

**VICTORIA LODGE**

**No. 4629**

**Consecrated**

**16<sup>th</sup> October, 1924**



**Celebration of 100 years  
of Continuous Freemasonry**



**RT. WORSHIPFUL BROTHER  
MARK MATTHEWS**

**PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER  
OF AND OVER THE PROVINCE OF  
WEST LANCASHIRE**

## VICTORIA LODGE No. 4629

### ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF AND TRUST

Freemasonry is very much a part of the history of the Nation extending for Centuries. The earliest known record of Freemasonry, as we know it, can be found in the Diary of Elias Ashmole through an entry for 16 October 1646 that reads in part:

“I was made a Free Mason at Warrington in Lancashire, with Col. Henry Mainwaring of Karincham [Kermincham] in Cheshire.”

Although there is only one other mention of masonic activity in his diary he seems to have remained in good standing and well-connected with the fraternity as he was still attending meetings in 1682.

On 10 March that year he wrote: “About 5 P.M. I received a Sumons to appear at a Lodge to be held the next day, at Masons Hall London.” The following day, 11 March 1682, he wrote: “Accordingly, I went ... I was the Senior Fellow among them (it being 35 years since I was admitted) ... We all dined at the Half Moon Tavern in Cheapeside, at a Noble Dinner prepared at the charge of the New-accepted Masons.”

Ashmole’s notes are one of the earliest references to Freemasonry known in England but apart from these entries in his autobiographical notes, there are no further details about his involvement.

Freemasonry came to Widnes with the Consecration of the Lodge of Equity No. 1384 on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1872. The Lodge is now named as “Equity and Appleton” following an amalgamation with Appleton Lodge No. 6468 in 2008.

Other Lodges were formed during the early years of the twentieth century – Widnes Lodge, the Lodge of Fellowship and Goodwill Lodge. In the early 1920’s, a proposition was made in the Lodge of Fellowship to establish a new Lodge in Widnes to be known as Victoria Lodge.

Victoria Lodge was consecrated on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1924, and numbered 4629 in the Register of the United Grand Lodge of England. Victoria Lodge has been active since that date and, on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, will celebrate one hundred years of continual existence.

This anthology traces the establishment, Consecration and development of Victoria Lodge through its Members activities over the past one hundred years, culminating in a Celebration on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of West Lancashire, V. Worshipful Brother Mark Matthews.

## Victoria Lodge Secretaries



<b>Bro. Edwin Johnson</b>	<b>1924</b>
<b>Bro. E. R. Kirby</b>	<b>1927</b>
<b>Bro. W. H. Traviss</b>	<b>1932</b>
<b>W. Bro. E. R. Kirby</b>	<b>1936</b>
<b>Bro. T. P. Traviss</b>	<b>1969</b>
<b>W. Bro. P. Tallon</b>	<b>1972</b>
<b>W. Bro. A. G. Clark</b>	<b>1976</b>
<b>W. Bro. J. Waring</b>	<b>1986</b>
<b>W. Bro. D. Wilkinson</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>W. Bro. T. W. Bushell</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>W. Bro. J. B. Lewis</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>W. Bro. J. D. Gibbon</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>W. Bro. P. Kenny</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>W. Bro. A. S. Baldwin</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>W. Bro. A. I. Pope</b>	<b>2024</b>

## Victoria Lodge Treasurers



<b>Bro. R. H. Passey</b>	<b>1924</b>
<b>W. Bro. H. Burgess</b>	<b>1930</b>
<b>W. Bro. R. Clibborn</b>	<b>1933</b>
<b>W. Bro. P. Tallon</b>	<b>1965</b>
<b>W. Bro. A. G. Clark</b>	<b>1969</b>
<b>Bro. M. Antwiss</b>	<b>1970</b>
<b>W. Bro. P. Tallon</b>	<b>1974</b>
<b>W. Bro. A. Meara</b>	<b>1977</b>
<b>W. Bro. G. A. Tuthill</b>	<b>1984</b>
<b>Bro. S. Hindley</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>W. Bro. C. Spencer</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>W. Bro. S. Hindley</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>W. Bro. F. J. Parle</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>W. Bro. J. E. Baldwin</b>	<b>2022</b>

**Victoria Lodge**  
**Director of Ceremonies**



W. Bro. The Rev. J. Edwardson	1924
W. Bro. S. McCausland	1926
W. Bro. F. A. Clark	1960
W. Bro. R. Kirby	1964
W. Bro. A. J. Tallon	1975
W. Bro. E. K. Carter	1985
W. Bro. K. Myers	1987
W. Bro. W. E. Grimoldby	1996
W. Bro. D. Goulden	1999
W. Bro. J. E. Baldwin	2001
W. Bro. B. Boothroyd	2008
W. Bro. M. J. Baldwin	2018

**Victoria Lodge**  
**Members Elected to the Masonic Hall**  
**Board of Management**



W. Bro. W. L. Carter  
W. Bro. K. Myers  
W. Bro. D. Wilkinson  
W. Bro. A. I. Pope



**VICTORIA LODGE No. 4629**

**CELEBRATING**  
**ONE HUNDRED YEARS**  
**OF CONTINUOUS FREEMASONRY**

**THURSDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2024**

**WIDNES MASONIC HALL**  
**KINGSWAY**  
**WIDNES**

**IN THE PRESENCE OF**

**RT. WORSHIPFUL BROTHER**  
**MARK MATTHEWS**

**GRAND MASTER FOR THE**  
**PROVINCE OF WEST LANCASHIRE**



## HONORARY MEMBERS OF VICTORIA LODGE

*Victoria Lodge Members have conferred Honorary Membership on the following Brethren in recognition of the service they have given to the Lodge spanning many years.*

W. Bro. G. A. Tuthill PPrSGD  
 Bro. H. Aspinall  
 W. Bro. C. Spencer PPrGSuptWks  
 W. Bro. D. Goulden PPrSGD  
 W. Bro. D. Myers PPrSGD  
 W. Bro. G. Hughes PPrSGD  
 W. Bro. B. Harris PPrAGDC  
 W. Bro. N. Pritchard PPrJGW

Victoria Lodge was born out of the Lodge of Fellowship No. 3799 and initial movement towards the establishment and consecration of a new lodge commenced and gained momentum in the years 1922 to 1924. The motivation for a new Lodge came from several prominent Widnes Freemasons and particularly members of the Lodge of Fellowship No. 3799.

Three members - W. Bro. Dr. S. McCausland MC PSGD, W. Bro. Jas. Edwardson PPrAGStdB and W. Bro. A.E Edwards PM – are mentioned in the first Minute Book for their enthusiasm in forming the new Lodge. Sadly, no minutes of meetings prior to Consecration have survived the years but anecdotal evidence and comments from senior members over the years have helped us to produce an analysis of those early discussions.



**Dr. S McCausland**  
Mayor of Widnes

The prime motivation for the formation of a new Lodge was undoubtedly from Worshipful Bro. Samuel McCausland, a Founder Member of the Lodge of Fellowship in 1917. Originally from Ulster, he arrived in Widnes in the early years of the Twentieth Century via South Wales and became a Joining Member of the Widnes Lodge No. 2819 in 1913. A prominent local doctor involved in many aspects of local community activity, he was well known and highly respected in the town. Keen to promote and extend Freemasonry, He was installed as the first Master of the Lodge of Fellowship in 1917.

Subsequently, it was formerly proposed in the Lodge of Fellowship that “a new Lodge should be founded in Widnes”. The Worshipful Master and his Wardens signed the petition that set in motion a series of events that led to the Consecration of Victoria Lodge on the 16th October, 1924.

Over the years, there has been much speculation about the choice of “Victoria” as the name for the new Lodge. Whilst an image of Queen Victoria is represented on the Founder Member and Past Master Jewel, it is generally believed that the name reflects an area of Widnes that carried that name in the early years of the Twentieth Century. Interestingly, the Image on the Lodge Circular is a “mason’s bag of tools” rather than an emulation of the image on the Past Masters’ Jewel.

There were 18 Founder Members of the new Lodge drawn from the Lodge of Fellowship and one Member from the Widnes Lodge. In the Minutes to the Consecration Meeting there is mention of W. Bro. Dr. Creighton Hutchinson, a Founder Member and first Master of the Lodge of Fellowship in 1917, who “gave valuable advice to the Founders and support” to the fledgling Lodge in those early years. The third Thursday in the month was established, and remains, as the meeting day.

On the 16th October, 1924, the Consecration of the Lodge was undertaken by Very Worshipful Brother John H. Burrell, PGD (Eng) Provincial Grand Master assisted by Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers. W. Bro. S. McCausland, installed as the First Master, appointed and then invested his officers:

Immediate Past Master	W. Bro. A. E. Edwards	Inner Guard	Bro. M.Rushton
Senior Warden	Bro. the Rev. Jos. Edwardson MA	Senior Steward	Bro. T. Smith
Junior Warden	Bro. R. Clibborn	Junior Steward	Bro. E.J.Stanley
Treasurer	Bro. R. H. Passey	Asst. Steward	Bro. E.R. Kirby
Secretary	Bro. Edwin Johnson	Asst. Steward	Bro. W. Stanley
Director of Ceremonies	W. Bro. J. Edwardson PPrAGDC	Asst. Steward	Bro. J. Nichol
Senior Deacon	Bro. C. Holford	Asst. Steward	Bro. E. H. Lee
Junior Deacon	Bro. H. Burgess	Asst. Steward	Bro. C. E. Brooks
Organist	Bro. F. A. Clark	Tyler	Bro. S. Welding

