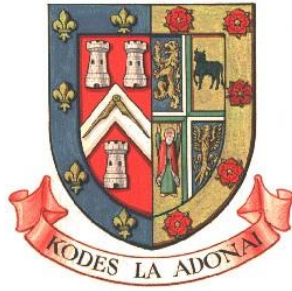


PROVINCE OF WEST LANCASHIRE



**60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
W.BRO. MAURICE TOWNLEY**

**CARNFORTH LODGE NO. 4951,
AT THE MASONIC HALL, DERBY STREET, MORECAMBE,
ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2019**

60th ANNIVERSARY OF MAURICE TOWNLEY

Brethren we are here this evening to celebrate 60 years as a Freemason with Maurice Townley and both he and I are very grateful for your attendance and your support this evening. You know, brethren, to be a member of any organisation for 60 years is a remarkable achievement and something that many of us, myself included, are very unlikely to achieve. It is, therefore, very appropriate for Maurice's friends and colleagues to celebrate this special occasion with him and I know he will be delighted that you are all here tonight.

In order to fully appreciate such length of service it might be helpful to remember some of the things that were happening throughout the world in 1959 when Maurice Townley took his first steps in Freemasonry:

- Here in the North West, the average cost of a house was £2077, the average annual salary was £535, the price of an average car was £780. The price of a loaf of bread was £0.07 and the price of a pint of milk was £0.13p.
- In November 1959 music fans in the UK were listening avidly to Travelling Light by Cliff Richard & the Shadows and in America it was Mack the Knife sung by Bobby Darin.
- 1959 saw the sale of the first Barbie Doll, the launch of the first weather satellite, the first showing of The Twilight Zone, and the first coloured picture of Earth as seen from outer space. In addition, the inventors of the world gave us our first look at both the pacemaker and the microchip.
- Cuba witnessed a change in leadership as rebel Fidel Castro's forces chased off ex-dictator Batista.
- France saw the beginnings of the 5th Republic with the inauguration of Charles de Gaulle.
- A huge step was taken towards world peace in 1959 when Russia's President, Nikita Khrushchev agreed to reopen diplomatic relationships

with the United States. He toured the country and met with President Eisenhower at Camp David.

- Meanwhile, with the addition of Hawaii and Alaska, the number of US states swelled from 48 to the current 50 and
- West Germany became the first country to introduce a five-day working week.
- And most importantly, as far as this evening is concerned, on the 25th November 1959, at the Masonic Hall, Station Hotel, Carnforth, Mr. Maurice Townley was initiated as a Freemason and took his first steps in Carnforth Lodge No. 4951.

Bro Prov Dep Grand DC would you please place our Celebrant before me so that I might address him.

Maurice, I hope you don't mind if we now lower the formalities a little and address each other by our christian names.

You were born in Lancaster in 1933 and in due time you attended Lancaster Boys National School. Your early ambition was to be a farmer and on leaving school you lived and worked on a farm where you developed a keen interest in horses and later horse racing but National Service reared its head and you spent the next two years serving with the Royal Military Police and spent 18 months on duty in Egypt.

On your return to civilian life you joined Lancashire Constabulary, where after training you were stationed in Kirkby in Liverpool. It was normal policy in those days to send new recruits as far away as possible from their home town.

Whilst still on probation you demonstrated an aptitude to be a detective and after a year you were transferred to the CID. Kirkby was a town where people from the slums of Liverpool were relocated and was the place where the TV series Z cars was filmed. The police were kept extremely busy there and 12 hour days were commonplace.

After three years you were transferred to the Waterloo/Crosby areas of Liverpool as the sole CID man in that section and after a couple of years you were transferred to the Padiham sub-division, where you were again the only

member of the CID. These positions resulted in your being called out during the night on many occasions.

Your next posting was as a Detective Sergeant in Widnes, then as a Detective Inspector on the Regional Crime Squad, which was a multi-force operation covering the whole of the country.

Your next move was as a uniformed Chief Inspector to the Leigh sub-division where part of your role was involved in prosecuting in court.

