



A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland Grand Lodge News



DECEMBER 2009

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS – OCTOBER 2009

BRETHREN ALL,

As you are aware, our October Communication is always focused on Charity, affording an opportunity to review the past year's accomplishments and to recognise the excellent and dedicated work of our Charity Committees. Today is no exception and I compliment them for the manner in which they have recently coped under such adverse economic circumstances.

My special congratulations and thanks are also extended to the members of The Masonic Trust Company who have achieved relatively good results in this difficult climate. I value their professional oversight and acclaim their management skills.

June Communication

Our June Communication was up to its usual high standard with visiting delegations from U.G.L.E., represented by the Pro. Grand Master M.W.Bro. Peter Lowndes & V.W.Bro. Derek Dinsmore: from the Grand Lodge of Scotland represented by M.W.Bro. Charles Ian Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont, Grand Master Mason, accompanied by his Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. David Begg and the Grand Lodge of Ghana represented by R.W.Bro. Nana Herman A Mould, all of whom being officially received according to established protocols.

Other non-official delegations included:

Glittering Star Lodge No. 322 on the occasion of their 250th Anniversary - The largest delegation.

The Association of Atholl Lodges (Ancient Lodges which existed prior to U.G.L.E.) & members of Quator Coronati Lodge 2076 E.C.

Representatives from:

The National Grand Lodge of France.

The Grand Lodge of Malta, now in its fifth year, which we constituted in 2004.

United Grand Lodges of Germany which celebrates its 50th Anniversary in October.

The Grand Commander of Tennessee and W.Bro. Rashid Hossen of Lodge 925 from Mauritius.



Visits

I visited Latvia from 12th-14th June where Ireland was the Senior Grand Lodge present. The Grand Master kindly presented me with a collar jewel representing the highest award available in Latvia.

I had a most enjoyable visit to Lodge No. 215 Newbridge on the 1st September in the company of R.W.Bro Noel Simpson and W.Bro. John Gault of Lodge No. 589, Island of Inch. The atmosphere was pleasant and I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the Newbridge Brethren.

My visit to Lodge No. 588 Ancient Donegal was most enjoyable and it was nice to be back with them to present a 50 year jewel to W.Bro. Brown and renew old friendships.

Lodge Helens Bay No. 834 on 19th September was truly exceptional. Firstly, I motored to Bangor to the home of Bro. Alan Campbell, an old school friend; we were then coached to Dublin to attend their communication in the Grand Lodge Room. After that, we travelled to Newry and met many old friends there. We had a superb Festive Board before continuing to Bangor where I stopped overnight as Alan's guest.

I attended Provincial Grand Master's Lodge No. 52 in Londonderry where I was accompanied by R.W.Bro. Robert Quigley and presented a 50 year jewel to W.Bro. Desmond Goodman. I was very impressed with the refurbishment of the interior of Freemasons' Hall in Londonderry and would compliment the Board of Management on such a wonderful outcome. To crown this development,

I was invited to the Hall on 12th September when an 'Open Day' was held including tours and short lectures which proved very successful. I drifted around during the day and met many with Masonic connections.

Other Activities

A Tripartite Meeting was held on 28/29th June which proved very successful.

I attended a European Grand Masters' Meeting in Paris from 4th to 6th September accompanied by the Grand Secretary. It proved to be relatively inconclusive and focused mostly on the formation of a United Grand Lodge of Europe which failed to attract the support of the Home Constitutions at this stage.

The Grand Secretary and I attended the 100th Anniversary Celebrations of the Grand Lodge of Turkey from 24th - 26th September. We were treated most kindly and witnessed a Masonic Marriage for the first time followed by a boat trip through the Bosphorous, escorted by the Turkish Police which was indeed a new experience.

The Golf Tournament at Cookstown on 28th August raised £6,000 and I congratulate and thank R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson and his wife Pauline and their team who consistently perform well with this competition.

The Grand Master's Festival has now come to an end and the result was truly magnificent. It was significant that Brian Cowen, the Taoiseach willingly assisted in the presentation of the cheques in Dublin and provided accommodation on the occasion.

