



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



MARCH 2009

## Report on Progress from the Grand Master's Festival Committee



Brethren as we write this update (mid January) we are pleased to report that the monies collected so far in aid of the Festival are as follows: - in the Northern Provinces we have passed the £295,000, and in the Southern Provinces we have passed the €195,000. However we still have to pay for the production of the Calendars and we would ask you all to buy a Calendar and support the final push towards our goal of maximising our contribution to the three very worthy Charities.

In 2007 when the Grand Master first indicated that he wished to hold a Festival of Charity in 2008 and appointed the three chairmen we could not have foreseen the major downturn in the economic climate in the world, which would take place during our Festival year. If we also acknowledge the reduction in our numbers as an organisation, then one could not have been criticised for

being pessimistic about the outcome. In fact nothing could be further from the truth, the Brethren from the Irish Constitution have risen to the challenge and once again demonstrated their generosity and willingness to work hard for Charity. As we approach the end of the Festival we would like to pay tribute to all those who have contributed, both in time and money, to what is turning out to be an extremely successful exercise in fundraising. The committee would now ask all Lodges to forward any funds they have in order to allow us to finalise how much we will be able to distribute to each of the charities.

Our attention is now turning to organising the events at which the Grand Master will handover the monies collected to the three Charities. These have not been finalised but the Brethren will be advised as soon as possible so that

not only will you know how much has been donated but also that you can proudly stand up and say "I was a part of that". It is hoped and intended that these events will be very public so that the community can see the "true" side of Freemasonry, which is to often hidden from public view.

In conclusion Brethren we would extend heartfelt thanks for all your hard work, not only from the Grand Master and the Festival Committees, but also from the 3 Charities. Like the rest of the community the Charities are feeling the "pinch" during this credit crunch and are delighted with the assistance provided by the Masonic Order.

*Richard Ensor, Chairman, Grand Master's Festival Committee.*

*Rodney McCurley, Chairman, Northern Provinces Committee.*

*Basil Fenton, Chairman, Southern Provinces Committee.*

## ST. JOHN'S DAY ADDRESS – 2008

I would thank you all for your attendance here today and express my sincere thanks for your commitment to Grand Lodge and your personal support which you tender to me.

My visitations to lodges during the latter part of 2008 were most enjoyable and proved most enlightening. The enthusiasm and vibrancy was truly infectious and was ably matched by generous hospitality and kindness, giving me much satisfaction and hope for the future of Irish Freemasonry.

I attended a service in Ardclinis Parish Church to mark the 200th anniversary of Lodge No. 216 Carnlough on 28th September, being most impressed by the fine turnout and the excellent sermon of the visiting preacher.

Grand Lodge met in Coleraine on the 2nd October 2008 which was up to the usual Londonderry & Donegal standard. I compliment the Provincial



Grand Master R.W. Bro. Robert Quigley on a wonderful turnout, good management and a most enjoyable communication. In November, I paid a courtesy visit to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal and found everything in pristine condition. I congratulate the Provincial Grand

Master and his team on the quality of their work.

St. Georges Lodge No. 168 commemorated their 100th Anniversary on Sunday 19th October in St. George's Parish Church, High Street, Belfast. R.W. Bro. Rt. Rev. Sam Poyntz delivered the sermon, my son Rev. Terence Dunlop conducted the service and I read one of the lessons and the Acting Worshipful Master read the other. It was indeed a wonderful day.

A visit to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bermuda was a breath-taking experience and we were treated magnificently. I was delighted to witness the expert work of the brethren and very impressed by the Provincial Grand Master. R.W. Bro. Brinkworth Tucker whose management of the Province and oversight of the Lodges was of the highest standard, which significantly raised my expectations for the future of freemasonry in Bermuda.

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I attended at Ballycarry Masonic Hall to receive a most generous donation to the Grand Master's Festival from Lodges 154 Prince of Wales, 162 St. John's Islandmagee and 260 Redhall, Ballycarry. I thank these Lodges for their commitment to the Grand Master's Festival and to the valuable contribution they have made.

