



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



MAY 2008

## GRAND MASTER'S FESTIVAL 2008

**No matter where we visit the news about the Festival is good. Lodges have either run successful events or are planning one. This gives us confidence for a successful outcome. All we can ask is that you continue with your efforts.**

One of the fund raising activities being organised by the committees is the production of a calendar for publication in 2009, in each Province. If each Province sells all its advertising space we stand to raise about €200,000. Sales are going well and we would appreciate if you know of any potential advertisers to contact any of the Northern or Southern Committee Members or your Provincial Grand Master. We set out below the cost of advertising:-

	€	£
Full page	1,500	1,000
Half page	750	500
Quarter page	375	250

The calendar will be available for sale towards the end of the year, another opportunity for Brethren and friends to support the Festival.

It is always important to remember we are not selling sponsorship or fundraising for ourselves but for The Samaritans, The Northern Ireland Children's Hospice and The Laura Lynn Foundation.

The amount lodged to the end of March 2008 in euro terms is €80,000.

Yours in Masonry,

*Richard Ensor, Chairman  
Rodney McCurley,  
Northern Provinces Chairman  
Basil Fenton,  
Southern Provinces Chairman*

## THE LONG RUN DOWN

Some Brethren from Connor Lodge No. 189 in the Province of Antrim were looking for something to do for the Grand Master's Festival and so they looked at a map to see what would spring out at them. Well, we all know that it is down hill from Belfast to Dublin, or at least that's what the map says, so they thought it would be a good idea to RUN from the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice in Newtownabbey, on the North side of Belfast to the Loralynn Children's Hospice in Sandyford, on the South side of Dublin, a mere 130 Miles. As some of those involved were "real" runners they decided to link the event with the Dublin Marathon and compete in this also.

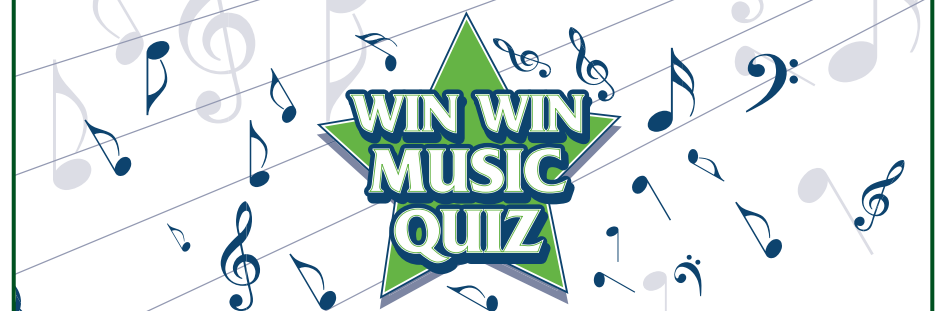
Well, this project is now being organised and it is the intention of these Brethren and some of their friends to undertake the run on behalf of the Grand Master's Festival and support the three Charities. They plan to start from the NI Children's Hospice on Wednesday, 22nd October and finish on Saturday 25th October at the site of the proposed LauraLynn Hospice in the grounds of the Sunshine Homes complex in Sandyford, Dublin.

We would ask you to keep an eye out for this event, as the Brethren will be seeking support from other Brethren and Lodges enroute, with accommodation etc., to help minimise the costs. We will bring you more details as the plans are formalised. For further information please visit [www.thelongrundown.org](http://www.thelongrundown.org)



**Support the Grand Master's Festival  
by supporting the WIN WIN Music Quiz**  
The Quiz that is being played throughout the Irish Constitution

**The Bigger the Sales = The Bigger the Prizes**



**The Bigger the Success of the Project  
The Bigger the Contribution to these 3 Worthy Charities.**

Please support this venture and be aware that extra copies are always available.

CONTACT: W. Bro. Ken Broughall + 353 86 2 690 483 or by e-mail: [gfmfmusicquiz@gmail.com](mailto:gfmfmusicquiz@gmail.com)



**SAMARITANS**



Now part of the Children's  
Sunshine Home

# Grand Master's Address

## Galway, 8th March 2008

I am delighted to be in Galway on this special anniversary of 275 years of Premier Lodge No. 14. I thank the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Basil Fenton and his Brethren for their kind invitation to Grand Lodge knowing that we will all enjoy this landmark event, which, I am confident, will be in true Galway fashion.

