

Templewood Lodge - A Family Affair

From left to right:

W.Bros Anthony Brown, Peter Brown, Raymond Brown, Paul Reeves & Trevor Brown



At a recent meeting of Templewood Lodge No.7424, W.Bro Raymond Seymour Brown was presented with a Certificate by the Lodge's new APGM, W.Bro Paul Reeves, on behalf of the RW Provincial Grand Master, to commemorate Bro. Raymond's 60 years in Freemasonry. It was very much a family affair.

In 1955 Bro Raymond was initiated into Lodge of Amity No. 5753 in a 'double' ceremony with his brother, Frederick John Brown, at the Southend Masonic Hall; which at that time was above Garon's Cinema in the High Street. They had been proposed by their father, W.Bro William Henry Brown.

On 24th April 1975, Bro Raymond joined Templewood Lodge, the same day on which his eldest son, Peter Raymond John Brown, was initiated into the Lodge and who later served as their Master in 1986 & 2005. His other two sons, Anthony Stuart Brown and Trevor John Brown were also initiated into Templewood Lodge and served as Master in 1990 and 1994 respectively.

Two former Past Masters of the Lodge, W.Bro. Cyril Kelly (now sadly deceased) and W.Bro John Hainsworth had each married one of Bro Raymond's sisters.

On 23rd November 1995, exactly 40 years to the day after Templewood Lodge was consecrated, Bro Raymond was Installed as the 41st Master by his youngest son Trevor. Among the Past Masters who assisted in the ceremony were his other two sons, and two brothers-in-law.

These days W.Bro Trevor lives in Norfolk and had not been back to the Lodge for some years, so when presenting the Certificate to W.Bro. Raymond on behalf of the RW Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro Paul Reeves commented that it was good to see the family reunited at the meeting, when we celebrated Bro Raymond's 60 active years in Masonry, 40 of which have been spent with Templewood Lodge, where he has served as Chaplain over a period of 7 years and is currently the Treasurer. Since being officially invested as IPM, and for reasons such as sickness, absence etc., he holds the Lodge record for having "acted" as IPM on 23 occasions!

W.Bro Paul also pointed out that W.Bro Raymond's son Peter, the ADC of the Lodge, was celebrating his 40th anniversary as a Mason at that meeting.

In addition to the 60 year Certificate, W.Bro. Paul also presented Bro. Raymond with a personal letter from the RW Provincial Grand Master, a commemorative Certificate from the Lodge of Amity, and a 60 year lapel pin.

Between Raymond and his three sons, they have a combined total of 163 years in Freemasonry.

W.Bro Raymond later entertained the Brethren at the Festive Board with an amusing short address. Each of the Brown's won prizes in the raffle, underlining the fact that the afternoon and evening had been very much 'a family affair'.