Before concluding the Consecration Meeting, Six Brethren were proposed as Joining Members and the names of Four Candidates were mentioned for Initiation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Clifford L. COHEN	Runcorn	Shopkeeper	20/11/1924	1937
Joseph JOHNSON	Widnes	Clerk	20/11/1924	1938
William Herbert TWISS	Widnes	Engineer	20/11/1924	1939 & 1940
John W. OWEN	Widnes	Shopkeeper	20/12/1924	-
James SMITH	Manchester	Railway Clerk	20/11/1924	-
Thomas Houghton OWEN	Widnes	Shopkeeper	20/11/1924	-
Arthur MORRIS	Widnes	Accountant	20/11/1924	1941
Arthur ADDIS	Widnes	Cabinet Maker	20/11/1924	1942
James W. COLLIER	Rotherham	Accountant	18/12/1924	-
Frederick CRANE	Widnes	Motor Engineer	18/12/1924	-
Robert SMITH	Widnes	Engineer	19/02/1925	1943
Richard KIRBY	Widnes	Commercial Clerk	19/02/1925	1947
Hector COHEN	Widnes	Engineer	19/02/1925	-
Frank BURLEY	Widnes	Commercial Traveller	16/04/1925	-
Ernest HUGHES	Runcorn	Ships Officer	21/05/1925	-
Francis Horace DANIELS	Widnes	Bank Cashier	21/05/1925	1944
Dr. Creighton HUTCHINSON	Widnes	Doctor	15/10/1925	-
John S. PATTEN	Widnes	Retired	15/10/1925	-
William HELSBY	Widnes	Riveter	19/11/1925	1945
James METCALFE	Manchester	Actor	21/01/1926	-
William Alexander WILCOX	Manchester	Fitter	18/03/1926	-
James Arthur HOPLEY	Widnes	Works Engineer	18/03/1926	1946
Henry BESWICK	Widnes	Assurance Agent	20/05/1926	-
William BATE	Great Sankey	Commercial Clerk	20/05/1926	-
William GREEN	Widnes	Clerk	18/11/1926	-
Henry Doward FLETCHER	Widnes	Butcher	18/11/1926	-
Ernest WALKER	Widnes	Grocer	16/12/1926	1948
George Ernest MAYHALL	Widnes	Com. Representative	16/12/1926	-
William TYE	Widnes	Works Engineer	20/10/1927	-
Robert Arthur SAMMONS	Widnes	Sales Clerk	17/11/1927	1949
Harold Leslie GOULDEN	Runcorn	Builder & Contractor	17/11/1927	-
Joseph BRADLEY	Widnes	Iron Worker	15/12/1927	-
Clarence BINGHAM	Warrington	Engineer	15/12/1927	1950
Harold CHALLENGER	Widnes	Statistical Clerk	19/04/1928	-
John Jones GRIFFITHS	Rugby	Works Manager	20/09/1928	1951
John Henry WITHINGTON	Widnes	Chief Clerk	17/01/1929	-
William Eric EDWARDSON	Widnes	Publican	18/04/1929	1952
Arthur Edward HARDMAN	Widnes	Works Chemist	18/04/1929	-
Harold Leslie GOULDEN	Runcorn	Engineer	19/09/1929	-
Thomas OWEN	Widnes	Foreman Joiner	19/09/1929	-
William Cecil WRIGHT	Widnes	Commercial Clerk	20/02/1930	1953
Thomas KIDDIE	Urmston	Const. Engineer	20/03/1930	-
Herbert Robert STRICTLAND	Widnes	Clerk	20/03/1930	-
Fred CLARKSON	Widnes	Master Printer	15/05/1930	-
Sydney DOYLE	Widnes	Insurance Agent	18/12/1930	1954
Arthur HARDLEY	Runcorn	Pattern Maker	19/02/1930	1955
John JOHNSON	Widnes	Surveyors Assistant	21/05/1931	-
James Leonard MARTIN	Wolverhampton	Accessory Manager	17/12/1931	-
Arthur PICKTHALL	Hale	Police Sergeant	17/12/1931	-
James WALLACE	Widnes	Solicitor	17/03/1932	-
Frank SMITH	Widnes	Foreman Fitter	19/05/1932	-
James Edgar BOYER	Widnes	M/Tool Designer	19/05/1932	-
Ernest CHARLTON	Widnes	Engineer	16/02/1933	-
Eric WILSON	Widnes	Audit Clerk	16/02/1933	-
Frank JACKSON	Warrington	Insurance Agent	18/05/1933	1956
William Charles HUGHES	Widnes	Schoolmaster	18/05/1933	1957

## OFFICERS & BRETHREN OF VICTORIA LODGE 2024-25



**Worshipful Master Bro. D. M. Jameson**

Immediate Past Master	W. Bro. D.L. Lewis PPrSGD1
Senior Warden	Bro. Dr. J.T. Gibbon
Junior Warden	Bro. K. Morton
Chaplain	W. Bro. G. Shields PPrGSuptWks
Director of Ceremonies	W. Bro. M. Baldwin PPrJGD
Senior Deacon	Bro. K. Spencer
Junior Deacon	Bro. M. Giblin
Secretary	W. Bro. A. I. Pope
Treasurer	W. Bro. J.E. Baldwin PPrDepGSuptWks
Almoner	W. Bro Brian Boothroyd PPrDepGSwdB.
Assistant Secretary	W. Bro. I.J. Lynch PPrSGD
Charity Steward	W. Bro. A. I. Pope
Asst. Director of Ceremonies	W. Bro. Brian Boothroyd PPrDepGSwdB
Lodge Mentor	W. Bro. R. Bazley, PPrAGSwdB
Membership Officer	W. Bro. John D. Gibbon PPrJGW
Board Member	W. Bro. A. I. Pope
Inner Guard	Bro. S. Blythin
Tyler	W. Bro. John D. Gibbon PPrJGW

### MEMBERS

W. Bro. A.J. Tallon PJGD.  
W. Bro. K. Myers PPrAGSuptWks  
W. Bro D. Wilkinson PPrJGW  
W. Bro. Andrew S Baldwin PPrAGSuptWks  
W. Bro. T.W. Bushell PADepGSuptWks  
W. Bro. F.J. Parle PPrJGW  
W. Bro. P.N.C. Kenny PPrSGD  
W. Bro P Abbott PPrGSuptWks  
Bro. T.J. Taylor  
Bro. A. Shaw

## AND SO, TO THE FUTURE....

The first hundred years of Victoria Lodge have now been completed and so we move on to the next hundred!

Throughout its history, Victoria Lodge has had a strong membership but the last decade has shown that even the most successful can suffer setbacks. That said, Victoria Lodge Membership of 27 is higher than when the Lodge was Consecrated in 1924 and, when looking at the dramatic intake of Candidates, certainly in the first 25 years, there is reason to be optimistic that numbers may rise again although perhaps, not to that same level. The history shows that there are peaks and troughs in every decade, giving just cause to be positive about the future. A total of 344 Brethren have been Initiated, Joined or been made Honorary Members since Victoria Lodge was Consecrated in 1924.

The recent Pandemic caused people to think differently about their lives and we saw Past Members, who had resigned for a variety of reasons, come back into the Fraternity. Adversity brings a sense of togetherness and association that is inherent in mankind. And Freemasonry explores those traits and gives well thought out reasons as to why they are important in our lives.

Today we look to the future for that is where the next generation of Freemasons are to be found and will spend their lives. It is up to us, the Freemasons of today, to ensure that the principles and tenants enshrined in our Brotherhood are as relevant tomorrow as they are today and that were paramount when Victoria Lodge was Consecrated back in 1924.

And those principles are special, as is amply demonstrated when each one of us, starting as an individual, took our obligations and became “a Brother among Masons”.



Founders Jewel  
1924



Centenary Jewel  
2024

## 1924 to 1934 - A DECADE OF CONSOLIDATION

At the first regular Meeting of Victoria Lodge on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1926, a Ballot was held for four Joining Members and four Candidates for Initiation. The ballots were favourable. Two of the Candidates for Initiation, Mr. Arthur Addis and Arthur Morris were in attendance and initiated into the First Degree. The two other Candidates, Thomas Owen and James Collier were Initiated a month later. In the first decade, 51 Candidates were Initiated and six Freemasons became Joining Members. On occasions, two candidates were admitted in tandem due to the numbers awaiting Initiation. Founder Members continued to be installed as Worshipful Master until 1937.



**St. Paul's Chambers**  
**The first home of Victoria Lodge**

W. Bro. McCausland continued as the Director of Ceremonies for many years but it is believed that the actual working of a Ceremony was left in the hands of the Assistant Director of Ceremonies. W. Bro. McCausland sat at the side of the Worshipful Master in order to “prompt him”.

An early Candidate, Richard Kirby, the son of Richard Kirby Snr. a (Founder) Member, and thus a Lewis, was Initiated into Victoria Lodge on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1925. Small in stature but large in personality he dominated Lodge meetings for the next 69 years. Over the years, he was the guardian of the ritual and practices followed in Victoria Lodge. The Tyler and Inner Guard would feel his displeasure should a candidate be admitted improperly dressed and pity any Brother who unnecessarily stepped on the Squared Pavement!

That said, he would heartily congratulate members who effectively contributed to a ceremony and was most welcoming of new members and visitors alike. Even into increasing age, he would occasionally take the Chair and deliver exceptional ritual. It is unlikely there will ever be another member like him and his name appears regularly in the Lodge history.

In that first decade, a total of 62 members joined Victoria Lodge either through Initiation or as Joining Members from other Lodges. On several occasions double ceremonies were held to cater for the numbers awaiting initiation. Each year of that first decade, a Founder Member was to be Installed as the Master of the Lodge.



The first Honorary Member of Victoria Lodge was W. Bro. Dr. Creighton Hutchinson. A friend of Victoria Lodge he gave active support in the early formative years. A local doctor of renown, who practised amongst the poorest people in the town, he was greatly admired both in and outside the Craft. Following his death in 1927, local people contributed to a lasting memorial to celebrate the good he did in the community and a bust of Dr. Hutchinson stands in the Victoria Promenade gardens.

