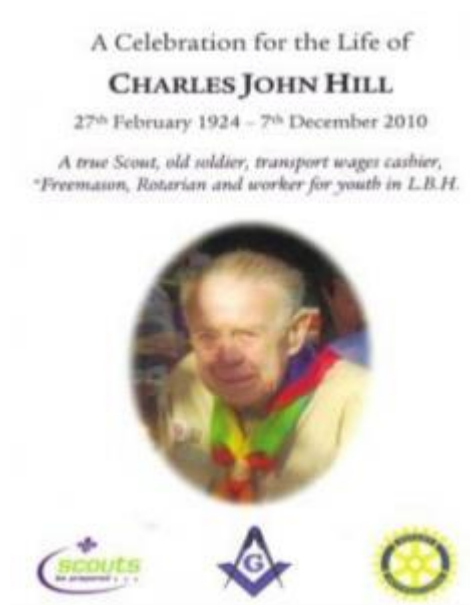


CHARLES HILL...

CHARLES HILL WAS BORN IN 1924, IN FULHAM, THE ELDEST OF 5. IN 1935 THE FAMILY MOVED TO THE GREAT WEST ROAD, OSTERLEY. CHARLES ATTENDED BULSTRODE SCHOOL IN HOUNSLOW, UNTIL 1939.



In 1942 he was called up to the army, and served in the Royal Artillery, seeing two tours of duty in India and Burma, before being demobbed in 1947. Thereafter, Charles worked for a number of companies as a cashier and wages controller.

In 1949, Charles met Barbara in Cornwall – as Barbara says “halfway between Wales and Hounslow.” It was actually in Porthleven, a happy rendezvous recalled in the name of their home in St Leonard’s Gardens. After a long distance courtship, occasioned by Barbara studying at Studley, Warwickshire, they married in 1954, and settled down to raise a family – Ian and Catherine, and later to cherish their grandchildren, James, Lauren, and Martin.

Many of you here today will know of Charles’ association with the Scout Movement. This was long and distinguished. It began in September 1935 when Charles joined a Scout group in Spring Grove, moving to the 2nd Hounslow (Holy Trinity) troop the following year.

Rejoining after the war, he gained the Wood Badge in 1948, and became the Group Scout Master in 1951. He served in this capacity until 1978, having been in the Group for 44 years.

He became the Assistant District Commissioner for Cranford, Hounslow and Heston in 1964, and District Commissioner in 1967. He served for 16 years, becoming the Borough Commissioner for 6 years, and then the Borough liaison Officer. In total, Charles was active in Scouting for 74 years. A truly remarkable record of service. You may not think he had time for anything else – but he did!

Charles was a Freemason. He joined the Pro Juventute Lodge in 1959; the Royal Alfred Lodge in 1988, and was a founder member of the Middlesex St George Lodge in 1989. He was Master of the Royal Alfred in 1998, and the Middlesex St George in 1993. He was also a member of Rotary. He joined the Hounslow Rotary Club in 1986, becoming President in 1994/5. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1998.

In addition to these, Charles used his professional skills in the service of several charities and youth organisations. It was in this capacity, as auditor of the Heston Parochial Charity, that I first met him. He was also Treasurer of the Hounslow and Heston Division guides; Treasurer of the Hounslow Youth Leaders Council; Treasurer of the Lampton Lodge Trust; and, for 17 years, Chairman and Treasurer of the Focus Youth Centre Management Committee.

“By their fruits ye shall know them” says Jesus. Charles was a good man, and his life bore good and abundant fruit. He is mourned today by his family, but also by those many others whose lives he touched for good.