



# The Grand Lodge of Ireland News Sheet

March 2002



## From the Grand Master: -

Welcome to the first issue of our new Grand Lodge News Sheet, which will be published about three weeks before each Communication of Grand Lodge.

I hope that it will prove both interesting and informative to you and all our Brethren so that everyone will be aware of the many interesting events, which occur regularly in Irish Freemasonry.

I extend to you my best wishes for an enjoyable Masonic year.

## 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster

The Province of Munster will be celebrating 275 years of continuous working and Grand Lodge will hold its Quarterly Communication in Cork on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2002 at 3 pm. The meeting will be held in Rochestown Park Hotel. All Master Masons are welcome to attend. Anyone wishing to be present at the Celebratory Banquet after the Communication, should contact the Provincial Grand Secretary, V.W.Bro. W F Baker – 14 Rochelle Park, Victoria Avenue, Cork.

## Celebratory Dinner, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2002 – Balmoral Conference Centre, Belfast.

A Celebratory Dinner is being held at the above venue on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 pm. to acknowledge the appointment of our Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric N Waller; the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Dunlop, and the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Wm. Mawhinney.



This will be an evening to remember, at which our Ladies will be most welcome. Ticket sales are going very well and it is advisable to confirm your requirements soon before the ceiling of 350 places is reached.

Dress: Formal

Ticket: £25 each

Contact: R.W.Bro. William Clarke,  
5 Beech Hill Gardens, Lisburn  
BT28 3HH. (028) 9267 7403

## Freemasons of Ireland Golfing Society

The Grand Master's Millennium Golf Competition has established itself as a calendar event with the "golfing fraternity" within the Order. Details of the 2002 Competition will be announced shortly and the final will be held in August at the Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown. In last year's Competition, 164 competitors took part in the play-off, including Masons, non-Masons and Ladies. For further information, contact the Competition Secretary

V.W.Bro. Noel Simpson,  
13 Carneybaun Drive, Portrush  
BT56 8JA or by e-mail :-  
[par70mm589@aol.com](mailto:par70mm589@aol.com)

## Computer Corner

Those with "IT skills" will probably be aware of the [Internet Site for the Grand Lodge at:-](http://www.irish-freemasons.org)

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The site has recently undergone significant change thanks to the continued efforts of the Webmaster – R.W.Bro. Richard Gray. The site provides an "awful lot" of information and many links to individual Lodge sites throughout the Constitution. Since it was first launched on St. John's Day (27<sup>th</sup> December 1998), in excess of 66,000 hits (or visits) have been made to the site. If you have not already done so, surf-on-in and be impressed.

**Lodge Ireland 2000** is the Constitution's only "official" Internet Lodge meeting over the World Wide Web.

It was constituted on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2000 by the then Grand Master – M.W.Bro. Darwin H Templeton. The Lodge can be viewed on [www.ireland2000.org](http://www.ireland2000.org) where details of its objectives and how to become an affiliate member are explained. Currently the Lodge has a membership of 30 Brethren dispersed around the world. Come, have a look and think about expanding your Masonic interest and commitment.

## "the 10 year rule" to go or not to go – that is the question?

Having constituted a Grand Master's Council on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2001, one of the first matters for consideration was the relaxation or otherwise of the "10 year rule" for subordinate Lodges. The Grand Master has, for some time, been aware that many subordinate Lodges have found themselves in difficulty, trying to fill the so-called permanent offices i.e. Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies etc. He has asked the Council to reflect on the appropriateness of continuing with the 10 year rule and the outcome of their deliberations is expected for the March Communication of Grand Lodge. Whatever the outcome, this will only apply to subordinate Lodges and will not in any way affect the current position of offices held in Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge, Inspection or Charity Committees and the like.

## NORTHERN PROVINCES' COMMITTEE

The Northern Provinces' Committee was formed in 1999 to plan and coordinate activities to celebrate the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grand Lodge in the year 2000. The founding chairman was R.W. Bro. Robert Thomson, then P.G.M. of Antrim. This forum brought together the Provincial Grand Masters of the Northern Provinces. It continues to prove a useful platform to discuss issues peculiar to their area and to

provide oversight of the organising of events such as Concerts, Banquets, Golf Competitions, Open Days, etc., in order to raise funds for charity. Gifted Brethren from the Provinces are co-opted to subcommittees and give valuable assistance with the running of these and other events. The present Secretary to the Committee is R.W.Bro. Bill Clarke. The outgoing chairman is the R.W. Deputy Grand Master who has been succeeded by R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins, P.G. Master of Armagh.