I also visited with the Third Lodge of Ireland in Cork to celebrate their 200 years of existence. The ritual was interesting and exceptional, in many ways, but very enjoyable. I thank the Brethren for treating me so well and for the welcome they accorded to me. Especial thanks to R.W. Bro. Charles Olden and his wife Jean for looking after my basic needs.

On 21st November, I visited the Spa. and met with the Brethren of Ballynahinch Lodge No. 301, Dromara Lodge No. 498, Spa Lodge No. 703 and Eden-na-vadia Lodge No. 717. I was accompanied by R. W. Bro. Richard Gray and we both enjoyed a very special night. The following day I attended and opened the R.W. Provincial Grand Lodge of Down and dined with the principal officers in the evening.

My key event of the autumn was the installation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland held on the Festival of St Andrew at which I was the principal guest. I was accompanied by the Grand Secretary and Past Grand Secretary and we were treated most generously by both the outgoing and incoming Grand Master Mason.

The Grand Secretary and I were, once again, invited to the National Grand Lodge of France (GLNF) which met in Paris in early December. Our accommodation costs were met by GLNF and we were the oldest Grand Lodge represented. We were accompanied by the new Grand Master Mason of Scotland and his Grand Secretary, enjoyed meeting with the Grand Maitre, M.W. Bro. Francois Stifani and renewing acquaintances.

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 and

their Officers for their excellent support in this regard.

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 our current policies and strategies have impacted much on the progress made in this regard.

I am glad to report that the Grand Master's Festival in support of the Samaritans and Children's Hospices has done wonderfully well and that the final figure will give us much satisfaction. We will, of course, have a special event, probably in April, 2009, when the funds can be distributed to the beneficiaries.

I compliment the National Chairman and two Regional Chairmen and their respective committees for the tremendous work put in to the Festival.

Brethren, we may gain some plaudits for our charity work in the community but we must always remember that the most important image is the one we personally portray in public, being proud to be Freemasons and never denying 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.

As you are aware, the membership losses in Belfast have engendered closer study and analysis and these results will come to hand in the early part of 2009. Membership losses and associated financial issues do cause concern, not only in Ireland, but worldwide. In view of such losses, I believe that the total energies of all Brethren should ideally focus on the salvation of their own lodge rather than seek dual memberships. I also trust that the future of the Provincial Grand Lodge Hall in Rosemary Street will be resolved soon, so that the Lodges may move forward with certainty and confidence.

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. I am sad that the Pro. Grand Master of the U.G.L.E. has announced his retirement and also that the Grand Master Mason of

Scotland has retired. They will both be dearly missed.

I was interested to discover that the Grand Lodge of Scotland has a mandatory rule that the Declaration agreed originally in 1938 between the Home Constitutions should be read at the Installation Communication of Lodges. I have consistently maintained that a good proportion of our members are not aware, as they should be, of the aims and core principles of Freemasonry and do not know why they are members of our Order.

The Grand Secretary read a synopsis of the Declaration earlier, which meets the need to understand these basic statements, without reading the complete Declaration. I believe that we should adopt this practice in our Lodges and have instructed the Grand Secretary to process my proposal through the necessary Grand Lodge Committees for final approval by Grand Lodge.

Brethren, good communication is vital to any organisation and I would appeal to all brethren to read the Grand Lodge Newsletter regularly, keep house-bound and elderly brethren informed, submit meaningful articles and keep abreast of Masonic events which regularly affect us.

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. As I have indicated on a previous occasion, 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, or the Great Architect, determines that my course is run. I wish you much success in 2009 and may the Great Architect bless you in your Masonic endeavours.

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

## ARTICLES FOR GRAND LODGE NEWS

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.freemasonry.co.uk](mailto:w.clarke@5hoots15.freemasonry.co.uk)

## Freemasons Raise in excess of €4,000 for Sligo Samaritans

Sligo Samaritans received a financial boost of over €4,000 as a result of a fundraiser held for them by local Freemasons.

