

Good evening, brethren

I have had the enjoyment of attending many celebrations over the last 16 years as a member of a Group Executive, but it is certainly one of the special privileges of an Assistant Provincial Grand Master to be invited to take part in the celebration of a brother's special anniversary.

Brethren it is said that the greatest happiness a man can have is to you know that he is loved, and the very fact that there are so many brethren here this evening who have made the journey to take part in this evening's celebration only serves to reinforce that statement and shows the high regard that our celebrant is held in.

But to do that I must first tell you (as if you didn't already know!) who that person is. Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, could I please ask you to place Colin David Rowan PPJGW on the floor of the lodge before me end ensure that he is comfortable.

Let us look back to the year 1937:

- The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco opened for traffic
- A new air record was set for completing the flight from Los Angeles to New York in 7 hours 28 seconds
- After several strikes in the auto industry, General Motors were forced to recognize the UAW United Auto Workers Union
- The pride of Germany, the flying ship Hindenburg exploded while attempting to hook itself to a mooring post and signalled the end of the flying ship as a major form of transport, and the immortal words of reporter Herb Morrison who was filming the Hindenburg "Oh the humanity! the humanity" were shown and heard around the world.
- One of the unsolved mysteries of modern times, the disappearance of Amelia Earhart also occurred in this year.
- Currency exchange, \$5.00 to the £1
- Average house price £110
- Littlewoods, the pools company, formed 14 years earlier by Liverpool businessman John Moore's, expands to create a department store in Blackpool, Lancashire
- Matrimonial Causes Act adds insanity and desertion to infidelity as legitimate grounds for divorce
- Frank Whittle ground-tests the world's first jet engine designed to power an aircraft, at Rugby.
- George VI passes letters patent denying the style of Royal Highness to the wife and descendants of the Duke of Windsor.
- Neville Chamberlain becomes Prime Minister after Baldwin's retirement
- 1937–38 season was the 53rd season in Liverpool FC's existence and they ended their season in 11th place.
- In the autumn of 1937, fascist leader Oswald Mosley made an ill-fated attempt to address a rally of his British Union of Fascists in Liverpool.

Emily Bonwick

SHOPPING LIST FROM 1937

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1 lb tea | 2s (shillings) |
| 1 lb butter | 1s |
| 1 lb back bacon | 1s 5d |
| 1 lb cheese | 8d |
| 1/2lb lard | 4d |
| 3 oranges and 1 jelly | 1s 3d |
| 1 packet of dried peas | 4½d |
| Flour | 4½d |
| 12oz preserving sugar | 2s 9d |
| Small Rinso (left) | 3½d |
| 4 lbs sugar | 9d |
| 2 lbs tomatoes | 1s 4d |
| Salmon and shrimp paste | 3d |
| Custard powder | 5d |
| Biscuits | 5d |
| Tin of health salts | 3d |

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Bottle of sauce | 5½d |
| Tin of corned beef | 6d |
| 2 lbs of collar bacon | 1s 9d |
| Small can of Libby's milk | 3½d |
| 12 eggs | 1s 9d |
| Quarter of ham | 7d |
| Apples | 4d |
| Dolly Blue | 1d |
| 1 lemon | 1½d |
| Candles | 2½d |
| Rice | 2d |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Total cost 1937 | £1 0s 1½d |
| Total cost 2008 | £41.88 |

(But because groceries were relatively dearer in 1937, they took up a third of an average family's income compared with the 10% typical today)

In 1937 some very famous people were born in the persons of Jack Nicholson the actor, Jane Fonda the actress, Ned Beatty the actor, Una Stubbs the actress, Morgan Freeman the actor, Don Everly the singer, Jackie Collins the writer, Bobby Charlton the footballer, Shirley Bassey the singer.

The most famous of them all was of course Colin David Rowan, born in August 1937 at home in Carr Lane East, Liverpool to mother Jessie who worked at Littlewoods Pools and Father David who was a Railway Clerk with the London Midland and Scottish Railway Limited (LMS). The company having been formed in 1923 resulting from the 1921 Railways Act, which saw the grouping of 115 railway companies into just four. Emerging as the largest of these four companies, by 1938 LMS reportedly operated almost 7,000 miles of railway line, running through 32 of the 40 English counties.

Colin was the second born child to Jessie and David, who had an older daughter and sister to Colin called Shiela who sadly passed away age 89 years of age. They would also have another son and younger brother to Colin called Alan who is 82 years of age, and he lives in Corbridge, Northumberland.

