



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



OCTOBER 2004

What Contribution can I make to Freemasonry?



by R.W.Bro. Robert J Thomson, Senior Grand Warden

I should like to outline a few thoughts and reflections on Freemasonry which may be particularly applicable at Lodge level. The theme of the remarks could be summed up as 'What contribution can I make to Freemasonry?' and following are some ways in which the question could be answered.

It is unfortunate, in some aspects, that the main qualification for the office of Worshipful Master is attendance. In the Laws & Constitutions of the Grand

Lodge it is recommended that the Master Elect should be capable of conferring the three degrees of Craft Masonry, but, if we were to adhere to that recommendation, there are many who attend regularly, who would never occupy the Chair. Regardless of whether we remain quietly in the background or attain the office of Worshipful Master, let us now look at the contribution we may make.

All Masonic work should be performed in a dignified manner. As a rule, this is done but occasionally there is a lack of dignity, even levity on the part of the Officers and Brethren while degrees are being conferred that is far from becoming. Such practices detract from the impressiveness and solemnity of the work and may cause the more sensitive initiates high opinion of Freemasonry to decline. First impressions are lasting and levity on the part of Officers and members at the beginning of a Candidate's progress serves to impress him with the belief that the forms and ceremonies are not matters of solemnity but that they are only necessities in devising a form of initiation.

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IN MEMORY

R.W.Bro. The Ven. Edward Brian Snow (1922-2004)
Past Senior Grand Chaplain



It is with much regret and deep sadness that we learned of the sudden death of R.W.Bro. The Venerable E. Brian Snow on Monday 17th May 2004.

Brian joined the Order in his early sixties, being initiated in Triune Lodge No. 333, Limerick, in 1983 and becoming its Worshipful Master in 1988. His commitment to and enjoyment of Freemasonry was well evidenced by his multiple membership of five craft Lodges and two Royal Arch Chapters; Cyrus Council No. 29; North Munster Preceptory and Abercorn Preceptory; Garryowen Chapter of Prince Masons and The Original Chapter of Prince Masons,

where he was Most Wise Sovereign at the time of his passing.

He was honoured by Grand Lodge in becoming Foreign Representative for South Africa in 1998 and served with distinction as Junior Grand Chaplain 1992-1994 and as Senior Grand Chaplain 1999-2003, an Office which he loved and one which he gave up reluctantly and with much personal sadness.

In May 2003 he was elevated to the 28° Degree of The Ancient & Accepted Rite – Knight of the Sun – Chevalier du Soleil.

Brian found no incompatibility with his deep Christian faith and membership of the Masonic Order. He proved a worthy advocate when he represented Grand Lodge in a recent RTE Documentary and his sincerity was most apparent.

What a marvellous commitment he gave to the Order generally, a gentleman through and through and a true Brother in every respect. R.W.Bro. Brian will be greatly and sadly missed by all his many friends both within and without The Order.

His funeral was held in St Paul's Church, Glenageary, on Ascension Day, 20th May 2004 – a very fitting day for such a beloved Brother.

*"If I take the wings of the morning,
and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;
Even there also shall thy hand lead me,
and thy right hand shall hold me." Psalm 139.*

APPOINTMENT OF NEW GRAND SECRETARY

The Grand Secretary will retire from Office at the end of June, 2005.

R.W. Brother Michael W Walker has served the Office of Grand Secretary with distinction, since 1981.

Applications are invited from subscribing Past Masters.

The position offers a five-figure salary and Written Applications should be received by the 31st October 2004 and addressed to:

**D.G.M. – APPOINTMENT,
Freemasons' Hall,
17 Molesworth Street
DUBLIN 2.**

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In the course of time the attention of each Candidate is drawn to those tenets of the Craft, which if faithfully followed and practised, must make him a better man and at the same time a true Freemason. For it must be remembered that initiation itself will make no one a true Freemason. All the degrees in the system will not do that! By initiation the seed is sown but it is only after successful germination that the Masonic plant can blossom and bear fruit. It is only by carrying into his daily life those rules of conduct laid down in Freemasonry for the guidance of its members that each Mason can hope to raise a structure worthy of the Builder, of that Spiritual Temple not made with hands.

From whatever aspect Freemasonry is viewed, the question 'What can I do for Freemasonry?' is a vital one and one from which no member can escape whether he be the most Junior Entered Apprentice, the Worshipful Master or the most Senior Past Master.

