

Carnforth Lodge No 4951

The 'Railway' Town of Carnforth, gateway to the Lake District in the rural settings of Morecambe Bay and ideally situated just off the M6, is the 'place' you will find Carnforth Lodge No.4951.

The warrant of the lodge dated 3 August 1927. Consecrated under the guidance of WBro Llewellyn Bailey PGD on Thursday 29 March 1928. The ninth lodge at that time in the Lancaster and District Group of Lodges.

The initiative of WBroJohn Smalley PPrDGDC and six other enlightened brethren ensured a lodge was formed after nine informal meetings between 1926 and 1928, held at the Royal Station Hotel Carnforth – this was to become the lodges first home.

In July 1926 a petition for its formation came through Arthur John Brogden Lodge No 1715 (their Warrant goes back to July 1877). Of the 26 'founders' 12 were members of Arthur John Brogden, two from other lodges in Cumberland and Westmorland, nine came from Lancaster lodges, one from Morecambe, one from Manchester and one from Stafford. A fairly 'cosmopolitan' bunch!

WBro Smalley was the first WM in June 1928 it was recorded that five joining members and 12 new gentlemen were proposed for membership. The lodge was up and running and had to do two ceremonies at a regular meeting.

In 1941 the Station Hotel was taken over by the military for 'the purpose of War'. The brethren, on the invitation of their mother lodge, were forced to meet in Grange over Sands. Having to catch the train there and back, until the return in 1947.

The formation of Carnforth Masonic Hall Company under the watchful eye of its secretary, RW PPrGM Colin Penty Wright lead to the purchase and consecration in 1977 by Sir Knowles Edge PrGM of the new lodge premises within the historic Co-op Hall buildings on New Street, along with that of our daughter, Warton Lodge No 8411, Carnforth Chapter No 4951, Carnforth Masonic Study Circle and The Commemorative Order of St Thomas of Acon and St Nicholas Anglicorum Chapel No 5.

The CMHCO Ltd purchased new premises, Kerneforde Hall, 65 Haws Hill Carnforth LA5 9DG in March 2012 and the lodge shared the opening evening with Warton Lodge. The facilities of the hall company are available for general use and for any other Masonic business.

The lodge members welcome visiting Masons to our meetings, which are held on the fourth Wednesday from September to May (the December meeting is on the third Wednesday), the installation meeting is held in March.

Our Ladies also meet with us, particularly at our social events, as do family and non-Masonic friends who want to share in our fellowship and experience the fraternal spirit.