



A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland

Grand Lodge News



MARCH 2007

INSTALLATION OF THE GRAND MASTER

~ 23rd NOVEMBER 2006 ~

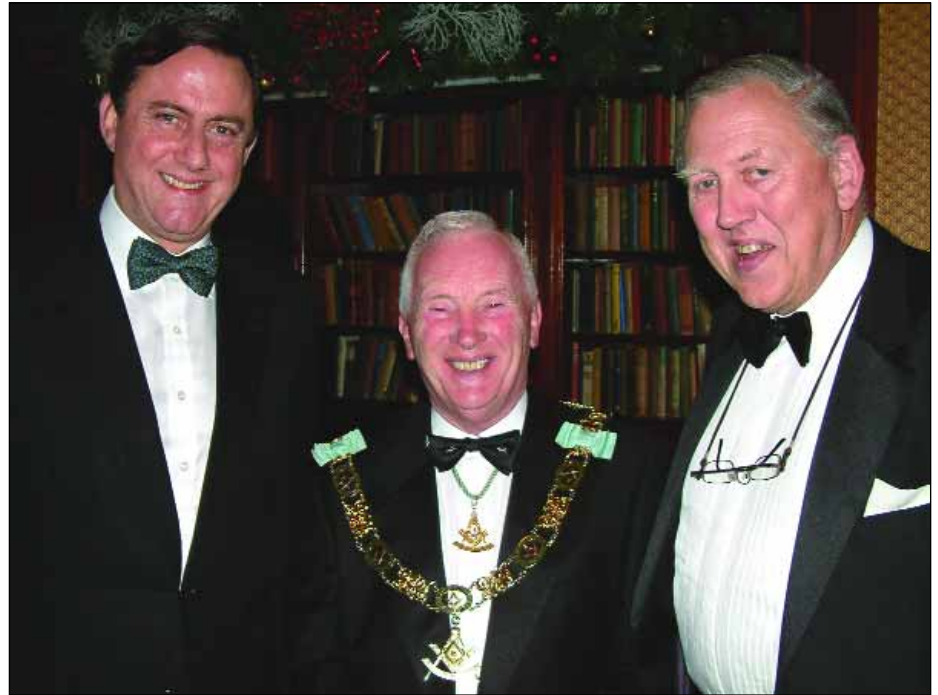
The day of the Installation of the Grand Master commenced at 11a.m. with a full rehearsal of the ceremony being conducted by The Grand Director of Ceremonies. R.W.Bro. Dyer displayed his usual skill in ceremony and protocol as he and his Assistant put the Brethren through their paces to ensure the smooth running of the intricate ritual.

Brethren soon began to fill the Grand Lodge Room, finding it most impressively prepared for the main ceremony as special lighting had been installed by W.Bro. John Keeley, so enhancing the wonderful atmosphere in one of Dublin's most impressive rooms - the Ark of the Covenant glistened on the Altar, and the packed room waited in anticipation of the Grand Lodge Tyler's knock.

The Grand Master's Procession was then announced and M.W.Bro. Eric Waller was processed to the Throne. The Grand Director of Ceremonies then introduced some thirteen Foreign Delegations headed by The Marquis of Northampton, Pro. Grand Master of the United Grand lodge of England and Sir Archibald Orr Ewing, Grand Master Mason of Scotland. All delegations were saluted and Lord Northampton conveyed best wishes and thanks on their behalf.

The Grand Master then proceeded to open Grand Lodge following which the Grand Secretary announced that the only business of the Communication was the Installation of the Grand Master Elect. The Grand Master directed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to form a procession and have R.W.Bro. George Dunlop presented for installation. He was then placed in the proper position and the obligation was administered by the Grand Master in a most dignified manner. R.W.Bro. Dunlop was conducted to the dais, where the Grand Master proceeded to invest and install him on the Throne, where he was subsequently saluted and acclaimed by the Brethren.

The new Grand Master then addressed the Brethren and thanked them for their acclamation. The M.W. Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Sir



(L-R) Lord Northampton; Grand Master; Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing.