It is obvious that the future of this great society of Freemasonry is in the hands of those who are at present serving within its ranks. Upon them rests the responsibility of the admission of suitable Candidates and the rejection of those who are not likely to appreciate the true value of Freemasonry. The ideals of Freemasonry should, therefore, be kept constantly before the minds of those who propose Candidates for initiation because the prosperity of each Lodge, the dignity and reputation of our Order must depend on the type of man who is admitted to participate in our esoteric mysteries. As we look back and retrace our history, let us be ever mindful of the lofty ideals of those early Brethren who have left us their footprints in the sands of time that we might follow.

What is required most are men who will seek to preserve the ancient landmarks of our Order and will by example and precept, inculcate and pass on to future generations, those tenets and principles of the Craft that have been handed down to the present Freemasons from their Masonic ancestors.

Another way to be of service to the Craft is by a persistent search after Masonic knowledge. Knowledge is absolutely essential for the true understanding of any subject but it is particularly so for a correct appreciation of Freemasonry. Masonry, from its earliest days, has been termed a Science. It is therefore deserving of the same patient study that all the Liberal Arts and Sciences demand.

The study of the ceremonial and the history of the Craft are two important duties which every Mason owes to the Order. The ceremonies or ritual require to be learned, not parrot fashion, but with care and intelligence. Every portion should be researched and thoroughly understood. An honest endeavour should be made to ascertain the symbolic teaching underlying the various outward forms and ceremonies. This requires regular and active attendance at Lodge meetings and whenever possible, also at Classes of Instruction. I am of the opinion that it is the duty of the Worshipful Master to ensure that, during his period in office, correct instruction is forthcoming and that, if necessary or desirable, lectures are given so that the interest and enthusiasm of the brethren may be stimulated and sustained.

The Book of the Constitutions of Freemasonry and the By-laws of a Lodge are not intended as mere ornaments but are to be carefully assimilated. An accurate knowledge of all the important matters contained therein is essential to all those who would play their full part in Masonry. It is not given to all to absorb the same amount of knowledge but all knowledge is essentially important for those Freemasons, who, after filling the minor Offices and then the Warden's chairs, are elected to the Office of Worshipful Master to rule and direct the Lodge. The Mastership of a Lodge is not one to be taken lightly because the prosperity of a Lodge largely depends on the way in which the duties devolving upon the occupant of the chair are fulfilled. It is a position which should only be accepted by a Brother Mason provided he has sufficient knowledge to preside over a Lodge in a satisfactory manner, to foster real fraternal spirit within a Lodge and

generally impart light to the Brethren by example so that the grand principles of the Order are maintained. Only by dedication to duties can the great edifice which is symbolised by the structure of our Order be erected on the sure foundation of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

The true spirit of Brotherly love is essentially a virtue to be cultivated and practised rather than talked about. In the 'Old Charges' of the medieval Masons, Brotherly love was insisted upon. Life is full of opportunities for the daily performance of some Brotherly and Masonic act. Those who seize these opportunities when they occur, do good, not only to the individual assisted but also to the Craft as a whole, which receives reflected credit.

Closely allied to Brotherly love come those distinguishing characteristics of a Freemason's heart, benevolence and charity. Here there is scope, at all times, for each member of our society to do something within his sphere of life for Masonry. Charity, of course, does not consist of the mere giving of money. Charity, in its true significance, is much more comprehensive than that. It includes the entire service of doing good to others in every way and covers that friendly help, that personal assistance and those kind words of encouragement which are worth so much to all who seek or need them. There is as much charity in forgiving and thinking kindly as in giving plenteously.

Nor must we overlook the third of these principles - Truth. Its constant practice must contribute, not only to the credit of all who adhere to it but also to leave its mark on the world at large. Rectitude of life which is impressed upon us as early as the Fellowcraft Degree is a fine characteristic and one which must advance the honour of our Order when constantly pursued by its members.

Remember that each and every Brother in the Society of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons is important and has a vital contribution to make towards its well-being. You are Builders Brethren - Build Well!

70 Year Presentation

R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong, Provincial Grand Master of Down, presented W.Bro. Robert Hart M.B.E. of Jewel Lodge 592, Belfast, with a 70th Year Bar for his jewel in May 2003.

W.Bro. Hart joined Jewel Lodge in 1933, became their W.M. in 1942, and has been an enthusiastic member ever since. In 1937 Bob took his next Masonic step and joined Vigilant R.A.C. No. 456, Belfast.



