eclipse.co.uk
Friars' Bay - 225	Phillip Waterfall	01293 231026	pwaterfall@uwclub.net



### Congratulations and celebrations to the following Brethren.

*"21 today, 21 today I've got the key of the door.... Never been 21 before!!!!!"*

	Jan		Feb		March		April
Ronald Champion	1st	Geoffrey Downs	2nd	Geoffrey Cornwell	2nd	John Peters	7th
Hugh O'Neil	4th	Peter Penfold	3rd	Terry Meakin	16th	Rod Barker	8th
Peter Muir	12th	David Allonby	5th	Bert Farlow	20th	James Holder	11th
Bernard Pate	13th	Phil Waterfall	12th	Roger Richardson	21st	Pat Patrick	16th
David Rogers	18th	Ian Taylor	14th	John Taylor	26th	Richard Thornton	21st
Steve Earl	20th	Robert Brown	18th	Jerry Griffin	24th		
David Wakeham	25th	David Currell	20th	Charles Sharrard	29th		
Tony Shearn	31st	Robert Chrystie Jnr	21st	John MacMahon	30th		
		Gordon Jones	22nd				
		Andrew Wareham	24th				

## A major date for your Diary

**The Ceremony of Red Cross of Babylon will be conducted under the Banner of the Earl Godwin Council No 187**

There are around 18 Brethren awaiting this Degree and as this is likely to be the only occasion this year in which this Ceremony is undertaken everyone is urged to ensure that they attend. The Council members will perform the first part of the Ceremony and the District team the second part.

### **ALSO**

The DGP will also be in attendance with the full District 'team' at the next Meeting of **Grafton Council No. 26 on Tuesday 26th January 2010.**

*It is his earnest hope that the Members of our District afford their fullest participation to both of these events.*

# W

ELCOME to our new Members since the last Edition: Stuart Crane (187), Gordon Leaman (211), Ken Brown and Peter Muir (26), Richard Weedon and Bernard Marchant (225) and Nigel Thomson and Rex Cooke (218)

## The District of Sussex 'Team' for 2010

<b>District Grand Prefect</b>	Martin Wilson
<i>Deputy District Grand Prefect</i>	Michael John Newth
<i>Senior Warden</i>	Toby Pratt
<i>Junior Warden</i>	Ren Phillimore
<i>Chaplain</i>	Basil Rushton
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Brown
<i>Secretary</i>	Gene Earland
<i>Director of Ceremonies</i>	Glyn Goddard
<i>Deputy D of C</i>	Alan Trotter
<i>Senior Deacon</i>	Phillip Waterfall
<i>Junior Deacon</i>	Roy Laker
<i>Asst Director of Ceremonies</i>	Roger Richardson
<i>Sword Bearer</i>	John Peters
<i>Standard Bearer</i>	James Holder
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Geoffrey Cornwell
<i>Organist</i>	Michael Conn
<i>Inner Guard</i>	Jeremy Griffin
<i>Steward</i>	Derek Oliver
<i>Steward</i>	David Allonby <i>OBE</i>
<i>Tyler</i>	Eyo Nsa Nkune

### Promotions to Past Rank

PDGSW	Joe Sutton
PDGJW	Harry Johnson

### A Final Note from your Editor.

Brethren, as you will all be aware, at the AGM in March I will be retiring from the Office of District Grand Secretary. It has been my privilege to have served in that Office for the three years since the formation of the District of Sussex which has enabled me to have become so much better acquainted with you all.

My appointment in the Mark Degree as Provincial GDC for Sussex and Acting ADC in Grand Conclave of the OSM will demand a great deal more of my time and necessitates this retirement, but I know that in handing over both the secretarial aspects of the District and the editorship of this magazine to WBro Gene Earland, they will continue in capable hands.

Please be assured that I will continue to serve the Order to the best of my ability and look forward to continuing our friendship over the coming years.

*WBro Toby Pratt*

### Other Dates for the Diary

South Downs Council	1st February
Francis J. Walton Council	15th February
Friars' Bay Council	4th March
Sussex Council	18th March
Ashdown Council	9th April
<b>Earl Godwin Council</b>	<b>23rd April</b>
<b>(Festival)</b>	
Grafton Council	26th April

## Council Meeting Updates

Featuring:  
The Sussex Council No. 86  
Banner Dedication



*The Sussex Council Banner*

The 19th November 2009 marked the first dedication of a Banner in Sussex by the DGP, RWBro Martin Wilson assisted by his team of District Officers. A day eagerly awaited, but unfortunately clouded by the very well attended funeral in Pevensey earlier in the afternoon of Peter Fynmore, a hugely respected stalwart of the Order for nearly thirty years.

The timing and distance involved dictated a concentrated 'practice' by the participating District Officers together with those Sussex Council members who needed to practice the two Ceremonies they were to perform. Notwithstanding, the work for the evening was well performed – if not a little crowded during the actual Banner Dedication – and very well attended by over 50 Brethren, including the former Grand Prefect for the old 'Southern Counties', RWBro Ian Currans who was accompanied by his brother!

A splendid evening that was capped by a most convivial Festive Board. It bodes well for 2010 during which the Banners of both Ashdown Council — at the Annual General Meeting — and Francis H. Walton Council will be dedicated.



*The 'Brothers' Currans*

*WBro Gene Earland*



# Korny



## A Note from our Sub-Editor

My mind works like lightning, one brilliant flash and it is gone.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER** : Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, **but** by the moments that take our breath away.  
**AND FINALLY**: As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.



# Korner

## Marriage with a Laugh

### He said....

Wife: 'What are you doing?' Husband: 'Nothing'  
Wife: 'Nothing! You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour.' Husband: 'I was looking for the expiration date...'

Wife: 'You always carry my photo in your wallet. Why?' Hubby: 'When there is a problem, no matter how great, I look at your picture and the problem disappears.' Wife: 'You see how miraculous and powerful I am for you?' Hubby: 'Yes! I see your picture and ask myself what other problem can there be greater than this one?'

### She said.....

Wife: 'Do you want dinner?' Husband: 'Sure! What are my choices ?' Wife: 'Yes or No.'

Girl: 'When we get married, I want to share all your worries, troubles and lighten your burden.' Boy: 'It's very kind of you, darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles.' Girl: 'Well that's because we aren't married yet.'

A newly married man asked his wife, 'Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?'  
'Honey' the woman replied sweetly, 'I'd have married you, **NO MATTER WHO LEFT YOU A FORTUNE!**'



'Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house,  
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.  
The cookies I'd nibbled, the chocolate I'd taste  
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.



When I got on the scales there arose such a number!  
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber),  
I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd prepared;  
the gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,  
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese  
and the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."



As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt  
and prepared once again to do battle with dirt...  
I said to myself, as I only can,  
"You can't spend a winter, disguised as a man!"

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip.  
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.  
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished  
'til all the additional ounces have vanished.



I won't have a cookie, not even a lick.  
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.  
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie.  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore.....But isn't that what January's for?  
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot. **Happy New Year to you all, and to all a good diet.**

### THE SENILITY PRAYER :

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do,  
*and the eyesight to tell the difference!*

Edited & Compiled by: W. Bro Toby Pratt, PGSwdB, DGSec  
Sub-editor: W. Bro Gene Earland, GStwd, DGDC

[toby@pratt783.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:toby@pratt783.fsnet.co.uk) Tel: 01273 735794  
[gene.e@ntlworld.com](mailto:gene.e@ntlworld.com) Tel: 01273 709047