



A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland

Grand Lodge News



MARCH 2006

GRAND MASTER'S REPORT FOR 2005

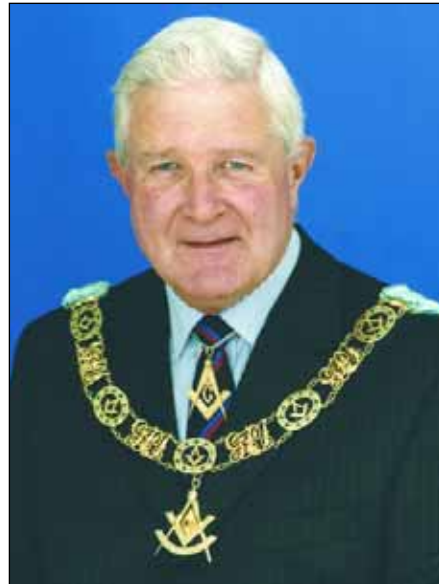
I find it hard to believe that we are now in December 2005, the year has flown by and I have held Office as Grand Master for four years. I am glad to be able to present a positive report on the present state of Irish Freemasonry.

Sadly we must remember all those Brethren who passed away this year and notably R.W.Bro. Charles McCollum, Past Grand Treasurer and Past Provincial Grand Master of Armagh; R.W.Bro. James E. Weir, Past Grand Senior Warden, R.W.Bro. R.J. Clinton, Past Secretary of the Masonic Benevolent Institutions and R.W.Bro. R. Eric Fenelon, Past Deputy Grand Master. We mourn their passing and will always value their exceptional service and contribution to our Order.

The minutes of the four quarterly meetings of The Grand Lodge of Ireland will be printed in full in our Annual Report for 2005 and also feature on our website irish-freemasons.org so I will highlight just a few items.

The March meeting was held in The Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford hosted by The Provincial Grand Lodge of Wicklow & Wexford by kind invitation of R.W. Bro. Harvey Heavener. I installed R.W.Bro. Basil Fenton as Provincial Grand Master of South Connaught. I also installed R.W.Bro. Cecil Tilson as Provincial Grand Master of Meath. We formerly recognised the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta which we constituted in November 2004 and agreed to exchange Representatives.

The June meeting held in Freemasons' Hall, Dublin is especially sociable and we were delighted to welcome senior representatives from the Grand Lodge of Greece, the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the United Grand Lodge of England and of course, many of our Brethren from overseas e.g. South Africa Northern, Nigeria, Ghana, Bermuda, Jamaica and the Bahamas, Sierra Leone, Botswana and Gibraltar. It is always a great pleasure to see them in Dublin and we appreciate their support. This meeting was a milestone in the history of our Order. R.W. Bro. Michael J. Walker relinquished his Office of Grand Secretary having



Eric N. Waller, Grand Master.

served with great distinction in that capacity for 24 years and earned the respect of all Brethren not only in Ireland but in other regular Masonic Constitutions worldwide. We wish him a long, happy well-earned retirement. I installed R.W.Bro. Barry Lyons as our new Grand Secretary and I have every confidence that Bro. Lyons will serve us very well. I also installed R.W.Bro. Leslie Evans as Provincial Grand Master of the Midland Counties. Following the meeting, we joined our Ladies for an enjoyable Buffet Dinner.

In October, Grand Lodge met in the Provincial Masonic Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast by invitation of the Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, R.W.Bro. Adam McKinley and the Provincial Grand Master of Down, R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong. Officers of Grand Lodge for 2006 were elected. I feel very honoured to have been re-elected as Grand Master for a fifth year. I confirmed the reappointment of R.W.Bro. George Dunlop as Deputy Grand Master and R.W.Bro. William Mawhinney as Assistant Grand Master and I gratefully acknowledge their invaluable support during the past year.