V.W.Bro. Trevor Hanna succeeded in having reports and pictures in 37 different newspapers in the North but had little response in the South. The Beneficiaries were most helpful in the promotion of the Festival and the ultimate reporting after the presentation. I thank V.W.Bro. Trevor for his professional input and all the Irish Lodges, at home and abroad for the glorious effort made by them.

In conclusion, I regret that, from next year we will publish the Grand Lodge News in digital form only, as printing and postage costs have become prohibitive.

Brethren, I thank you.

ULSTER CANCER FOUNDATION BENEFITS FROM MASONIC GOLF COMPETITION

The 10th Annual Grand Master's Millennium Cup competition organised by the Freemasons of Ireland Golfing Society was held at the Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown on Friday 28th August 2009.

Once again, this popular competition continues to attract growing numbers of Masons, Non-Masons and Ladies from all over Ireland, Scotland, England, Finland and the Isle of Man, who enjoy a superb day of golf, competing for a magnificent array of crystal prizes to the value of £1500.

Despite the changeable weather, 260 competitors braved the sunshine and showery conditions and returned some excellent scores.

The overall winner was Sam McCrum, of Lodge No. 5 Waterford (Masonic Province of South Eastern), with 41 Stableford points.

The team prize was won by Tommy Armstrong and David McKechnie representing Victoria Masonic Lodge No. 473 in the Province of Tyrone and Fermanagh with a combined score of 75.

Best gross was won by ten-handicapper William Herdman with an excellent score of 78 gross.

The prize for the best overseas visitor was carried off by Hannu Nurmi from Finland.

Ladies prizes were won by May Baxter, Sue Taylor, Sheila Lyall and Heather Henning.

Non-Mason's prizes were won by Norman Weir, Bert Graham, Steven Gill and Cecil Armstrong.

The Evening was well attended by approximately 100 people which included the Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master, and Provincial Grand



Left: Presentation of cheque for £3,000 to Liz Atkinson of the Ulster Cancer Foundation, from R.W.Bro. Harry Weir P.G.M. of Tyrone & Fermanagh. Right: Overall Winner (41 points) - (L-R) M.W.Bro. George Dunlop G.M. and W.Bro. Sam McCrum, (Waterford Masonic Lodge No. 5) Province of South Eastern.



Left: One of the Lady Prize Winners - Sheila Lyall, with the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop. Right: Bert Graham & Cecil Armstrong, winners in the Non-Masons Category with the Grand Master.

Masters and Officers from the Northern Provinces with their Partners.

The prizes were presented by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, following a superb evening's entertainment in the clubhouse.

Tributes were paid to the organisers of the event, R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson and his wife, Pauline, and the organising

Committee, The Committee would especially thank The Captain, Council and Members of Killymoon Golf Club for their hospitality, the Caterers and the ground staff for having the course in excellent condition. Also, to the many Sponsors who donated a large number of very valuable prizes which were on display on all the tee boxes on the golf course and display boards in the Clubhouse.

The competition raised in excess of £6,000 in aid of Masonic and non-Masonic charities and a cheque for £3,000 was presented to Liz Atkinson, Co-ordinator for Ulster Cancer Foundation, by the Chairman of the Northern Provinces Committee, R.W.Bro. Harry Weir, Provincial Grand Master of Tyrone and Fermanagh.

R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson

TO ALL OUR READERS

As mentioned in the October issue, this is the last printed edition of the Grand Lodge News.

It will however, continue to be published in digital format and can be viewed or printed off by visiting:

www.irish-freemasons.org/Pages_GL/Grand_Lodge_News.html

A Merry Christmas & A Happy and Peaceful New Year to one and all.

LONG & DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The Grand Master and Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ireland recognise the valued contribution of the Brethren listed below for their devoted and distinguished service to The Order and the honour they have bestowed upon their Lodges and Brethren.