The Sligo Brethren recently held a Table Quiz in the Radisson SAS Hotel for the Samaritans, who are one of the nominated charities in the current Grand Master's Festival of Charity.

The presentation of the proceeds of the quiz, €4,162, was made in the Masonic Hall to Maura Cummins, Chairperson, Sligo Samaritans. Also pictured is R.W.Bro. Edward C Smith, Provincial Deputy Grand Master and V.W.Bro. Ronnie Gillanders, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



## Not known for their running!!

The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Andrew Wilson and Lodge Treasurer Bro. Mervyn Thompson, displaying their medals and finishers sweat shirts, after completing the Dublin Marathon. These Brethren, who have never run distances before, decided to do this, to raise funds for the Grand Master's Festival. Their efforts raised the sum of €3,000.

W.Bro. Alan Thompson, Secretary



(L-R) W.Bro. Andrew Wilson & Bro. Mervyn Thompson.

## Golf Dates for your 2009 Calendar

Competition	Venue	Date	Contact
1. PGL Londonderry & Donegal	Castlerock	23rd April	Geoff Millar 02870 344 964
2. Captain Fyffe Salver Tyrone & Fermanagh	Killymoon 2.00pm	5th May	Leslie Graham 02886 762 773
3. Provincial Priors' Golf Society	Killymoon 9.30am -1.30pm	26th May	George M.J. Stewart 02879 418 348 (H) 077 9322 3464 (M)
4. Mourne Cup Tyrone & Fermanagh	Newtownstewart	10th June (Tbc)	Harry Friar MBE 02881 658237 Garth McKibben 02891 878 859
5. Armagh Cup - Armagh	Portadown	26th June	Bobby McDowell 02838 842 630
6. Ferris Cup - Down	Kilkeel	26th June	William Andrews 02840 623 780
7. Grand Master's Millennium Cup	Killymoon	28th Aug	Noel Simpson 02870 823 129



### Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society Millennium Charity Cup 2009

At

## KILLYMOON GOLF CLUB – COOKSTOWN

ON

### FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2009

2009 CHARITIES:  
'ULSTER CANCER FOUNDATION' & 'MASONIC CHARITIES'

### £1,000 IN PRIZES

THREE PRIZE CATEGORIES:-

1. MASONIC BRETHERN
2. NON-MASONS
3. LADIES

PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE  
"EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT"

THE FIRST 200 ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

NO GREENFEES REQUIRED ON THE DAY

ENTRY FEE £25 INCLUDING ENTRY TO THE 'GRAND DRAW'

REGISTRATION FORMS AND COMPETITION RULES AVAILABLE FROM:

NOEL SIMPSON  
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PORTRUSH BT56 8JA