I was pleased to meet with the Mayor of Galway and his representatives and to exchange tokens of appreciation and to mark, with them, this keynote day in the life of Lodge No. 14.

Brethren, you all remember the previous Grand Master's Festival at the end of the last millennium where we raised over €600,000 for Alzheimers' sufferers and their carers. It was indeed a major success, and sent out a clear message that we are very much part of society.

The purchase of dedicated Alzheimers' buses in the South and the Telephone Help Line and other smaller projects in the North were excellent ideas and had much impact, if only for a limited period.

Freemasons were active in running many money raising functions in their neighbourhoods and by virtue of this, promoted the Order by giving the public a chance to meet with them and discover that they were normal members of society with nothing more sinister to hide.

Our Past Grand Master's determination to improve society's perception of our Order, has conditioned my Cabinet to the point where we are equally resolved to achieve a similar outcome.

The present Festival is aimed at the Samaritans and Children's Hospices; very worthy causes, by which we will give of our best and trust that both cure and comfort will result.

These projects are undertaken by us as an act of humility in which we do not seek plaudits but rather seek to illustrate to society that we care for the welfare of mankind; that we are not a body of men intent on seeking their own self interests but an

inclusive society, embracing those wonderful principles of brotherly love, relief and truth.

My sincerest thank go to R.W.Bro. Richard Ensor, Overall Festival Chairman, R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, Northern Chairman and R.W.Bro. Basil Fenton, Southern Chairman. I wish them and their respective committees every success in their endeavours.

Our success has been recognised by the public in a number of ways.

I will never forget the magnificent welcome given to us by the Lady Mayor of Sligo in the Mayor's parlour some years back, when she glorified our Order in her reception speech and left us all stunned by her knowledge of Freemasonry – especially our Past Grand Master, who was left speechless.

A recent report described the co-operative action of Cork City Council and the P.G.L. of Munster in marking Heritage Week when our premises in Cork were opened to the public.

The Masonic Hall, Tuckey Street, was used for the official opening and the formal reception at which the Lord Mayor of Cork, the Provincial Grand Master of Munster and many Brethren were present. Over 400 local people visited the Hall and many commented on the favourable impression which they formed.

A further report of the daughter of a Provincial Officer from Wicklow & Wexford, ranges from her original disgust that her father was a Freemason, to her pride when she discovered what the Order is all about:

Our running of Grand Masters' Festivals which assist Medical Research Projects and many others, all of which she referred to as the soul of Freemasonry and described it as 'Proud but not Loud.' How appropriate!

She finished: 'Today, I can say with an open heart – I am proud of Irish Freemasonry and I am proud of my father's role in it.'

The highlight of the last quarter was the dedication, in February, of the new Masonic Hall in Ballintoy, Co.



Antrim. On the day, I was delighted to accompany R.W.Bro. John Dunlop and his officers to the Dedication Ceremony.

We had a truly wonderful day with representatives from local and other Lodges, many of whom who gave significant financial assistance to the Ballintoy Brethren which resulted in a very impressive building. If you are ever in the North Antrim area, stop by and have a look.

The Brethren are to be congratulated for all their hard work, sweat, blood and tears which they expended in this project. It is a credit to all and the result of their vision, commitment and dedication in achieving such a significant outcome.

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are the principles on which our individual and combined foundations are built.

The Ballintoy Brethren have laid new physical foundations in the building of this magnificent temple which I am sure will stand as a symbol of Freemasonry for time immemorial. Ballintoy is a particularly old Lodge which will celebrate 250 years of working in 2013. We wish them well.

On a broader front, we are all greatly saddened by the pending closure and sale of the Rosemary St. building in Belfast, Headquarters of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim. I was at their recent meeting in the hall on 23rd February and it was heart rending to think that there was no return.

A number of the resident Lodges have surrendered their warrants and sadly some individual members have resigned. I wish the displaced Lodges and members well and may their temporary state be of short duration.

I would also wish the Provincial Grand Master every good fortune for the future and, hopefully, may the provisional arrangements be short-lived and that a recognised centre emerges, in the fullness of time.