Colin would start his schooling life at Ranworth Square Primary School near to home in Stainburn Avenue, off Scar Green Avenue having moved to this address when he was two years old in Norris Green, Liverpool and would remain there until his 11th birthday, having passed the scholarship and gained a place at the coveted Liverpool Institute for Boys in Mount Street, Liverpool. Colin recalls that he played football and cricket for both schools in a glittering but short-lived sporting career. Colin's claim to fame was to be the Ranworth School Football Team Captain, a role that would be occupied by another keen sportsman Joe Royle some 12 years later, but he of course did go on to play for Everton. In terms of his academic achievements, he recalls they were less glamorous and that he left the institute with four 'O' Levels.

In 1953 Colin would leave school and take up employment in his first occupation as a Trainee General Manager for Gordon's Wholesale and Retail Grocers and Provision Merchant at their main office in Lodge Lane, Liverpool. The two brothers persuaded Colin's parents to let him leave school early to train with them as they saw a future for him in the grocery business. However, as was the way following the second world war National Service would come a calling, and on 14 February 1956, Colin began his military service in the Royal Air Force.

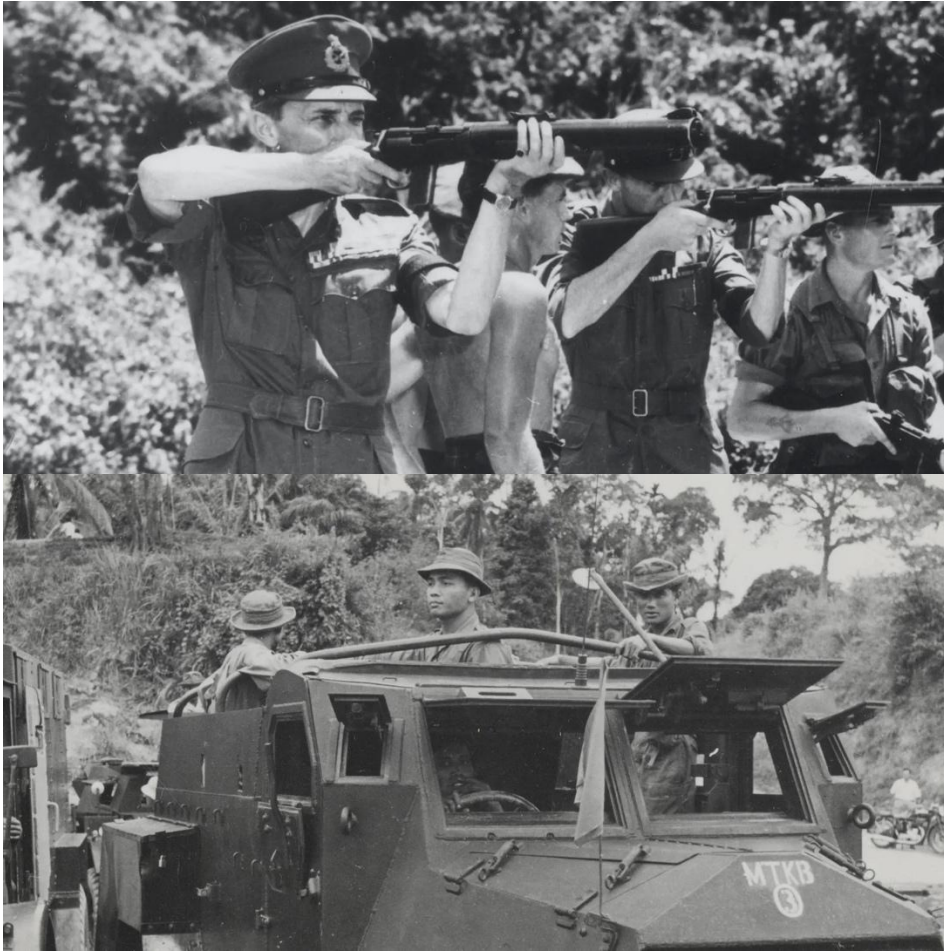
Colin, unlike most young men who never left the shores of Great Britain for the whole of their National Service, lucky enough to be posted abroad after basic training. Basic training took place at Padgate in what would later become the Northwest Police Training Centre.

In May 1956, Colin was posted to Royal Air Force Seletar on Singapore Island, Malaya, this was the base for 205 to 209 Squadron, Sunderland Flying Boats and housed a Maintenance Unit for the aircraft, covering a large area including as far as Australia.

