

ADDRESS OF DAVID OGDEN APrGM TO ALAN KEARY PPrJGW

WM, before we begin may I first thank you for allowing me to occupy your chair on this special evening for Ashton Trinity Lodge. May I also take this opportunity to welcome the brethren and your many guests to this jubilee celebration for Alan Keary. Brother inner guard please admit the tyler.

Brethren I have been privileged to occupy this chair on a number of occasions to celebrate a brother's jubilee, but it has a special meaning for me when I personally know the celebrant as is the case with Alan. I trust you will all enjoy the occasion as much as I intend to do!

Brethren, 1969 when our celebrant joined Freemasonry was said to be THE YEAR THE WORLD CHANGED. There were many conflicts including Vietnam and Northern Ireland, and of course the Americans landed on the Moon, I think. On a lighter note: Sir Matt Busby retired as Man United manager, England were still world champions, Ann Jones won Wimbledon, Jackie Stewart won Formula 1 Championship and Tony Jacklin was Open champion. The average house cost £4640 and the average wage was £1650. The Beatles split up, Paul got married, and John Lennon slept in a New York shop window with Yoko Ono. What was that all about? All very interesting but nothing more important to all here than the initiation of Alan Keary and tonight brethren I am going to tell you just a little about our celebrant.

Brethren to be a member of an organisation for 50 years is an achievement in itself but to be an active member such as our celebrant is quite remarkable. You first have to ask Why? Why would you be a member of our fraternity - Freemasonry for 50 years - with the exception of marriage, what other organisation for want of a better word, would any of us be a member of for 50 years. Incidentally our celebrant Alan you don't mind me calling you Alan, do you? I have known you so long I am sure you won't mind, has been married for 62 years in December. You are looking well on it Alan. How old were you when you got married – 12? So again, brethren Why? No matter how long you have been members you will all have your own reasons for joining and your own reasons for continuing to be a member. It truly is a remarkable organization that can hold us together for such long periods of time, but then again there are some remarkable and loyal men who are Masons, and our celebrant tonight is one of those.

I very often reflect on the charge we all received at our initiation. "Let me congratulate you on being admitted a member of our ancient and honourable institution. Ancient no doubt it is having subsisted since time immemorial and honourable it must be acknowledged to be as by a natural tendency it conduces to make those so who are obedient to its precepts. Indeed, no Institution can boast a more solid foundation than that on which Freemasonry rests."

Surely brethren the fact that Freemasonry is an ancient and honourable Institution, with rules and laws, and that solid foundation is why we want to be part of it in the first instance, and I would suggest those same principals are why we continue to be members for long periods of time, for over 50 years in Alan's case. am sure Brethren that Alan would be delighted, if after his Jubilee celebration, you all reflected on that and encouraged your friends to take a more active part in our order or encouraged your gentlemen friends to be part of us. Alan has shown how rewarding it can be and tonight we thank him for his service to Freemasonry and join with him as he celebrates 50 years in Masonry.

Now Alan a little about your family and history. You were born in West Derby, Liverpool in February, 1936 to your parents Linda and Henry, your father who ran a timber merchant business. You attended Ranworth Square Infant & Junior School from the age of five to 11 years, Abbotsford Road Secondary Modern from 11 to 13 years, Walton Tech College from 13 to 15 years where you took your National Certificate.

At school you played for the teams at both football and cricket. Your first job was at Wingrove & Rodgers, electric truck manufacturers where you served your apprenticeship from 15 years to 21 years old. I believe that at the time they were at the forefront of building electric fork-lifts/ locomotives and dock trucks. In 1957 to 1959 you did your National Service. You were in the RAMC Medical Core, part of your training included getting your wings and being trained to jump out of aeroplanes, with a parachute. I hope. Apparently important for your promotion and your pay, if you survived! Your wage increased from: start 7/6, one stripe 15/-, two stripes 30/- and then £1 extra for obtaining your wings. Your training took you to Cowglen in Scotland for two weeks, before being posted to Crookham in Hants for your sergeant's appointment.

You then had an interesting posting to a ladies' camp; I am sure many here would have enjoyed that. In actual fact it was Queen Alexandra's Nursing Corps and you were the drill sergeant. It was whilst here during a training exercise that you encountered a pretty awful experience.