I am in no doubt that I have an excellent team at Grand Lodge consisting of my Deputy, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey, Assistant R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston, R.W.Bro. Charles Olden, R.W.Bro. Barry Lyons and V.W.Bro. David Young who respectively oversee Grand Lodge Finances, Administration and Hall Maintenance and continue to give an excellent service. My thanks also go to V.W.Bro. Arnold Smith, W.Bro. Andrew Lyle and Janet for the good work they do in the boiler-house of the Finance Office.

The Asst. to the Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Morgan McCreadie, plays a major part in the general running and everyday things of Grand Lodge and does a wonderful job!

We miss Paddy at the door, he served us well and we would wish him every comfort and blessing as he copes with his illness. The Administration Staff in the General Office and Charity Staff in the front office, the Hall Porters and all who maintain the functioning of Freemasons' Hall, are deserving of our sincerest thanks.

It is said that the best leader is one who has enough sense to pick good men to do his will and enough self-restraint to keep from interfering with them, while they do it. May I be blessed with that virtue.

Thank you.

*M.W.Bro. George Dunlop*

## R.W.Bro. William Mawhinney 32°

It is with much regret we learn of the passing of R.W.Bro. Bill Mawhinney, Past Assistant Grand Master and Past Provincial Grand Master of Down, on Wednesday 9th April 2008.

An appropriate obituary will be available in the September issue of Grand Lodge News.

*Editor.*

# INSTALLATION OF R.W.BRO. RICHARD H GRAY AS P.G.M. OF DOWN

~ Saturday 29th March 2008 ~



(L-R) R.W.Bros. Robert McMurray; John C Clarke; Roger Matthews; Richard H Gray (P.G.M.); Rodney L McCurley (D.P.G.M.) & Alan Stewart.

**Prior to the Especial Communication, the Grand Master and other Distinguished Brethren were Guests at a Reception and Luncheon, at which 124 Brethren were present.**

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at 2.30 p.m. by R.W.Bro. Robert J Armstrong who then invited the Grand Master to occupy the Chair to Invest and Install R.W.Bro. Richard Henderson Gray as Provincial Grand Master.

Following his Installation, R.W.Bro. Gray welcomed the large number of Brethren present (approximately 600) making particular reference to the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. D T Grey and the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. L V Johnston, 9 visiting Provincial Grand Masters, a number of Past Provincial Grand Masters, visiting Provincial Deputy

Grand Masters, Provincial Assistant Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers and the Heads of many other Branches of the Order.

R.W.Bro. Gray then proceeded to Invest his new Deputy and two Assistants in the persons of R.W.Bro. Rodney Lees McCurley, W.Bro. John Crawford Clarke and R.W.Bro. Alan Stewart respectively.

Following the Communication, visiting Distinguished Guests and other direct participants in the Ceremonies adjourned to a Reception where congratulations were conveyed to the newly Installed Officers, particularly to R.W.Bro. Gray who was following in the footsteps of his father, R.W.Bro. Richard Ernest Gray who served as Provincial Grand Master from 1986 to 1991.



*Nikolai at his station before a semi final.*

## WAS IT A TRY?

W.Bro. Nikolai Koplensky, Director of Ceremonies at St Patrick's Senior Masonic Lodge No. 623 Armagh, the son-in-law of V.W.Bro. Joseph Rodgers also Lodge No. 623, was the vision screen referee for several Rugby World Cup games in Paris last Autumn. But more importantly he was the assistant video referee for the final between England and South Africa.

How did he achieve such an honour?

Although Nikolai was born in France his parents both hail from Russia and he lives in Belfast, as a result he is fluent in Russian, French, English and most of the languages spoken at the final. Add to that his playing career. In his youth Nikolai represented France at both under 19 and under 21 levels, he also played in Paris for the world famous Racing Club team.

As for that English 'try/disallowed try', in Nikolai's opinion – well, that's a story for another day.

# CHARITY CORNER

## N. CONNAUGHT TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT

North Connaught is trying something different for the Grand Master's Festival of Charity.

W.Bro. Robert Mallseed member of Tyrawley Masonic Lodge No. 217, will be running in the London Marathon for the Grand Master's Festival.

W.Bro. Mallseed attended Porterville College in California. The College has recently informed him that he is being entered into the College's Hall of Fame for his athletic and academic achievements.