Distinguished Brethren	Years	Lodge Name & No.	Province
W.Bro. Albert E Chapman	70	Three Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 775	Antrim
W.Bro. William G Dudgeon	70	Barton Masonic Lodge No. 220	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Robert Simpson	65	Abercorn Masonic Lodge No. 515	Londonderry & Donegal
V.W.Bro. P Hill Robinson	60	Mourne Masonic Lodge No. 823	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Jack Perott	60	Antient Bandon Masonic Lodge No. 84	Munster
W.Bro. Richard J Hegarty	60	Fifteenth Lodge	Munster
W.Bro. John A Wolfe	60	Fifteenth Lodge	Munster
V.W.Bro. John M M McIlwee	60	Temple Masonic Lodge No. 138	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Victor J Sterling	60	Star of West Down Masonic Lodge No. 94	Down
W.Bro. Charles A Service	60	Patrick Masonic Lodge No. 493	Antrim
W.Bro. Henry Gilmore	60	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 166	Antrim
Bro. James A Turkington	60	Carleton Masonic Lodge No. 231	Armagh
W.Bro. John C Little	60	Old Portora Masonic Lodge No. 859	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Robert Miller	60	Abercorn Masonic Lodge No. 515	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. John Agnew	60	Abercorn Masonic Lodge No. 515	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. H R Cleland	60	Ballynahinch Masonic Lodge No. 301	Down
W.Bro. James Moorehead	60	Culmore Masonic Lodge No. 320	Londonderry & Donegal
V.W.Bro. William B Nevin	56	Home Guard Masonic Lodge No. 747	Armagh
V.W.Bro. James Jones	54	Home Guard Masonic Lodge No. 747	Armagh
Bro. John McDonald	52	Home Guard Masonic Lodge No. 747	Armagh
W.Bro. Walter Steele	50	Three Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 775	Antrim
W.Bro. Reginald Milliken	50	Concord Masonic Lodge No. 462	Down
W.Bro. Henry P Love	50	Fifteenth Lodge	Munster
W.Bro. Ronald G Weston	50	Duncairn Masonic Lodge No. 545	Antrim
W.Bro. Harold McKay	50	Friendly Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 609	Antrim
W.Bro. William R Dickson	50	St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 691	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. John N D Fawcett	50	St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 691	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. John R Graham	50	St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 691	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Rex Russell	50	Star of West Down Masonic Lodge No. 94	Down
Bro. Terence Brown	50	Star of West Down Masonic Lodge No. 94	Down
Bro. Stanley Johnston	50	Star of West Down Masonic Lodge No. 94	Down
Bro. Joseph McQ Gibson	50	Star of West Down Masonic Lodge No. 94	Down
W.Bro. Wesley Nevin	50	Edenmore Masonic Lodge No. 161	Antrim
W.Bro. Samuel N Hammond	50	St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 334	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. John G Brown	50	Ensr Masonic Lodge No. 625	Armagh
V.W.Bro. Thomas Higginson	50	Largymore Star of Down Masonic Lodge No. 753	Down
W.Bro. Thomas J Weekes	50	Largymore Star of Down Masonic Lodge No. 753	Down
Bro. Samuel Higginson	50	Largymore Star of Down Masonic Lodge No. 753	Down
W.Bro. Samuel T McClean	50	Abercorn Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 149	Antrim
Bro. Robert C Irons	50	Abercorn Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 149	Antrim
Bro. Robert Shaw	50	Myra Castle Masonic Lodge No. 516	Down
W.Bro. Richard W Jackson	50	Union Masonic Lodge No. 1008	Antrim
W.Bro. John A H Miller	50	Green Masonic Lodge No. 470	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Samuel E Sloan	50	Farmers' Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 978	Down
Bro. James A Moss	50	Farmers' Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 978	Down
Bro. Arthur G Livingstone	50	Harlech Masonic Lodge No. 165	North Connaught
W.Bro. David T Cockcroft	50	Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
W.Bro. Oliver C Gibson	50	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. William Simpson	50	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. William Craig	50	Killinchy Union Star Masonic Lodge No. 624	Down
Bro. John C Bishop	50	Killinchy Union Star Masonic Lodge No. 624	Down
R.W.Bro. E Cyril Ferguson	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 645	Antrim
W.Bro. Frederick G Thompson	50	Kingstown Masonic Lodge No. 510	Metropolitan
W.Bro. John Dixon	50	Lischoole Masonic Lodge No. 763	Antrim
W.Bro. William J Haire	50	Rising Sun Masonic Lodge No. 170	Down
W.Bro. Thomas Blayney	50	Rising Sun Masonic Lodge No. 170	Down
W.Bro. S Thomas McClean	50	Abercorn Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 149	Antrim
W.Bro. J A H Miller	50	Green Masonic Lodge No. 470	Tyrone & Fermanagh