Archibald Orr Ewing, at this juncture, offered heartiest congratulations to the Grand Master on behalf of all the visiting delegations .

The Grand Master then instructed the Director of Ceremonies to formally present R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey and to have him placed in the proper position to take the obligation as Deputy Grand Master. Following the Obligation, R.W.Bro. Grey was invested and installed by the Grand Master. The new Deputy Grand Master was then saluted and enthusiastically acclaimed; he thanked the Grand Master for his confidence in bestowing so high an honour. R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston, being the Grand Master's choice as Assistant Grand Master, was then processed, obligated, invested and installed in his chair with further acclamation.

The Grand Master addressed the Brethren, indicating that the standards of morality for which the Order stands are still of prime importance in this changing world. He paid tribute to the outstanding work of his predecessor, M.W.Bro. Eric Waller, and reaffirmed his intention of

continuing in the progressive path mapped out by him.

The principal business of the day being completed, Grand Lodge closed and the Brethren retired for refreshment.

Those Brethren attending the Gala Banquet made their way to the Davenport Hotel, Merrion Square, where they and their ladies dined in the company of the new Grand Master and our distinguished overseas guests. The Past Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric Waller proposed a toast to the new Grand Master. Here follows a synopsis of his reply:

"I am deeply honoured and genuinely humbled that you have unanimously elected me to be Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of Ireland and I thank you sincerely for conferring such a unique distinction.

I am privileged that I am following a remarkable Grand Master who has made a major impact on Irish Freemasonry and has done much to

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correct the bad image and poor press which we have endured for some years. So impressed am I with his leadership, I can assure you that there will be little differentiation in my policies and strategies to those which he has so successfully embraced.

During the past twenty-five years, Irish Freemasonry has been fortunate in having an exceptionally strong player in our Past Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Michael Walker. He and M.W.Bro. Waller are indeed Masons of supreme stature who continue to be greatly cherished and admired at home and abroad.

I am in no doubt that I have chosen an excellent team in the appointment of R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey, as my Deputy and R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston, as my Assistant. 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.

I would extend my sincerest thanks to the Asst. to the Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Morgan McCreadie, who played a major role with the Grand Secretary in setting up everything for today's communication and Banquet and I compliment both on a wonderful job.

I could not finish without thanking The Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.W.Bro. Bill Dyer and his Assistants for the excellent job they did today. Things went extremely smoothly thanks to his attention to detail in everything that he undertakes.

I do not intend to prophecy the duration of my incumbency but I will take one year at a time and endeavour, at all times, to carry out my duties to the benefit of the Order and to the satisfaction of my brethren.

Thank you sincerely for your support and God bless you all."

The Toast to the Grand Lodge of Ireland was proposed by the Marquis of Northampton, M.W. Pro. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, and R.W.Brother Michael Walker responded.

A Toast to our Guests and Ladies was proposed by R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey, Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Master Mason of Scotland, in responding, referring to the relative youth of the Grand Lodge of Scotland (founded 1730), and her role as "Cinderella" to her two older but ugly sisters!

At 10 p.m. the evening drew to a close, many Brethren setting forth on a long journey home.

*W.Bro. Morgan McCreadie,
Asst. to the Grand Secretary*

Grand Master's St John's Day Address - 2006

Brethren, following my Installation in late November, I promptly flew off to the USA to visit my 98 year old mother and other family members. As a result, the content and length of my address will be slightly different to that which you have previously been accustomed to. My time to prepare was rather limited so I trust that you will forgive any omissions or shortcomings.

Brethren, I am delighted that the Installation Communication has been re-established on this date and equally pleased at the excellent turnout, for which I sincerely thank you.

Firstly and most importantly, I would thank you all for the great honour you have bestowed on me by electing me as your Grand Master. During my Masonic career I never ever contemplated that I would rise to such high office.

Some years ago, I did realise that there was a possibility that I could be considered for one of the three principal officers of our Constitution; a development I had not personally expected nor sought.

To follow the immediate Past Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric Waller is an immense task and one which I will not take lightly or try to avoid. My period under his leadership was indeed inspiring and when he encouraged me to allow my name to go forward as his successor, I thought deeply about it before I consented.