When W.Bro. Nicholas Perry became aware that W.Bro. Mallseed might be involved in the London Marathon, he was asked if he would be willing to represent Irish Freemasonry. Taking that as read, W.Bro. Perry began promoting him throughout the North & South Connaught Provinces. Both P.G.M.'s provided great advice and encouragement throughout.

The display in the Reception of the Westwood Hotel, on the occasion of Grand Lodge meeting in Galway on Saturday 8th March, was made by W.Bro. Perry with the assistance of V.W.Bro. Robert Adamson (P.G. Treasurer, North Connaught) of Lodge No. 217.

W.Bro. Mallseed resides in Castlebar, Co. Mayo. His father was a Belfast



Photo taken at the Westwood Hotel prior to the Grand Lodge Meeting on Saturday 8th March 2008. Included are: W.Bro. Nicholas Perry (GMF representative for N. Connaught); W.Bro. Robert Mallseed; R.W.Bro. George F Ginnelly (P.G.M.) & R.W.Bro. E C Smyth (P.D.G.M.).

man and his mother hailed from Dublin. The London Marathon takes place on Sunday 13th April. The event is a great opportunity to further the aims of Freemasonry in the eyes of the general public and also raise funds for the current Grand Master's Festival of Charity.

Anyone wishing to sponsor W.Bro. Mallseed should forward donations to the Secretary of Lodge No. 217, making cheques in favour of the London Marathon (£ crossed).

The Secretary's address is: N T Reid, Briarhill, Ballintean, Kilglass, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo.

## ALMONERS ASSISTANCE HELP LINE

Dear Bro. Almoners,

The Office of Almoner is a most important one as it brings you into direct contact with persons in need. You are the essential link between such persons and either the Masonic Charities or some other Agency that may be able to provide assistance and relief.

To support you in your work and, if needed, to provide advice, guidance or assistance we have put in place an Almoner Assistance Help Line facility for our Belfast Office.

If we can be of help please ring the Help Line at 028-90-739025 (048 90739025 if ringing from the Republic. Please leave your name, telephone no., Lodge No. and give a brief description of the type of advice or assistance you require. We will arrange for someone to get back to you and provide the answers you need.

Thank you all for the valuable work you do, it is greatly appreciated and plays a very important role in Freemasonry.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Janice Griffin

p.p. JAMES C. STANLEY  
Deputy Chairman

VICTORIA JUBILEE MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND

# CHARITY CORNER

## PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES TO STROKE CHARITIES IN MONEYMORE

On Friday 29th February 2008, Unity Masonic Lodge No. 531, Moneymore, Co Londonderry, presented cheques to the value of £1,400.00 to representatives of Stroke Charities, in Moneymore Orange Hall.

A cheque for £500.00 was presented to Mrs Carol Henderson of 'Cookstown Volunteer Stroke Scheme'.



Brethren with Mrs Carol Henderson, Cookstown Volunteer Stroke Scheme.

A cheque for £900.00 was presented to Mr Brian McCloskey, Area Appeals Co-ordinator with the 'Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association'. This excellent effort was achieved by the Lodge members when they ran a Barbecue to raise the money for their local deserving charities.



Brethren with Mr Brian McCloskey, N.I. Chest, Heart & Stroke Assoc.

### Golf Dates for your 2008 Calendar

#### 1. Captain Fyffe Salver - T&F

Killymoon, 2.00pm      6th May      Leslie Graham  
02886 762773

#### 2. Provincial Priors' Golf Society

Killymoon      20th May      George M.J. Stewart  
9.30am -1.30pm      02879 418348 (H)  
07793223464 (Mob)

#### 3. Mourne Cup - T&F

Newtownstewart      11th June      Harry Friar MBE  
02881 658237  
Garth McKibben  
02891 878859

#### 4. Armagh Cup - Armagh

Portadown      13th June      David Blakely  
02838 871879

#### 5. Ferris Cup - Down

Kilkeel      27th June      William Andrews  
(tbc)      02840 623780

### UNIQUE INSTALLATION AT LODGE 328



W.Bro. Archie Roleston B.E.M. on the left accepting the maul from W.Bro. Walter Roleston.

