

Hale Lodge of Fellowship No 3799

In 1917, World War I ('the war to end all wars') had been raging for three years and the battle of Passchendaele (also known as the 'Third Battle of Ypres') was at its height. 1,000,000s of young men had been called up to fight for their country and huge numbers of them perished in the Passchendaele campaign.

George V was on the throne and Liberal Party MP David Lloyd George was Prime Minister. It was exactly 200 years since the establishment of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Within Freemasonry, the Hon Sir Arthur Stanley was the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of West Lancashire.

Freemasonry was firmly established in Widnes with the first lodge having ben consecrated in 1872.

In years gone by, it was not uncommon for Freemasons' lodges to have so many members that they could become a little impersonal and a burden to administer. As a result, a 'Daughter' lodges were formed. Lodge of Fellowship No 3799 was such a lodge, its mother lodge being Widnes Lodge No 2819. Lodge of Fellowship No 3799 was warranted on 18 June 1917 and consecrated on 1 September 1917.



The 1923 Lodge of Fellowship festive board at the Central Hotel in Widnes.

Throughout the periods of the First and Second World Wars the members of Lodge of Fellowship were undaunted and continued with their meetings, initially at the Masonic Rooms in Victoria Street before moving to the purpose-built Widnes Masonic Hall on Kingsway, Widnes in 1960.

Early records of the lodge cannot be located but we do know that the first WM was Dr C Hutchinson.

Following his death in 1927 a statue was erected in Victoria Gardens St Mary's Road Widnes. The statue is a square granite plinth which supports the bust of Dr. Hutchinson which is a finely worked portrait. The inscription reads:

“TO THE HONOUR OF CREIGHTON HUTCHINSON, M.D. WHO DIED 29th MAY, 1927 FOR UPWARDS OF 40 YEARS HE MINISTERED UNSELFISHLY AND GENEROUSLY TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN AND DISTRICT PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION”

In 1977, Brethren of Fellowship Lodge together with other Widnes Masons met at the Childe of Hale PH Hale Village to discuss the formation of a new lodge. After considering a number of names it was decided to name the new lodge, Hale Lodge No 8813, and the consecration of the new lodge took place at Widnes Masonic Hall on 27 September 1978.

In 2007 following discussions with regard to the future of Fellowship Lodge No 3799, it was decided that Hale Lodge No 8813 would amalgamate with Fellowship and take the name Hale Lodge of Fellowship. In order to preserve the original number, the new lodge would retain Fellowship's number of 3799. In a sense the 'Daughter' lodge had returned to the 'Mother' lodge. The new crest for The Hale Lodge of Fellowship is made up of a compilation of both Hale Lodge and Lodge of Fellowship crests. The church depicted is St Mary's Parish Church in Hale Village.