

# Tony Harrison, Provincial Grand Master / Grand Superintendent

Tony was born in March 1946, he and his and three sisters lived in Morecambe. He attended West End County Primary School along with his two younger sisters and then Heysham High School. Tony's father, Albert, who was a Freemason, albeit in a neighbouring Province of West Yorkshire, bought a coach and funeral company in 1948 from Mrs Battersby, following the sudden death of her husband (also a Freemason). This was the start of the family's coach business, Battersby Blue Belle Coaches. From meagre beginnings running three coaches together with two Rolls Royce hearses and three Rolls Royce limousines, it was his father's intentions to develop the passenger transport operations out of Morecambe, which at that time was a bustling seaside resort embarking upon a thriving future following the end of the Second World War.

It was not too long before the funeral side of the business was sold and replaced with more coaches in time to accommodate the hordes of holiday makers flocking to Morecambe. Business was good and the business thrived. Another coach company called Silver Grey Coaches was then acquired thus forming the amalgamation of the two companies, now known as Battersby Silver Grey Coaches. On leaving school aged 17 Tony embarked upon, what he described as "A so called apprenticeship, within the family business." While serving his apprenticeship he attended Lancaster College on day release and evening class for ONC and HNC in Business Studies.

Over the next few years he was taught to undertake every conceivable job required to run the company which stood him in good stead when he took over as managing director of the company following his father's passing in 1972.

As the managing director of the company, Tony strived to drive it forward and in 1976 took over a very large competitor operating in Morecambe that ran coach holidays in the UK and into Europe. This was a great development for the company and Tony says they never looked back. Tony sold the business in 2013 and after managing the handover to the new owners he retired on 30 September 2014.

Tony married Maureen in April 1967 and they have two children Mark and Tracey, Mark worked in the family business for a while but now lives in Brisbane Australia with his wife and their three boys, Daniel, Jake and Matthew. Daughter Tracey now lives in Laxey on the Isle of Man with her husband Peter. He joined the Rotary Club of Morecambe and Heysham in 1972 and was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1975.

Tony was initiated into Sandylands Lodge No 5702 on 27 October 1977. He was installed as WM in 1991. He was the lodge ADC from 1993 to 1995 and secretary from 1995 to 2001. He then served as DC for two years.

He was a director of Morecambe Masonic Hall from 1989 to 2000. He is also a member of Plantagenet Lodge of Installed Masters No 9357, Quingenti Lodge No 8516, Poulton le Sands Lodge No 1051 and Lonsdale Lodge of Installed Masters No 9422.

In 1997 Tony received his first appointment in Provincial Grand Lodge as an acting Provincial Grand Steward. In 2001 he was promoted to Provincial Junior Grand Warden. Promotion to grand rank followed in 2005 when Tony was appointed PAGDC. In May 2008 he was appointed as Lancaster Group Vice Chairman, he held that office until May 2011 when he was appointed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master. In 2012 he was promoted to Past Senior Grand Deacon of the United Grand Lodge of England. In 2014 Tony was promoted to Provincial Grand Master for the Province of West Lancashire.

Tony was exalted into Sandylands Chapter No 5702 in December 1987. He was installed as first principal in 1996. He served as past first principal and ADC in 1997. He is also a member of Vale Chapter of Installed First Principals No 5256.

He received his first appointment in Provincial Grand Chapter as PPrGSoj in 2003 and was promoted to PPrGSN in 2009.

Tony is also a member of a number of other Masonic Orders:

## **Mark Master Masons**

Advanced into Master Morecambe Mark Lodge No 716 in 1993 DC 1997 to 2005

Member of Master Adoniram Mark Lodge No 552

Member of Arnold Moreton Mark Lodge No 1649

Member of Unity Mark Lodge No 544 - Installed as WM of The Unity Mark Lodge No 544

Provincial Mark Appointments  
Provincial Grand Junior Warden in the Mark Degree 1996  
Appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master 2005  
Appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master 2007  
Grand Rank Appointments  
PAGDC 2000  
Promoted to PGSD 2005  
Promoted to Very Worship Brother Past Grand Junior Overseer 2008  
Grand Junior Warden of England in 2017

### **Royal Ark Mariners**

Morecambe RAM No 716 - Commander in 2000  
ADC 2001 to 2003  
DC 2003  
Member of Adoniram RAM No 552  
Member of Philadelphia Lodge of Installed RAM Commanders No 1646 - Commander in 2005  
Provincial RAM Appointments  
Appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master 2005  
Appointed to Holder of Provincial RAMGR 2005  
Appointed to Deputy Provincial Grand Master 2007  
Grand Rank Appointments  
Appointed to Holder of RAMGR 2006

### **Ancient and Accepted Rite**

Morecambe Rose Croix Chapter No 313 - Most Wise Sovereign 2007  
Provincial Appointments  
30th Degree 2008  
31st Degree 2017

### **Order of Allied Masonic Degrees**

Garnett Council No 8 - Master in 2007  
Provincial Appointments  
Acting District JW 2009  
Grand Rank Appointments  
Past Grand Standard Bearer 2012

The United Religious Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England, Wales and Provinces overseas.

### **Knights Templar**

Jacques de Molay No 36 2010 - Preceptor in 2011  
Appointed Deputy Marshall in May 2013  
Provincial Appointments  
Provincial First Constable in 2013  
Past Great Aide-de-Camp 2017

The Masonic and Military Order of the **Red Cross of Constantine** and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist  
Signum Caeleste No 345  
MPS 2017  
District Grand Registrar 2019

### **Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City**

John O'Gaunt Lodge of Scottish Masters of St Andrew  
Installed DWM in 2014

### **Order of Knight Masons**

Founder member and installed Excellent Chief in 2017