This meeting focuses in particular on our Masonic Charities. We elected Brethren to serve on the management boards of our Grand Lodge Charities and we must pay tribute to them for the conscientious way in which they

fulfil their duties to manage the respective Funds within the rules of those Funds. Reports were presented on the work of four of our Charities. It is reassuring to note that they are functioning well and continue to provide very effective support for those of our Brethren and their dependents who need our help.

On average at any point in time from Grand Lodge Charities, some 1,000 Brethren or Widows are in receipt of Annuities to help them to enjoy reasonable living standards and some 460 Girls and Boys receive grants towards the cost of Education at Primary, Secondary and Third Levels. I am not aware of any other organisation in Ireland which provides this level of support for those of its members in need. We should be justly proud of our charitable achievements and also be ever mindful of the importance of charity in the ethos of Freemasonry.

During the year, the Deputy and Assistant Grand Master and I travelled to many parts of Ireland visiting Lodges and Provinces to support them in all their Masonic endeavours and to establish contact with our Brethren at local level. This is a rewarding experience for all three of us and we greatly appreciate the warm welcome extended to us wherever we go. My own travels brought me to Lodges in the Provinces of Antrim, Down, Meath, North Munster, South East, Londonderry & Donegal and the Dublin Metropolitan area. Probably the most notable events for me were the official opening of the new North Munster Masonic Centre in Limerick and the newly rebuilt and extended Masonic Hall in Longford. These two events confirm that Freemasonry is vibrant and thriving and our 25,000 Brethren in Ireland and 5,000 overseas are looking forward to the future with confidence.

In April I travelled to Gibraltar accompanied by my wife and the Grand Secretary for a ceremony to dedicate a new Banner for the Irish Inspectorate there. I am grateful to R.W.Bro. Joseph Chiara, Grand Inspector for the arrangements made

for this event which was most impressive. The Mayor welcomed us with a Civic Reception and I gave TV and Press interviews which received wide coverage. Our Brethren in Gibraltar are to be admired for the high profile they enjoy in the community.

I attended the annual meeting of the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy held in Rome on June 25th. by invitation of M.W.Bro. Fabio Venzi, Grand Master who presented me with the Order of the Flaming Star, his personal award for service to Freemasonry. I was accompanied by R.W.Bro. Douglas Gray, their representative in Ireland and our wives. The whole proceedings in Rome were elegant and impressive. Italy is a difficult environment for Freemasonry and M.W.Bro. Venzi is to be congratulated on successfully leading a Regular Grand Lodge there which has no involvement in religious or political affairs. We wish him continued success.

Last year we formed a Company, Events GLI Ltd, owned by Grand Lodge

to promote fund raising events for non-Masonic Charities throughout Ireland as a further extension of our community involvement. Events GLI Ltd promoted the Placido Domingo Concert at the Point Theatre in Dublin on March 9th. It was an utterly magical evening, the memory of which will remain with me for ever. An audience of over 4,000 enjoyed superb entertainment by the World's leading tenor who received standing ovations at the close of a wonderful performance. The Concert received very wide publicity in the media. Although the Concert incurred a financial loss, we did fulfil our obligation to the ten non-Masonic Charities which we selected for support by presenting each with a cheque for Euro 5,000 at two receptions held in Dublin and Belfast during September.

The 250th Anniversary of the birth of Mozart, born on 27th January 1756, will be widely celebrated in 2006. Mozart was an enthusiastic Freemason. Events GLI Ltd has been retained by the Austrian Embassy, Dublin to organise three concerts in

Freemasons' Hall, Dublin on 10th and 11th November 2006. Pam & I attended a reception at the Austrian Embassy last week by kind invitation of the His Excellency The Austrian Ambassador to launch a special website www.mozart2006.ie to promote the celebrations.

Events GLI Ltd plan to promote musical events viz. Big Band Jazz, Piano recitals, Musicals and a Concert throughout Ireland next year to raise funds to support various charitable causes. The first event will be a Piano Recital featuring Lance Coburn in St. John's Cathedral, Sligo at 8.00 pm on Friday 3rd March 2006, the day before Grand Lodge meets. Further events will be announced soon and details will be available on the Grand Lodge website.