By September, 1934, the Lodge could be proud of the progress and consolidation that had been achieved in the first decade and was well placed to prosper in the years ahead. There continued to be a healthy membership with more Candidates to come. But storm clouds began to litter the political horizon that would, in a matter of five years, impact all sections of society. Freemasonry and Victoria Lodge could not be totally exempt from the dark days that were to dominate the nation.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Arthur BARROW	Runcorn	Electrician	18/01/1934	-
Robert PARKER	Widnes	Chemist	18/01/1934	-
Jacob ABRAHAMSEN	Liverpool	Pawn Broker	15/03/1934	-
George BRADY	Manchester	Print Manager	17/05/1934	-
Isaac MOTTERSHEAD	Widnes	Railway Clerk	17/01/1935	-
Thomas HARPER	Widnes	Police Constable	17/01/1935	-
Albert PRESCOTT	Widnes	Analytical Chemist	18/04/1935	1958
Walter WRIGHT	Rainhill	Police Sergeant	16/05/1935	-
John WREN	Widnes	Police Constable	19/12/1935	-
Samuel Edward ROWSON	Widnes	Police Constable	19/03/1936	-
Robert JONES	Runcorn	Plumber	17/12/1936	-
Alfred HARTLES	Widnes	Coal Merchant	18/02/1937	-
Albert VOWLES	Widnes	Engineer	18/02/1937	1960
Vincent Clarence HALLMAN	Widnes	Engineer	20/05/1937	-
William Andrew AMOR	Widnes	Works Manager	20/05/1937	-
Fred JEFFERSON	Widnes	Engineer	16/12/1937	1959
Jeffrey Arthur Law STUART	Rainhill	Chemical Engineer	16/12/1937	-
William Edward CARTER	Widnes	Metal Broker	17/03/1938	-
David Pilgrim GARNER	Runcorn	Joiner	21/04/1938	1961
Herbert William HAWKER	Bristol	Transport Contractor	17/11/1938	-
William Henry TALLON	Widnes	Building Contractor	15/12/1938	1962
Pierce TALLON	Widnes	Clerk	18/01/1940	1963
Alfred BURTON	Great Sankey	Construction Engineer	21/03/1940	-
Joseph Booth GRICE	Widnes	Insurance Agent	16/05/1940	1964
John Richard BAILEY	Widnes	Haulage Contractor	21/12/1940	-
John SMITH	Widnes	Chemical Worker	18/03/1941	-
Abraham D. ABRAHAMSON	Widnes	Solicitor	17/04/1941	-
Samuel KELSALL	Cronton	Farmer	15/05/1941	-
Benjamin LEWIS	Widnes	Cashiers Clerk	16/04/1942	-
Harold BOSWELL	Widnes	Aircraft Fitter	21/05/1942	-
William Leslie CARTER	Widnes	Engineer	18/06/1942	1965
Thomas BARKER	Penwortham	Police Constable	18/06/1942	-
John Nielson HUDSON	Liverpool	Works Manager	16/07/1942	-
William DINGSDALE	Bold	Transport Manager	20/08/1942	-
William CROSBY	Liverpool	Builder	15/07/1943	-
Lawrence Douglas LAWRENCE	Widnes	Department Manager	15/07/1943	1966
Stanley HALLIWELL	Widnes	Railway Clerk	19/08/1943	-
Thomas Percy TRAVIS	Widnes	Police Sergeant	19/08/1943	1967
Harry PRESTON	Cronton	Farmer	16/12/1943	-
George Edward HILL	Runcorn	Works Engineer	17/02/1944	-
Sydney Lawrence SWALES	Widnes	Plant Engineer	17/02/1944	-
Albert Edward BURNS	Widnes	Grocer	20/04/1944	-
George Stephen HALSALL	Widnes	Accountant	20/04/1944	-
Mark LAUTENBERG	Widnes	Photographer	18/05/1944	-
William GREGORY	Widnes	Joiner	21/09/1944	-

### 1934 to 1944 - POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY AND WAR IN EUROPE

Moving into the second decade of Victoria Lodge, the flow of Candidates was maintained and the Lodge remained popular. With 37 Candidates for Initiation and four Joining Members in the forthcoming ten years, Ritual had to be learned and early traditions maintained. The Masonic Chambers in Victoria Road remained as the home of Widnes Freemasonry and would do so for some time to come.

W. Bro. Mehdrad Daliri was initiated into Victoria Lodge in November 2009. An Iranian national he had been resident in Widnes for some years and was a Lecturer at a local college. He was installed as Worshipful Master in 2016 and enjoyed a successful year of ceremonies interspersed with lectures. He was particularly effective when it is considered that English is not his first language. A mild and composed man, he had a friendly disposition and a smile for everyone.



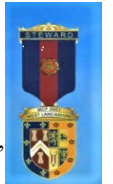
In 2016, W. Brother Tony Tallon celebrated 60 years as a Freemason. He continues to attend Lodge Meetings and he has time for everyone, from the long serving to junior brethren just taking their tentative steps and who are the Lodge future. Mild mannered and easily approachable he still enjoys his Freemasonry and he never complains or comments how the lodge has evolved in recent times. He is a good friend to all.



W. Bro. George Shields became a Joining Member of Victoria Lodge following the closure of Royal George Lodge in 2003. He fully absorbed himself into the practices of Victoria Lodge and was Installed as Worshipful Master in 2017. Confident and experienced in all aspects of the Ritual, candidates felt at ease with his calming tones and unhurried manner. He Initiated Bro. David Jameson into Freemasonry and who is now the newly installed Worshipful Master for the Centenary Year.

With fewer Candidates for Initiation - throughout the decade ten Candidates and three Joining Members - it became necessary for Past Masters to take on the role of Worshipful Master. W. Bro. John Baldwin had already occupied the Master's Chair in 2003 and 2012 and he, once more, stepped forward. He was installed as Worshipful Master in 2019 and continued as Master into 2020-21.

W. Bro. John Gibbon was installed as Worshipful Master for the second time in 2021 and installed Bro. Andrew Pope as the Worshipful Master a year later. It had taken Bro. Pope just six years to attain the Chair of Victoria Lodge Under his guidance the Lodge moved ahead as we commenced the arrangements for the Lodge Centenary. He is currently the Board Member for Victoria Lodge and holds the office of Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.



Victoria Lodge approached the end the first 100 years celebrating Charity. The 2021 Festival in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation was embraced by all the members of Victoria Lodge and many proudly wear the Festival Jewel. More than £12,000 was raised by the Lodge members through individual and Lodge contributions, a magnificent achievement by the Members.



Year on year, the Victoria Lodge members give their support to national and local charities. This includes the local foodbank and members turn out to give practical help in the distribution process. Other members do things the hard way such as W. Bro. Ian Lynch completing the London Marathon, raising more than £2,300 from his efforts.

**Finally, one Brother has contributed time and effort to ensure the Celebration of 100 years of Victoria Lodge has been a success - W. Bro. Peter Kenny P.Pr.S.G.D. The members of Victoria Lodge express their gratitude to W. Bro. Kenny for everything he has accomplished to ensure the Centenary Celebration is one the Lodge Members will remember.**



<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Stevie Joseph STEWART	Runcorn	Web Technician	17/12/2015	
Francis Lawrence TUZIO	Widnes	Retired H. Dresser	17/03/2016	2018
George Yousef SABA	Widnes	Anaesthetist	17/03/2016	
Andrew Irvine POPE	Widnes	Surveyor	21/04/2016	2022
David Oscar HANSEN	Widnes	Ret. Police Officer	16/11/2017	
David Maurice JAMESON	Runcorn	Ret Plant. Manager	18/01/2018	2024
Thomas James TAYLOR	Runcorn	Com. Ctr. Manager	21/03/2019	
Colin CAFFERTY	Runcorn	Retired	21/01/2021	
Jonathon SIMMONS	Widnes	Therapist	16/09/2021	
Ian LYNCH	Widnes	Shift Manager	18/12/2021	
Michael Martin GIBLIN	St. Helens	Company Director	18/05/2023	
Shaun BLYTHIN	St. Helens	Company Director	16/11/2023	
Norman PRITCHARD	Warrington	Retired	21/03/2024	
Anthony SHAW	Widnes	Stonemason	19/09/2024	

### **2014 to 24 – FALL IN MEMBERSHIP BUT OFFICERS STRIVING TO BE SUCCESSFUL**

The second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was, at times, difficult. Membership remained relatively high but resignations and deaths outstripped new members coming forward. There had been other times in the history when this was the case. Recovery was made and, what was important, was the calibre of Candidates who met the ideals of Freemasonry, always took precedence over sheer numbers.

None-the-less, Brethren stepped forward to fill the progressive offices and for five of the ten years it was Initiates making their way through the offices who were Installed as the Worshipful Master. On the other occasions, they were supplemented by Brethren who had previously occupied the Master's Chair and, each time, the Brother approached the role with enthusiasm and vigour.

A philosophy in Victoria Lodge is that each office brings knowledge and learning and Brethren should have time to understand the significance of their progress. Every Brother deserves that reflection to contemplate the teachings of a Degree. Being part of a Ceremony can be absorbing in itself and the significance of the Ritual may take time to be understood. Watching other Candidates making their way through the Degrees gives insight but, equally, no Brother should be pressured into an office just because a void needs to be filled. Some brethren need more time than others.

Bro. Robert William Bazley was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in 2007 and installed as the Worshipful Master in 2014. It had taken him seven years to achieve that office, beginning his journey at the Installation meeting immediately after completing his Third Degree. With a decline in the membership, new Candidates were taking progressive steps much sooner than in past years.

More senior members had spent time as Stewards and the loss to later Brethren has, perhaps, been the opportunity to watch Ceremonies unfold and learn the intricacies of each Degree. Despite Candidates not coming forward in the numbers experienced in previous years, ceremonies still needed to be undertaken for those completing their journey. Brother Bazley accomplished his responsibilities with composure and assurance.

The link with the earliest days of Victoria Lodge was finally broken in March, 2016 with the sad news of the death of W. Bro. Arnold Clark. The son of Founder Member, Bro. F.A. Clark, he was a quiet man and Installed as the Worshipful Master in the Lodge 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. For several years he was the Lodge Secretary and he still attended Lodge Meetings up to his death. Exhibiting a pleasant personality, he never failed to give praise to the Worshipful Master and other officers involved in ceremonies.



