ALAN DEAN’S 50 years celebration on Friday 14 February 2020

Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies would you please present Alan Dean, Past Provincial Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works of the Province of West Lancashire before me and ensure that he is comfortable.

Alan you were born, one of twins, in Alder Hey Hospital in January 1948 to parents Walter and Violet. Your father was a Royal Navy man, a diver, and had reached the rank of Chief Petty Officer and was in fact at that time the youngest Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy.

Your first family home was in the Toxteth area of Liverpool I understand.

Your early days were spent at Park Hill School, both infants and junior and your senior schooling took place at Wellington Street Secondary Modern; amongst other things at school you played football and cricket for the school teams.

In 1962 at the age of 14 you entered a competition sponsored by the Brooke Bond Tea Company for artists around the country and your painting which you called ‘The Arrival’ won the North West of England category.

As a result, you saw your work being part of a national tour of art galleries including the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and the Tate Gallery in London.

Your very first job was at a company called Cadburn Holdings and they wanted a new logo so they went and put it out for competition. There were 600 entries for that and you won it. I am to understand that the boss was furious that one of his own employees won it.

You furthered your education by going to the Liverpool College of Art, Design and Printing where you attained your advanced diploma in design and printing processes. This was an honours diploma.

For those of you who are unaware, the Liverpool College of Art, Design and Printing is now part of the John Moores University.

You have had a number of varied experiences in the world of lithograph printing and graphic design and your work has taken you throughout the Far East, Europe and America.

Your talents are renowned in the industry because your travelling was used to improve your knowledge of market trends and to further your own personal techniques.

You have, without doubt, laid foundations and built-up a formidable relationship with many blue chip companies such as Aldi, Asda, Hallmark, Marks & Spencer and many, many more.
The list is very long brethren and I don't want to embarrass our principal guest this evening but each and every one of the companies that Alan has had relationships with as his clients, were treated as individual clients, each one requiring specific and exclusivity with the product and design that he had provided.

Brethren, just to put things into perspective, there are companies out there that think themselves fantastic if once in a life time ***they*** could produce one exclusive design for a company that works. This guy has been doing it continually for years and with 11 different blue chip companies, some of which were Europe wide and some of which were worldwide.

Alan you have also been busy in forming and running companies in the manufacturing process, mostly involved in packaging and printing, and you still act as consultant to some of them. Your involvement with them, and in them, has lasted from 1973 to the current date; nearly 50 years.

Brethren I have to tell you that when I contacted Alan to have a chat he was a bit reticent to talk about his achievements. And to me that sounds like a guy that just likes to ‘get on with it’. However during our conversation he did tell me one or two things, nothing that would alarm anyone, but worth privately noting, and it just proved to me that he does possess that ‘just get on with it’ attitude, a rarity these days in the world of business.

He actually holds membership of the Institute of Marketing, the Institute of Packaging and is a member of the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers & Engravers. Alan is a fully qualified graphic designer and illustrator who has experience with all major printing processes.

In his time, he regularly took an item from concept to creation; right through to product development and then on to the market.

He is experienced in company formation and law, accountancy; he is also highly experienced in negotiations with bank finance, financial institutions and trade unions.

Alan is also experienced establishing an individual’s strength and weaknesses. So well experienced is Alan in his particular field that he has used his talents to teach others. He has taught GCE A level with great success and he has given private tuition to several undergraduates who have gone on to gain significant degrees.

Alan, I understand that you are currently working on a paper which explains your experience covering design illustration and development. Indeed, every aspect of your career, so that you can pass on your many talents to others.

You have more recently enrolled at University of Wales Trinity Saint David's College to gain extra teaching qualifications to enable you to offer private tuition.

But brethren and no man is an island.

Everyone must have someone to whom they can talk to, a soulmate, someone to whom they can turn to for support, encouragement and love. It was in 1992 when you were advertising for a personal assistant, and after all of the applications had been received and you were about to make your decision, you took a telephone call. You were immediately taken by the voice on the other end of the telephone. This was Gillian.

She was a late applicant for the job, and the rest, as they say is history. You have been together ever since. She truly has been your strength and support and long may it continue.

It was in 1997 that you decided, that due to rising costs you could no longer manufacture in this country, so you moved that side of the business to China and again Gillian has supported you in all your undertakings.

We now go back to 1969. Your Freemasonry was about to start. You had asked around and questioned various people, but I suppose that at that time they would be quite tight-lipped about the Craft.

Your father was a member of this lodge so you asked if you could become a Freemason and that was the start.

You were initiated into this, the Toxteth Lodge No 1356 on 14 January 1970, passed and raised within a short space of time and very soon you are on the stewards list.

You were very interested in the master of 1976, brother James Day who you say was a lovely man and a great orator. And it was on the occasion of his ladies night that James Day presented both you and your father with an unusual request in that he explained that his wife was of a nervous disposition, and therefore unable to respond to the toast to the ladies. He went on to ask your father to respond on behalf of his wife and you were to respond on behalf of the lodge. This was a first for Toxteth Lodge and your father. He even wrote your responses and insisted that you followed them word-for-word.

1979 saw the Liverpool Masonic Hall very badly damaged by fire .... and all of the lodges and chapters as well as other Masonic Orders had to find alternative accommodation.

Toxteth Lodge relocated to the Racquets Club and in 1980 you were installed as WM, at that time you were the youngest master to be appointed in the history of Toxteth Lodge.

Your first ceremony was to the initiation of your brother John; another proud and memorable occasion for your family.

Alan, you informed me that you were the first and last master to preside over the lodge at the Racquets Club, because that too suffered a similar fate to Liverpool Masonic Hall but on this occasion the Racquets Club was completely destroyed by fire.

From the Racquets Club the lodge moved to the Bradford Hotel and from there to Woolton Hall and has finally settled here at Woolton Golf Club

Toward the end of your year in the chair you selected your mother to be the principal lady at the lady's evening which took place at the Gladstone Hotel. The evening was another proud evening for the Dean family and to make the occasion more special you designed a piece of jewellery and had it made by David M Robinson for your mother and had your brother present it to her.

In May 2004 you received a Provincial appointment to the rank of Past Provincial Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works.

Alan, I fully understand the feelings you expressed regarding your view that your Provincial honours were not earned, however I can assure you that honours in this Province are not conferred lightly or indiscriminately but are awarded on merit and ability.

By going through to the chair of the lodge the appointment was merited and by being able to initiate your brother into the craft proved your ability ....

As for your presence here this evening, being in any organisation for 50 years stands on its own merit and it should be celebrated. Alan you are a member of the Toxteth Lodge family and as such they wanted to share in your celebrations. And it is my honour and privilege to preside over the meeting.

Our Provincial Grand Master James Anthony Harrison is aware of your celebration this evening and to mark the special occasion he has caused a commemorative certificate to be produced which I shall now ask our group chairman to read .... .... ....