The Malayan Emergency (1948-1961) was one of the few successful counter-insurgency operations undertaken by the Western powers during the Cold War. It saw British and Commonwealth forces defeat a communist revolt in Malaya. The communists of the MNLA were jungle based and supported by the impoverished Chinese population. Although many Chinese lived in the cities, others - known as 'squatters' - lived at the fringes of the jungle and could aid the guerrillas. The MNLA and its supporters called the campaign the Anti-British National Liberation War.

The initial British reaction to the crisis was to introduce emergency legislation, allowing suspects to be detained without trial. Curfews and movement restrictions were also imposed. Malaya's original military garrison consisted of six Gurkha, three British and two Malay Battalions. Reinforcements were sent from August 1948 onwards. Many of these British soldiers were conscripted National Servicemen.

On 6 October 1951 the communists managed to ambush and kill the High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney. General Sir Gerald Templer was appointed both Director of Operations and High Commissioner shortly after. He embraced Briggs' ideas with energy, ensuring that a co-ordinated command structure was established. Templer placed great emphasis on the need to win the 'hearts and minds' of the population. He continued to build new settlements and promised independence once the guerrillas had been defeated. This won him the support of many nationalists.



From 1954, there were normally 24 infantry battalions in Malaya from a wide variety of Commonwealth countries, including Australia and New Zealand. These were supported by special forces like the Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment. With a police force of 40,000 men, it was now possible to clear an area of guerrillas. When an area had been swept it was designated a 'White Area' and restrictions on the local population were lifted, encouraging them to oppose the return of any insurgents.

In August 1957 the Federation of Malaya was granted independence and the insurrection lost its rationale as a war of colonial liberation. Many guerrillas gave up their fight. Colin was present at Malaya's Independence on the 31 August 1957, and during his National service in Malaya had seen Active Service, fighting the Communist Terrorists.



In 1960, the emergency was declared to be over. More than 500 soldiers and 1,300 police had been killed during the conflict. Communist losses are estimated at over 6,000 killed and 1,200 captured.

The campaign was one of the few successful counter-insurgency operations undertaken by the Western powers. Still studied today, it provides many important lessons on how such campaigns should be conducted.



Colin would be awarded The General Service Medal (GSM-1918) with the Malaya clasp; this was awarded for service in Malaya during the Malayan Emergency conflict. It recognises service in minor campaigns that fell short of full-scale war. The medal was instituted in 1962 and was awarded to members of the British, Commonwealth, and Colonial Forces, as well as civil personnel who served in Malaya.



Colin was also awarded The Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) Medal which is a Malaysian Government award given to British and Commonwealth armed forces personnel for their service in Malaysia and Singapore between 1957

and 1966. Specifically, it's awarded for service of ninety days or more in Malaysia between 31 August 1957, and the 12 August 1966, and in Singapore between 3 August 1957, and the 9 August 1965.



Colin was demobilized from the Royal Airforce at the rank of Corporal in February 1958 and returned to civilian life back in Great Britain, returning to his job at Gordon's Wholesale and Retail Grocers and Provision Merchants until 1962. The company being a family business there were enough sons to run and maintain the business.

In the late 1950's, Colin met his first wife, and they were married in 1959 and had two children together Deborah and Helen, but unfortunately, they were divorced in 1974.

Colin decided that he needed a career change and so in 1962 he joined the Liverpool City Police, and after completing his probation he continued to work the Essex Street Police Station near the Lark Lane area. He served in the Commando Squad from 1965 until 1967, this was a 'plain clothes' unit made up of sixty officers that travelled across the Liverpool City Police force area trouble shooting where and when necessary.

In 1967 Colin transferred to the Criminal Investigations Department as a Detective Constable and completed the last CIPD local CID course, before it became a national course. In this year Liverpool City Police merged with Bootle Police to become the Liverpool and Bootle Police. After three years of learning his craft in Prescott Street, he would sit and pass the education and promotion examination to the rank of Inspector. Following a successful selection, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 1 January 1970 and served as a Uniform Sergeant 46A in 'A' Division (Liverpool City Centre), and saw the second of his force changes during this time in 1974 when the then Liverpool and Bootle Police became the Merseyside Police,

Colin met Ruth whilst serving as a uniform sergeant in 'A' Division in 1972 and was posted to the City Centre as Constable 119WP, and they started dating in 1973, before getting married in 1977.

It was in 1976 that Colin transferred back to Criminal Investigations Department and proceeded to serve in the Regional Crime Squad with the Anti-Hijacking Unit and then the Chief Superintendent Bill Lumsden remembered that Colin collected Royal Doulton Toby and Fillpot Jugs, so asked him to become part of the Regional Antique Squad at Longsight in Manchester as Second in Command, following a course in Exeter run by Arthur Negus.