The Freemasons of Ireland Medical Research Fund agreed to support a research project being undertaken by the Department of Physiology at University College, Cork starting in September. The project will investigate how gene therapy may be used to slow




Grand Lodge of Ireland
Freemasons of Ireland
Golfing Society
Millennium Charity Cup 2006
 at
Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown
 on
Friday 8th September 2006

2006 Charities:
Marie Curie Cancer Care
&
Masonic Charities
£1,000 in Prizes
 Three Prize categories:-
 1. Masonic Brethren
 2. Non-Masons
 3. Ladies
 Prizes will be presented at the
 Evening of Entertainment
NO QUALIFYING
 The first 200 entries taken on a First come,
 First served basis
No Green Fees required on the day
Registration Fee: - £15
 Registration Forms & Competition rules available from:
 Noel Simpson
 13 Carneybaun Drive
 Portrush, B156 8JA
 Tele: 028 7082 3332
 Mobile: 07866 554 505
 email: par70mm589@aol.com

Golf dates for your 2006 Calendar

1. PGL Londonderry & Donegal

Castlerock 27th April Raymond Robinson
(028) 7035 2774

2. Captain Fyffe Salver Tyrone & Fermanagh

Killymoon 2nd May Leslie Graham
(028) 8676 2773

3. East Ulster Priory Preceptory Cup

Killymoon 16th May George Stewart
(028) 7941 8247

4. Mourne Cup Tyrone & Fermanagh

Newtownstewart 14th June Harry Friar
(028) 8165 8237
Garth McKibben
(028) 9187 8859

5. Armagh Cup - Armagh

Portadown 23rd June Bobby McDowell
(028) 3833 2804

6. Ferris Cup - Down

Kilkeel 30th June William Andrews
(028) 4062 3780

7. Grand Master's Millennium Cup

Killymoon 8th Sept Noel Simpson
(028) 7082 3332

the progression of chronic renal failure associated with obesity and diabetes type II which are increasing at an alarming rate in Ireland and most developed countries. This project is part of our ongoing commitment to support a variety of medical research projects throughout Ireland thereby making a positive contribution to Irish society both now and into the future.

Following discussion at Grand Master's Council, our Provincial Grand Masters have agreed that we should hold another Grand Master's Festival of Charity. I hope to provide details at the March meeting of Grand Lodge to be held in Sligo. It is important that we should hold occasional Festivals of this nature to provide a specific project and sense of purpose in which all Brethren can be involved.

We will continue our policy of co-operating with the media whenever

suitable opportunities arise. This year we have achieved significant press coverage which will go a long way to reassure the public as to the true nature of Irish Freemasonry by demonstrating that:

- It is not a secret society but embraces confidentiality.
- It is not a religion or a substitute for a religion.
- It emphasises universal harmony and does not permit discussion of religion or politics.
- It is not a benefit society and to join for personal gain will only lead to disappointment.
- It is an organisation of men who espouse the basic principles of integrity, goodwill and charity whose worthwhile values are a force for good in the community.

I appreciate the great support our Brethren have given by their attendance at Grand Lodge during the year, I hope that it has been a rewarding experience for everyone. The work of Brethren on various committees is essential to the momentum of our Order and I can assure them that it does not go unnoticed. Grand Lodge could not function without our loyal staff here in Freemasons' Hall to whom we are very grateful.

In December particularly, our thoughts turn to Family and friends as the Festive Season and New Year approach. Pam & I and our family send Seasonal Greetings to all Brethren and their families in Ireland and Overseas and Best Wishes for your health, happiness and prosperity in 2006.

*Eric N. Waller, Grand Master
1st December 2005*

Official Opening of the North Munster Masonic Centre

The North Munster Masonic Centre in Limerick was officially opened by the Minister for Defence Mr. William O'Dea T.D. at a ceremony which took place on the afternoon of Friday 23rd September 2005. He was accompanied by the Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Master, when a ribbon was cut.