1948 saw Bob joining Holywood Council of Knight Masons, and along with other Belfast Sir Knights banded together to form Carnmoney Council of Knight Masons. Shortly afterwards he became a founder member of Cavehill Lodge No. 751, Belfast, and was their first Master. He maintained his links with this Lodge up to 1996.

In 1953 Bob received an invitation to join Belvoir Preceptory, and in 1957 he became Excellent Chief of Holywood Council of Knight Masons. Again as a founder member, Bob helped set up Carnmoney Preceptory in 1963 and in the following year became Eminent Preceptor of Belvoir Preceptory.

Bob was also appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1967 and retired in 2001 having served 34 years. In 1971 he was presented with an M.B.E. by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

As part of his presentation speech R. W. Bro. Armstrong congratulated W. Bro. Hart on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and added that he was looking forward to being there again to present him with his 75th Bar which will coincide with Bob's 100th birthday in 2008.

W.Bro. W R F Armstrong, Secretary

North Munster Masonic and Community Centre



The Society of Freemasons, Limerick are building a new Masonic and Community Centre in King's Island, Limerick City. The site is across the road from King John's Castle and was acquired some 8 years ago. Planning permission was granted in November 1997, and work started in the following January. The exterior of the building is in random stonework to match the original with a style in keeping with its surroundings.

The Centre will be open to the public and will be available for use by Community Groups, Schools, Voluntary Bodies, community and other events will be held there. Particular care has been taken to ensure easy access both into and within the premises for the less mobile and wheelchair-bound members of the community.

Facilities at the Centre include Meeting rooms, a Museum and Library, a Function room and a fitted kitchen. The Museum will display exhibits with Masonic connections showing the historical links between the Masonic Order and the commercial life of Limerick City and the surrounding area over the last 300 or more years.

The new building is an attraction for visitors from abroad; we have had visiting groups from the United States and elsewhere to see it even in its unfinished state. It is listed in the official tourism brochure issued by Shannon Development entitled 'Medieval Limerick on King's Island', and has been awarded the 'Highly Commended prize – Infrastructure Category' at the Civic Trusts Ireland Gulbenkian Awards for 2001.

The new Centre is still under construction, but it is now nearing completion. The first floor is in use, and it is envisaged that the official opening will take place in the autumn of 2004.

R.W.Bro. G.G. Ashton P.G.M.

RECORDS?

Speaking about records, I wonder has Huntingdon Lodge No. 307 meeting in Roscrea, Province of the Midland Counties set another.

During the year 2001, four Brethren from that Lodge served concurrently as Masters of Lodges. Firstly, Bro. Sven Persson was installed as Master of Lodge No. 307 and V.W.Bro. Henry S Harding was installed as Master of St. Brendan's Lodge No. 163 Birr.

In the Province of North Munster W.Bro. Samuel J.C. Delahunt was installed as Master of St. Patrick's Lodge No. 311 and in the Metropolitan Area V.W.Bro. Peter D.G. Read was installed as Master of The Emerald Isle Lodge No. 19 (late of Pakistan).

But that's not all. The number swelled to five in January of the following year when W.Bro. George Bell was installed as Master of Lodge No. 642 Kilkenny, Province of South Eastern. Bro. Persson was a member of the "famous five" for just one day, whilst his successor W.Bro. Fergal L. de Feu, shared the honour for twenty days.

An unusual example of interaction between the Provinces!

R.W.Bro. Leslie G Evans P.D.G.M.

CHARITY CORNER

Freemasons' Medical Research Fund - Cochlear Implant Project Completion

A research project which could transform the lives of children born with severe deafness has been completed at a Northern Ireland hospital.

The four-year project was carried out in the Regional Cochlear Implant Centre at Belfast City Hospital, which treats children who cannot benefit from conventional hearing aids.

Experience with the procedure has been shared with the Beaumont Hospital in Dublin, where the treatment is offered in a similar centre.

In an attempt to find the "X factor" which may explain varying rates of progress after implantation, speech and language therapist Jill Titterington, who conducted the research, focused on determining why normal children and those with severe to profound hearing loss may process auditory information in memory differently.

The project, which was supported by linguistics professor Alison Henry at the University of Ulster and research officer David Watson at Queen's, was financed

entirely by the Freemasons' of Ireland Medical Research Fund.