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# 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
V.W.Bro. J E "Bunty" Wright	78	Ulidia Masonic Lodge No. 292	Natal
W.Bro. Herbert Martin	70	Artificers Masonic Lodge No. 452	Down
W.Bro. George S Moore	60	Dunleith Masonic Lodge No. 654	Down
W.Bro. David Eakin	60	Killeen Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 705	Antrim
W.Bro. William H Matchett	60	Star Masonic Lodge No. 118	Antrim
V.W.Bro. Robert P Bennett	60	Rathdowney Masonic Lodge No. 150	Midland Counties
W.Bro. William Galasham	60	Ark of Freedom Masonic Lodge No. 664	Antrim
W.Bro. Samuel J Millar	60	Randalstown Masonic Lodge No. 598	Antrim
W.Bro. Joseph L Jefferson	60	Invictus Masonic Lodge No. 536	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas G Harper	60	Eastern Gate Masonic Lodge No. 972	Antrim
W.Bro. Joseph Black	60	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 166	Antrim
W.Bro. Joseph W Towell	60	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 238	Metropolitan District
W.Bro. James A McBride	60	Redcliffe Masonic Lodge No. 564	Down
R.W.Bro. James S Henderson	60	Castle Mervyn Masonic Lodge No. 58	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Robert F McIlroy	60	Sion Masonic Lodge No. 144	Down
W.Bro. George Walmsley	60	Barton Masonic Lodge No. 220	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Andrew Martin	58	Ark of Freedom Masonic Lodge No. 664	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert S Johnston	57	Mountmellick Masonic Lodge No. 660	Midland Counties
W.Bro. John C Luke	55	Randalstown Masonic Lodge No. 598	Antrim
Bro. Samuel Trueick	54	Ark of Freedom Masonic Lodge No. 664	Antrim
W.Bro. Edward J Magee	53	Crossgar Masonic Lodge No. 379	Down
W.Bro. Gavin W Cullen	53	Randalstown Masonic Lodge No. 598	Antrim
W.Bro. Gideon McGalliard	60	Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert Hamilton	50	Island of Inch Masonic Lodge No. 589	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. McClelland	50	T. Hay Masonic Lodge No. 685	Down
W.Bro. Robert J McKinney	50	Star Masonic Lodge No. 118	Antrim
W.Bro. James C Ruth	50	Star Masonic Lodge No. 118	Antrim
W.Bro. Ernest Lusty	50	Star Masonic Lodge No. 118	Antrim
W.Bro. James Robinson	50	Seaforde Masonic Lodge No. 1009	Down
W.Bro. John Strain	50	St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 675	Down
W.Bro. Thomas M Jamison	50	Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 366	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Charles I McCord	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 122	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Maurice Fielding	50	Temple Masonic Lodge No. 138	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. William M Cross	50	Loyal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 119	Down
W.Bro. James L Cockcroft	50	Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
W.Bro. Frederick M Murray	50	Fellowship Masonic Lodge No. 530	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert Ewart	50	Rathmoy Masonic Lodge No. 591	Antrim
W.Bro. James H Crosby	50	Myra Castle Masonic Lodge No. 516	Down
W.Bro. Hugh Hamilton	50	Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 447	Down
W.Bro. William J Gamble	50	Andrew Henderson Masonic Lodge No. 512	Antrim
W.Bro. William Webb	50	Andrew Henderson Masonic Lodge No. 512	Antrim
Bro. James F Henry	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 459	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Robert A McIlroy	50	Eureka Masonic Lodge No. 309	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Alexander Savage	50	Thomas Barbour Masonic Lodge No. 674	Down
W.Bro. James Maxwell	50	Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 447	Down
W.Bro. Kenneth F Eakin	50	Redcliffe Masonic Lodge No. 564	Down
Bro. Andrew Shilliday	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 77	Down
W.Bro. John B Edwards	50	Castle Mervyn Masonic Lodge No. 58	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. William C Beatty	50	Castle Mervyn Masonic Lodge No. 58	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Francis H E Thompson	50	Maghera Masonic Lodge No. 42	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Ian W Kelly	50	Corinthian Comm. Masonic Lodge No. 245	Metropolitan District
W.Bro. Samuel L Cardy	50	Chichester Masonic Lodge No. 313	Antrim
W.Bro. William Donaldson	50	Helen's Bay Masonic lodge No. 834	Down
W.Bro. George McDowell	50	Gilford Masonic Lodge No. 145	Down
Bro. Andrew Gault	50	Chatham Hall Masonic Lodge No. 152	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert Hay	50	Redhall Masonic Lodge No. 260	Antrim
Bro. John L Roulston	50	St. Johnston Masonic Lodge No. 281	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. William Mann	50	Larne Masonic Lodge No. 41	Antrim
W.Bro. Reginald Shields	50	Falls Masonic Lodge No. 226	Antrim
W.Bro. William Telford	50	Randalstown Masonic Lodge No. 598	Antrim
Bro. Reginald K W Cooley	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 765	South East Asia
W.Bro. Norman J Hunter	50	Barton Masonic Lodge No. 220	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. William J McCrum	50	Felicitas Masonic Lodge No. 760	Down
W.Bro. Gerald Topping	50	Drumcree Masonic Lodge No. 979	Armagh
W.Bro. William G Bond	50	Drumcree Masonic Lodge No. 979	Armagh