The 2007 Ceremony of Installing the W.M. of Richhill Masonic Lodge No. 328 was quite unique. The Installing Master, W.Bro. Walter Roleston conferred the Degree of Installed Master on his twin brother, Bro. Archie Roleston B.E.M. At a packed meeting, those in attendance were pleased that Walter had accepted the challenge of installing his twin Brother after it had been suggested at a previous meeting.

Gifts of appreciation were exchanged with Walter presenting Archie with a Masonic Bible and receiving a Patron's Jewel of the Masonic Benevolent Institutions in return.

W.Bro. D.J. Robinson, Secretary.

## “DOWN” UNDER!!

Before he & his wife Rosemary left for New Zealand to visit their daughter & son-in-law, R.W.Bro. Roger Matthews (P.A.G.M. Down) wrote to the Secretary of Ara Masonic Lodge No. 348 (Irish Constitution, Auckland) asking permission to attend its Stated Communication on 5th November 2007.

The New Zealand P.G.M., R.W.Bro. Roland Whyte replied on behalf of his mother Lodge extending a warm welcome.

R.W.Bro. Matthews was collected by the P.G.M. & received fraternal greetings from all the Brethren of Ara. He witnessed a "Kiwi" Entered Apprentice degree & presented the P.G.M., W.M. & the newly initiated Brother with Grand Lodge ties.



R.W.Bro. Roger Matthews with R.W.Bro. Ronald Whyte (P.G.M. New Zealand).

R.W.Bro. Whyte also extended a welcome to Ponsonby Masonic Lodge No. 708 (Scottish Rite) which was celebrating St Andrew's Day & installing their 124th R.W. Master. Over 100 Masons were present with distinguished Brethren from the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, Scotland & New Zealand. It was a marvellous occasion & will always be remembered.

The visit to Ara Lodge in particular left R.W.Bro. Roger with the knowledge that a fraternal greeting under the Irish Constitution can indeed be extended world wide. He looks forward to renewing many friendships as his wife Rosemary is already planning their next visit in 2008.

## 100 YEARS YOUNG AND STILL AN ACTIVE MASON

Worshipful Brother Alex McCord reached a milestone earlier this year when he celebrated his 100th Birthday. The present Master of John Arnott Taylor Lodge No. 314, W.Bro. John Fenton and some other Brethren from the Lodge visited Alex at his home to mark the occasion with a presentation of an engraved pocket watch.

W.Bro. Alex had retired from the RUC in 1963 after 37 years distinguished service, having attained the rank of Head Constable. He also oversaw the development of the fingerprint branch of the RUC. Alex was also awarded the Queen's Police Medal for his long and distinguished service.

After his retirement, Alex continued to work until finally retiring at the age of 65, but continued to work at home as his wife's full time carer until her death in 2003.

Alex joined John Arnott Taylor Lodge in May 1935 following his father W.Bro. W J McCord who was Master of the Lodge in 1926. Alex became Master of Lodge No. 314 in 1947, and



W. Master John Fenton, W.Bro. Alex McCord and W.Bro. George Simpson, Sec. Lodge No. 314.

until recently was a regular attendee, but due to ill health cannot attend regularly, although he is still an active member of the Lodge keeping in touch and supporting charities.

We are proud to have W.Bro. Alex as a member of John Arnott Taylor Lodge No. 314, surely one of the oldest Freemasons in Ireland and someone younger up and coming members can look up to.

W.Bro. Alex Ewens

## PORTAFERRY 104 CELEBRATES 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Portaferry Masonic Lodge No. 104 celebrated its 125th Anniversary with the Installation of Officers for 2008.

Worshipful Master, W.Bro. James Williams, the oldest serving member of the Lodge, will in 2009, when coming out of the Chair, receive his 50 year jewel. W.Bro. Williams has served as W.M. on two previous occasions and also held the office of Secretary for sixteen years.

In the picture with the W.M., Officers and Brethren of the Lodge are R.W.Bro. Roger Matthews (P.A.G.M. Down) and visiting Brethren of local Lodges in the area.