Centenary Celebrations of St. George's Lodge No. 166

On Sunday the 19th October 2008, the Brethren of St. George's Masonic Lodge and their guests celebrated its Centenary with a Choral Evensong in the magnificent surroundings of St. George's Parish Church, High Street, Belfast. This building, an architectural gem, that is virtually unknown to the general public, contains the memorial window (The Good Samaritan) to the memory of Sir Robert Baird, past owner of The Belfast Telegraph, and for many years at the start of the 20th century, Treasurer of The Grand Lodge of Ireland. No finer memorial could have been found, as Sir Robert was a generous benefactor to both Masonic and non-Masonic charities.

The Officiant, the Rev'd. Terence Dunlop had the added pleasure of his father, The M.W. The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, reading the first lesson. W.Bro J. Craig P.P.G.S.B. read the second lesson and a very thought provoking and apt sermon was given by R.W.Bro. Rev'd. Dr Samuel G. Poyntz, Past Senior Grand Chaplin of The Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Interestingly, the Lodge was actually founded by a number of Brethren



Front Row (L-R) R.W.Bro. Rev'd dr. Samuel G Poyntz; W.Bro. J Craig P.P.G. Sword Bearer; The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop; the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. John S Dunlop and Rev'd. Terence Dunlop (Grand Master's son); along with the Officers of St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 166.

associated with St. George's Church and the first W. Master, The Rev'd. Hugh Davis Murphy M.A., D.D. was the then Church Rector. The current rood-screen bearing the Pascal Lamb in a place of honour, was erected to the memory of the Rev'd. Murphy. Amongst the other Founder Members we find a Dentist, a Grain Merchant, a Head Constable and a retired Sergeant Pensioner from the RIC, 3 Commercial Travellers, a

Solicitor and a Taylor. Amongst the distinguished guests, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim was well represented by its six Principal Officers and the Lodge of Research was also well represented.

St. George's Lodge has produced a very fine illuminated scroll based on the service of Choral Evensong dated Sunday 19th October 2008 at 3.30 p.m. and containing the signatures of all the key Church participants, Lodge Members and Masonic Guests present on the day. They plan to get the scroll framed and displayed in Arthur Square. To mark the occasion, the Brethren of St. George's Lodge No. 166 presented a cheque for the sum of £166.00 to the Church funds and W. Bro. Ronnie Wilson, chairman of the Arthur Square Masonic Hall Company, donated a further £1,070.00 to Church funds on behalf of the other Masonic Lodges that meet in the newly refurbished Arthur Square building.

250th Anniversary Celebrations at Concord Masonic Lodge No. 332



Brethren of Concord Masonic Lodge No. 332, Omagh, and distinguished guests, celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the Lodge in 1759. Grand Lodge was represented by the Asst. G.M. R.W.Bro. Leslie V Johnston, seated next the W.M. W.Bro. Nigel Henry. Also seated in the front row are senior officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh, R.W.Bros. Harry Weir, P.G.M., John Hadden P.D.G.M. and Norman Humes P.A.G.M., with guests from the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Connaught.

W.Bro. Jim McBain, Secretary

ARTICLES FOR GRAND LODGE NEWS

The editorial team will be glad to receive interesting articles regarding functions / special anniversaries / letters etc. We would ask that the "kiss" principle is recognised – "keep it simple and short" – and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

The Editorial Team, Grand Lodge News, c/o 115 The Mount, BELFAST BT5 4ND or by e-mail to: williamclarke746@btinternet.com