There is much sadness at his retirement but I am ready to maintain the continuity, of that which he started, and add stability, to that which he has achieved.

The dramatic loss of our Grand Master and Grand Secretary, who has undoubtedly become an institution in the Masonic Order, not only in Ireland, but throughout the Masonic world, has indeed posed a positive and personal challenge to the new regime, in its quest to maintain the equilibrium established over the past years.

I presently feel like our highly esteemed Past Grand Master M.W.Bro. Lord Donegall, who on his installation, referred to Stanley Baldwin's comment on becoming Prime Minister, which stated: 'Gentlemen, I do not need your congratulations, I only need your prayers'.

My Installation and that of my Deputy and Assistant was something special as we welcomed some thirteen delegations from Grand Lodges throughout the world, including our sister Constitutions from England & Scotland in the persons of Lord Northampton and Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing.

My visitations to Lodges during 2006 were most enjoyable and yet proved most enlightening when I considered the trend which, to me, characterised the distinction between urban and rural lodges. The former were generally struggling to keep members while the latter tended to be growing and vibrant. We have suffered severe losses in the urban area of greater Belfast where the numbers in the past were substantial, yet Dublin, which contradicts that pattern, appears to enjoy relative growth. It suggests to me that this phenomenon is worthy of closer study which I plan to address during the coming year.

Membership levels and the associated financial issues do cause concern, not only in Ireland, but worldwide. In view of such losses, my personal view is that the total energies of all Brethren should ideally focus on the salvation of their own lodge rather than seek dual memberships, quite often with no clear purpose.

I must add that I have studied a number of treatises on the subject of membership loss and none has offered an effective global solution as each Masonic Constitution is affected by differing conditions and environments.

Fund-raising will continue as before on the basis of a proportional approach to Outreach and In-reach respectively. Firstly, we are committed as Freemasons to help the distressed, widowed and fatherless within our Order, which we do most generously through our Charity Funds and I would compliment the members of the various Charity Committees for the

good work that they do. We enjoyed a most welcome development in 2006 when our funds benefited to the tune of €190,000 as a result of changes to our Charity Administration and my congratulations go to our 'Charity Girls' in the front office who do and have done a wonderful job. General Administration costs of Grand Lodge will be reviewed in the coming year.

We are also committed to help society in general, and again, we have not fallen short in this task. Poor image and negative publicity have plagued us for some years and the past Grand Master's policies and strategies have impacted much on the progress made in this respect.

I regret very much the loss of Bro. Vere Wynne-Jones as one of our PR Consultants, who did some wonderful work in the South. Thankfully, we have V.W.Bro. Trevor Hanna from the North who continues to do an excellent job and for whom we must find a match in the South. Our policy of Building Bridges and Opening Minds will be on-going.

The most important image is the one we personally portray in public. We must be proud to be Freemasons and should never deny our membership. As Freemasons, we must not only convince ourselves that we are a force for good but we must be seen to be so. This can be successfully achieved without compromising the Order's historic principles and integrity or jeopardising its ancient mysteries.

The Grand Treasurer, R.W.Bro. Charles Olden suggested to me earlier in the year that greater support of the Medical Research Fund in the form of bequests would create a larger capital pool. This would increase the accrued interest which would be readily available to fund a wider range of medical research in the outside world and literally be 'on tap' when needed. I would gladly support this suggestion and ask Brethren generally to give their consideration to it when determining their giving.

We have funded a number of projects in the past and currently are funding Research at the University of Cork which commenced in September 2005. This project examines mechanisms underlying chronic renal failure and we have undertaken to donate €30k p.a. over a three year period. Chronic renal failure is associated with obesity and diabetes type II which are

increasing at an alarming rate in Ireland and most other developed countries. This particular development aims to slow the progression of the disease and provide major health benefit.

Events GLI, Ltd. will continue to arrange concerts and other events on behalf of Grand Lodge with a key focus of promoting the image of our Order in society. The Past Grand Master has now taken on the role of Managing Director whilst I have moved to the position of Chairman.