Founder Members continued to be installed as Master of Victoria Lodge until 1938 and then, for the following three years, by Joining Members balloted for at the second meeting. However, Brethren initiated in the early years were now occupying other offices and partaking in the Ceremonies as they progressed towards becoming Master. Bro. Arthur Addis, the first Initiate mentioned in Lodge, was installed as Master of Victoria Lodge in 1942, eighteen years after his Initiation. He later moved to the Fylde coast where he joined a local Lodge to continue his Freemasonry.

The final two Candidates of that first decade - Bros. Frank Jackson and William Charles Hughes - were Initiated into Victoria Lodge together in May 1933. They would not be installed as the Master of Victoria Lodge until 1956 and 1957, a wait of 23 and 24 years. How times have changed.

Festivals were held in Provinces to support Masonic Charities and, in 1937, the Province of West Lancashire hosted a Festival for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. Victoria Lodge members embraced the collective effort and proudly displayed the Festival Jewel.



**Festival Jewel**

But away from Freemasonry, there was growing apprehension amongst the population as storm clouds littered the political horizon in the wider world. On-going instability on continental Europe and worrying activity in the Far East raised anxiety levels. The rise and expansion of Germany especially brought grave concerns. At home, the abdication of King Edward increased the volatility gripping the nation. The Declaration of War in 1939 would bring irreversible changes to Society but, during those dark days of uncertainty, Freemasonry remained firm.

Despite the ever-unfolding horrors of World War 2, "Freemasonry continued as a stabilising influence through the uncertainty that engulfed the nation" – the words of W. Bro. Richard Kirby, someone who had lived through those dark days, at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lodge in 1974. Lodge Meetings took cognizance of Black-out and other regulatory measures imposed in the War Years. Lodge Members volunteered for armed service or auxiliary roles in their community such as Special Constables or with the Fire Service. Other Members kept Lodges alive and gave solace and charity to people living in those difficult times.

We cannot imagine what daily life was like in those War torn times, but that first cadre of members defended and maintained the traditions of Freemasonry and it is their endeavours that made Victoria Lodge what it is today. Through the harsh times of the war years they regularly attended Lodge, sometimes in difficult circumstances, often at differing times, and continued to give comfort to those engulfed in the day to day horrors of war. Members ensured that, when hostilities ceased, there would be a welcoming return for those who defended our country and, for others, a safe haven and place of refuge.

Lodge Members continued to defend, as they always have, the diversity of men who make up the Order with candidates drawn from a variety of occupations and backgrounds. There remained, as it does today, recognition that all men are equal and, as long as they are of good character and hold a belief in a Supreme Being, they will be welcomed into Freemasonry.

Bro. Stanley Halliwell was initiated into Victoria Lodge in 1943. Later that year he joined Bomber Command where he trained as a Navigator. He flew nightly missions across Europe, navigating aircraft to a target and then home. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "devotion to duty when flying in an active operation against the enemy by skilfully establishing a safe passage home avoiding enemy positions and loss of aircraft". He was later awarded a Bar to that honour for similar devotion to duty. At the end of WW2, Bro. Holloway continued life with the Royal Air Force at home and overseas but he remained a member of Victoria Lodge until his death in 1992.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Harold HARRISON	Widnes	Barber	21/12/1944	
Harold Arthur BARBER	Widnes	Plumber	15/03/1945	
Stanley HAMLETT	Widnes	Master Butcher	15/11/1945	1968
Arthur Leslie MARSHALL	Widnes	Newsagent	17/01/1946	
Arthur GREEN	Warrington	Clerk	17/01/1946	
Fred TILLEY	Widnes	Process Foreman	21/03/1946	
Lawrence Walter BRAZEL	Widnes	Chemical Engineer	21/03/1946	
Frank Edgar CORNES	Cronton	Insurance Agent	19/09/1946	
John WRIGHT	Widnes	Drapery Manager	19/09/1946	
William TEALE	Widnes	Civil Servant	19/12/1946	
David CORNES	Cronton	Haulage Contractor	19/12/1946	
George Walter CARLISLE	Warrington	Cycle Dealer	20/03/1947	1969
William Henry TAYLOR	Widnes	Electrician	20/03/1947	
Arthur Hendy EVANS	Runcorn	Clerk	17/04/1947	
Fred Sparks WHITFIELD	Widnes	Engineer	17/04/1947	
Thomas Lynford TAYLOR	Widnes	Joiner	20/11/1947	
John Arthur HAMLETT	Warrington	Tanner	20/11/1947	
John RANGLES	Widnes	Factory Foreman	15/01/1948	
John LIGHTFOOT	Widnes	Taxi Driver	15/01/1948	
James EDWARDSON	Widnes	Wages Clerk	20/05/1948	
Robert SMITH	Widnes	Manager/Buyer	20/05/1948	
George Clifford EATON	Widnes	Joiner	18/11/1948	
Samuel George FLEET	Widnes	Joiner	18/11/1948	
George LYONS	Widnes	Sales Clerk	17/03/1949	
Joseph Lomax McBURNIE	Widnes	Draughtsman	17/03/1949	
Wilfred Douglas NEWLOVE	Widnes	Tailoring Manager	21/04/1949	
James Thomas BROWN	Widnes	Head Groundsman	17/11/1949	
Thomas WHIMPERLEY	Widnes	Labour Officer	17/11/1949	
William James M. HARRIES	Widnes	Police Constable	15/12/1949	
John James CROWE	Santa Monica US	US Forces 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree on behalf of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Santa Monica Lodge, California, US Constitution		
John HUGHES	Widnes	Clerk	18/05/1950	
Edward Kenneth CARTER	Widnes	Clerk	18/05/1950	1970
John HORNBY	Birmingham	Company Director	21/09/1950	
Richard Tarrant PEOVER	Widnes	Works Study Officer	21/09/1950	
Clifford Ernest BROOKS	Middlesbrough	Showroom Manager	21/12/1950	
Edward Brooks HARDMAN	Widnes	Engineer	15/03/1951	
Harold V. M. STEWART	Halewood	Market Gardener	15/03/1951	
Charles HUGHES	Runcorn	Engineer	19/04/1951	
Ronald DRABBLE	Blackpool	Fitter	19/04/1951	
John TANDY	Halebank	Maintenance Engineer	19/04/1951	
James HOLLINGSWORTH	Widnes	Motor Driver	15/11/1951	
John Addison SENIOR	Halewood	Civil Engineer	20/03/1952	
John Smith KAY	Widnes	Bricklayer	20/03/1952	
James Joseph WILSON	Widnes	Coal Merchant	20/03/1952	
Thomas Harold SHUKER	Widnes	Coal Merchant	18/12/1952	
Arthur JACKSON	Widnes	Leather Grader	18/12/1952	1971
Frank Hampton BROADLEY	Widnes	Chemist	18/12/1952	
Joseph Bennet CROSBY	Widnes	Grocer	19/02/1953	
Thomas Benjamin LEWIS	Widnes	Assistant Buyer	19/02/1953	
Norman MILNER	Widnes	Admin. Assistant	21/05/1953	
Leslie Moss FLANAGHAN	Widnes	Butcher	21/05/1953	
Fred LEIGH	Widnes	Audit Clerk	19/11/1953	
Norman Richard BARKER	Widnes	Chemical Plumber	18/03/1954	
Roger WATSON	Widnes	General Foreman	18/03/1954	

It was an important position in the Lodge and one that he excelled at because of his personal attributes and skills. He was the right Brother for this role. He passed to the Grand Lodge above in 2020 and it was a sad loss to Members and the Widows supported by Victoria Lodge.



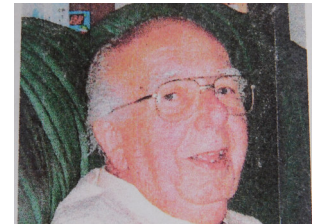
**W. Bro. Steven Nash**

Bro. Matthew Baldwin was Initiated into Freemasonry in Victoria Lodge by his father, W. Bro. John Baldwin, on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006. He progressed through the various offices and Installed as Worshipful Master in 2013. He is currently the Director of Ceremonies of Victoria Lodge, continuing a family tradition set by his father, W. Bro. John Baldwin who was the Director of Ceremonies for some years. He is confident on the floor of the Lodge and leads his team of officers by setting a high personal standard.

W. Bro. Joe Lucas was a Joining Member of Victoria Lodge in 2012. A man who loved his Freemasonry he was a well-known and formidable figure at Widnes Masonic Hall. He encouraged younger Brethren who were occupying the positions of Inner Guard and Deacons and taking their early steps on becoming the Worshipful Master. He was not slow at reminding more senior brethren that they commenced their Masonic progression taking those first precarious steps.

In 2012, W. Bro. David Wilkinson was appointed the Masonic Hall Board Director for Victoria Lodge succeeding W. Bro. Ken Myers who had filled the position for some years. A year later he was elected as Board Chairman. Concerned about ever-rising Capitation charges, he asked the Board to consider opening the Hall to other users. Initially the car park was "hired" to Halton Borough Council and Royal Mail and, later, the Hall was used for Music Lessons, Dance Classes and Meetings. The income funded a replacement Fire Alarm, improvements to the Hall electrics, and new lighting in the Lodge Rooms. After six years he stepped down and replaced as Board Member by Bro. Andrew Pope.

W. Bro. Eric Baldwin has already been spoken of in this anthology with his influence in arranging Lodge Social activities that ensured the Charities were well supported. He was a much-respected Freemason who attended Lodge Meetings well into his later years to give support and encouragement to successive Worshipful Masters. He was rightly proud of the achievements of his sons and grandson.



**W. Bro. Eric Baldwin**

Sadly, he died in 2013 after 43 years as a Freemason. The funeral service at Cronton Methodist Church was well attended by Lodge Members and his grandson, Bro. Matthew Baldwin, read the verses from Ecclesiastes.