In his opening address at the official ceremony, the Provincial Grand Master clarified that; "As our first



Presentation of Baal's Bridge Square to Minister.

priority in Freemasonry is to give to those among our community who are less fortunate than ourselves, it is no surprise that it has taken us 275 years to construct our own building in this province."

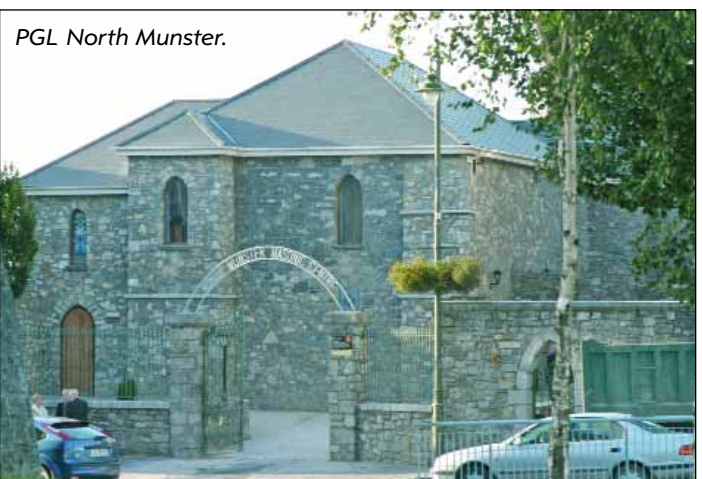
The Grand Master, in his address stated that "Public events such as this official opening, present us with a great opportunity to dispel some of

the many negative myths that exist about our organisation."

The Minister was pleased to be associated with this venture and congratulated everybody involved. He stated that; "We have in this beautiful new building an organisation capable of doing great good for the wider community. There will always be opportunities for the practice of good deeds in our society."

During the ceremony the Minister was presented with a hallmarked silver replica of the "Baal's Bridge Square". This ancient brass square is one of the many artefacts that will take pride of place in the new museum. This square was recovered from the foundations of Baal's Bridge in Limerick when the bridge was being rebuilt in 1830. It is inscribed "I will strive to live with Love and Care Upon the Level by the Square" and bears the date, 1507. This Square is reputed to be one of the earliest Masonic items found in Ireland.

A very limited edition of hall marked silver replicas, have been struck from



PGL North Munster.

a mould taken from the original and are currently on sale at a cost of €195.00 including postage and packing. The proceeds will go towards installing a lift in the new Masonic Centre for disabled visitors. More details can be obtained from www.FreemasonsNorthMunster.com

In a radio interview broadcast around the time of the opening of the New Masonic Centre, thanks were expressed publicly for the welcome support from our many good friends and particular acknowledgement was extended to the Grand Master.

Visiting Brethren are always welcome to attend meetings and to visit the centre.

Paul Deegan N. Munster

CHARITY CORNER

WOW WHAT A SURPRISE!

A “night to remember” happened to Nurse Josie Ramsey when she arrived at the Ladies Night that Fern Masonic Lodge No. 999 held in the Whiteabbey Masonic Centre. Unknowingly, she was going to be the centre of attraction for the night. The Brethren of the Lodge were to surprise her with a presentation of an inscribed rose bowl and a large bouquet of flowers. The reason for this extravaganza was that in June 1997 Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Nurse Josie Ramsay set-up the first Regional Neurology Service in Ireland and it was only the fourth in the U.K.

A short time before our presentation was to take place MS Nurse Josie Ramsey had been presented in England with the “Making A Difference” award from the UK MS Specialist Nurses Association.

The Lodge decided that in appreciation of all the hard work and dedication she had put into her task of setting up this specialist unit, she deserved a little something from the people of Northern Ireland and we decided to do something about it.

Now you are saying to yourself, what is the connection between Nurse Ramsey and Fern Masonic Lodge No. 999 – well let me explain. Josie’s father is V.W.Bro. Capt. David Mullen D.S.C. R.N.R. who is well known in The Order for all the hard work he has carried out for a number of Lodges over the years with such things as Installing Master and Degree work, as well as being a Founder Member of Fern Masonic Lodge No. 999. He is also a member of 7 Craft Lodges, 2 Royal Arch Chapters, 3 Councils of Knight Masons and 1 Preceptory.