Jill has presented an analysis of her research data to several professional seminars, including an international conference on child language development and disorder in Boston, U.S.A., and plans to publish papers in a number of prestigious journals.

She also hopes to complete her Ph.D. as a result of the research work.

She described the project as "a wonderful, worthwhile and very exciting investigation which hopefully has made a real contribution to our knowledge in this area".

She said: "The key outcome is that it is beginning to shed more light on why some children do better with cochlear implants than others".

"It is increasing our insight into what particular areas of language processing are difficult for children with cochlear implants, which will be vital for directing more appropriately targeted assessments and treatment techniques."

She added: "It will hopefully open up new areas for further research."

The Director of the centre, consultant surgeon Mr. Joe Toner, who instigated the project, commented: "The work generously funded by the Freemasons has provided a valuable insight into the issues which determine children's performance after cochlear implantation".

"Hopefully it will allow more targeted therapy strategies to be developed and enable children to benefit more from their cochlear implant".

"This should enable more children to develop adequate speech and language skills and equip them to communicate orally, access the curriculum at school and integrate with hearing peers in social and play situations."

R.W.Bro. Robert Campbell, a trustee of the fund quotes "The huge success of our fund-raising efforts all over Ireland is an achievement of which we feel especially proud. It reflects our open and active participation in the life of the community and demonstrates that we are a caring organisation".

Farmers' Lodge of Friendship Supports Spina Bifida

Bro. Colin Ward was presented with a cheque for £3,000 by the Brethren of Farmers' Lodge of Friendship No. 978 at the recent meeting of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Down.

This money was put towards a fund which benefits children who suffer from Spina Bifida, a condition of which Colin's daughter Debbie suffers from. Bro.



R.W.Bro. Armstrong (P.G.M.) with Brethren from Farmers' Lodge of Friendship No. 978.

Ward thanked those who had contributed and also explained what Spina Bifida is and in what way it affects the person suffering from it. The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong invited Bro. Ward to accept an anonymous donation of £500 (from a Brother within the Province) to be included in the overall contribution to Spina Bifida. Bro. Colin climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya at the beginning of the year to raise funds for this very worthy cause as well as for Masonic Charities.

Bro. Colin would like to use the medium of this Newsletter to thank everyone who donated towards these causes in any way.

"66" Supports Leukaemia Research

Mr David Mercer ran in the London Marathon to raise money for Leukaemia Research. David's wife, Janet, died of the disease in 2000 and both David and Janet were well known to many of the Brethren of Lodge No. 66. David is the son of W.Bro. Billy Mercer and the nephew of W.Bro. Winston Bell. The Brethren of the Lodge considered that this would be an opportunity for '66' to support a local cause.



In the photograph Mr David Mercer is receiving a cheque for £300 from the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Edgar Cumins. Also included are W.Bro. Ivan Boreland, Secretary and W.Bro. Dale L R Myles, Treasurer.

CHARITY CORNER

£1,400 Donated to Masonic Welfare Fund

At a meeting of Newtown Stewart Lodge No. 547 on 19th February 2004, fourteen members of the Lodge were presented with their Masonic Welfare Fund Jewels by the Provincial Grand Master of Tyrone & Fermanagh, R.W.Bro. D H Weir.



The picture shows; (front row) R.W.Bro. N Humes (PAGM); R.W.Bro. J R Hadden (PDGM); W.Bro. Stewart Robinson (W.M. of 547); R.W.Bro. D H Weir (PGM) and V.W.Bro. R Abernethy (PG Almoner).

(back row) Recipients of Patrons Jewels – S D McFarland; L J C McCormick (Treasurer); S Gallagher; D McMullan; T Robinson; W R Robinson; A Forbes; J O Lyons (Secretary); D McCormack; R Dillon; R McCallan; J Dunbar and S K S Stuart.

Leanne McKeown – GYLC Experience

The help we gave to Leanne turned into International success!

The Masonic Girls Benefit Fund sponsored Leanne to attend the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. and New York. Her itinerary included site visits to the US Capital Building, the Holocaust Museum, the Lincoln, Jefferson and Roosevelt memorials and an emotive visit to the World Trade Centre disaster site. One of Leanne's main ambitions at the conference was to meet people from different cultures and to expose herself to new perspectives and ideas. The 350 students present represented an immense variety of nations. Leanne attended the Global Summit at the UN Building which was a fantastic experience, the finished product of days of intensive group meetings, coalition building and proposal drafting.

