

Good evening, brethren,

I have had the enjoyment of attending many celebrations over the last sixteen 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 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.....

Brother Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies can you please place Kenneth Bullen PPJGW, on the floor of the lodge before me and ensure that he is comfortable.

Let us look back to the year 1951:

- Congress passed the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a President to two terms in office.
- Stalin claims the Soviet Union has the atomic bomb
- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg convicted of passing United States nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union; both are sentenced to death
- General Douglas MacArthur relieved of command in Korea
- Joe DiMaggio announces his retirement from baseball
- George VI was in his final year on the throne
- Winston Churchill became Prime Minister again
- British Board of Film Censors introduces X rating for films "Suitable for those aged 16 and over"
- Ford Consul car was introduced
- Character Dennis the Menace first appears in The Beano comic
- Newcastle United win the FA Cup for the fourth time with a 2–0 win over Blackpool at Wembley Stadium. Jackie Milburn scores both goals in front of a crowd of 100,000 spectators.
- First broadcast of The Goon Show radio series
- Austin A30 car introduced.
- Zebra crossings, a type of pedestrian crossing, introduced for the first time
- GCE Ordinary Level examinations introduced, together with Advanced Levels replacing the Higher School Certificate
- First residential tower block in Britain, a 10-storey point block, The Lawn, in Harlow New Town in Essex, is constructed to the design of Sir Frederick Gibberd
- Average wage in 1951 was £1,891
- Inflation in 1951 was 9.5%
- Inflation May 2025 is 2.6 %
- Average price of a new house in 1951 was £2,000
- Average price of a new house in 2025 is £367,501
- Average price of a new Austin A30 car was £507
- £1 in 1951 would be worth £33.37 today
- £1,000 in 1951 would be worth £33,468.74 today
- £5,000 in 1951 would be worth £167,343.69 today

	1951 price	2025 price
Gallon of petrol	3s 3¾d	£7.65
20 cigarettes	3s 7d	£4.40
Gillette razor blades (10)	2s 8d	£3.30
Scroll Star ballpoint pen	3s 6d	£4.30
Loaf of bread (white, unwrapped) [*]	6d	61p
Loose leaf tea [*] 4oz	11d	£1.10

Sugar 1lb [*]	6d	61p
Pint of milk [*]	5½d	56p
Butter ½lb [*]	1s 3d	£1.50
Cheddar cheese 1lb [*]	1s 2d	£1.40
Margarine 1lb [*]	1s 2d	£1.40
Lard 1lb [*]	1s 4d	£1.60
Eggs 1 dozen [*]	4s	£4.90
Potatoes lb [*]	2d	20p
Cabbages lb [*]	3d	31p
Onions lb [*]	5d	51p
Oranges lb [*]	10½d	£1.10
Cocoa lb [*]	3s 3d	£4
Coal - 1cwt [*]	4s 9½d	£5.90
Pye 12" television	£71	£1,700
Regentone A30 console radio	29 guineas	£750
Qualcast push lawn mower	79s 7d	£98
The Daily Mirror newspaper	1d to 1½d	10p to 15p
Average house price	£2,000	£49,000
Austin A30 car	£507	£12,000
Hoover cylinder vacuum cleaner	£12 12s	£310

In 1951 some very famous people were born in the persons of Peter Davison and Jane Seymour the actors, Phil Collins and Bonnie Tyler the singers, Gordon Brown the former Prime Minister, Kevin Keegan and Kenny Dalglish the footballers.

The most famous of them all was Kenneth Bullen born in May 1951 in Mill Road, Hospital, Liverpool, the second child to his father Norman, a Turf Accountant otherwise known as a bookmaker who had a number of betting shops across north Liverpool and mother Olive who had a grocery shop on the corner of Towson Street and Adam Street, Liverpool 5.

Ken has an older sister called Norma who is six years older than him. Ken spent the first six years of his life at the family home in Towson Street before the family moved to Maghull

Ken spent his early education years attending Breckfield County Primary and followed by the Junior School. Ken was keen on sport like most young lads in the City of Liverpool and he went on to play several sports including baseball, basketball, volleyball, cricket all of which he represented his school. His favourite sport however was football at which he excelled as a goalkeeper.

Whilst growing up Ken had a very good friend Eddie Hemmings who went on to be a sports reporter and commentator working for Radio Merseyside and the BBC as a rugby commentator. Such was Ken's prowess as a goalkeeper that his skills were called upon to play in a Radio Merseyside team by Eddie Hemmings and he was able to boast that he played in a team with and against a number of famous international footballers such as Roger Hunt, Ian Callaghan, Tommy Smith and a FA Cup winner Derek Temple who Ken described as being the nicest man he ever met in football.