# CLOTWORTHY MASONIC LODGE NO. 593 (ANTRIM) ON TOP OF THE WORLD

During the Autumn of 2008 two Worshipful Brothers from Clotworthy proudly held the Masonic pennant aloft in the remote Himalayan Mountains; 16,000 ft - 22,000 ft, 4 miles above sea level.

In accomplishing this challenging feat the two Brethren were accompanied by three other mountaineering colleagues. It took the team 25 days of trekking, climbing and living (surviving) in tents to reach the summit of this mighty Himalayan Peak and return to Kathmandu. This was achieved by strong determination and team work as everyone had to overcome the debilitating effects of climbing at high altitude without oxygen and being subjected to sub zero temperatures of -20C (-40C on the summit with the wind chill).

At over 20,000 ft the air is so thin that the body only receives 40% of oxygen which causes the blood to thicken thus making the team susceptible to Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS - if not treated or recognised urgently, could result in death within hours) and also prone to hypothermia, heart attacks and strokes.<sup>1</sup> The team were all aged between 50 and 60 making them more vulnerable and the expedition itself a tremendous challenge of character.

During this arduous and exhausting expedition one person suffered from AMS; fortunately his symptoms were



David Burke & Edgar Allen at the summit.

quickly recognised and he made a full recovery. Another team member collapsed during an acclimatisation climb at 18,500 ft (his words were "I think I'm dying, I cannot breathe"). A rapid but controlled descent to base camp hastened his quick recovery. During the long summit ascent one person experienced severe exhaustion and cold.

The team were supported by three Sherpas, one cook and 10 porters. Even two of the Sherpas experienced a mild form of AMS with one having to descend to base camp as it was not safe for him to climb any higher.

Having reached the summit the now tired team had an equally demanding and dangerous task of getting back down to base camp (17,000 ft) before nightfall to avoid crossing the creviced glacier in darkness. From there it was



The expedition team at the summit, with Mount Everest in the background.

another 5 days trekking to Lukla Airport, which included crossing the notorious iced Zatrava La Pass (16,250 ft)<sup>2</sup>. Finally it was all over and the team were glad to reach the comforts of a hotel bed in Kathmandu.

The two Brethren each lost 14 lbs. and 12 lbs. respectively on the expedition and are now lean and mean. Meanwhile they raised plenty of Pounds (£) £3,000 for the Grand Master's Festival and they wish to thank all the Masonic brethren and Lodges for their generous donations. Further expedition information available by contacting Clotworthy Lodge No. 593 Secretary.

<sup>1</sup>Two Sherpas on a separate expedition died from AMS near our mountain route.

<sup>2</sup>A female westerner died from AMS on a similar expedition route on this pass.

## Masons abseil Scrabo Tower for the Grand Master's Festival

It is thanks to the N.I. Hospice who was holding an abseiling of Scrabo Tower, Newtownards, Co. Down to mark World Hospice Day on Saturday 11th October 2008, kindly offered W.Bro. Sam Snodden ten places for the Grand Master's Festival.

Brethren from different local Lodges were "volunteered" and took up the challenge. It was a sunny Saturday morning and a number of family, friends and Brethren turned out to support the team. The sum raised to the day of the event was £3,400. The amount now is almost £4,000. Everyone enjoyed the day, with some going to Scrabo Golf Club for lunch after the event. I would like to thank the Hospice for giving us the places, big thanks to those who took part and to everyone who sponsored us.