During the year we successfully managed a Mozart Concert in the Grand Lodge Room in Molesworth Street on behalf of the Austrian Embassy. The Austrian Consulate General, Ms. Albrecht, was so impressed with our organisation that she made a special request to attend the Grand Master's Installation Banquet, which we approved.

Other opportunities have arisen as a result of this work and our most competent Operations Committee, headed by W. Bro. John Keeley, are geared up to respond. We expect these activities to generate a reasonable income.

Our Past Grand Master intended to have another Grand Master's Festival and I have decided, with the approval of the Grand Master's Council, to fulfil his wish over the next few years.

A number of Brethren have been invited and have agreed to act in the following capacities, viz:

National Chairman: R.W. Bro. Richard Ensor, Chairman, Metropolitan B.O.G.P.

Southern Chairman: R.W. Bro Basil Fenton, P.G.M. South Connaught

Northern Chairman: R.W. Bro. Rodney McCurley, P.A.G.M. Down

Preparation & Set-up: By Sept. 2007

Festival Formally Commences: January, 2008

Festival Ends: December, 2008

Presentations Made: March, 2009.

The Beneficiaries will be determined by the March, 2007 Communication of Grand Lodge in Enniskillen and announced at that time.

I would appeal to all Brethren to read the Grand Lodge Newsletter regularly, to submit meaningful articles and keep abreast of Masonic events which regularly affect us.

During the year, I visited two elderly Brethren, one a mere 99 year old in a Nursing Home and the other a 100 year old who lives at home, both having a great love for our Order. They were keen to know what was going on and both were avid readers. How disappointed I was to learn that they did not even know that the Grand Lodge Newsletter even existed!

Brethren, how sad that such a thing can happen in this day and age and that these Brethren were left in the dark. I trust that it never happens again! I raised some previous issues of our Newsletter for them and appealed to their Worshipful Master to ensure that this oversight would not recur.

Our close relationship with the United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Scotland is well founded and I look forward to safeguarding the future of Freemasonry, during my watch, through the medium of our Annual Tripartite Meetings and other regular contact.

Brethren, I stand here today as your Grand Master and assure you that I will do all in my power to maintain and enhance the status and dignity of our Order in Ireland. I will not predict my tenure of the office but I will faithfully serve you on a yearly basis until you decide otherwise or until I determine that my course is run.

*M.W.Bro. George Dunlop,
Grand Master*

ARTICLES FOR GRAND LODGE NEWS

The success or otherwise of this type of publication depends upon the quality and variety of articles it contains. "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 etc. We would ask that the "kiss" principle is recognised – "keep it simple and short" – and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

The Editorial Team, Grand Lodge News, c/o 115 The Mount, BELFAST BT5 4ND or by e-mail to: w.clarke@5hoots15.freeserve.co.uk

CHARITY CORNER

Eight Hundred Pounds Only £800-00

Harmony Lodge No. 228 Musical Evening in Gorey supports local Hospice

The third annual musical evening was held on the 14th December last. The Gorey Choral group and the Gorey Musical Society entertained us in song plus W.Bro. Barry Sinclair who performed some of his magic tricks. It was truly a special event. There was a free raffle with numerous prizes. Refreshments were served by the Lodge members who were hosting the occasion.

There was a bucket for voluntary donations, which was very well supported. The contents realised €650.00. It was agreed by those in attendance to give this collection to the North Wexford Hospice trust.



Saintfield Lodges join forces to support Charities

Brian Jackson, Master of Myra Castle Masonic Lodge No. 516, Saintfield and Nigel McFarland, Master of Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835, presented cheques to Meningitis Research and Chest Heart & Stroke Association, at their Ladies Night held at La Mon Hotel and Country Club.

The money was raised when members of Ardmore Lodge held a table quiz under quizmaster Michael Holden and both Lodges held a joint sponsored climb of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain.

Receiving a cheque for £3,089 from Myra Castle Masonic Lodge, on behalf of Meningitis Research, is Linda MacHugh. Mount Oriel Chest Heart and Stroke Support Group received £3,135 from Ardmore Masonic Lodge, accepted by Abbie Donnan and Dorothy Stevenson.