Ken's skill and reputation as a goalkeeper playing for local a pub team in the Kirkby league spread across the Merseyside area and he was, in the parlance of football, 'tapped up' by a rival pub team to join them. As I am

sure you are all aware, football these days is a vast financial industry, and the talent of footballers is recognized by the huge cash incentives offered to players in transfer and signing on fees.

As I have mentioned above, Ken was approached by a pub team from a rival pub in the less salubrious area of south Liverpool with a fantastic offer of a signing on fee which consisted of a free drink at the pub after the match with a half sheet of bacon ribs for his mother! Despite the tremendous inducement and opportunity to play with the team, Ken declined their offer.

Such was the nature and reputation of the team who tried to poach Ken, he recalls that one occasion at the annual presentation ceremony for the football leagues on a posh night at Bootle Town Hall, the team engaged in a mass drink induced brawl with other teams that spread out onto the street which resulted in the Police attending and sorting the melee out.

Ken's working life started upon graduating from Mable Fletcher Technical College with qualifications as a chef and in hotel, catering management. His career saw him being employed at various hotels in the Liverpool area including the Adelphi, the Stork and the Exchange hotels. On one occasion whilst working at the Exchange Hotel he was requested to make an omelette for a diner who transpired to be the famous Hollywood actor Gregory Peck, which I will return to later.

On another occasion Ken was viewing the kitchen facilities at a new brewery being built in Runcorn for the Bass Charrington brewers and was called upon to prepare a Christmas lunch for 300 managers and senior staff working out of a Portakabin. After the lunch and despite many refusals by Ken to accept a gift from the brewery manager he reluctantly accepted several cases of beer which nearly broke the suspension on his car. Ken gave away the cases of beer to his football team mates as he does not like Bass Charrington beers!

After a while Ken decided to change career and move into sales, particularly food wholesale, distribution and manufacturing sectors with national and international businesses. During this time, he set up his own consultancy with his very good friend, David Painter, who is also a member of Harthill Lodge.

Ken is married to Barbara and has two children, Ian and Claire. Ken is very proud of his children, both of whom attended and graduated from Liverpool University. Claire is a clinical psychology consultant, and Ian is the national sales manager for Hertz business. Ken has four grandchildren whom he dotes upon, Rhys, Niamh, Max and Daniel.

As I am sure like most grandparents, Ken at times likes to tell tall tales to impress the youngsters and as the children grow older, they become somewhat skeptical of the tales, however one day he was discussing his time as a chef and mentioned to the family about making the omelette for the famous Oscar winning star Gregory Peck, who has since died.

A few days later Ken's son Ian arrives at his son Max's school to pick him up when he was asked to see the head teacher. The head teacher was concerned that Max had been telling everyone at school that his grandad had made an omelette for a famous film star and it killed him. Thankfully Ian assured the school that his dad was not a poisoner and that Gregory Peck had died many years after consuming Ken's fare. A salutary lesson brethren to be careful what you say around young children.

When Ken was a young dashing man about town, he and his good friend Eddie Hemmings used to socialize in the pubs and clubs of Liverpool and they each took turns at each venue to spot and try to dance with young ladies. On one occasion in 1972, it was Ken's turn to spot suitable ladies and whilst at a nightclub called Samantha's Playground, off Dale Street, he saw a girl who he fancied, it was Barbara who subsequently after a couple of years courting became his beloved wife Barbara who he married on 26 October 1974.

Barbara is four days younger than Ken and was also born at Mill Road Hospital and Ken has speculated that both he and Barbara may have been on the same maternity ward, although he has been unable to verify it. Since he has retired from working in addition to his Masonic activities Ken is actively engaged managing the electoral roll database at his wife's church and volunteering at the church foodbank.

Now let us turn to Ken's Masonic career, he was initiated into Harthill Lodge No 8443, on 20 March 1975. Ken worked his way through the progressive offices of the lodge and in 1986 became WM of Harthill Lodge for the first time, he would again be WM in 2007 and again in 2024.

Ken was recognised by the Province of West Lancashire on 25 May 1995 when he was appointed to the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon, then on 17 October 2002 he was promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works and on 12 May 2016 to the very high rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Ken has continued to serve his lodge as secretary and group representative and has served the former Garston Group as the group webmaster and publicity officer from November 2013 to May 2022.

Turning to the Royal Arch, Ken was exalted into Kirkdale Chapter No 1756 on 1 October 1993 and installed as first principal on 25 August 1998.

Unfortunately, due to his increased responsibilities with work and travelling across the country to attend meetings, he reluctantly resigned from the chapter.

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 as a Freemason and even more so that you have allowed us to celebrate your special evening with you.

Ken 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 the Group Chairman Worshipful Brother David Atkinson to read.