L to R: W.Bro. Alan Gillfillan; W.Bro. Sam Snodden; W.Bro. John McKeag, Bro. Jonathan Thompson; W.Bro. Bertie McClenaghan. From the N.I. Hospice Deirdre Melly, W.Bro. Brian Jackson; W.Bro. Davey Angus; W.Bro. Davey Burgess; Bro. Dennis McBride; missing from the photo Bro. Paul Cassidy.

## Grand Master's Festival receives a welcome Boost in East Antrim

Masons in East Antrim handed over money collected for a Sponsored Walk donations and Road Side collections to the Grand Master, in person, in aid of his Festival.

He received presentations from Redhall Masonic Lodge No. 260 for £3,500.00; Prince of Wales Own Masonic Lodge No. 154 for £1,000.00; Islandmagee Masonic Lodge No. 162 for £500.00 and a further sum from Latharna Masonic Lodge No. 375 which brought the total to over £5,000.00.

The Grand Master M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, accompanied by the Provincial Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro. John L Frazer, escorted by W.Bro. W T Scott, joined the Brethren of the Lodges and their guests for an Emergency Communication of Prince Of Wales (Own) No. 154, with W.Bro. Mervyn Robinson in the chair.

Other Masters present were W.Bro. Michael Lynch Lodge No. 260;

W.Bro. Norman Brown Lodge No. 162; W.Bro. Roy Bolton Lodge No. 375, W.Bro. John Peoples Lodge No. 215 and W.Bro. James Black Lodge No. 216.

Presented to the Grand Master were three experienced Brethren who share almost 180 years in Masonry, W.Bro. Crawford Adair Lodge No. 260, W.Bro. Jim Haughey Lodge No. 154 and the "evergreen" W.Bro. William Norris Lodge No. 162, Chairman of the Committee of Inspection.

The Grand Master congratulated each for what they have given to Masonry and wished them many more years good health to maintain their fine example. Everyone was invited to the Festive Board downstairs bringing the evening to a very successful and peaceful close. All present were honoured to have spent the evening in the distinguished company of the Grand Master and his gracious assistant.

## "A GRAND YEAR"

Belmont Bowling Club Masonic Section has once again had a "Grand" year in 2008. After being beaten in the final of the Masonic Cup last year, they returned this year and defeated Carrick Bowling Club in a very closely contested final, to bring the Cup back to Belmont for the first time in 20 years.

Having achieved this, the members also raised and presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Masonic Cup Bowls Competition, for distribution to the Charities. Can we do better next year? Wait and see!

## Durban Masons in relief projects

In Durban, Masons of the Irish, English, Scottish Constitutions as well as the Grand Lodge of South Africa, combine their resources under an umbrella body set up as Masonic Services to undertake joint relief projects.

During 2008, assistance was given to feeding refugees arriving into South Africa from neighbouring countries and in distress. A truck load (500 food parcels) was sent as a small measure of relief to Zimbabwe.

The highlight of the undertaking each year, is raising money and distributing Christmas Hampers to the elderly in need. This year we were able to distribute 1,500 hampers.

The task of packing and distributing the hampers is followed by a



Masons and their families busy packing hampers.

barbecue, where we all enjoy fellowship and exchange stories along the line.

To find out more about Masonry in Natal, please visit our Provincial Grand Lodge Web Site at: [www.freemasons.co.za](http://www.freemasons.co.za)

## Masonic Show Raises Funds for Grand Master's Festival



Carleton Masonic Lodge No. 231 Portadown recently held a function in Craigavon Civic Centre raising £2,615 for the chosen Charities of the Grand Master's Festival. The evening's entertainment to a capacity crowd was provided by the outstanding band "Talon - Best of the Eagles" as part of their tour of Ireland.

Before the function, members of the Lodge, together with the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins and the band, were invited to a reception in the Mayor's parlour and afterwards to tea in the dining room.