Six members from each Lodge took part in the climb: (Ardmore) N. McFarland, A McClenaghan, G Lutton, R S McClenaghan, A Lutton and H Shields; (Myra Castle) B Jackson, S McClenaghan, S Davidson, I Boyce, B McMurray and D Simmons.



Much Welcomed Assistance

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter on November 10th confirming to us that The Order is to provide financial support to our daughter with her second level educational requirements.

We would like to especially thank you and the two sub-committee members, Kevin Spring and Alfie Reid, for the manner in which you made us feel so comfortable and at ease. We had no idea what form the meeting would take, we were apprehensive about what we were doing and had sought help more in hope than in optimism. The early decision on our case and your phone call that afternoon, were totally unexpected and a weight was lifted off our shoulders, you have no idea how much we appreciate this assistance.

We would like to assure the committee that we hope, in the future, to be able to repay The Order in some form so that other families can receive the benefit of similar assistance.

In the mean time, many, many thanks.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

Relieved and grateful parents.

CHARITY CORNER

PRESENTATION IN MONEYMORE OF CHEQUES TO MEDICAL CHARITIES



Cheque for £1,400 to Sister Evelyn Warnock.

On Tuesday, 14th November 2006, Unity Masonic Lodge No. 531, Moneymore presented cheques, in Moneymore Orange Hall, to a value of £2,400 to Medical Charities.

The Worshipful Master, Dr. R. H. Wray, presented a cheque for £1,400 to Sister Evelyn Warnock of the Day Procedure Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, to go towards the G.L. of Ireland Medical Research Fund.

UK Masons support local Nurse

During an International Masonic weekend in September past, one of the visiting Brethren from Newcastle upon Tyne was admitted to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, with a heart problem and was kept in for several days.

By coincidence one of the ward nurses, Fiona Barr, was running in the Great North Run in Newcastle a few weeks later to raise money for Cancer Research.

Because of the circumstances, Lodge Morden 5722, Province of Northumberland, gave Fiona assistance during her stay in Newcastle, laying on transport to and from the airport and accommodation. The Lodge Charity fund has also forwarded her a cheque for £250 by way of sponsorship.

The W. Master of Bangor Union Masonic Lodge No. 746 was asked to go to the hospital to present the cheque to Nurse Barr on behalf of Lodge Morden 5722. This was duly handed over on Tuesday 21st November.



Pictured left to right are:- W.Bro. J Lindsay (S.o.C); Nurse Fiona Barr; W.Bro. Tom Hornby (W.M. 746) and W.Bro. Tom Monaghan (Almoner).



Cheque for £1,000 to Dr. Morris.

A cheque for £1,000 was presented to Dr. Morris, Consultant Haematologist at the Belfast City Hospital, for the Haematology Research Fund.

The money was raised by the Lodge through its various fund-raising activities.



Grand Lodge of Ireland
Freemasons of Ireland
Golfing Society

Millennium Charity Cup 2007
at
Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown
on

Friday 31st August 2007

2007 Charities:

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

&

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
Entry Fee £20 including Grand Draw**

Registration Forms & Competition rules available from:

Noel Simpson
13 Carneybaun Drive
Portrush. BT56 8JA
Tele: 028 7082 3332
Mobile: 07866 554 505
email: par70mm589@aol.com



ABERFOYLE CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY



M.W. Grand Master and Brethren of Aberfoyle Lodge No. 784.

Aberfoyle Lodge No. 784 was constituted and dedicated on 21st June, 1956 at a Special Communication of the R.W. Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal, held in the Freemasons' Hall, Bishop Street, Londonderry and celebrated its 50 years of Masonic Labour at the same venue on the 21st June, 2006.

The occasion was suitably graced by the attendance of M.W.Bro. Eric Waller, Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Dunlop, Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Robert Quigley, Provincial Grand Master and R.W. Bro. John Rowden, Grand Organist; all of whom thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

The name 'Aberfoyle' was taken from the residence of the then Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Sir Basil

McFarland Bart., C.B.E., D.L., H.M.L., and the wonderful Founder's Jewel was adorned with an enamel button depicting a sailing ship, commemorating the family's association with the Londonderry Port & Harbour Board.