Leanne has expressed immense gratitude to the Masonic Girls Benefit fund for helping to bring this trip to fruition.

Masonic Line Dancers?

Line dancing is something not normally associated with the Masonic Order and Portadown is probably unique in having a small group of dancers, who, as well as enjoying the fun of line dancing, raise quite a lot of money for charity. In addition, they visit old peoples homes, pensioner groups and W.I. and Mothers Union groups, to demonstrate and entertain.

R.W.Bro. James McKinney looks after the group and provides the music for them. The latest charity night raised £212.00. £110.00 was donated to N.I. Transplant Association and the remainder to a charity dealing with liver disease. The previous month £180.00 was raised and this was donated to the Masonic Club funds which helps to provide improved conditions in the Masonic end of the complex.

Although the sums raised are relatively small, we have found that recipients are grateful for our support.

They go under the title of "Masonic Line Dancers" and are always made very welcome wherever we visit. The group meets every Monday night in the Club function room in Portadown Masonic Recreation Club. They have been in existence for more than 10 years and numbers attending vary between 12 and 20, mostly ladies who are wives, relatives or just friends of members of our Order.

R.W.Bro. J McKinney

Widow's Register

The Masonic Benevolent Institutions gives a high priority to maintaining contact with the Widows of deceased Masons as an expression of care and concern. To this end a Register of Widows was established and last October each Widow on the Register received a greetings card, a letter from the MBI and a booklet on safety in the home. A total of almost 4,000 Widows received this package.

The office and many individual members received numerous letters and telephone calls from Widows expressing their appreciation at being contacted. No doubt you will agree that this is a worthwhile and tangible aspect of Masonic Caring.

This October each Widow will again receive a greetings card together with helpful literature regarding benefits and security. Unfortunately however, not all Masonic Widows will receive the package as some 275 Lodges have failed to send in their

lists of Widows. To send in a list takes very little effort compared to the pleasure, comfort and security given when the envelopes from the Masonic Benevolent Institutions arrive in October.

Please make sure your Lodge maintains a complete and up to date list for the Register. It really is important!

FIREANGELS ARE GO!!

At the end of last year, P.G.L. of Armagh co-operated with the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent Fund in the distribution of a new, practical, simple, easy to install and maintain, smoke / fire alarm called a "Fire Angel", to almost 500 widows of pensionable age.

They were well received and seemed a very worthwhile addition to security in the home. Following the success of the trial, it is now planned to give a "Fire Angel" to every Masonic Widow on the Island of Ireland.

Liscoole Lodge No. 763 celebrates 50th Anniversary in 2003



Back: W.Bro. Nesbitt, R.W.Bro. Long, Bro. Johnston, W.Bro. Dawson, W.Bro. Kelso. Middle: Bro. Martin, W.Bro. Beckett, W.Bro. Halliday. Front: W.Bro. Kelly, Bro. G. Johnston, R.W.Bro. Dunlop, Deputy Grand Master, W.Bro. F. Corbett, Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. McKinley, Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Keating.

Last year Liscoole Lodge celebrated the 50th anniversary of its constitution which had taken place during an Occasional Meeting of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim. The meeting had been held on Saturday 29th September 1953 in the old Masonic Hall at Whiteabbey.

In celebration, the Lodge held a Church Service in St Patrick's Parish Church, Jordanstown, exemplified the Entered Apprentice Degree before the Grand Lodge of Instruction and held a Celebratory Communication and Dinner.

Guests of honour at the communication held in Whiteabbey Masonic

Centre were the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Dunlop, and the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Adam J McKinley, and the main business was to hear R.W.Bro. Jack Long read extracts from his book entitled, 'Liscoole Lodge No. 763 – A Historical Record 1953 – 2003'.

At the dinner afterwards, the toast to Liscoole Lodge was proposed by R.W.Bro. W. J. Liggett who, at one time, had a close association with the Lodge as its Inspector. The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. G. F. Corbett suitably replied.

W.Bro. Selby Nesbitt, Secretary

Copestone Masonic Lodge 474 The Maul – “Was Lost – Is Found!”