A TWIST IN THE TALE

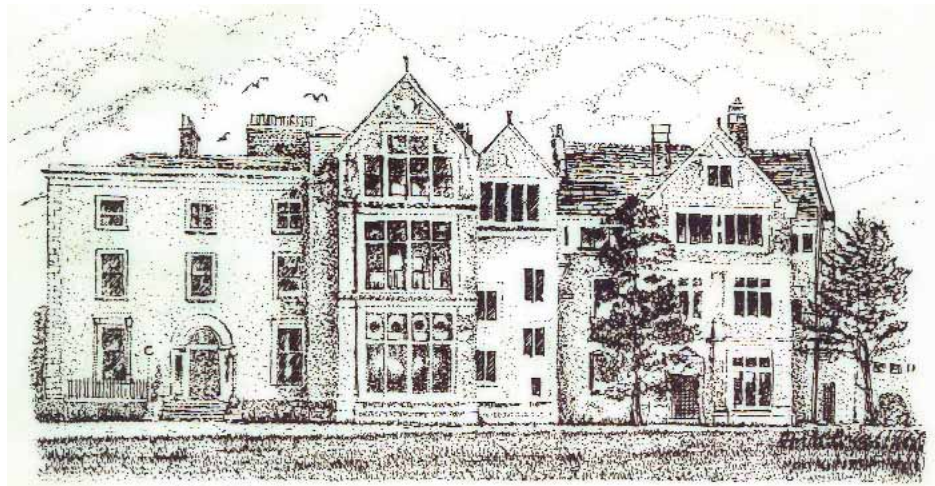
The tale of the Masonic Orphan Boys School had its first swish in April of 1867, when eleven brethren met in Freemasons Hall, Dame St. Dublin, and metaphorically scattered the seed of the School, resulting in the passing of the following resolution -

“That a School be established for the support and education of the sons of deceased and deserving members of the Masonic Order under the Irish Constitution, and that a subscription list be forthwith opened for carrying out this benevolent object.”

However some 21 years passed by before the gates of Richview the School opened, with two temporary “homes” being used along the way. The first important steps in the direction of Richview were taken in 1885. This was the year the Order purchased land and property situated on the banks of the river Dodder at Clonskeagh, just on the outskirts of Dublin.

Three years later on 16th January 1888 – some 21 years from the sowing of the seed in 1867 – fifty two boys walked up the tree lined driveway, hung up their coats, unpacked their cases, and sat down at their desks. The seed had blossomed into full flower called “Richview,” but the ground had at times been stony.

Over its entire 92 years, a total of 1686 boys walked through its gates, but did so because their late Fathers



MASONIC BOYS' SCHOOL. RICHVIEW. CLONSKEAGH. DUBLIN.



(L-R) Former Pupils and members of the Masonic Boys Benefit Fund – John McKinstry; Gordon Bratten; Lee Wildridge; Eddie Hodgett; Trevor Monteith and Bert Wilson Deputy Chairman of the Masonic Boys Benefit Fund.

had been Freemasons. Their names had gone through a very competitive selection process, and a very detailed Application Form was required, which was initiated at Lodge level. This Application was eventually passed round a table in the Board Room of the School, at which sat a quorum of School Governors. These men sympathetically scrutinised and assessed the needs of the widowed Mother, and her son.

My own Father died in 1944, and consequently an Application with my name on it, was passed round that table I have just referred to. No doubt it was well looked at before receiving the magic word – “Approved,” and in January 1946 I walked up that tree lined driveway, as did those 52 boys some 58 years earlier in January 1888.

Fifty three years later I was privileged to be elected to the Committee of the Boys Benefit Fund, a body formed following the School’s closure in 1980. As a result, I now find myself sitting round a table looking at Applications for the educational assistance of boys in need, as indeed I was myself back in 1945.

The end result is that I am now party to the decisions taken on these Applications by uttering the words, – “Approved,” as did those men in 1945 who studied an Application bearing the name John Trevor Monteith.

My – How the Tale has Twisted.



(L-R) W.Bro. S Dubourdieu, The Mayor, Councillor James Tinsley, The Grand Master M.W.Bro. George Dunlop & Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Robert J Armstrong.

220 NOT OUT

Anahilt True Blues Lodge No. 683 started the celebration of their 220th Anniversary with a Civic Reception held on the 11th January 2008 in the Lagan Valley Island Civic Centre, hosted by the Mayor, Councillor James Tinsley.

To mark the occasion, the Mayor presented a plaque of Lisburn City, to Worshipful Master W.Bro. S Dubourdieu.

The Grand Master M.W.Bro. G Dunlop and the then Provincial Grand Master of Down R.W.Bro. R J Armstrong also attended the Civic Reception, followed by the Installation of Officers for 2008 in the Hillsborough Masonic Hall.