In earlier years, the Lodge membership comprised of a number of Americans who became closely associated with its workings by filling key offices and generating much enthusiasm.

An excellent Festive Board was provided and the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Noel McLaughlin presented suitable gifts to the Grand Master and R.W.Bro Arthur Fielding, who gave a synopsis of 784's history in his own inimitable manner.

Grand Master attends Installation Communication of Lodge 223

On Wednesday 22nd March, The Grand Master attended The Province of Armagh Installed Masters Lodge No. 223. The Lodge has a membership of almost 100 Brethren. Meetings are held four times each year in Armagh, Lurgan, Monaghan and Portadown. Visiting speakers visit the Lodge at three of these meetings after which supper is served to all present.



W.Bro. J. G. Brown, WM 2005; The Grand Master; V.W.Bro. J. Rodgers, WM 2006.

We were pleased to welcome the Grand Master to our March Communication as well as the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens. I commend members for their attendances and the Officers for their attention to ritual detail.

W.Bro. E J Megaw, Secretary

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. William Coulter O'Malley	70	Crichton Masonic Lodge No. 204	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. George Gault	60	Temple Masonic Lodge No. 138	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Moore Ruddock	50	Killyleagh True Blues No. 30	Down
W.Bro. Frank Finlay	50	Magherally Masonic Lodge No. 203	Down
R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins	50	Armagh Masonic Lodge No. 409	Armagh
W.Bro. Harry Harrison	50	Bryantmore Masonic Lodge No. 735	Down
W.Bro. Eric Slane	50	Bryantmore Masonic Lodge No. 735	Down

Centenary Celebrations

On 3rd March the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Ivor Reilly; Secretary, W.Bro. Hugh McFetridge and Almoner, V.W.Bro. Christopher Thompson brought birthday greetings to Mrs Annie Warnock, a Lodge Widow, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Pictured with Mrs Warnock (L-R) W.Bro. Hugh McFetridge; W.Bro. Ivor Reilly and V.W.Bro. Christopher Thompson.



Sure & Steadfast 619 visits Cardiff



(L-R) W.Bro. P Houston (619); W.Bro. M Douglas (619); Bro. C Grey (S.W. 8991); W.Bro. A Gretton PSGD Ass. Prov. Grand Master; W.Bro. D Philips (Chap. 8891); W.Bro. A Williams (DoC 8891); W.Bro. Peter Gough PAGDC; W.Bro. Dr K Williams (JW 8891) and W.Bro. E Lowry (619).

There are seven Sure & Steadfast Lodges throughout the UK, all formed by Masons with associations with the Boys Brigade.

The second Sure & Steadfast Lodge to be formed was in Cardiff, Lodge No. 8991 and they celebrated their 25th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion the Lodge was presented with a banner by W.Bro. Allan D Williams, M.B.E., Prov. G. Std. Bearer, in memory of his wife Mrs Pam Williams.

Three Brethren from Sure & Steadfast Lodge No. 619 made the journey to Cardiff to attend the banner dedication ceremony and to present the Worshipful Master with a plaque to mark the occasion.

The dedication ceremony was followed by an excellent festive board and the weekend celebrations finished with a Ladies Night. Throughout the year of celebrations the Lodge raised over £10,000.00 for various charities.

KILLYLEAGH MEETS RHODE ISLAND USA

A special meeting of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 113 was called on 5th June 2006 to welcome a Brother Mason – W.Bro. Stanley Sorrentino, a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 47 in Rhode Island U.S.A. The members of Lodge No. 113 were joined by members of its sister Lodge – True Blues No. 30 – and by our Provincial Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Richard H Gray and a number of other distinguished Provincial Officers from Down and Antrim.

During the meeting, R.W.Bro. Gray gave a short history of Lodge No. 113 (which celebrated its 250th anniversary in 1998) and welcomed W.Bro. Sorrentino to Ireland and the Province of Down.

W.Bro. Sorrentino then addressed the meeting on the reason for his visit to Killyleagh. His wife's Grandfather was a member of Lodge No. 113 and was Worshipful Master in 1881. He and his wife had come to see the area and to try to discover the family roots. W.Bro.