Freemasonry has to compete with other issues in life and employment was making greater demands on time. Certainly fewer Candidates was beginning to occupy the minds of members although there were other aspects of Freemasonry that could be delivered as a part of Ceremonies to extend the knowledge of all Members. It gave some comfort that Freemasonry was still popular in the wider community.

## 1944 to 1954 - THE END OF CONFLICT AND A RETURN TO NORMALITY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Albert John NUTTALL	Widnes	Security Advisor	16/12/2004	
Matthew John BALDWIN	Widnes	Electrician	21/09/2006	2013
Maurice CRAIG	Widnes	Sales Director	18/01/2007	
Edwards ROSS	Liverpool	Ret. Prison Officer	19/04/2007	
Robert William BAZLEY	Widnes	Property Manager	19/04/2007	2014
Owen DAVIES	Widnes	Systems Manager	15/11/2007	2015
Lee CRAIG	Widnes	Comms. Operator	20/03/2008	
Phillip Sydney ABBOTT	Widnes	Warehouseman	19/03/2009	
Robert BECK	Widnes	Taxi Driver	16/04/2009	
David REIVELEY	Widnes	Post Master	15/10/2009	
Mehrdad DALIRI	Widnes	College Lecturer	19/11/2009	2016
Joseph LUCAS	Runcorn	Ret'd Plant S'visor	18/10/2011	
Kevin MORTON	Widnes	Banker	19/01/2012	
Andrew Robert BAZLEY	Widnes	Army Staff Sgt.	20/12/2012	
James Thomas GIBBON	Cronton	University Student	20/03/2013	
Karl SPENCER	Widnes	Driving Instructor	18/04/2013	

## 2004 to 2014 – A FALL IN INITIATES BUT INCREASE IN JOINING MEMBERS

Victoria Lodge continued with a healthy membership but it was accepted that the high numbers of Candidates for Initiation experienced between 1945 and early 2000 could no longer be expected. People's lives, and particularly working practices, had changed and other activities consumed personal time. None-the-less, Candidates continued to come forward and there were aspects of a Masonic journey other than the Three Degrees to enhance all members' knowledge of the Institution.

In the opening decade of the new Millennium, the decline in the number of Candidates for Victoria Lodge seen in recent years continued. Ten Candidates were Initiated between 2004 to 2014 and, with six Joining Members, numerical strength remained strong. Progressive Offices continued to be filled and new Masters Installed into the Chair of King Solomon. The Lodge was fortunate that new Members were eager to progress towards the exalted position of Master of Victoria Lodge. However, as Members now joined the "ladder" much earlier than in past years, the opportunity to learn the intricacies of each ceremony from the sidelines was lost. Times had changed since those early decades of Victoria Lodge.

In 2002, two Joining Members came to Victoria Lodge from Beacon Lodge No. 5357 who meet at Runcorn Masonic Hall. Bro. Ian Black joined Victoria Lodge in March, 2002 and he was followed by Bro. Steven Nash the month later. Both of the brethren progressed through the various offices and were eventually installed into the Chair of Victoria Lodge in successive years.



Bro. Ian BLACK was a kind and reflective man who excelled at each of the offices he occupied. He was Installed as the Worshipful Master in 2010, a year later than originally envisaged. This gave the opportunity for Bro. Steven Nash to be Installed into the Chair of Victoria Lodge by the outgoing Master, and work colleague, Bro. Peter Kenny.

Bro. Black was later appointed as Lodge Almoner, ensuring that absent Brethren were not forgotten and always keeping contact with those who were reported as being unwell. He was also in constant touch with Lodge Widows and they often spoke kind words about him and his comforting and reassuring manner.

Following the D-Day Landings in June, 1944, the Allies made progress across occupied Europe and, eventually, Germany surrendered but war continued in the Far East. Lodge meetings had continued in the War Years and, in October, 1944, Bro. Francis Horace DANIELS was installed as Master of Victoria Lodge. He had been the 16<sup>th</sup> Candidate for Initiation and it had taken 19 years to ascend to the Chair of the Worshipful Master.

Throughout the third decade, Victoria Lodge welcomed 52 new members through Initiation or as Joining Members. Such was desire to become a Freemason, on 23 occasions, two candidates were initiated together. It was believed the camaraderie of military service in the War Years was a catalyst for the upsurge in numbers. However, only four Initiates from that decade, would eventually be installed as Worshipful Master.

In 1945, William Helsby was installed as the Master of Victoria Lodge and, he Initiated seven Candidates. Sadly, Worshipful Brother Helsby died in 1946 shortly after completing his year as Master. In his memory, his Widow Lillian commissioned a Tracing Board for use by all Widnes Lodges. The Tracing Board, suitably inscribed with the donor details, is still used by Lodges meeting at Widnes Masonic Hall almost 80 years later.



In 1948, a Food Parcel was received by Victoria Lodge Widnes from Victoria Lodge No. 21 that met in Napier, on the North Island of New Zealand. Similar Food Parcels had been dispatched as a good will gesture, to seven other "Victoria Lodges" that met throughout England. It was a fine gesture and the Food Parcel was used as a raffle prize at the subsequent Ladies Evening and the proceeds donated to Masonic Charity.

In 1951, an unusual request was received via the Provincial Office for the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Victoria Lodge to conduct a Ceremony of Passing for Bro. John James Crowe, an Entered Apprentice initiated into a Lodge that met under the US Constitution in Santa Barbara, California, USA. Subsequently, on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1951, under the terms of a Special Dispensation issued by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, a meeting of Victoria Lodge was convened and Brother Crowe was Passed to the Second Degree by the Worshipful Master, Bro. J.J. Griffiths. This was the only business of the Meeting and four weeks later a Ceremony of Raising to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason was similarly arranged and undertaken.

In December, 1952, Brother Frank Broadley became a Joining Member of Victoria Lodge. He gained notoriety for leaving the Lodge during a Ceremony to "give instruction" to the "junior brethren" who had retired from the Lodge during those parts of a ceremony when they had to be excluded. The retiring Brethren, thinking they could perhaps adjourn to the Bar for refreshment, found themselves practising the signs and answering the "usual questions" that would later be asked by the Worshipful Master in the Ceremonies of Passing or Raising.

Bros. Joseph Crosby, Norman Milner and Norman Richard Barker were Initiated into Victoria Lodge in 1953 and 1954. In 1963 they resigned from Victoria Lodge to become Founder Members of Kingsway Lodge. This was frowned on by some Victoria Lodge Members and the elder statesman of later years, W. Bro. Richard Kirby, would not hesitate to make his feeling known. Bro. Crosby achieved Grand Rank and, in 2003, Bro. Milner completed 50 years as a Craft Member. Sadly, due to a declining membership, Kingsway Lodge surrendered their Warrant in 2022.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Frederick Alan DAVEY	Widnes	Instrument Fitter	18/11/1954	
Roy STAPLETON	Widnes	Laboratory Assistant	17/02/1955	
Harry DITCHFIELD	Widnes	Company Secretary	17/02/1955	
James Robert CAIN	Widnes	US Airman	17/03/1955	
Walter William SKIPPER	Widnes	Foreman Fitter	19/01/1956	
Joseph Howard LYNN	Widnes	Work Study Officer	19/01/1956	
George LEWIS	Widnes	Motor Driver	19/04/1956	
Francis TALLON	Widnes	Joiner	15/11/1956	
Anthony John TALLON	Widnes	Railway Clerk	15/11/1956	1972
John CHARNOCK	Widnes	Sheet Metal Worker	20/12/1956	
George Wilson EVANS	Widnes	Clerk	20/12/1956	
Ronald Norman CORNES	Widnes	Sheet Metal Worker	21/03/1957	
Alan Morris CORNES	Widnes	Site Engineer	21/03/1957	
Cyril ROBERTS	Hale	Commercial Traveller	16/05/1957	
Henry Fenton DODD	Widnes	Fitter	21/11/1957	
John Charles EDWARDS	Widnes	Plant Manager	17/04/1958	
Frank HIGHAM	Widnes	Bank Clerk	17/04/1958	
George Edward JUKES	Widnes	Cost Clerk	17/04/1958	
Bryan Henry PRESTON	Widnes	Leader Writer	18/09/1958	
Kenneth Wilkinson DELOOZE	Warrington	Commercial Clerk	19/02/1959	
Eric AYRES	Warrington	Newsagent	19/02/1959	
Joseph Alan MEARA	Widnes	Engineer	17/09/1959	1973
William John EDWARDS	Widnes	Representative	17/09/1959	
Albert Edward INMAN	Widnes	Newsagent	18/02/1960	
Arnold Gow CLARK	Widnes	Contracts Officer	19/05/1960	1974
Ernest OSMAN	Widnes	Minister of Religion	15/12/1960	
Fred JEFFERSON	Sale	Divisional Manager	16/02/1961	
James Clive POTTER	Widnes	Master Hairdresser	18/05/1961	
Fred DAVIES	Widnes	Training Instructor	19/11/1961	
Roy EDWARDS	Widnes	Licensee	18/01/1962	
Fred OSMAN	Warrington	Joiner	17/09/1962	
David Richard TOMLINSON	Widnes	Engineer	20/12/1962	
James BOOTH	Penketh	Police Constable	21/02/1963	
Arthur SENIOR	Stockton Heath	Cost Clerk	18/04/1963	
Clive William SMITH	Great Sankey	Engineer	16/01/1964	
Harold DICKINSON	Widnes	Police Inspector	16/04/1964	

### 1954 to 1964 - CONSOLIDATION AND STABILITY IN NUMBERS

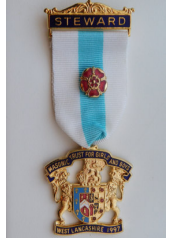
Victoria Lodge entered its Fourth Decade with 64 members and Candidates waiting to be Initiated but across the decade only three of the thirty-six Initiates would be installed as Worshipful Master. With high membership numbers, it could take up to fifteen years to reach that goal.

