

WBRO JOHN DUCKWORTH'S MASONIC CAREER TO THE PRESENT

John followed his grandfather, father and uncle into Morning Star Lodge 4136 on the first Monday in December 1970. John's father Jack was well known in the town with his plumbing business, so no surprise then that 190 Masons attended John's Initiation, at his second 90 attended and at his raising some 134. In 1982 he was installed as WM of Loyalty Lodge.

Several of the members of the Lodge were Lewises, indeed one of these went onto very distinguished heights in Freemasonry, that being Very Worshipful Dr Nigel Bramley-Haworth, it was Nigel that proposed and the late WBro Derrick Lund seconded John into Old Blackburnian Lodge. on the 20th December 1991

John a keen delver in Masonic lore became a founder of the first (and only) research Lodge in the town, Blackburn Lodge. He became the WM in the Millenium year. It was at this time that that he was asked by West Lancs to advise them on appointing group communications officers.

Manchester later caught up with this info and co-opted him onto their own Provincial communications officers team. A certain District Chairman happened to bump into him at Richmond Terrace invited John to be the Districts first communications officer, that Chairman was non- other than VWBro Derek Thornhill. One of John's treasured mementos is an inscribed decanter reminding him of those six years with the District team or was it perhaps the Merlot that it contained.

Outside mainstream Masonry John was active in side degrees, joining the Royal Arch chapter Perseverence 345, attaining the chair in 1984, and as father of the Chapter was invited to take the chair for their 200th year celebration in 2008,

John joined Knights Templar Hugh de Payens Preceptory in Darwen, he is a past Provincial Herald in KTs.

Moving on to his membership of Old Blackburnian Lodge, John has served many offices in the Lodge, beginning being Tyler in 1992, IG in 1996-1999.

Senior Deacon in 1999, JW 2000, SW 2001 and Installed as the WM in 2002, John was Installed by the late Wbro George Hayhurst.

In 2016 he was again Installed as WM this time by WBro David Sharpe, on that occasion the PGM Rt WBro Sir David Trippier was in attendance.

In 2018 John was appointed the Charity Steward of the Lodge, an office he holds to this day.

John's current Provincial Rank is Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

So WBro John, WM, Distinguished Guests, Brethren, an edited version of a very varied and distinguished history of John's journey into Freemasonry.