W.Bro. Sorrentino to left of alter along with R.W.Bro. Richard H Gray (P.A.G.M. Down).

Sorrentino gave a brief history of his Masonic career in U.S.A. – he received his 50 year jewel and thanked the Brethren for his reception.

The acting Worshipful Master on the evening, W.Bro. Phillip Kinkead then presented W.Bro. Sorrentino with a

250th anniversary jewel and a gift for his wife.

After the meeting, W.Bro. Sorrentino along with his wife and our guests, were entertained to a buffet supper in the Lodge's ante-room.

W.Bro. J R Hanna, Secretary

First Past Masters' Lodge in Munster

Wednesday, 5th. April, 2006 was a most historic, important and happy day for the Province of Munster. The occasion was the Constitution, Consecration and Dedication of Munster Past Master's Lodge No.1011 by the M.W. the Grand Master together with an illustrious team of Officers including the Deputy Grand Master, 5 Provincial Grand Masters and 3 Past Provincial Grand Masters.

The new Lodge is the first Past Master's Lodge in the Province and marks an important development in Munster Masonry.

At a most enjoyable dinner before the meeting the Provincial Grand Master of Munster, R.W. Bro. Alan J. Campbell said that this was another milestone in the long history of the Province. He reminded the Brethren that the earliest minutes, not of the Provincial Grand Lodge but rather the older Grand Lodge of Munster are dated 1726 and are clearly a continuation and not a starting point. In 1726, the city of Limerick was also part of the Munster area of jurisdiction and there in 1830 was found the famous "Baal's Bridge Square" dated 1507. Those were the days of operative, not speculative Masonry, our historians state but the inscription on that square reads "I will strive to live with love and care upon the level, by the square". The P.G.M. suggested that this sounds far too philosophical to come from an operative Mason of 1507 or indeed 2006 and would lead one to think that speculative Masonry has existed in the Munster area since time immemorial.



The meeting was attended by nearly 100 Brethren many of whom were young Members, recently initiated into Lodges in the Province. It was a model of excellent ritual and a wonderful experience for all present. The first W.M. is V.W.Bro. Robin E.W. Newenham whose work for the Order is well known and his attention to detail and perfect ritual an example to all. He is, of course, a member of a

family who have provided Members for the First Lodge of Ireland for over 200 years and whose dedication to the Craft is legendary.

It was certainly an evening that will not be forgotten.

The photo shows the Grand Master and constituting Officers with the Founders of Munster Past Masters Lodge No. 1011 (distinguished by being dressed in dinner jackets).

LOGE ZUR WELTKUGEL NR. 130



Light of the West Lodge No. 20 were hosts to a visitation from a German Lodge – Loge Zur Weltkugel Nr. 130. Pictured with the delegation is R.W.Bro. George F Ginnelly P.G.M. of North Connaught.

Pictured (L-R): Bro. Peter Ehlers; Bro. Buckhard; Bro. Peter Hans Ceranik; R.W.Bro. G F Ginnelly; Bro. Joachim Hess; Bro. Heinrick Hoffman and Bro. Andy Andor (Lodge No. 1613).

GOLF DATES FOR YOUR 2007 CALENDAR

Competition	Venue	Date	Contact	
1. PGL Londonderry & Donegal	Castlerock	26th April	Geoff Millar	02870 344964
2. Captain Fyffe Salver - T&F	Killymoon	8th May	Leslie Graham	02886 762773
3. Provincial Priorities' Golf Society	Killymoon	22nd May	George M.J. Stewart	02879 418348 (H) 0779 3223464 (M)
4. Mourne Cup - T&F	Newtownstewart	13th June	Harry Friar Garth McKibben	02881 658237 02891 878859
5. Armagh Cup - Armagh	Portadown	22nd June	David Blakely	02838 871879
6. Ferris Cup - Down	Kilkeel	29th June	William Andrews	02840 623780
7. Grand Master's Millennium Cup	Killymoon	31st August	Noel Simpson	02870 823332