But not all members initiated into Victoria Lodge sought progression or appointment to high office. Bro. Harry Ditchfield was initiated in February 1955 and regularly attended Lodge meetings sitting in the north west corner of the Lodge. He enjoyed the company of the brethren and well rehearsed ceremonies but was content to be a Master Mason. He remained a member until his death in 1995. His nephew, Bro. Geoffrey Ditchfield was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in 1989.

Bro. Henry Tallon was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in 1938. On being Installed as Master in 1956, his first Ceremony was to initiate his two sons, Bros. Frank and Anthony John Tallon. As they were “the sons of a Mason”, and thus a Lewis, they “could to be Initiated before any other Candidates” although whether this actually happened is not known. Sadly, Bro. Frank Tallon lost his life in an Accident in January, 1959. This sad loss was felt by all members of Victoria Lodge.

Bro. Gibbon progressed through the offices and was Installed as Master in 2005 less than eight years after his Initiation. But with fewer Candidates, the time span to be Installed as the Worshipful Master of Victoria Lodge was becoming much shorter than in previous years. Bro. Gibbon later became the Lodge Secretary spanning a period of five years when he revised the Lodge By-laws that had remained virtually unaltered since the Consecration Meeting.

He is currently the Group Member for Victoria Lodge and holds the position of Vice Chairman of the Mersey Valley Group of Lodges. In December 2013, his son Bro. James Thomas Gibbon was Initiated into Victoria Lodge and he currently holds the office of Senior Warden.



In the 1980's, the Province of West Lancashire embarked on a Festival to support the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys to be celebrated in 1997. Previously there were separate Charities for Boys and Girls but they were later brought together as one Charity. The Lodge wholeheartedly supported the Festival with a sustained period of giving and fund raising. Members subscribed personally and collectively through the Lodge Fund-Raising events and proudly wore the Festival Jewel.

In 1998 Brother Frank Parle was initiated into Victoria Lodge and Installed as Worshipful Master in 2006. He was later elected Treasurer of Victoria Lodge, a position he held for some years until he moved his home to the Lake District. He still makes the long journey to Widnes to attend Lodge Meeting and in recent years he has fulfilled the office as the Tyler. At Provincial level, he was appointed as a member of the Provincial Publicity Team.



There continued to be a steady flow of new members into Victoria Lodge either through Initiation or as Joining Members and Bro. Peter Kenny was Initiated in February, 1999. He progressed through the offices and was Installed as the Worshipful Master in 2008. After completing his year as the Immediate Past Master in 2010, he was appointed as the Lodge Secretary, a position he was well suited to with the precise nature of his temperament and personality.

He would hold the office of Secretary until the 2022 Installation Meeting when he was appointed Assistant Secretary to support the new incumbent of the office W. Bro. Andrew Baldwin. This allowed W. Bro. Kenny to concentrate on the responsibilities for the arrangements for the Centenary Celebration to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

In late 2002, an approach was made to W. Bro. T. W. Bushell, the Secretary of Victoria Lodge, by five members of Royal George Lodge No. 4119 who were looking to become Joining Members of Victoria Lodge. Due to a decline in numbers within the Royal George Lodge, the members had decided to surrender their Warrant. Negotiations were held with senior members of Victoria Lodge and an agreement was reached for the group to become Joining Members on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2003, the first meeting of the 2003 – 04 Masonic Year. However, two of the five members resigned in 2005 whereas others embraced the traditions and practices of Victoria Lodge

W. Bro. Brian Harris, a former a Member of Royal George Lodge, immediately immersed himself in the practices of Victoria Lodge. He was installed as the Worshipful Master in 2011. A kind and quietly spoken man he later took on the role of Lodge Mentor, delivering lectures and leading discussions on varying Masonic topics to increase the Members' awareness and knowledge of the Craft.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Melvyn McCONVILLE	Warrington	Company Director	17/11/1994	2003
Michael HEATH	Widnes	College Lecturer	16/02/1995	
Andrew John BOND	Widnes	Draughtsman	16/03/1995	
Terrence HUNTER	Cronton	HGV Driver	15/02/1996	2004
John David GIBBON	Cronton	Local Govt. Off.	17/04/1997	2005
Francis James PARLE	Widnes	Power Stn. Eng'er	15/01/1998	2006
Peter N.C. KENNY	Widnes	Police Sergeant	18/02/1999	2008
Ian CROSBY	Widnes	Company Director	17/05/2001	
Ian Keith BLACK	Runcorn	Engineer	21/03/2002	2010
Steven William NASH	Great Sankey	Crime Analyst	19/09/2002	2009
William Paul WILSON	Widnes	Store Supervisor	21/11/2002	
Colin David ADAMS	Runcorn	Draughtsman	15/05/2003	
Walter F. NICHOLSON	Penketh	Retired Builder	16/10/2003	
George Edward SHIELDS	Widnes	Retired	16/10/2003	2017
William MOORE	St. Helens	Retired	16/10/2003	
Brian HARRIS	Widnes	Retired	16/10/2003	2011
John Ernest HORN	Runcorn	Retired	16/10/2003	
Alan Douglas BRISCOE	Helsby	Salesman	16/10/2003	
Lawrence A. OGBURN	Widnes	Finance Consultant	20/11/2003	

#### **1994 to 2004 – A FALL IN INITIATES BUT INCREASE IN JOINING MEMBERS**

The years rolled forward towards the Millennium and the fall in Candidate numbers for Victoria Lodge seen in recent years continued. Eleven members were Initiated, but Brethen were reminded of the words of W. Bro. Kirby “that it was the calibre of Candidates that took precedence over numbers”. The number of Initiates was supplemented by eight Joining Members from other Lodges so the strength remained manageable and would take us forward into the new Millennium. Six of the new members of Victoria Lodge were previously members of the Royal George Lodge No. 4119.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1994, news reached the Victoria Lodge members that W. Bro. Richard Kirby had passed to the “Grand Lodge Above”. He had been a member since January 1925, and had been in the cadre of prospective Candidates mentioned at the Consecration Meeting. He was the guardian of all aspects of Ritual and workings in Victoria Lodge and it was a brave man to question his views. But more than anything, he was helpful and supportive of all members of the Lodge and readily appreciated well-performed Ceremonies. There will never be another Brother like him in Victoria Lodge and his presence and impact on Victoria Lodge is still felt today

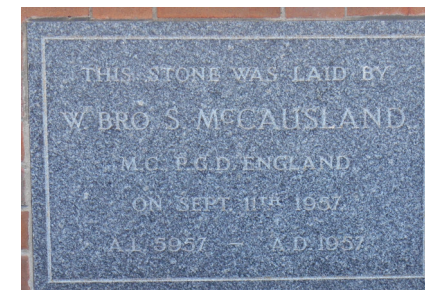
In January, 1995, Lodge Members learned of the death of W. Bro. W.L. Carter PPrJGW. His only surviving relative, Mrs. Joan Carter the Widow of W. Bro. E.K. Carter, contacted the Lodge Secretary to ask if Members would be attending the funeral. She was concerned that she may be there alone. This was circulated to Lodge Members who responded with most members attending to say farewell to a highly respected Brother. W. Bro. David Wilkinson struggled in the dim light when reading the passages from Ecclesiastics.

Bro. Terence Hunter was proposed into Freemasonry by his nephew, W. Bro. John Barry Lewis, and he was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in February, 1996. Possessing a friendly personality, he progressed through the offices and was Installed as the Worshipful Master in 2004. In 1997, he proposed his neighbour, Bro. John Gibbon, as a Candidate for Freemasonry and Member of Victoria Lodge. Bro. Gibbon would go on and make his mark not only in Victoria Lodge, but also in the Group of Lodges.

Bro. Anthony John Tallon was installed as Worshipful Master of Victoria Lodge in 1972. He went on to become a driving force, not only in Victoria Lodge where he held the office of Director of Ceremonies for many years, but also within the Widnes Group of Lodges. He was Chairman of the Group and rewarded for his work when appointed to the high office of Past Junior Grand Deacon. But his first priority remained Victoria Lodge, rarely missing a meeting well into his later years. He gave praise and encouragement and was the “go to” member for advice and direction when needed by the Brethren progressing through the various offices.

But away from individual Lodge matters, changes were being discussed in Widnes Freemasonry. Meetings were still held in the Masonic Chambers on Victoria Road, and for some years, there were on-going arguments about finding improved accommodation. Several sites were considered with tentative agreement to purchase Birchfield House but many members were concernrd “that it was an old building”.

Eventually in 1937, a committee recommended “conveying from the Widnes Corporation”, land on Kingsway that the Temple now occupies. In 1956 the Board of Management agreed a quotation from Tuson Brothers of £33,000 for the building of a new Temple. The Foundation Stone was laid on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1957, with due Ceremony by Founder Member and First Master of Victoria Lodge, Bro. S. McCausland.



On Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1959, at a Special Meeting of the Lodge of Equity, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Bro. L. E. Rutherford, dedicated the new Masonic Temple. The Master of the Lodge of Equity occupied the Master’s Chair and the Masters of the other Widnes Lodges acted as officers for the special meeting.

Bro Alan Meara was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in September 1959, progressed through the Lodge Offices and Installed as the Worshipful Master in 1973. This was the 50<sup>th</sup> Installation Meeting although he was not the 50<sup>th</sup> member to be installed into the office of Master. In the troubled times of the late 1930’s, Bro. W.H. Twiss served consecutive years as Worshipful Master.

In 1960, Bro. Arnold Clark was Initiated by his father, W. Bro. F.A. Clark - a Founder Member - into Victoria Lodge. He was another of a scattering of Members who claim this special relationship. He was installed as the Worshipful Master in 1974 and, two years later, took on the office of Secretary.