A Toby Jug, also sometimes known as a Fillpot (or Philpot), is a pottery jug in the form of a seated person; whereas a character jug features the head of a recognizable person. Typically the seated figure is a heavy-set, jovial man holding a mug of beer in one hand and a pipe of tobacco in the other and wearing 18th-century attire: a long coat and a tricorn hat. The tricorn hat forms a pouring spout, often with a removable lid, and a handle is attached at the rear. Jugs depicting just the head and shoulders of a figure are also referred to as Toby jugs, although these should strictly be called "character jugs" or face jugs, the wider historical term.

The original Toby Jug, with a brown salt glaze, was developed and popularised by Staffordshire potters in the 1760s. It is thought to be a development of similar Delft jugs that were produced in the Netherlands. Similar designs were produced by other potteries, first in Staffordshire, then around England, and eventually in other countries, both in Europe and in British colonies.

After five years in the Regional Crime Squad, Peter Rawlinson who was ACC Crime for Merseyside Police contacted the Regional Crime Squad boss and asked to speak to Colin and asked him to transfer to the Home Office Technical Support Unit in Tyldesley, Greater Manchester. Again, he was Second in Command. And Colin recalls covering various Political Conferences in the Northwest of England and Wales, the work increasingly involved surveillance of buildings as well as vehicles, using the latest technology available.

One of Colin's most important duties in this field was the setting up of a National Framework (excluding the Metropolitan Police area), as each of the Police Regions did things differently and used different equipment. Part of this required Colin to write a National Manual on technical support, surveillance etc.

On the 1 January 1990 Colin was transferred to Merseyside Special Branch, in charge of Liverpool Airport Special Branch until his retirement after completing thirty years' service in July 1992. During his police service Colin received four Commendations for his work from the Chief Constables and ten letters of Appreciation from various police commanders.

Following retirement from the police service Colin has worked for the Soldier, Sailor and Airmen Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help between 2002 and 2013 both in Cheshire and Merseyside. He worked in the role of a case worker and as the Divisional Secretary. Colin also joined the British Legion as a volunteer helper in 2013 and is still working for them today.

Between 2002 and 2015 Colin was a School Governor at Ditton Primary School in Widnes, serving as the Chair of the Governors from 2010 until 2015.

In 2006 Colin stood for public office as a Councillor in Ditton Ward as a Conservative candidate knocking out the Labour Mayor by just 26 votes and was fortunate to be elected a Halton Borough Councillor and served the local community in that role until 2010.

He was also asked in 2012 to join Halebank Parish Council where he served until 2018, holding the office of Chairman from 2014 to 2018.

Colin having been a member of the Merseyside National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO), he stood for the Committee in 2000 and has served as a committee member for 25 years. He is planning to retire from the committee at the Annual General Meeting in April 2025.

Due to Colin's charity work, he and his wife Ruth have been fortunate to have been invited twice to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. These were magnificent occasions and very special indeed, Colin explained that he was also lucky enough to be introduced to the Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent at one of the garden parties.

Returning to Colin's children, Deborah who is 63 years of age and worked as an Occupational Therapist and a Community Matron retiring last year and is married to Ray a mechanic and they have two children, namely Jenna aged 33 years who is an accountant living in Boston, USA and Faye aged 29 years works in Whitehall for the Government.

Helen who is 60 years of age and worked in a variety of clerical roles in the City of Liverpool and is now taking up a role for the government in the Immigration Department, and lives with her partner John. Helen has two children, namely Kelly aged 32 years and a son Callum aged 13 years.

Colin also has three great grandchildren, namely Niamh who was born just about a year ago, the daughter of Jenna in the USA. The other two great children come from Kelly.

Colin and Ruth will be celebrating their 48th wedding anniversary on 21 September 2025. Over the years they enjoyed cruising (three to five a year) and holidaying together all over the world, including an annual pilgrimage back to Malaya up to COVID-19 with a group of friends who served together in the Air Force in the late 1950's.

Colin's journey into Freemasonry was planned probably not long after he was born as his father David was a member of Marlborough Lodge No1620, meeting at Liverpool Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool. In fact, his entrance into the craft was delayed by the members of the lodge so that once he joined his third degree ceremony could be delivered by his father who was due to go into the master's chair.

Colin was therefore initiated into Marlborough Lodge on Monday 5 May 1975, with his father David in attendance as his proposer, his seconder was his uncle Roland. Colin was duly passed to the degree of a fellow craft on the 1 March 1976. Unfortunately, three weeks after his father David's installation in January 1977, he collapsed and died in Ormskirk Hospital whilst visiting the lodge organist, meaning that he never did get to raise his son. Colin was eventually raised to the sublime degree of a master mason on 5 October 1977.