MS Nurse Josie Ramsey (left) with her sister and sister-in-law.

At the end of the evening, MS Nurse Ramsey was also presented with a cheque – the proceeds of a raffle held during the course of the night – to be donated at the Lodge’s request to the Royal Victoria Multiple Sclerosis Research Account.

All in all, a good night was had by all and Captain David shed a tear or two.

W.Bro. D V S Howard – Secretary

IMPORTANT MESSAGE – IS YOUR LODGE ONE OF THE 275?

Through the medium of the Widows’ Register, established in 2004, the Masonic Benevolent Institutions (M.B.I.) give a high priority to maintaining contact with the Widows of deceased Masons as an expression of care and concern. Each Widow on the Register received a greetings card, a letter from the M.B.I. and a booklet on Safety in the Home.

Almost 4,000 Widows received this package. **Others did not!**

The Charity Office received numerous letters and telephone calls from Widows expressing their appreciation at being contacted. This is a worthwhile and tangible aspect of Masonic caring.

Unfortunately not every Masonic Widow is on the Register, you may

ask why? - the answer is simple - 275; yes 275 Lodges in our Constitution failed to send in their list of Widows.

We would appeal to all Almoners to keep their list of Widows up to date and if they haven’t done so yet, send it in to Molesworth Street as soon as possible.

THIS REALLY IS IMPORTANT

PROFILE

W.BRO. BILLY BROWN M.B.E.

W.Bro. Billy Brown has been appointed, by the Benevolent Institutions, to collate the news items for Charity Corner. Billy is Steward of Charities for Kipling Newporton Lodge No 315 at Ballinamallard, Co Fermanagh, having been a member for almost 30 years. He is an honorary member of Chichester Lodge No 313 Carrickfergus, and an officer in the Lodge of Research No 200. In the Craft he is particularly interested in ritual, history and research. If you have items for Charity Corner, e.g. Lodge



donations to Masonic and non-Masonic recipients, he can be contacted at:
williamthosbrown@btinternet.com
or on mob. 07919 446 612.

An Amazing Legacy!

In the mid 1970’s a fine old Dublin Lodge, Liberties 153 handed in its Warrant and its Secretary, W. Brother Eric Dunne took a Clearance Certificate. No more was heard from him until 2004 when he died at the age of 93. In his will, he left a most generous legacy of €251,000 to be invested, to provide income for the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent Fund. Let us salute his memory and applaud his amazing generosity.

R.W. Brother Wm. Shortland

CHARITY CORNER

Masonic Welfare Fund Benefits from Golf Competition

As reported in an earlier Issue of the Grand Lodge News, the Grand Master's Millennium Golf Competition, held in September 2005, raised in excess of £5,000 in aid of Masonic and non-Masonic charities. £2,500 has already been presented to Race Against Multiple Sclerosis (RAMS) and pictured aside is R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong (PGM Down & Chairman of the Northern Provinces Committee 2005) presenting a cheque for £2,500 to R.W.Bro. Denis Millen (Grand Steward of Charities) in favour of the Masonic Welfare Fund.



Victory 941 Supports Ulster Cancer Foundation

On Saturday 22nd October 2005 Victory Masonic Lodge 941 Castlerock held a dinner dance to mark their 60th Anniversary. At the dance they raised £550.00 for the Ulster Cancer Foundation. The photograph shows Bro.R McCracken, W.Bro. D Lavery W.M. 941 and R.W.Bro. J Madden handing over the cheque to the ladies of the Coleraine Branch of the Ulster Cancer Foundation.



Masonic Boys Benefit Fund Committee



Pictured above at their meeting in September, held in Banbridge Golf Club, on the invitation of Bro. T A Wilson, are members of the Benefit Fund Committee. Despite long distances being travelled, a 100% attendance was recorded with members attending from Bantry Bay up to Derry Quay and from Galway to Dublin town.