Pictured above at the reception in the Mayor's Parlour are back row (L-R) W.Bro. T Elliott, W.Bro. J Robinson, W.Bro. S Conn and Bro. D Crozier members of the Lodge. Seated (L-R) V.W.Bro. D Hamilton P.G. Secretary, R.W.Bro. G Miskimmins P.G.M. of Armagh, Mr S Anderson Mayor of Craigavon, W.Bro. I Whitten, W.M. of Lodge No. 231 and Bro. R Spence.

## SMALL LODGE RAISES LARGE SUM FOR GM FESTIVAL

On the 1st June this year St. George's Lodge No. 270 organised a sponsored walk in aid of the Grand Master's Festival. They succeeded in raising €3,200 a magnificent sum and a great achievement as St. George's is a small Lodge of about 35 members, with only about 12 in any way active.

W.Bro. C E Riddall, Secretary

# COMBINED IRISH LADIES NIGHT – 2008

The Irish Lodges Association of Queensland, representing Lodges which were formerly consecrated under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, held a combined meeting celebrating St. Patrick's Day on Saturday 15 March 2008. What a wonderful night for Freemasonry in Ipswich Masonic Centre! Eighty-one Brethren were joined by sixteen Ladies at the sumptuous Festive Board. Congratulations to Bro. Mark Shishkins of Southern Queensland Lodge No. 29 (formerly No. 312 I.C.), on his being passed to the Second Degree - truly a night he will always remember.

The United Tradesmen's Lodge No. 12 U.G.L.Q. (formerly No. 288 I.C.), now in its 143rd year, hosted the Combined Irish Lodges Meeting this year. All Brethren and Ladies who participated or contributed to the night, and particularly the visiting Brethren who performed their allotted workings brilliantly, should feel justly proud of the night's success.



(L-R) W.Bro. R Holmes, W.M. United Tradesmen's Lodge No. 12; R.W.Bro. Adrian Burton D.G.M.; Bro. Mark Shishkins, Southern Queensland Lodge No. 29 and R.W.Bro. Stan Rawlings, P.A.G.M. of U.G.L.Q. & Representative to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The meeting was attended by R.W.Bro. Adrian Burton Deputy Grand Master accompanied by a team of Grand Officers including R.W.Bro. Stan Rawlings P.A.L.M., who is the Representative for the Grand Lodge of Ireland at or near the United Grand Lodge of Queensland. In an excellent address to the Brethren, R.W.Bro. Burton reminded all present of the wonderful "legacy" we have been left by the Freemasons of the former Irish Constitution Lodges and imbued us to emulate their endeavours for the development of the Craft. A three course dinner; plenty of Guinness; a raffle with marvellous prizes; the ritual exchange of the Director of Ceremonies shillelaghs; and lovely Irish songs by W.Bro. Don Fenwick, Secretary of the Association,



R.W.Bro. Adrian Burton (D.G. Master of Queensland) and his team of Grand Lodge Officers who attended the Combined Irish Ladies Night.

completed the outstanding harmony of the Festive Board, which was really enlivened by the Lodge's Junior Warden, Bro. Ian Forrest, with his brilliant toast to the visitors.

The Combined Irish Night is hosted annually in rotation by the member Lodges of the Irish Lodges Association which are: St. Patrick No.5, Duke of Leinster No.8, United Tradesmen's No.12, Southern Queensland No.29 and Theodore Unmack No.60. This year marks the

44th Combined Irish Lodges Night which commenced in 1965.

Next year's meeting will be held on 17th March 2009, to be hosted by the Duke of Leinster Lodge No.8 which now meets at the Stones Corner Masonic Centre.

We hope to foster the revival of Freemasonry in Queensland and also continue the fine traditions of Irish Freemasonry.

R.W.Bro. Stan Rawlings P.A.G.M.

## 'NIGHT IN THE TRENCHES'

Sometimes we get so caught up in our "important" responsibilities that we forget to say thank you to the Brethren who supported the Somme Night, 'Night in the Trenches' held in Rosetta Masonic Hall on Saturday 29th November 2008.