As I said earlier, your training included parachuting and on one occasion in extremely bad and windy conditions having jumped out of the aeroplane you lost control of your chute and ended up many miles off course entangled in telegraph wires next to a main railway line. That in itself must have been a terrifying experience, but he then hung there for 10 hours in the middle of the countryside with no one passing to raise the alarm. Luckily you were next to a railway line and a train driver spotted you and raised the alarm. You were taken direct to the Royal Hospital in Liverpool and then invalided out of the army. That must have been a terrifying experience,

Alan married his wife Francis in December 1957 whilst serving his National Service and, as I said earlier, will have been married 62 years in December. Now Alan and brethren, we all know now that Masonry is not a secret society, but a society with secrets. Well I am going to tell you another secret that must not leave these rooms! Alan you have a lovely dear wife, but I am going to tell you, and the brethren, a secret that you must never tell her. Promise? Brethren many of you will be aware that my car, well Joan, my wife's car, has a personal registration for my company David Ogden Travel or DOT. Well Alan for the past 20 years the highlight of the Christmas cards we receive has been from yourself and Francis which have been addressed to DAVID AND DOROTHY. Joan looks forward to it so much that she does not want it to alter. So please keep the secret.

Your Son Ian was born in 1977 and lives in Berkshire. He is a doctor travelling the world teaching and lecturing on the administration of drugs and medicines. You have two grandchildren, Samuel who is 11 and Alex who is 14 and I know you visit them regularly even if it only to do some jobs around the house. You both attend regularly Our Lady's Church, where you were involved with the refurbishment giving advice. Your son Ian was christened at Our Lady's and was an altar boy from eight to 23 years. I know some of you will find this hard to believe but I was a choir boy and head server/altar boy for the same length of time. In 1959 to 1969 you returned to Wingrove Rodgers after your National Service as chargehand in the machine shop.

1969 to 1974 you were production manager. Ironically when you think about the insurgence of electric vehicles today, in 1974 the company was struggling. If only they had managed to continue. You moved to Gullick Dobson as a service buyer in 1974 to 1979 and attended university to gain Safety Manager Diploma. In 1979 you became H/S Manager to 1991. Gullick's were struggling so you left and joined GEC/Althom as H/S Manager in 1991 to 1998 and retired at 64 years old. Things weren't looking too good there so you moved to Vulcan Works a consultant H/S 1998—2000 When you retired again aged 66. Your wife Francis has a great saying "His reputation is that every company he worked for went to the wall" Alan - knowing you, I am sure you were not the reason.

Your Masonic career. You were initiated into Anfield Lodge No 2215 in September 1969, passed in December and raised in March 1970. You were WM in 1978. I am aware that this is where you looked after a new Mason by the name of Phillip Gunning, now the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Alan it was at this point that I was going to thank the Deputy on your behalf for his attendance, as he really did want to be here. He intended to come as a surprise and all was set up until he was informed Protocol prevented him attending, wrongly in my view, but that's protocol, and I can tell you he was very very disappointed, however he did ask me to pass on his personal best wishes and congratulations .

In Anfield Lodge you were ADC from 1982 to 85, preceptor from 1983 to 1988 and charity cep from 1992 to 1999. In 1999 you met a certain George McCathy, a Mason many of us here loved and appreciated his humour. He invited you to join Ashton Trinity Lodge. Whilst a member you have held the position of ADC for two years and been a director of Ashton Masonic Properties from 2007 to 2017. You were also group rep from 2012 to 2017 and are currently chaplain. Your Provincial Appointments in: 1989 to PPrAGDC, 1997 to PPrGSuptWks and in 2005 to PPrJGW. Your positions held and your promotions only tell part of the story, but we cannot finish without mentioning the service you have given to the hall and in particular your involvement and support within Ashton Trinity Lodge is an example to us all, and in addition his outstanding support to the directors of Ashton Masonic Properties over many years is also to be commended.

Brethren I have witnessed the involvement of Alan in the building work at nights - weekends, through the summer months, when most of you think Masonry is in recess. I know there are brethren perhaps even here today who think all our improvements just happen, well brethren they don't, and we would certainly not have our wonderful facilities here at Bryn if it was not for brethren such as Alan Keary PPrJGW and they and Alan are to be thanked by us all.

Group Chairman will you please read the certificate from the Provincial Grand Master.