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### Northern Provinces – Charity Concert Committee

During 2000 and 2001, the above Committee has organised 2 Charity Concerts in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast, to raise money for both Masonic and non-Masonic Charities. Thanks to the excellent support of the Brethren across the Province, the total monies donated to date, have been as follows:-

R.N.L.I	£ 5,000
Meningitis Research Foundation	£ 5,000
Grand Master's Millennium Appeal	£ 2,000
Victoria Jubilee Annuity Fund	
2 x £5,000 =	<u>£10,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£22,000</b>

A magnificent sum by any standard and one for which you the Brethren and your friends can be justly proud having raised for such good causes.

**Another Charity Concert is at the planning stage for 2003** and full details will be published in due course. Please let us have your continued support.

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### INSTALLATION OF NEW PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS

#### Provincial Grand Lodge of Down

Following the Installation of **R.W. Bro. William Mawhinney** as Assistant Grand Master on 22nd November 2001, **R.W. Bro. John F. Kerr** was installed on 15th December as Provincial Grand Master of Down by our new Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric Waller. **R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong** was subsequently installed as Provincial Deputy Grand Master and **R.W.Bro. Rev. Canon Kenneth W Cochrane** as Provincial Assistant Grand Master. The ceremonies took place in the Balmoral Conference Centre, Belfast.

### Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal

At a Stated Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal held on Thursday 7th February 2002, the M.W. Grand Master installed **R.W.Bro. Robert G. Quigley** as Provincial Grand Master. **R.W. Bro. Winston Patterson** was installed as Provincial Deputy Grand Master and **R.W.Bro. Jack Graham** as Provincial Assistant Grand Master. A Celebratory Dinner followed in the White Horse Inn Hotel, Campsie, which was attended by some 250 brethren and their ladies, in the company of the Grand Master and Mrs Waller.

We would wish the new Provincial Grand Masters and their Provinces every success.

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### Maureen Lipman in Dublin

The Metropolitan Board has organised a successful fund-raising evening at Dublin's Tivoli Theatre on 3rd February last.

The English actress and comedienne Maureen Lipman, who is a tireless supporter of the Hospice movement, was delighted to accept an invitation to perform and very generously waived her fee for the evening. She visited Our Lady's Hospice at Harold's Cross, accompanied by the Grand Master and Rt. Wor. Bro. S Davies, Chairman of the Metropolitan Board.

The event is expected to raise the Grand Sum, of at least, **€16,000.**

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### Lodge No. 2 Dublin 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Lodge No. 2 probably pre-dates its Warrant and is one of the "Six Lodges of Gentlemen" which helped to form the Grand Lodge of Ireland on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1725. The Grand Lodge Register indicates that the Lodge was definitely at work on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1727, although its Warrant was not issued until 24<sup>th</sup> October 1732. Over its 275 years of working, the Lodge has met in various locations around the City including:- The Black Lion, Winetavern St. (c.1730); The Hercules, St. Patrick's St. (c.1735); The Green Posts, Meath St. (c.1744); "Shaw's", Chapel St. (c.1790) – to mention but a few - and finally removing to Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth St. in Oct /Nov. 1869.

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2002 in Freemasons' Hall, Dublin, Lodge 2 celebrated 275 years continuous working. W.Bro. Ken Roe, Worshipful Master presided supported by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric N. Waller. Lodge 2 was supported by Brethren of Lodges 511 and 395 Dublin. An attendance of 86 Brethren enjoyed the celebrations for this historic occasion.

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### Induction of new Chief Rabbi for Ireland

The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric N. Waller, by invitation represented the Grand Lodge of Ireland on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Terenure Synagogue, Dublin when the New Chief Rabbi of Ireland, Very Rev. Rabbi Dr. Yaakov Pearlman was inducted by the Very Rev. Dr. Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of Britain. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, Church Leaders and leading politicians were present.

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### Irish Masonic Records – CD Edition

The updated version of this very valuable publication now comprises as much information as has, so far, come to hand regarding each issue of a Warrant and extensive use has been made of all printed Lodge "Histories" at present in the G.L. Library, or in known private hands. Numerous newspaper extracts are also included. Further information can be found from the G.L. web site.

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### Articles Wanted

The success or otherwise of any "news sheet" depends upon the quality and variety of articles it contains. This News Sheet 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 etc. We would ask that the "kiss" principle is recognised – *"keep it simple and short"* – and forward your articles to:-

The Editorial Team,  
Grand Lodge News Letter,  
c/o 115 The Mount,  
Belfast  
BT5 4ND

or by e-mail to:

**w.clarke@5hoots15.freemasons.co.uk**