I, on behalf of Industry Masonic Lodge No. 240, would like to express my gratitude to all those individuals that have shared in the successful fundraising activity.

The hall was decorated with bunting and First World War posters and a large camouflage net was hung across one end of the dining room. Not to forget the solemnity of the occasion, special thanks must go to the Somme Society and the British Legion for the provision of material and that most important item 'The Poppy'.

A big thank you must go to Johnny Jamison, who dressed in First World War uniform and his two sons, who quoted in 'Flanders field' and read,



Johnny Jamison and sons.

to a hushed audience, genuine letters and telegrams sent by their Grandfather.

With economic times as they are, we are grateful to everyone that contributed in support of our cause. Donations will, in due course, be forwarded to the Grand Master's Festival and the Rosetta Hall refurbishment fund.

W. Bro. John Kyle

# Carnlough 216 celebrates its Bicentenary



On Saturday 28th June 2008, Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216 celebrated its Bicentenary in the presence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop; the Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, R.W.Bro. John S Dunlop; Provincial Assistant Grand Masters R.W.Bros. Noel Millar and Jack O Dunlop and other distinguished Brethren.

Following the Stated Communication the Brethren retired to the

Londonderry Arms Hotel in Carnlough for its Festive Board and a very enjoyable and memorable time was had by all.

Pictured above are: The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Jim Black with M.W.Bro. George Dunlop (G.M.); R.W.Bro. John S Dunlop (P.G.M.) and Provincial Assistant Grand Masters, R.W.Bros. Noel Millar & Jack O Dunlop, along with Brethren of the Lodge and distinguished guests.

## MASONIC ORPHAN WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Fund was founded in 1917, its objective is to advise, encourage, assist and promote the welfare of necessitous children and orphans of Freemasons.

In 2007 the Committee produced a Newsletter which was distributed around various Masonic Halls. The members of the Committee were charged with promoting the Fund by speaking at Installation dinners and Lodge festive boards. In recent years they have been able to give support to many 3rd level students and last year grants of £125 were made to some 43 recipients. Within the Fund, special provision is made for students studying medicine.

The Committee meets on the second Saturday of each month (except June, July and August) and welcomes all applications to the Fund from the Irish Constitution, subject to the criteria of the Funds Constitution and By-Laws. We would



like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all individuals and Branches of the Order for their kind donations and look forward to your continued support in the future.

The above photograph was taken at the A.G.M. of the Fund in 2008 and shows from left to right, R.W.Bro. D Millen P.D.G.M. of Antrim; W.Bro. D Wallace, Hon. Treasurer; W.Bro. G Mullan, Chairman and Patron; R.W.Bro. A Patterson, Hon. Secretary and R.W.Bro. R Armstrong, the then Provincial Grand Master of Down.

## Irish Masons meet on QE2

Three local Masons, Ed McCue (Trafalgar Masonic Lodge No. 826), Ted Drummond (St. Patrick's Union Masonic Lodge No. 175) and Wilfred Baker (Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 27) met on board the QE2.

A gathering of 24 Masons from England, Scotland, Isle of Man, Wales and Ireland met informally aboard the QE2 on one of her final voyages before this remarkable ship heads for Dubai in November 2008.

A cocktail party was arranged for wives and any Masonic Widows on board and \$1,600 raised for the Captain's charity, RNLI, which serves the entire coastline around Ireland and Britain.



## Masonic Past Pupils Association Dinner

On the 7th March 2008 the Masonic Past Pupils Association dinner took place in Freemasons Hall, Molesworth Street, with 70 past pupils and guests in attendance.

The Masonic Boys School closed its doors in 1980 and it was great to see so many past pupils still attending the annual dinner. For the first time this year there were a number of beneficiaries of the Boys Benefit Fund who also attended the dinner. A great night was had by all.



(L-R) Lawrence Smith, Lee Willdridge (President 2008/2009), Allen Mehaffey and Paul Bradley).