Back Row (L-R): G Ginnelly; G Bratten; T McNeill; R Ensor; T Monteith; D McIntyre; A L Reed; T A Wilson & Rev. E Hunter.

Middle Row: (L-R): D Lyness; J Bell; T Beattie; N Woods; L Evans & E Hodgett.

Front Row (L-R): Jane Young (visitor); Jenny Lawless (Secretary) & Fiona Hyslop (visitor).

350 SETS CHARITY RECORD

Members of Cappagh Masonic Lodge No. 350 (Omagh) presenting Glenn Oates – N.I. Regional Officer for Muscular Dystrophy – with a cheque for a record amount of £1,000, which was raised at a barbeque held in support of the Worshipful Master's nominated charity for 2005.



R I Wilson (W.M.); G D Ferguson (Steward of Charities); W J Young (Secretary) and G Oates (Muscular Dystrophy – Regional Officer N.I.)

Double Celebration in Harmony 352, Castleblayney

12th May 2005 saw a double celebration in Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 352, Castleblayney, when V.W.Bro. John N Johnston completed 50 years membership in the Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins presented V.W.Bro. Johnston with his 50 year Jewel and Certificate.

On the same evening, V.W.Bro. Thomas McBirney was presented with a clock in appreciation of his work as Secretary to the Lodge for 12 years. V.W.Bro. McBirney was also presented with his gift by R.W.Bro. Miskimmins.

Pictured are members of Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 352 with R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins (P.G.M. Armagh).

W.Bro. A Oliver (D o C)



A NEW LODGE FOR MEATH

On the 15th of June, 2005 an occasional meeting of Grand Lodge took place in the communal hall at St John's Close, Virginia, Co. Cavan. The reason for the visit of Grand Lodge was to constitute a new Lodge in the Province of Meath.

The Lodge will be known as St John's Past Masters Lodge No. 933. This is the first new Lodge in the Province of Meath since 1893 when Lodge No.124 was formed in Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath. Interestingly, this Lodge was known as 'Tilson Lodge', the name of the present Provincial Grand Master of Meath.

This ceremony was another first in that it was our new Grand Secretary's first appearance in his new role since his installation at the previous Grand Lodge meeting and we were delighted to welcome him to the Province.

In the chair, M.W.Bro. Eric N Waller, Grand Master. R.W.Bro. Cecil Tilson, P.G.M. of Meath acted as Senior Warden. R.W.Bro. H Weir acted as Junior Warden. R.W.Bro. D Barry Lyons was Grand Secretary. R.W.Bro. Michael Walker acted as Grand



Director of Ceremonies. V.W.Bro. The Ven. George Miller, P.G. Chaplain of Meath acted as Grand Chaplain. R.W.Bro. Leslie Evans, P.G.M. of the Midland Counties acted as Senior Grand Deacon. V.W.Bro. R S Morrow acted as Junior Grand Deacon. V.W.Bro. Russell Waller acted as Grand Inner Guard.

The Master of the new Lodge is R.W.Bro. John Ramsay, Senior

Warden - V.W.Bro. David G. Williams and the Junior Warden - W.Bro. William Maguire.

The Lodge will meet at various locations in the Province but it is planned to hold its installation of officers in Virginia each year. The Lodge would like to extend its thanks to Masonic Havens Ltd. for making the hall available to Lodge 933.

50 Years Service in Sure & Steadfast



Sure & Steadfast Masonic Lodge No.619 had a double celebration in December 2004 when W.Bro. Gordorn Lynn (P.P.G.M.S.B.) and W.Bro. Eric Alexander both celebrated 50 years of service in the Lodge.

To mark this very special occasion, R.W.Bro. W J Dyer (P.A.G.M. of Antrim) was in attendance to present the Jewels and Certificates to these very worthy Brethren.