200 Years and still going strong

Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216 celebrated its bicentennial at a Stated Communication held in Ardclinis Parish Hall, Carnlough on Saturday 28th June 2008.

Present were the Grand Master M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. John Dunlop and the Provincial Assistant Grand Masters R.W.Bros. Noel Millar and Jack O Dunlop.

The Grand Master and the P.G.M. both spoke of their delight at being present on this auspicious occasion. The G.M. presented the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. James Black, with a 200 year Certificate, after having read the contents to the Brethren. During the Communication W.Bro. Alistair Montgomery (D.o.C) gave a short history on Freemasonry in Carnlough, for which he was warmly thanked by all present

V.W.Bro. Johnny McCullough a member of Glenarm Masonic Lodge No. 45 and an Honorary Member of 216, presented the W.M. with a beautiful engraved Waterford glass from Lodge No. 45, suitably engraved.



Pictured (L-R) R.W.Bro. Jack O Dunlop (P.A.G.M.); M.W. The Grand Master M.W.Bro. George Dunlop; W.Bro. James Black (W.M.); V.W.Bro. Johnny McCullough (Glenarm Lodge No. 45); P.G. Master of Antrim R.W.Bro. John Dunlop & R.W.Bro. Noel Millar (P.A.G.M.).

The Brethren of Ulidia Masonic Lodge No. 151 Lurgan, presented the W.M. with a lovely engraved plaque. These Brethren were warmly thanked for their kind gestures. Following the Communication the Brethren enjoyed an excellent Festive Board in the Londonderry Arms Hotel where the W.M. presented our distinguished Brethren with commemorative jewels.

W.Bro. J Cahoon

**Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ireland
Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim
Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216**

**Bi-Centenary Celebrations
(1808 - 2008)**

Worshipful Brother James Black

Worshipful Master

in the presence of

Most Worshipful Brother George Dunlop

Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ireland

Right Worshipful Brother John S. Dunlop

Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim

Masonic Hall, Carnlough, County Antrim

28th June, 2008

Mourne Cup Competition 2009

The inaugural Competition for the Mourne Cup was away back in 1963. The Cup was presented to the Lodge by Ronnie and Hill Robinson.

This year, the Competition was held at Newtown Stewart Golf Club on Wednesday 16th September and the winner was David Patterson 38 points, Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 341, Raphoe, with the runner-up, Harry Friar 36 points, from Mourne Masonic Lodge No. 823, Strabane.

Unfortunately, only 7 Lodges participated, but this is probably due to the unavoidable later date of the competition. However, the 2010 competition will take place in June and we look forward to many more Brethren attending.

SERVIAMUS Celebrates With Founders

On Saturday 28th February 2009 Serviamus Lodge 524 in Holywood, County Down held its Installation of Officers during our 410th Stated Communication.



Pictured above are (L-R) W. Bro. Ian McConnell, our new Worshipful Master; W.Bro. Joe Lemon, Prov. Grand Steward (Founding Member); W.Bro. Bill Ringrow (Founding member) and W.Bro. Cecil Hall (Founding Member).

The new Worshipful Master and all the Brethren were honoured to have present the only three Founders of the Lodge who are still members. We were especially pleased to have W.Bro. Bill Ringrow with us. Bill now lives in England, is a member of Vale of Loddon Lodge 8421 E.C. but remains a full member of Serviamus, communicating with us regularly. Bill was accompanied by his son W.Bro. Peter Ringrow, also of Vale of Loddon 8421 E.C., also a member of Serviamus and a Past Prov. Jnr. Grand Deacon of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Berkshire.

Many of the Brethren who founded Serviamus in 1964 were serving members of HM Forces and we have maintained our strong military connections ever since. Indeed our annual toast to Absent Brethren was particularly important as two of our Brethren are currently overseas on active service.

Masonic Meeting at Basrah Airport

St. Patrick's Lodge No. 295 is one of only 2 known surviving Military Lodges which maintain Ambulatory (or Travelling) Warrants. Of the 2 it is unique that St Pat's still travels with the Regiment to which it was originally warranted.