As Colin soon discovered after joining Marlborough Lodge the number of subscribing members meant that attendance at rehearsals and regular meetings was almost compulsory if as a young Freemason you wished to progress in the Lodge. Colin duly worked hard and progressed steadily up the ladder and through the progressive offices, being installed into the chair of King Solomon in Marlborough Lodge on 7 January 1991 until the 3 January 1993, a period of two years, due to the senior warden passing away shortly before the installation.

Following his two years as WM, Colin occupied any position that the lodge wished him to when the opportunity arrived as in those days getting a non-progressive job as a new past master was very difficult.

Colin joined Lodge of Sincerity No 292 on 19 October 1992, becoming its senior warden on the 16th January 1995. Colin also joined Sovereign's Peace Lodge No8911 on 24 November 1995, the lodge having been consecrated for retired Liverpool and Merseyside police officers.

Colin's hard work, commitment to being a member of three Craft lodges and his talents obviously shone bright as on 25 May 1996, the Province of West Lancashire recognised him for all his hard work and potential from the

work he had been doing in his lodges, with a first appointment in provincial grand rank as an acting Provincial Grand Steward.

This first appointment allowed Colin to join the Provincial Grand Stewards lodge, Quingenti Lodge No. 8516 on 24 November 1996, a privilege only kept for those brethren of the Province who hold the office of acting steward. The original concept of this lodge and the reason for its consecration was to assist the Province in the arrangements for the smooth running of Provincial Grand Lodge and especially the dining arrangements which followed.

On the evening of 6 January 1997 at the meeting of Marlborough Lodge at Hope Street, Colin took office as almoner of his mother lodge, an office he would hold for seven years until 9 February 2004. It was on 27 December 1997, that Colin resigned from Lodge of Sincerity.

It was during the period Colin was almoner that on 4 October 2000, that the Province of West Lancashire recognised Colin again for his hard work in the various lodges that he was a member, with a promotion in Provincial grand rank to the rank of Past Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works.

It was on 9 February 2004 that Colin changed his role in Marlborough Lodge from that of almoner to his new office of charity steward, a role he would fulfil until he resigned from the lodge on 11 December later that year. Colin became the senior warden of Sovereign's Peace Lodge on 25 November 2008, a position he held for 12 months until on 24 November 2009, he became the WM of the lodge for a year.

On 16 October 2012, the Province of West Lancashire again recognised Colin for all his continued hard work, with a promotion in Provincial grand rank to the very high rank Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden, the rank he still holds today.

In relation to Colin's membership of Sovereigns Peace Lodge, he would serve it as senior warden on 24 November 2014; senior deacon on 24 November 2015; inner guard on 29 November 2016; junior warden on 29 November 2017; and finally, as senior warden from 26 November 2019 until its closure on 8 June 2022, a loyal servant until the end.

On 23 November 2021, Colin joined St Paul's Lodge No.5459 meeting at Widnes and has remained a member ever since, taking office as the lodge chaplain on 25 October 2022 and continuing to serve in that office today.

Colin completed his journey in pure and ancient Freemasonry on 5 October 1977 when he was exalted into De Grey and Ripon Chapter No1356. He worked his way through the progressive offices of the chapter and became the first principal on the 2nd February 1994. On 12 May 1999, the Province of West Lancashire recognised Colin for the work he had been doing in his chapter, with a first appointment in Royal Arch with the Provincial grand rank as Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer.

Colin was again recognised by the Province of West Lancashire for all his hard work with regards to chapter when he was promoted in Royal Arch Provincial rank on 16 April 2008 to the high rank of Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah.

Colin continued to maintain his interest in the Royal Arch by serving as principal sojourner of the chapter from 3 February 2015 until 16 October 2023, when Colin resigned from the chapter which at that time was meeting at Woolton Golf Club Masonic Suite. However, Colin joined Bold and St Paul's Chapter No.5459 on 18 September 2023 and continues to be a member of the chapter to this day.

I'm sure I speak on behalf of everybody present that we are absolutely delighted to see you here this evening to celebrate your 50th anniversary and even more so that you have allowed us to celebrate your special evening with you.

Colin such is the importance of your own golden jubilee that our Provincial Grand Master Mark Matthews has caused a certificate to be struck to mark this wonderful achievement which I shall now ask our Group Chairman David Thomas Atkinson to read.