Pictured in the photograph is (L to R): W.Bro. Gordon Lynn; R.W.Bro. W J Dyer (P.A.G.M.) and W.Bro. Eric Alexander.

V.W.Bro. Samuel F McMillan 1914 – 2004

On Tuesday 6th December 2005, the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Ken Murphy, Brethren and friends of Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 gathered in the 'Sam McMillan' Room, Mount Masonic Centre, Park Avenue, Belfast in honour of the late V.W.Bro. Sam McMillan, who had died in August 2004.

The Brethren were delighted to have present Sam's widow, Etta, for the unveiling of a case containing his Provincial Senior Grand Warden Regalia and Jewel, as well as the 50 year Jewel the Lodge presented to Sam in 1991.

The Brethren were honoured that R.W.Bro. Robert J Armstrong, PGM Down, was able to attend and unveil this tribute to Sam. He spoke very highly of Sam's distinguished Masonic career and his contribution to the Masonic Order throughout his 63 years of service since his initiation in 1941.

Sam had served as Worshipful Master in 1954, Treasurer between



L-R: W.Bro. Peter McDonald, W.Bro. Ken Murphy W.M., Mrs. Etta McMillan and R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong PGM Down.

1958 and 1975 and Secretary between 1976 and 1985 and Almoner between 1987 and 1990. He served as Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1971 and subsequently as Provincial Grand Inspector. He was a great ritualist and conferred Degrees in the Craft and Royal Arch Branches. His presence and guidance are greatly missed within the Lodge.

W.Bro. Ken Trotter, Secretary

PGM OF SOUTH CONNAUGHT VISITS 'DOWN-UNDER'

It is not surprising that, when the Provincial Grand Master of South Connaught, R.W.Bro. Basil Fenton, visited his son in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia in November 2005, he included Freemasonry in his itinerary.

He was a welcome visitor to Lodges labouring in the conferral of First, Second and Third Degrees and also witnessed a Ceremony of Installation. He also included a visit to St Patrick Lodge (consecrated No.279 IC – 1863) No. 5 UGLQ and addressed the assembled on the various aspects of the Brethren activities of Irish Freemasons both within the Craft Lodges and in the wider community. The Festive Board which followed provided him with another opportunity to speak on the lighter side of his experiences with Masonic life in Ireland. It was at St Patrick's



that he met the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Ireland at or near the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, R.W.Bro. Stan Rawlings P.A.G.M. of the Duke of Leinster Lodge No.8 UGLQ. The picture shows R.W.Bro. Fenton exchanging fraternal greetings with R.W.Bro. Rawlings who was supported by W.Bro. Trevor Campbell (L) and W.Bro. Lou Grimshaw (R) both from the Duke.

W.Bro. Lou Grimshaw

A Visit to True Craftsman's Lodge No. 651

On a recent holiday to New York, I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting R.W.Bro. John "Bud" Prout, - Past Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of New York – who facilitated my request to attend a meeting of a Lodge. In due course I attended True Craftsman's Lodge No. 651 and it was fascinating to experience the workings of that Lodge and the differences and similarities between the Irish and American rituals. I also took the opportunity of touring the Grand Lodge building which is located at 71st West 23rd Street, which is 19 storeys high, cost \$16 million to construct, contains 13 Lodge rooms, the largest of which can accommodate 1,200 Brethren. The library is by no means small – containing over 60,000 books – which can also be accessed via the Internet at the following URL: www.nymasoniclibrary.org

Colorado Visits Londonderry



Pictured above is Bro. Bob Steen of Elk Mountain Blue Lodge No. 118, Colorado, USA, on a recent visit to Victory Masonic Lodge No. 477, Londonderry.

In the photograph is the W. Master, V.W. Bro. David Baird with R.W.Bro. Michael Bicknell (PAGM and member of 477) and V.W.Bro. Jack Harrison.

ARTICLES WANTED

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:

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Grand Lodge News, c/o
115 The Mount, BELFAST BT5 4ND

or by e-mail to:
w.clarke@5hoots15.freeserve.co.uk