

**W. Brother DAVID WILLIAM GEORGE BELL
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer
On attaining 50 years in Freemasonry**

BORN IN BLACKBURN ON THE 16TH OF MARCH 1945, DAVID IS THE YOUNGEST OF TWO SONS. SADLY HIS ELDER BROTHER COLIN, ALSO A FREEMASON PASSED AWAY EARLIER THIS YEAR.

EDUCATED AT QUEEN ELIZABETHS GRAMMAR SCHOOL HE LEFT JUST BEFORE HIS SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY AND JOINED THE FAMILY FIRM, BLACKBURN MOTOR BODIES, AS AN APPENTICE COACH BUILDER - A HUMBLE START TO HIS WORKING LIFE. TO EXTEND HIS WORK EXPERIENCE , AT THE AGE OF 23, HIS FATHER FOUND HIM A POST AT HENLEYS IN CHESTER, A WELL KNOWN PRESTIGE MOTOR DEALER, AS A TRAINEE MANAGER, ie“ A CAR SALESMAN” TAKING ON THE MANTEL OF MALCOM – THE SHY RETIRING USED CAR SALESMAN - AS COINED BY BENNY HILL IN HIS SKETCHES. YOU CAN SEE THAT DAVID IS NOT SHY AT COMING FORWARD.

HE HAD SEVERAL CAREER MOVES IN THAT CAPACITY AND AT SENIOR LEVEL. FROM CHESTER HE WENT TO MANCHESTER FOLLOWED BY A MOVE TO A FORD DEALERSHIP AT SKELMERESDALE MOTORS - HALSHAWS - WHICH LATER MERGED WITH EVANS IN 1971 TO BECOME EVANS-HALSHAW WHERE HE WAS GROUP SERVICE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 150 BRANCHES A POST HE HELD FOR 4 YEARS.

HE THEN MOVED TO ROLLS ROYCE/BENTLEY AT THE RELATIVE YOUNG AGE OF 43 AS OPERATIONS DIRECTOR WHICH TOOK HIM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY A VERY STRENUOUS POST AND HAVING A YOUNG FAMILY AT HOME OF VARYING AGES, OLIVER KIRSTY, JESSICA AND CAMERON. THIS EVENTUALLY TOOK ITS TOLL AND HE DECIDED TO RESIGN AND TAKE UP A MORE LOCAL POSITION WHICH HE DID, JOINING WALKER FARRIMOND, THE VOLVO DEALERSHIP, AS THE BRANCH MANAGER IN BURY IN 2000

WORKING IN THE MOTOR TRADE IS VERY STR FINDING THE RIGHT PEOPLE PEOPLE, CHANGING LEGISLATION etc . THEREFORE, EVENTUALLY AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN THE TRADE HE HAD HAD ENOUGH SO TO SPEAK AND LEFT.

A SLIGHT CHANGE OF TACK TOOK HIM INTO PRIVATE HIRE WHEN HE OPENED A PRESTIGE TAXI SERVICE WITH A FLEET OF 10 MERCEDES CARS FOR VIP CUSTOMERS IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY . HE RAN THIS BUSINESS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE SELLING ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO. BEING THE ACTIVE MAN WHICH HE IS, WHILST STILL TAXIING , IN 2007 HE BOUGHT INTO THE UTILITY WAREHOUSE FRANCHISE, A SPECIALIST COMPANY ADVISING ON THE USAGE OF ENERGY AND TELECOMS. WITH HIS WIFE KATH THEY ACTIVELY PROCURE THE BEST AND MOST ECONOMIC SUPPLIERS OF UTILITIES FOR THEIR CLIENTS. HE CONTINUES TO DO THIS AND EVEN WHILST HE WAS HOSPITALISED WITH HIS HEART CONDITION HE COULD NOT BE KEPT DOWN.

DAVID IS AN EXTREMELY PHILANTHROPIC PERSON, FULL OF ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATED TO THE CAUSES HE TAKES ON AS EVINCED , FOR EXAMPLE, IN HIS FREEMASONRY.

HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE WAS WHEN , AT THE AGE OF 23 , HE BECAME A VOLUNTEER IN - BEN - THE MOTOR AND ALLIED TRADES BENEVOLENT FUND . HE WAS A FUNDRAISER IN ALL ASPECTS INCLUDING MAINTAINING AND CHAUFFEURING DENEFCIARIES AND HE BECAME A LIFE MEMBER IN 1988. IN 2001 HE WAS HEAVILY AND PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN RUNNING AND ORGANISING SEVEN DAYS OF CAR ROAD RALLIES FOR THE BRITISH MOTOR INDUSTRY TRUST TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY BIRTH OF SIR WILLIAN LYONS, FOUNDER OF JAGUAR CARS. THESE EVENTS RAISED OVER £100k FOR BEN .

HE IS A FOUNDER VOLUNTEER OF EAST LANCS HOSPICE RUNNING PEOPLE ABOUT , FUNDRAISING, INVOLVEMENT WITH THE STARLIGHT WALK, FATHER CHRISTMAS AT THE CLITHEROE SHOP FOR SIX YEARS ETC.

OTHER CHARITIES HE IS INVOLVED IN INCLUDE THE WILLOW FOUNDATION, HELP FOR HEROES, MAKE A WISH, PROSTATE CANCER AND MACMILLAN SUPPORT.

HE IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF WHALLEY LIONS INTERNATIONAL AND AS A "LION" HE WORKED TIRELESSLY ON THE WHALLEY BILLINGTON AND

DISTRICT FLOOD RELIEF COMMITTEE WHICH RAISED THE STAGGERING SUM OF £113 THOUSAND POUNDS.

IN 2012 HE FOUNDED AND SET UP THE UTILITY WAREHOUSE MINI OWNERS CLUB WHICH OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS HAS RAISED £102K FOR CHARITY WHICH HAS BEEN FUND MATCHED BY TELECOMPLUS AND DISTRUBITED.

MASONICALLY HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ALL SORTS OF MATTERS. PERSONALLY HE IS OR HAS BEEN

A GRAND PATRON OF THE MASONIC TRUST FOR BOYS

A GRAND PATRON OF THE ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL

PATRON OF THE ROYAL MASONIC GIRLS SCHOOL

VOLUNTEER AT WALSHAW HALL

MEMBER OF THE ROTAL MASONIC SAMARITAN FUND

PATRON OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM (KT)

GRAND PATRON OF THE RMC 2015 FESTIVAL

DAVID WITH HIS WIFE KATH HAVE OPENED UP THEIR HOME ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS FOR FETES ETC TO RAISE MONEY FOR MASONIC CHARITIES THROUGH HIS LODGES AND THERE ARE MANY OTHER THINGS TO HIS NAME WHICH ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.

WELL DONE THY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO RAISE THE CHECKERED FLAG _ THE RACE IS NOT OVER YET.