On leaving Leigh you were posted as a uniformed Superintendent to what had been the Warrington Borough force before it merged with Lancashire Constabulary. Your posting there lasted for nine years and proved to be your longest stay anywhere during your police career.

After a Local Government reorganisation, you became part of the Cheshire Force and following a spell as 2nd in charge of the Widnes Division, you were promoted to Chief Superintendent in charge of the Northwich Division of Cheshire and then finally to Force HQ in Chester, where you were in charge of Firearm Personnel, Royal Visits, Motorways, Dogs, Force Traffic, Force Control Room etc., etc.

You eventually retired after serving 30 years in the Lancashire & Cheshire forces and retired with the rank of Chief Superintendent. On your retirement from the police force you put your considerable experience to good use by becoming a self-employed Legal Consultant. You had earlier studied at night school for a Law Degree but the pressure of trying to do this whilst working proved too much and you only received a partial qualification. No doubt this experience was a great help to you as a consultant. Initially you worked three to four days a week but over a number of years this gradually reduced until your complete retirement.

In other areas of activity when you moved to Northwich you were informed it was customary for the Police Chief to be an ex-officio Member of Management of the Northwich Youth Centre. As you had enjoyed much pleasure with the Lancaster Lads Club in your youth you were more than happy to take on that position. You offered to resign when you were transferred to Force HQ in Chester but the committee declined to accept your resignation and you ended up holding that position for 13 years. Your charitable work continued when you were appointed a Governor of Mid-Cheshire College for a statutory period of four years, at the end of which you were persuaded to provide continuity by carrying on for the next four years as Chairman of the Audit Committee. You were recalled for a further period but that ended a year later when instead of

attending a committee meeting you found yourself in an ambulance on the way to hospital with a heart problem.

In your private life you married your wife Audrey at Carnforth Church in November 1955, which means you have been married for 64 years and that fact alone brethren deserves our warmest congratulations. Your marriage was blessed with two children Helen and Jocelyn and you now have five grandchildren, two boys and three girls and I know from my own experience just how much joy those grandchildren will bring you.

Your Masonic journey began on 25th November 1959 when, poor and penniless, you were initiated into Carnforth Lodge No. 4951, meeting at the Station Hotel, Carnforth and

I would now like to ask our Bro Secretary to read an extract from the minutes of your Initiation.

I am sure those names mentioned bring back many happy memories and thus began a your long masonic journey. You were proposed into Freemasonry by your father in law the late Harry Hargreaves. I understand he only ever proposed two candidates, yourself and Jim Wilson and it is very appropriate that you are both present this evening.

Maurice, it is very obvious from the story I have just related that you have lived away from Carnforth for most of the time you have been a member of this Lodge and that has made it almost impossible for you to attend regularly and to take as big a part in the Lodges activities as, I am sure, you would have wished. Nevertheless you did manage to go through the chair in 1973 and you have remained loyal and dedicated to your mother Lodge despite, I would imagine, many requests that you join other Lodges. You have almost always attended the installation meetings since your own installation and have invariably been the Installing Inner Guard. The WM & Brethren of Carnforth Lodge very much appreciate that loyalty and dedication, they are always pleased when you are able to join them and they hope your visits will continue for many years to come.

Maurice, having served as a Freemason for 60 years our PGM,

RW Bro James Anthony Harrison, wishes me to convey to you, his heartiest congratulations on this outstanding milestone in your masonic journey.

As the head of this great Province of West Lancashire, he has issued a Certificate to commemorate this very special day, and I would now ask our Group Chairman, Neil McGill to read this Certificate to you and all the Brethren present.

Maurice, it gives me the greatest pleasure to present you with this 60 year Certificate to commemorate this milestone in Freemasonry. Your story is one of great commitment to this Lodge and it has been a great pleasure for me to be able to share it with all the brethren present.

On their behalf, I thank you for the last 60 years and wish you good health and continued happiness in all you do in the future.

Maurice I extend to you our heartiest congratulations.