

W/Bro Peter Walker PPSGW

Originally when Peter and I started planning this evenings celebration Peter asked for W/Bro Albert Young to do this tribute . Unfortunately Albert is having severe problems with his hips and felt unable to manage the stairs either at the lodge or across the road ; he has now got a date next week when he will have his hip replacement done providing he does not have any further cancelations .Albert rang me yesterday and expressed his extreme regret that he can't do this tribute as he has many amusing stories about Peter both socially and when they worked together .Albert and Peter met whilst working on the tunnel that runs under Waddington Fell ;this was a massive undertaking and part of the scheme to bring water from the lake District to supply the ever increasing demands of an expanding Manchester ;the tunnel is about 8'6 in diameter with one end dug from the Waddington end and the other end at Newton ; Peter tells me that when the two ends met there was less than an inch out of line. Albert tells me there were 200 men employed constructing the tunnel and Peter was the only one who had a car a red soft top MG and on a Friday night Clitheroe would be heaving with men from the work who had all come down by bus and Peter would come down with the girl friend in the car tooting his horn at them Albert says Peter was a real smooth character in those days . He also says I have to remind Peter to take his knife fork and spoon with him . Apparently this arises from when the men finished work and they were dashing to catch the buses to Clitheroe they would arrive still having there cutlery in there top pockets. Albert also tells me he was one of an interview panel when a certain Mr John Richard Farrington applied to join freemasonry in Fideilis lodge at Padiham he asked me to pass on to you his heartiest congratulations on your appointment and promotion and to tell you to keep taking the tablets.

Peter is one of twins and was born in Slaidburn which is about 10 miles from Clitheroe the house had no electric as was common in a lot of villages he was one of four children in the house one girl and three boys . Peters father had a coaches and taxi business and by the age of 14 Peter could drive and was driving round in his fathers taxis .

Besides working on the tunnel Peter had various jobs mainly manual and navying type work and eventually ended up working at Turnbolls in Altham where he became a director . Peter didn't enjoy the cut throat element of the work and in about 1969 he arrived home and announced he was leaving and going to set up his own business the firm was eventually called Peter Walker contractors Ltd; . I remember not long after I joined Keep lodge being told that if ever I wanted any concreting work done that Peter was the man to do it ;as with everything else that Peter does he does it to the highest standard ; people recounted times when Peter had gone back through the night to float up concreting jobs again and again until they met Peter's satisfaction . Im told that shortly after joining Keep lodge Peter did several of the alterations to these rooms in fact I remember W/Bro Chris Wood once talking about Peter at a lodge meeting and he said there is hardly a screw /nail chair or piece of furniture in these rooms that Peter has'nt either repaired or at some time reconditioned .

One interesting piece of Peter's history was that during the war Peter's twin brother even though he was in farming which was a protected industry joined the RAF (known as the brylcreem boys) with Peter and they both served in the RAF police and both served in Malaya in that capacity for 12 months .

On a personal basis Peter married his wife Hazel in 1956 he has 2 children John who was born in 1958 and Wendy born in 1959 . Both John and Wendy had successful careers in the police force with John reaching the rank of superintendent and Wendy reaching the rank of assistant chief constable; most of us will remember the tragedy that occurred in Morecambe with the cockle pickers well it was Peters daughter Wendy who dealt with that situation . Peter's family is completed with 2 grandsons and 1 great grandson and 1 great granddaughter.

Peter and Hazel always used to enjoy the social life of the lodge being regular supporters of the ladies committee events ;the ladies night and the lodge annual weekend away at which Peter was usually the self-

appointed barman sadly Hazel passed away suddenly a few years ago but until last year Peter continued to support all the events.

Peter is a very highly respected and liked member of Keep lodge and when mentoring came in to freemasonry officially several years ago we didn't as a lodge have to wonder who would be our first lodge mentor Peter was the right man for the job and carried out the duties of that office to the same high standard as he does all his jobs . An example of Peter occurred a few years ago when myself and Peter Watson re-decorated these lodge rooms ; Peter immediately arranged for us to use his account at the local decorators shop and mistakenly I painted that small piece of wood with white gloss ; Peter instead of just getting a brush and painting over it being the true gentleman that he is came to me and said you've both done a marvellous job but would you mind if I repainted that piece of wood with magnolia to match the rest of the wall . Most people would have just done it but not Peter that's just not his way . Going through the chair of the lodge for the first time is an exciting but anxious time ; the one person in the lodge that can make it easier and more relaxed and enjoyable is the lodge DC ; I was very fortunate to have one of the best DCs in Peter Walker his quiet composure and encouragement and re-assurance made my time in the chair a very enjoyable year 1996 was also the first year we opened the Christmas social board to wives /partners and non masons ; none of us knew how the event was going to pan out but we had over 90 people in this room on this first evening and my wife Beryl recalls how Peters calm re-assurance helped her and others through this inaugural celebration . I don't know of anybody in any of the Clitheroe lodges who does not hold Peter in the greatest fondness and respect . Brethren if anyone ever asks you about what are the attributes of a freemason and who do you know who has all those attributes and carries them out to the highest standard think no further than W/Bro Peter Walker PPSGW.

APGM and brethren and in particular Peter its been an honour and a privilege to present this tribute to you.