He was to remain in this post for 11 years and, after relinquishing the position, he would continue to regularly attend Lodge. A kind and reflective man, he became the font of knowledge for successive Secretaries. In 2010, the Lodge Members celebrated his 50 years membership.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Robert Corbett DINNING	Widnes	Parks Superintendent	18/11/1965	
Rodney QUIRK	Bury	Police Constable	20/01/1966	1975
Alfred REICHARDT	Widnes	Master Printer	21/04/1966	1976
John Harvey REYNOLDS	Widnes	Company Director	19/05/1966	
Maurice Gordon ANTWISS	Runcorn	Sales Representative	19/01/1967	1977
Geoffrey Hufton BAKER	Great Sankey	Plant Supervisor	18/01/1968	1978
David Charles THRELFALL	Rainhill	General Dealer	21/03/1968	
Herber William BOWERMAN	Widnes	Delivery Driver	19/09/1968	
George Albert TUTHILL	Penketh	Process Engineer	16/01/1969	1979
George Alan FRANCE	Widnes	Personnel Clerk	20/03/1969	
James Ronald STANLEY	Halewood	Police Sergeant	18/12/1969	
Robert MOORES	Huyton	Police Inspector	15/01/1970	
Eric Sydney BALDWIN	Widnes	Master Joiner	19/03/1970	1980
Kenneth MUNSLOW	Widnes	Heating Engineer	19/11/1970	
Max WOOSEY	Widnes	Police Sergeant	21/01/1971	
Maurice Barton STANLEY	Widnes	Draughtsman	15/04/1971	1982
Alex Salmond ORMOND	Widnes	Police Sergeant	18/11/1971	
Kenneth MYERS	Runcorn	Master Plumber	17/02/1972	1981
George Frederick BURROWS	Wigan	Works Manager	20/04/1972	
John WARING	Widnes	Police Constable	18/05/1972	1983
John Alan BRISCOE	Widnes	Farmer	16/11/1972	
David Alston BRISCOE	Widnes	Farmer	16/11/1972	
Ian RIDES	Wigan	Draughtsman	15/02/1973	
John Arthur DENTON	Widnes	Master Butcher	17/05/1973	1984
Albert Alan LITTLER	Runcorn	Business Partner	18/11/1973	
Donald POSTLES	Widnes	Clerk in Holy Orders	18/01/1974	
Frederick John HARVEY	Widnes	Master Grocer	21/02/1974	1985
John BROOME	Widnes	Bricklayer	18/04/1974	1986
Alan CHADWICK	Wigan	Wks. Study Engineer	19/09/1974	1987

### 1964 to 1974 - CONSOLIDATION AND STABILITY IN NUMBERS

Moving into the fifth decade, Victoria Lodge continued to prosper with an average of three candidates in each year of the decade. Thirteen of those Candidates would eventually be Installed as the Worshipful Master of Victoria Lodge.

W. Bro. Rodney Quirk was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in 1966. Throughout his Masonic career he travelled long distances as his Police work took him first to Bury and then to the Lancashire Police HQ at Preston. He was installed as Master of Victoria Lodge in 1975 and he rarely missed a practice and was present at every Lodge meeting during his term as Master. He continued to attend Lodge Meetings for many years and he later became a Founder Member of the Red Rose of Lancashire Lodge. In 2016 he celebrated 50 years as a Freemason.



**W. Bro Rodney Quirk  
at his 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

W. Bros. Maurice Antwiss and Geoffrey Baker were the mainstays of the Lodge Social Committee arranging functions that enabled the Lodge to raised funds for both Masonic and local charities as well as the Provincial Festivals that were held from time to time. They also arranged the Annual Ladies Evening ensuring that the Master's Lady had a night to remember. W. Bro. Baker had a wealth of jokes and stories for every set of circumstances.

He spoke for a long time (some say forty minutes) and the room became fidgety. Standing behind him was W. Bro. Blackburn who, on occasions, tugged at W. Bro. Kirkby's jacket as a "casual" reminder it was time to sit down. But. Bro. Richard simply wafted him away and continued his soliloquy.



**Please sit down!**

Finally, he sat down followed by a ten-minute recovery break. Turning to W. Bro. Harry Hindley, Richard remarked "Well I think that went well – ten, twelve minutes just enough to keep everyone interested." "Ten, twelve minutes!" responded W. Bro. Hindley. "You spoke for forty minutes!". "Never" responded W. Bro. Kirby. The room sided with W. Bro. Hindley as it certainly seemed like forty minutes

John Charles Spencer was initiated into Victoria Lodge in March, 1985. His brother, Peter David Spencer, was Initiated by their father, the incumbent Worshipful Master W. Bro. Charles Spencer, in January, 1991. The brothers remained as members for several years but work and home life balance meant they would not progress to become Worshipful Master.

W. Bro. Stephen Hindley was initiated into Victoria Lodge in May 1985 and, after progressing through successive offices, he attained the Chair as Worshipful Master of Victoria Lodge in 2000 – the first Master of Victoria Lodge installed in the new Millennium as he reminded everyone! As an Accountant, he became the choice for Treasurer and was appointed to that office immediately after completing his year as Immediate Past Master.

His neighbour, W. Bro. John Barry Lewis, became a member in November, 1986, and was installed as Worshipful Master in 1999, thus becoming one of the exalted, much feted, and fondly remembered "Millennium Masters" (that is what it says in the Minute Book!). He later became the Lodge Secretary but, for personal reasons, both W. Bros. Lewis and Hindley left Victoria Lodge in 2011. W. Bro. Lewis subsequently rejoined saying he missed the camaraderie and friendship of Victoria Lodge Members. Sadly, he died in 2016 but is always remembered for his Masonic enthusiasm, and above all else, his sense of humour.

In April, 1991, Bro. David Lewis – just a coincidence and not related to Bro. John Barry Lewis - was initiated into Victoria Lodge. Progressing through the offices he was installed as Worshipful Master in 2001 ten years after his Initiation and a much shorter term than previous incumbents of the office of Master. The two previous Masters had taken 13 and 15 years respectively to be installed in the Master's Chair. Confident with the Ritual he put Candidates at ease during Ceremonies and when delivering lectures. He was particularly competent with the addresses that only appear occasionally in the Lodge workings such as the Tracing Boards.

Brother Philip Cunningham was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in December, 1991. Capable and effective in all the offices he occupied, he was installed as Senior Warden in 2001. Sadly he died suddenly in May 2002 just a few months before he would have been Installed as Master of Victoria Lodge. It was a sad time for the Lodge members. W. Bro. David Lewis completed a Second Year as Worshipful Master.

Bro. Alan Boothroyd was a Joining Member of Victoria Lodge having been Initiated into MILO Lodge No. 938 under the American, Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany. The Constitution was recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England. A friendly personality, he worked hard at the Ritual to try and ensure there were no mistakes. He was installed as Worshipful Master in 2007.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Roger HUGHES	Widnes	Police Sergeant	17/11/1974	
Harry ASPINALL	St. Helens	Ambulanceman	20/02/1975	
Sydney Herbert JONES	Culcheth	Commercial Manager	18/04/1975	1988
James Alfred LOTT	Runcorn	Registrar	15/05/1975	
Arthur COOKE	Widnes	Electrician	20/11/1975	
Walter Balding BLORE	Widnes	Analyst	18/03/1976	
David WILKINSON	Widnes	Police Inspector	20/05/1976	1989
Roy DAVIES	Widnes	Representative	20/01/1977	
Trevor BLENNERHASSETT	Widnes	Police Constable	19/05/1977	
Frank RUTTER	Runcorn	Clerk of Works	17/11/1977	
Cyril W. GELDARD	Widnes	Retired	17/11/1977	
Charles SPENCER	Lymm	Tool Room S'visor	16/02/1978	1990
Michael James HOOSE	Penketh	Tax Inspector	18/05/1978	
William Edward GRIMOLDBY	Liverpool	Electrical Engineer	15/11/1979	1991
David Gordon HOWARD	Runcorn	Police Sergeant	21/02/1980	
Thomas Bruce NICHOLSON	Widnes	Retired Police Officer	21/02/1980	
Ernest Martin HILL	Prescot	Police Sergeant	15/05/1980	
Frank Victor MOORE	Banbury	Bank Sub Manager	20/11/1980	
Andrew Sydney BALDWIN	Widnes	Haulage Contractor	19/02/1981	1992
John Eric BALDWIN	Widnes	Electrician	19/02/1981	1993,2012, 2019, 2020
John Joseph YATES	Widnes	Man'ment Consultant	21/05/1981	
Joseph JONES	Bold	Glass Cutter	19/11/1981	
Charles MENDELSON	West Derby	Retired Buyer	21/01/1982	
Dennis GOULDEN	Grappenhall	Tool Room Foreman	18/02/1982	1994
Dennis MYERS	Widnes	Driving Instructor	20/05/1982	1995
Alan COFFEY	Bootle	Legal Clerk	18/11/1982	
Edward HEWITT	Penketh	Joiner	17/02/1983	
Thomas William BUSHELL	Widnes	Ambulanceman	21/04/1983	1996
Gordon HUGHES	Widnes	Electrician	15/12/1983	1997
Donald Charles WOODS	Widnes	Police Constable	16/02/1984	
Brian BOOTHROYD	Widnes	College Lecturer	17/05/1984	1998

### 1974 to 1984 – CONSISTENT LEVEL OF NEW ADMISSIONS

In the Sixth Decade, the number of new Members reflected the level of the previous ten years with 27 Initiations and four Joining Members. The Masters of the Victoria Lodge had a calendar of Ceremonies and eleven of the newly Initiated or Joining Members in the decade would ultimately become Master of Victoria Lodge. In a similar pattern to previous decades, it was still taking up to 13 years from Initiation for a Brother to be installed as the Master of Victoria Lodge.

Attendance at Lodge Meetings remained high and social events were successful ensuring Charities received support. The Masters of Victoria Lodge had a full calendar of Ceremonies and eleven of the thirty one Initiated or Joining Members would ultimately become Master. The Lodge gave active support to the RIBI 1981 Festival being held in the Province through personal and collective donations and the Members proudly wore the Festival Jewel.