Warranted to the 1st (Irish) Horse (John Brown's Horse) in June 1758 as a result of regimental amalgamations, the Lodge now meets within The Royal Dragoon Guards a Cavalry Regiment of the British Army stationed in Munster Germany and equipped with the modern steed of the battlefield, the Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank.

In February of 2008 The Royal Dragoon Guards returned from a successful second tour in Iraq, being based at Basrah Airport. This was the Regiment's second operational tour in the Basrah area having previously been there in late 2004 to early 2005.

When they embarked on that first tour in 2004, the Warrant of the Lodge travelled in the Quartermasters baggage (as was ancient custom) and 4 meetings were held at the Shaibah Logistics Base 10 Km outside Basrah, chaired by V.W.Bro. John Torley in the absence of the reigning



Master. It is believed that these were the first Masonic meetings to take place in Iraq since the late 60's when Sadaam Hussein took power.

The meetings were well attended and as many of the Brethren of the Lodge were stationed away from the main base, Brethren from other Constitutions often stepped into some of the offices to enable meetings to take place. At various points Brethren from the German, Australian, Scottish, English and even a Brother from a Lodge in Carrickfergus sat in Lodge and even substituted for Brethren who could not be there due to their operational commitments.

Working tools were fashioned locally by W.Bro. Des Lorimer, a Brother from the German Constitution in the Regiment's military workshops.

Warden's columns were made by Bro. Steve Kelly, and two sections from a set of drain-rods made excellent Deacons wands. The Altar and pedestals were folding tables bought from IKEA in Kuwait City, the Volume of Sacred Law was provided by the Regimental Padre and the Brethren wore their military uniform with white cooks aprons. This last point was commented on by one Brother, that all Brethren regardless of outside rank were demonstrably all on the same level within the Lodge, devoid of any displays of Masonic status.

A portacabin was pressed into service to act as a Lodge room on three occasions. On the fourth occasion the Lodge held its Installation meeting in a military tent. This was the first time, in living memory that an Installation had been carried out in the field during an operational tour. Again, due to some Brethren not being available, Brethren from other Constitutions assisted.

Bro. Iain Hutton was installed in the Chair and did an outstanding job of investing and appointing those Officers who were present.

V.W.Bro. John Torley

MONEYREAGH CLASS OF INSTRUCTION

W.Bro. Jim Morrison, Class Leader at Moneyreagh Masonic Craft Class of Instruction announced his retirement from the position at the Annual General Meeting in March 2009. At the Festive Board on 23rd March 2009, the Honoured Guest, R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong, remarked on W.Bro. Morrison's illustrious Masonic career, making

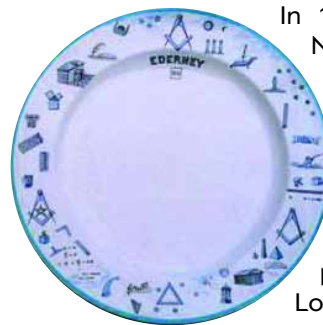
special mention of his 23 year involvement with Moneyreagh Class of Instruction, 19 of which were as Class Leader.

In recognition of his contribution to the Class, R.W.Bro. Armstrong presented W.Bro. Morrison with a special memento from the Class members. Also in the photograph is W.Bro. John McKeag, Class Chairman.



Brethren, can you help?

My name is Brian Russell and I have been researching into the life of Robert Williams Armstrong, one of the founders of Industrial Lodge No. 129 at Belleek in 1858, along with Rev. James Benson Tuthill, Edward Athill and John Gerrard Irvine.



In 1875 when Armstrong joined Lodge No. 819 at Ederney, he presented to that Lodge a Masonic Dinner service.

I am asking if all Lodges that may still have plates in their possession, or did have plates, could e-mail me with that information so that I can compile a list of the plates that were produced by the factory and sent to Lodges.

My email address is bb.russell@ntlworld.com; or you could send the information to Miss Rebecca Hayes, Archivist, Freemasons' Hall, 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, who will pass on the information.

We do not know what was produced by the factory or who ordered such items. This information is for me, as a member of the UK Belleek Collectors Society, so that we can have an up to date record that can go into our archives. Your co-operation and assistance is greatly appreciated.