## 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. Harold Palmer	70	Desertmartin Masonic Lodge No. 496	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William G Dudgeon	68	Barton Masonic Lodge No.220, Pettigo	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Howard Mullan	65	Kipling Newport Masonic Lodge No. 315	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Thomas J Henderson	65	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 522, Donegal	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. James W McLeod	61	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 522, Donegal	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Frank Potter	60	Shawsbridge Royal Jubilee Lodge No. 870	Down
W.Bro. David Donnan	60	Star of Kilwarlin Masonic Lodge No. 66	Down
W.Bro. Robert S Swan	60	Richview Masonic Lodge No. 711	Antrim
W.Bro. William J Cardwell	60	Tower of Lebanon Masonic Lodge No. 169	Antrim
W.Bro. James A McCallion	60	Westland Masonic Lodge No. 461	Antrim
W.Bro. John R Mansfield	60	Ossory Masonic Lodge No. 150	Midland Counties
W.Bro. James W Armstrong	60	Cavan Masonic Lodge No. 90	Meath
W.Bro. Norman L Murray	60	United Service Masonic Lodge No. 215	Midland Counties
W.Bro. Joseph N Magill	57	Magherally Masonic Lodge No. 203	Down
V.W.Bro. John G Johnston	50	Three Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 775	Antrim
W.Bro. John Dobbyn	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 522, Donegal	Londonderry & Donegal
R.W.Bro. Andrew W Coid	50	Garvagh Masonic Lodge No. 779	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. David Porter	50	Crossle Masonic Lodge No. 132	Down
R.W.Bro. W B Argent	50	Farmers Lodge of Friendship No. 978	Down
W.Bro. Robert Arnott	50	Star of Kilwarlin Masonic Lodge No. 66	Down
W.Bro. Robert J Campbell	50	Ramelton Old Masonic Lodge No. 407	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Kenneth B Sly	50	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 712 Hong Kong	Far East
W.Bro. Robert J Ballintine	50	Culmore Masonic Lodge No. 320	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Kenneth A McCarter	50	Culmore Masonic Lodge No. 320	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. George J McCullough	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 77	Down
W.Bro. Norman Allen	50	Sapphire Masonic Lodge No. 787	Down
W.Bro. John R N Mason	50	Shalman Masonic Lodge No. 607	Antrim
W.Bro. Andrew McAuley	50	Larne Masonic Lodge No. 41	Antrim
V.W.Bro. William J Wray	50	Pioneer Masonic Lodge No. 271	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Robert A Mooney	50	Pioneer Masonic Lodge No. 271	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Jack Rowe	50	William White Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 682	Down
R.W.Bro. Ian Piggot	50	Aberfoyle Masonic Lodge No. 784	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Daniel Hanna	50	Green Masonic Lodge No. 470	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. John H Douglas	50	Victoria Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 208	Down
V.W.Bro. Robert I E Wilson	50	Acacia Masonic Lodge No. 7	Antrim
W.Bro. Gerald Harrison	50	Helen's Bay Masonic Lodge No. 834	Down
W.Bro. Thomas J Eakin	50	Carleton Masonic Lodge No. 231	Armagh
W.Bro. James Spence	50	Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
R.W.Bro. Thomas C B McBain	50	Royal Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 32	South Eastern
W.Bro. Brian Finch	50	Wright Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 448	Down
R.W.Bro. Matthew D Milliken	50	Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge No. 147	Down
Bro. James Williamson	50	Portglenone Masonic Lodge No. 450	Antrim
W.Bro. Hubert L Moffitt	50	Light of the West Masonic Lodge No. 20	North Connaught
W.Bro. Wilfred B Boucher	50	Cottown Masonic Lodge No. 430	Down
W.Bro. John A A Iliff	50	True Blue Masonic Lodge No. 89	Antrim
W.Bro. A V Rodgers	50	Duncairn Masonic Lodge No. 545	Antrim
W.Bro. John E McLaverty	50	Stormont Masonic Lodge No. 560	Down
W.Bro. Gerald Newby	50	Wexford – Margate Masonic Lodge No. 916	Natal
W.Bro. Willem J Mok	50	Wexford – Margate Masonic Lodge No. 916	Natal
W.Bro. George W N Mok	50	Wexford – Margate Masonic Lodge No. 916	Natal
W.Bro. William J B McNally	50	Moat Masonic Lodge No. 546	Down
W.Bro. Joseph McKeown	50	Redcliffe Masonic Lodge No. 564	Down
W.Bro. John Tate	50	Union Star Masonic Lodge No. 198	Down
W.Bro. Herbert G Bradley	50	Portlaoise Masonic Lodge No. 398	Midland Counties
W.Bro. Rashleigh J Avery	50	De Burgh Adams Masonic Lodge No. 446	New Zealand
W.Bro. David Thompson	50	Victoria Unity Masonic Lodge No. 296	Down
W.Bro. Eric Hunter	50	Civitas Masonic Lodge No. 483	Down
W.Bro. Jackie Gregory	50	Breda Masonic Lodge No. 821	Down