**1981 Festival Jewel**

The first meeting for W. Bro. Arnold Clark, the newly installed Master in 1974 was the Celebration of 50 years of Victoria Lodge. It was fitting that the Master for the celebratory year should be the son of a Founder Member. The Minutes of the Meeting mention how the Nation had withstood the tribulations of unemployment and then war across Europe and beyond. Members had stood firm; some had volunteered for active duty and the bravery of servicemen and resilience of people at home prevailed. It was an opportunity to look forward for continuing settled and peaceful times. The Celebration confirmed that belief.

A Founder Member of Victoria Lodge, W. Bro. Richard Kirby Snr. was still regularly attending the Lodge and was present at the Celebration. His son, W. Bro. Richard Kirby Jr. Was to Celebrate 50 years as a Freemason just a few months later in February 1975. Sadly, W. Bro. Kirby Snr. passed to the Grand Lodge Above shortly after the Celebration.



**W. Bro. Richard Kirby Snr.  
& W. Bro. Richard Kirby Jr.**

The first Candidate for Initiation into Victoria Lodge, Bro. Arthur Addis, was unable to be present at the Celebration as, that afternoon, he was acting as the Provincial Grand Pursuivant at the Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

At the Lodge Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1981, the Worshipful Master, Bro. Ken Myers, asked W. Bro. Eric Baldwin to occupy the Masters Chair. It was the Initiation of Bro. Baldwin's two sons – Andrew and John Baldwin. They progressed through the offices and were installed in the Master's Chair in 1992 and 1993 respectively. The Baldwin family would feature later in this history and become prominent in Victoria Lodge over the next forty years.

Bro. Herbert Jones was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in 1975. After completing his Third Degree he was appointed the Lodge Organist a role he performed until taking his place as the Junior Deacon in 1984. Excellent at recalling the Ritual, he was Installed as the Worshipful Master in 1988. Sadly, he died unexpectedly in March, 1989. The Immediate Past Master W. Bro. Alan Chadwick completed ceremonies in the remainder of the Masonic year.

Bro. David Wilkinson was initiated into Victoria Lodge in September 1976. After completing the Third Degree he was appointed a Lodge Auditor, a task he would fulfil for many years, only stepping down when he filled the Principal Offices in the Lodge. Within a year of appointment, a Lodge crisis occurred with the sudden death of W. Bro. Alan Meara, the Lodge Treasurer. The Auditors balanced the books, certified the accounts were in order and W. Bro. George Tuthill was elected Treasurer. Bro. Wilkinson was installed as Worshipful Master in 1989 and had a full year of ceremonies.

Sadly, in May, 1990, his Senior Warden, Bro. Trevor Blennerhassett passed away following a long illness. The funeral service, held nearby in a crowded St. Paul's Church - and well within hailing distance of the Masonic Hall - was attended by family, friends, former work colleagues and fellow Freemasons. Bro. The Rev'd. Donald Postles officiated and Bro. Wilkinson delivered a Eulogy about his friend and fellow Freemason. It was a sad loss for Victoria Lodge and Bro. Blennerhassett is still very much remembered today as the kind, cheerful, and considerate person he was.



Lodge Stewards had several roles – filling in the more junior offices during an absence and waiting on the Brethren at the Festive Board. A practice grew of the incumbent Worshipful Master supplying Stewards with bottle openers in order to carry out the seemingly more important parts of their duties - that of keeping the members sufficiently refreshed. The bottle openers became a treasured item - some members had a collection spanning a number of years but changes in Food Hygiene legislation led to this duty of Lodge Stewards being discontinued and replaced with waitress service. The Stewards of today have a much easier life!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>WM</u>
Paul WENLOCK	Grappenhall	Police Sergeant	15/11/1984	
James Douglas GODDEN	Cronton	Retired Builder`	15/11/1984	
John Charles SPENCER	Lymm	Planning Engineer	21/03/1985	
Stephen HINDLEY	Widnes	Accountant	16/05/1985	2000
Terence L. WILLIAMS	Runcorn	Ambulanceman	21/11/1985	
Roy FIELDING	Penketh	Estate Agent	20/02/1986	
Anthony Clifford GLYNN	Wigan	Haulage Contractor	17/04/1986	
John Barry LEWIS	Runcorn	Sales Manager	20/11/1986	1999
Grahame HOLLAND	St. Helens	Financial Broker	19/02/1987	
Joseph R. BOWMAN	Alvanley	Financial Advisor	17/09/1987	
Raymond BRIER	Frodsham	Lecturer	19/11/1987	
Ian Frank Cornes CURRAN	Widnes	Shop Assistant	17/03/1988	
Peter McGUFFIE	Widnes	Quality Engineer	19/05/1988	
Graham ARTINSTOLL	St. Helens	Butcher	17/11/1988	
Michael BOND	Runcorn	Process Worker	16/03/1989	
Jeffrey DITCHFIELD	Widnes	Welder	16/11/1989	
Julian Maxwell WARING	Frodsham	Teacher	17/05/1990	
Bernard A. BRISCOMBE	Bold	Manf. Craftsman	15/11/1990	
Peter David SPENCER	Warrington	Quality Manager	17/01/1991	
James COOGAN	Widnes	Photographer	21/03/1991	
David Lloyd LEWIS	Widnes	Mechanical Fitter	18/04/1991	2001, 2002 & 2023
Philip CUNNINGHAM	Widnes	Bookbinder	19/12/1991	
Jeffrey W. DENTON	Prescot	Butcher	16/01/1992	
Ian Roger GRIMOLDBY	West Derby	Salesman	20/02/1992	
John Alfred DENTON	Rainhill	Butcher	18/02/1993	
Alan BOOTHROYD	Widnes	Maintenance Fitter	18/03/1993	2007
John Henry HILTON	Great Sankey	Works Supervisor	18/11/1993	

### **1984 to 1994 – A SIXTY YEAR CELEBRATION NO-ONE WILL FORGET!**

In the Seventh Decade, 22 Candidates were Initiated supplemented by five Joining Members from other Lodges. Seven of the candidates were related to exiting members. Successive Worshipful Masters continued with weekly practice nights to ensure the standards were maintained.

Four of the Candidates would, ultimately, be installed as Worshipful Master with Bro. D.L. Lewis completing successive years due to the sudden death of Bro. Philip Cunningham in May 2002, just a few months before he would have been Installed as Worshipful Master. The continuing high attendance of Lodge Members at Meetings was supplemented by Visitors from other Lodges.

The first meeting following Installation provided the impetus to office holders to perform well. It subsequently developed into an “event” that still lives long in the memory - the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Worshipful Brother Richard Kirby. A brother achieving 60 years may not be “unique” but it was special to the Members of Victoria Lodge and, of course, to W. Bro. Kirby himself.

The Ceremony in the Lodge Room went well with the Provincial Grand Master V. Worshipful Brother Alan Fletcher Ferris presiding and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. T. Blackburn, ensuring everything followed Masonic Protocol. Arrangements at the Festive Board went to plan until W. Bro. Kirby rose to respond to the toast to his 60 years membership.

Likewise, W. Bro. Eric Baldwin and his family held the main fundraising event of the year by hosting a bar-b-cue at their home each summer. This was well supported by the members of Victoria Lodge and brethren from other Lodges in the Widnes Group. Members constructed games and attractions to raise funds for Masonic and other Charities. The Dam Busters game constructed by W. Bro. George Tuthill is still talked about today. It raised high sums for the charitable total but not many people won prizes!

W. Bro. Ken Myers was to become the Director of Ceremonies for more than a decade. Possessing organisational and leadership skills he ensured Ceremonies were maintained at the high standards of previous decades. He had a firm yet pleasant personality that ensured the Worshipful Master did not feel any pressure to be absolutely word perfect. He completed 50 years in Freemasonry in 2022.

Bro. John Waring was Initiated into Victoria Lodge in 1972. A local Police Officer, shortly after his Initiation, he was transferred from Widnes to Police Headquarters at Hutton. None-the-less he continued his Membership and installed as Master in 1983. This was followed by a period as the Lodge Secretary. Some years later he became a Founder Member of the Red Rose of Lancashire Lodge and resigned from Victoria Lodge. He is still an active Freemason and he also completed 50 years Membership in 2022.

Bro. Jack Denton was Initiated in 1973 and became Master in 1984. A jovial personality he always had a joke or amusing story to pass on. In contrast, his successor as Worshipful Master, Bro. Fred Harvey, was a quiet man with a friendly and pleasing disposition who simply took things in his stride no matter what office he was occupying.

Bro. John Broome was initiated into Victoria Lodge in 1974 and installed as Worshipful Master in 1986. A former Rugby League Player of the 1940s and 1950s he represented England and the British Empire Team. At club level for Wigan, he scored a try in Wigan's 20-2 victory over Huddersfield in the Championship Final in May 1950 and in Wigan's 13-6 victory over Dewsbury in the Final of 1952. He was a quiet man who rarely missed a Lodge Meeting.

The final Brother to become a member of Victoria Lodge of the fifth decade was Bro. Alan Chadwick, a Joining Member from Dom Valley Lodge in South Yorkshire. There was no “War of the Roses” and he was warmly welcomed into Victoria Lodge

The Masonic Hall was less than twenty years old and the Board of Management discussed an extension to the Hall in order to cater for increased use due to new Lodges being formed. To meet this need, an extension was added to give more Lounge space. However, in recent times, as numbers of members began to recede, the Extension Lounge is now mainly used as the dining area for monthly Lodge Meetings.



Victoria Lodge now approached its Jubilee with some anticipation. The first 50 years had been successful despite the trying times that were experienced at frequent intervals. Be it war, unemployment, political instability or the Abdication of King Edward, the Lodge had continued to thrive and became a place for men to enjoy convivial gatherings. In those 50 years, in addition to the Founder Members, the Lodge had welcomed 218 Members either as Initiates and or Joining Members from other Lodges and could look to the future with a measure of confidence