Peter Finlay Malpas

Engineer, Prisoner of War & Freemason

The Armistice was signed in November 1918 ending the bloody Trench War in Europe.

Two years later, on 20 July 1920 was a 'Red Letter Day' for May and Lt. Commander James Malpas OBE RNR. For, in Glasgow May gave birth to a bonnie boy – Peter Finlay.

Young Peter started his engineering apprenticeship at a Glasgow dockyard in 1936.

Meanwhile, in 1937 a German freighter was being converted into a Heavy Armed Auxiliary Cruiser. The new deadly raider was named 'Atlantis' by his Captain Bernhard Rogge. The raider was commissioned in December 1939 and sailed into the Atlantic and beyond to destroy allied merchant freighters. In the same month, young Peter went to sea in the Merchant Marine never thinking that the raider would cross his path in the vast oceans.

In September 1941, Peter was in the engine room on his tanker, the 'Athelking' sailing to Indonesia when the tanker was suddenly hit by gun fire. Water gushed into the engine room. After receiving the command to 'Abandon Ship' on deck he found the bridge and the aft guns were on fire. Peter and some of the survivors were picked up by the enemy ship and taken prisoner. He found the enemy ship was the German raider Atlantis! Some weeks later, the raider transferred all the 250 POW's on board to a captured cargo ship, 'The Durmitor.' He was then taken to Somaliland. But the ship went aground. When the POW's got to the beach Italian soldiers took the captured seamen to an Italian POW camp in Mogadishu and later to a new camp at Merca. It was not until about March 1941 when all the seamen were liberated at Merca by South African forces and we were taken to Mombasa on the cruiser HMS Ceres.

Despite his lucky escape Peter soon went back to sea but in 1941 Peter was taken off his ship and hospitalized in Aden. There he joined a company in the dockyard. In 1943, Peter was initiated into the Craft in a Scottish Lodge in Aden. Then he affiliated to an English Lodge. After bouts of malaria and seriously ill with



Bro. Peter celebrated his 90th Birthday on 20.7.2009 at CCC.

typhoid where he nearly died. He was returned to Blighty in 1944. The war was still on but Peter went back to sea again in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

After WW II, in 1948 Peter took a flying boat from Poole and five days

latter he found himself in Hong Kong where he joined a tanker. He finally went ashore in 1950 and joined the Hong Kong Electric Company. In 1953, Peter affiliated to Shamrock Lodge No. 712 Irish Constitution in Hong Kong. He is still a serving member of Shamrock!

Peter served the Hong Kong Electric Company until his retirement in 1975.

Peter Finlay Malpas has been a Freemason for more than 60 years and is one of the very distinguished few who have served the Craft with more than fifty years. Today, Peter is keeping a close eye on the engine room at the good ship 'China Coast Community' moored in Kowloon Tong under his new captain Ms. Singh and her happy crew.

Brian L. Cook

Rechab Lodge 667 does it again

Having visited the Ulster Lodge No. 2972 in London in 2005, the Lodge decided to try again and visit another Ulster Lodge. After much discussion it was agreed to visit the Ulster Lodge No. 537 G.R.C. in Toronto Canada. A party of 22 (12 members) left Belfast on the 12th October 2007. On arrival we visited Niagara Falls and had a meal in the Skylone tower overlooking the falls. On the Monday night we arrived at the Rameses Masonic centre and met W.Bro. Tom Lloyd the Secretary of Ulster Lodge. A third degree was exemplified. It was interesting to hear the candidates knowledge before being led out to be prepared. It was a most interesting and entertaining communication and we would encourage all Irish Masons who visit Canada to take the time and visit our Canadian Brethren. Although similar to the English Constitution it has its own character and is worth seeing. The Grand Salute was particularly impressive.



The Ulster Lodge formed in 1917 and grew quickly after the First World War with an influx of Ulstermen and has continued to grow and today reflects the diverse nature of the Canadian population. It was interesting to hear the many different accents being spoke within the Lodge. Our Worshipful Master presented the Worshipful Master of Ulster Lodge with a Maul and a personalised Bottle of Bush Whiskey, as a memento of our visit. Many of our party visited a Royal Arch Chapter meeting later in the week. All had an enjoyable week and we are looking forward to our next visit.