# ANCIENT DONEGAL LODGE No. 588 CELEBRATES 225 YEARS

Donegal Masonic Lodge is aptly titled 'Ancient' in that it was granted a Warrant in June 1781 and the same day the Isle of Inch Lodge No. 589 was Constituted. At that time both Lodges sat in Co. Donegal, now Lodge No. 589 is based at Bishop Street in Londonderry. The two Lodges meet in fraternal friendship on a regular basis.

The earliest records of Ancient Donegal in existence date from 1802, with the Lodge seal spelling the name as 'Donegall'. In the 1920's Lodge membership stood at around 100, in recent years there are about 40 Brethren on the Lodge roll.

A sign of the Lodge's confidence in the future is reflected in the Masonic Hall being re-roofed and renovated, with the feature of the welcoming open coal fire being retained. Victory Masonic Lodge No. 522 Killybegs now also hold their Communications in Donegal town.

To mark the Lodge's anniversary the Provincial Grand Lodge of



Londonderry and Donegal held the 2006 summer Communication in the Parish Church Hall at Laghey and recently the Lodge gave a donation to purchase X-Ray equipment for Donegal Town Hospital.

The photograph shows those present at the November 2006 Communication:

Back Row, W.Bro. Oswald Perry; W.Bro John Gault; Bro. Noel Browne; W.Bro. Richard Crawford; W.Bro. Geoffrey Browne; W.Bro. Gregory Browne; Bro. Stephen Corrigan;

W.Bro. George Stevenson and Bro. Stuart Hamilton.

Middle Row: W.Bro. William Wilson; W.Bro. Desmond Wallace; W. Bro. Howard Bustard; W.Bro. Billy Johnston; W.Bro. David Davin; W.Bro. George Harron; W.Bro. David Morrow.

Front Row: V.Wor.Bro. Gordon Robinson, R.W.Bro. Rev. Canon Harry Trimble (Rep. G.L. of Latvia at the G.L. of Ireland); W.Bro Sam Gilchrist; W.Bro. William Bustard; W.M. W. Bro Victor Browne; V.W. Bro. Jack Irwin and W. Bro. Billy Browne.

## VISITATION BY LODGE NO. 23 TO TEXAS

In September 2006, W.Bro. James Dungan W.M. of Port Nechre's Masonic Lodge and his wife Becky visited Ireland, during which time he attended Union Masonic Lodge No. 23, Newry. He also attended the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down Communication, held in the Slieve Donard Hotel, where W.Bro. Sneddon was the current Provincial Grand Master's Standard Bearer.

Before his return to the USA, W.Bro. Dungan made a promise that W.Bro. Derek Sneddon would attend the Grand Lodge of Texas Meeting in 2006. In due course, W.Bro. Sneddon visited the Grand Lodge of



Texas and said "It was a great honour to bring Fraternal Greetings from the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down".

W.Bro. Derek Sneddon is pictured presenting an Irish Blackthorn stick and a Provincial Grand Lodge of Down tie, to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

## T. HAY CELEBRATES 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



W.M. Officers and Brethren of T. Hay Masonic Lodge accompanied by R.W. Bro. Rodney McCurley P.A.G.M.

11th of January saw the 125th installation ceremony of T. Hay Masonic Lodge No. 685 held in the Newtownards Road Masonic Hall, Belfast.

W.Bro. James Black was installed as Worshipful Master for the second time, as he also served as W.M. during the Lodge's 100th year. Prov. Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley was in attendance to witness this historic occasion. There was also Brethren representing the Scottish and English Constitutions in attendance. A great night was had by all.

W.Bro. Darren Gill, Secretary