In January 2004, as Secretary of 474, I received a phone call completely out of the blue from W.Bro. William Shannon of Lodge 373, Newtownards Road, Belfast to inform me that a good friend of his Bro. Alex Turner, Dundonald 303, had come into possession of a Masonic Maul. It transpired that this Brother's wife had been to a car boot sale in Newtownards and noticed this item and purchased it for her husband. After some research they discovered that the maul had originally belonged to Copestone 474. It was in a damaged condition but the two Brothers had it beautifully restored, contacted me, and came along to our Stated Communication on 3rd February 2004. They were delighted to present the Maul back to the Lodge for which we were most

grateful and delighted by this most generous and thoughtful gesture.

Prior to the meeting I was able to research some old minute books and discovered that this Maul had been presented to the Lodge by a Provincial Officer, W.Bro. John McQuoid, on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary on 23rd. January 1945. A member of the Lodge W.Bro. T T Pyper was able to further solve the mystery by confirming that during a burglary of Crawfordsburn Masonic Hall sixteen years ago, this was one of the items stolen!

Copestone 474 are indeed grateful to have their Maul back and express their profuse thanks to W.Bro. William Shannon and Bro. Alex Turner.

W.Bro. R Bradford, Secretary

Is this the Oldest Entered Apprentice?

Desertmartin Lodge No. 496 enjoyed an unique experience at their April, Communication when, William Young, a sprightly 76 year old, received his Entered Apprentice Degree.

Brother William, an active Committee Member in 1st Presbyterian Church, Magherafelt, worked a lifetime in Macrete Concrete Products, Toomebridge until his recent retirement.

His son Wilfred is a Past Master in 496.

The Degree was conferred by W.Bro. Ian Monteith. While we believe William to be the oldest Entered Apprentice ever in 496, we would welcome news from any Lodge, who could enlighten us on an equally mature Entered Apprentice.

W.Bro. Leslie Cummings Sec.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim
Education Committee

Irish Freemasonry in the New Millennium A Series of Talks

in
THE PROVINCIAL MASONIC HALL
15 ROSEMARY STREET, BELFAST
on
Saturday, 30th October 2004
at 9.30 a.m.

Guest Speakers will include:

M.W.Bro. E. N. Waller
The Grand Master

R.W.Bro. M. W. Walker
The Grand Secretary

Joan Grenville
Public Relations/Marketing Consultant

AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE MISSED
AT ONLY £3.00 PER DELEGATE

Grand Master Visits North Connaught

The Provincial Grand Lodge of North Connaught was delighted, at its June Communication, to welcome The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric N Waller and the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Michael W Walker and the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, R.W.Bro. Tile, for their first visit to the Provincial Grand Lodge in Sligo.



(L-R) R.W.Bro. G Ginnelly PGM; The Grand Master M.W.Bro. Eric N Waller, R.W.Bro. Tile (Suffolk) and The Grand Secretary R.W.Bro. Michael W Walker.

Other distinguished guests included Grand Lodge Organist R.W.Bro. John Rowden; also, R.W.Bro. Bill Thompson along with the P.G.M.'s of Antrim, Down, Londonderry & Donegal, South Connaught and Midland Counties, with their representatives.

60 Years & still going strong



Pictured above is W.Bro. Jack Clendinning of Richhill Masonic Lodge No. 328, receiving a "60 year bar" to his 50 Year Jewel, from R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins (PGM Armagh). Looking on is W.Bro. Geoffrey McHugh, W.M. of the Lodge in this its Centenary Year.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

R.W.Bro. David John (Jack) Long - Liscoole Lodge No. 763

At a Dinner held on 20th April 2004 in the Whiteabbey Masonic Centre, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the initiation R.W.Bro. D J Long into Freemasonry, tributes were paid to his long and distinguished career in Craft Masonry by the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Dunlop, the Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, R.W.Bro. Adam McKinley and R.W.Bro. William McKelvey a very long standing Masonic friend of R.W.Bro. Long.

The Deputy Grand Master referred to R.W.Bro. Long's lengthy and outstanding career as a Freemason. He had not only made a significant contribution to Freemasonry in general but also to Liscoole Lodge No. 763 in particular.

The Provincial Grand Master said that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim was grateful for the valuable service rendered by R.W.Bro. Long both, directly through his own personal commitment and, indirectly through his involvement with Liscoole Lodge.

R.W.Bro. McKelvey gave a detailed account of his Masonic career since



R.W.Bro. G Dunlop, Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. D J Long and R.W.Bro. A J McKinley, Provincial Grand Master of Antrim.

his initiation in 1954, and concluded by saying that "R.W.Bro. Long thinks wisely and honestly and while never being offensive, he will not shirk putting forward his own thoughts on the subject under discussion, very often in the strongest possible terms."

