

Wor.Bro. Bryan Pemberton. P.Prov.G.Supt. Wks.

Born 21st. December 1932 in the Wilpshire/Ramsgreave area of Blackburn, and in those early years attended Roe Lee Park Junior School.

At about six years of age, he contracted the debilitating condition of asthma. At that time there was not the same treatments that are available today. This illness was a problem throughout school life, both at Junior and Senior level. However the Education Act of 1944 decreed that one had to leave school and find employment at 14 years of age. Having shown some ability at woodwork, he sought work in that field, but the economic situation at the time was not good. However, he was offered an apprenticeship as a Coach Builder with Ribble Motor Services, most people still remember those big red buses that trundled through the streets of Lancashire towns. Being honest, it was a job which he hated, and he spied an opportunity, at the age of 18 years, to go into National Service, which was a requirement of all males of that age at that time, for a period of two years. As an apprentice, one was expected to seek a deferment, and it caused some turbulence, both at home and at work when he decided to go ahead. There was of course a medical to pass, and having suffered from asthma (Which had apparently disappeared over the past few years) it could have caused a problem. So, after answering many questions from the Medical men, and being somewhat economical with the truth, he passed the Medical, graded A1.

It was his choice to join the Royal Air Force, and there followed, what he described as being, two of the best years

ever. After a short time at R.A.F Melksham in Wiltshire completing what was known as 'square bashing, the next posting was to R.A.F. South Cerney, near Cirencester in the beautiful Cotswolds, and trained as an Airframe Flight Mechanic. Life was most enjoyable, particularly in off duty time, when he often visited 'Ernie Browns' pub in South Cerney village learning the art of 'quaffing' large amounts of Scrumpy, a locally produced cider, which at that time was cheap in price but very potent, it was just as well because the pay was only 7s. and 5p. per week.

After two years it was back to Ribble to finish the apprenticeship, and on so doing, another life changing decision was made. He joined Blackburn Borough Police Force. After a Probationary period on the Beat, and having caused havoc on the public in general and the motorist in particular, The Chief Constable transferred him to the Traffic Department. What could have been a better job at that time than driving the now legendary the Ford Zephyr 6, commonly known as Z cars. In 1969 the Borough Force was amalgamated with Lancashire Constabulary.

He was then moved to Headquarters Traffic Patrol duties at Accrington Group Traffic Office, which covered a large area of East Lancashire. In this capacity he dealt with many incidents, some tragic and others on the lighter side. On one occasion he stopped a young woman driving a Mini Cooper having clocked her speed 65m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. zone. He approached the driver and said in a rather sarcastic manner, 'I have been waiting for you all day' She replied in equal terms 'Well, I got here as fast as I could'. Bryan was promoted to Sergeant in 1973, and was involved in the first night of the Toxteth riots in 1981.

and later spent time in Derbyshire and Nottingham coalfields assisting other Forces dealing with the Miners strike in 1983/84.

As a life time member of St. Gabriel's Church, Bryan became an active member of the Dramatic Society, and was Chairman of the group for several years. It was here where he met Vera, whom he married in 1971. Their son, John Mark was born in 1975, and is now following his father's footsteps, as a Detective Constable in The Metropolitan Police. At the present time Bryan is still a Verger at the Church and at for a considerable time visited Residential Homes and elderly people in their own homes to serve Holy Communion.

His Father-in-Law, Arthur Glasson was the person who introduced him into Free Masonary, Bryan was initiated into Victory Lodge in March 1970. Arthur was in fact the Chairman of Blackburn Masonic Hall Company for many years and passed away in 2002.

Bryan served every office in the Lodge prior to his Installation as W.M for the first time in 1980. He thereafter continued to take an active part in the Lodge and was promoted to P.ProvA.G.SwB. in the same year. He served as the Mentor for three years before being appointed Lodge Chaplin. In 2005 due to falling membership he was again Installed as W.M and later that year promoted to P.ProvSGD. He continued as W.M. throughout 2006 and a part of 2009 when the then current Worshipful Master suddenly resigned. In 2018 he considered it to be an honour and a privilege to be elected again to be Worshipful Master in the Centenary year of Victory Lodge, which was celebrated in fine style on the

13th. September 2019 , in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, the R.W. Bro. Sir David Trippier RD, JP, DL. accompanied by a Provincial Deputation.

It was at this Meeting that Wor.Bro. Pemberton was, much to his surprise, promoted to the rank of P.Prov.GSupt. Wks. by the Provincial Grand Master

Bryan continues to be a good supporter of the Victory Lodge and will do any task he is asked to do. He visits other Lodges when he is able, and can cadge a lift, as he doesn't drive at night anymore.

He is a credit to freemasonry and has served loyally for his 50 years and thus is well deserving of this special night.