Tributes were also paid by R.W.Bro. Trevor Monteith a member of the 'Old Boys' Lodge No. 711 of which R.W.Bro. Long, also an 'Old Boy', was an affiliated member and by V.W.Bro. Sydney Vokes, Secretary of the Whiteabbey Class of Instruction, of which R.W.Bro. Long was Leader.

Lodge 589 visits Grand Lodge



Members of Island of Inch Lodge No. 589 accompanied by wives and friends traveled from Londonderry to Dublin for a weekend of business and pleasure.

On Friday 16th January the Lodge held an Emergency Communication in Newbridge Masonic Hall, Co. Kildare, on the kind invitation of W.Bro. Andrew Davin, Worshipful Master of United Services Lodge No. 215. Bro. Samuel Dennell received his Master Mason Degree, the Degree was conferred by V.W.Bro. Henry Harding. After the meeting the Brethren of Lodge 215 laid on a superb Festive Board.

On Saturday 17th the Lodge held an Emergency Communication in the Grand Lodge Room, Molesworth Street and were joined by a number of Brethren from United Services Lodge No. 215. R.W.Bro. Noel Drain and R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson conferred Entered Apprentice Degrees on Bro. Jonathan Keys and Bro. William Patterson.

Our Worshipful Master W.Bro. Alex Funston thanked all for attending and making this probably the highlight in the Lodge's 223 year history.

W.Bro. J Gault, Secretary

Constitution of Cuan Lodge of Installed Master's No. 930



At a special meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, held on the 18th of October, the first Installed Masters Lodge in Newtownards was constituted by The Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. William Mawhinney in a very enjoyable ceremony. The Officers of Cuan Lodge were then invested by the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Harry Thomas in an exemplary fashion and afterwards retired to the Masonic Centre in Newtownards for the Installation Dinner.

The members of Cuan Lodge would like to thank the Assistant Grand Master, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, for the effort they put in to make this a very special day for Masonry in County Down.

W.Bro. Eric J McKibben Secretary

St. John's Masonic Lodge No.185



a Festive Board was held to celebrate the occasion.

At a Stated Communication of St. John's Lodge, Dungannon, on the 7th October 2003, Bro. Eric Walker had completed 50 years membership in the Lodge.

Bro. Walker joined the Lodge 185 on 25th August 1953. W.Bro. Ernie Stewart JP, PGL Inspector, presented him with his Jewel and Certificate. Also, pictured in the photograph attached is the W.M. Rev. R J K Hall and following the Lodge meeting

W.Bro. W H Davison, Secretary

Articles Wanted

The "Grand Lodge News" is not solely for the promotion of Grand Lodge matters; rather it is there to serve Provincial Grand Lodges and Subordinate Lodges alike. The editorial team will be glad to receive interesting articles regarding functions / special anniversaries / letters/ opinions & views etc. With regard to 50 year Jewels, in view of the numbers now being presented and the limited space available within the GLN to record such achievement, these will simply be listed with the Brother's name and Lodge Number. 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: w.clarke@5hoots15.freeserve.co.uk

Origin of the Gavel

The October Issue (2003) of Grand Lodge News carried an article titled "Have Gavel Will Travel" and covered its arrival in Culmore Masonic Lodge No. 320, Londonderry, in 2002.

The "travelling Gavel" has been the inspiration of W.Bro. Rick Howes from Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes No. 247 (NSW). Over the years, he has produced a total of 12 "travelling Gavels".



The first Gavel was presented to Lodge Adastral No. 397 (Victorian Constitution) in 1993, to be followed by others in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

This Gavel, No. 7 in the series, was given by W.Bro. Howes to W.Bro. Bill Orr, to present to Scrabo Masonic Lodge No. 714. W.Bro. Orr, originally from Ballygowan, has resided in Sydney for the past 50 years and during that time has made many trips back home, along with his wife Nora.



The pictures show W.Bro. Orr (in 1995) presenting the "Travelling Gavel" to the then W. Master, W.Bro. T Simmons and a "Masonic Clock" to W.Bro. John Speers.

The Brethren of 714 are honoured to have been the recipient of a Travelling Gavel and it is hoped that W.Bro. Orr will, despite advancing years, someday be able to visit Scrabo again and renew old friendships.

W.Bro. Hamilton Lawther