



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



MARCH 2010

The Grand Master's Annual Report 2009



Brethren all,

My Cabinet and I have a special responsibility to promote our Order in the public place. We take every opportunity to do so by appearing in the Media and by making presentations to interested groups, such as Rotary Clubs, Round Tables, Probus Clubs, Church Bodies etc. I recently accepted an invitation from BBC Radio Foyle to an interview on the Sarah Brett Programme and was delighted that Freemasonry and I were well received.

Changing society's perception of our Order will always be difficult as the tide of public opinion will constantly ebb and flow. Our closed-minded protractors may diminish in number but will forever prevail.

As we reflect on the past year, we acknowledge that it is quite unacceptable that we suffer not only from the enemy without but from the enemy within – a circumstance which should never exist if every Freemason remained true to his obligations, practised brotherly love and fully embraced the Laws & Constitutions of our Order.

Successful Lodges are those whose members look forward and enjoy each meeting and each other and are given the opportunity to contribute to problem solving, conferring degrees and so on. It

all tends towards a happy Lodge and retains interest.

As members, we must accentuate the positives and reject the negatives of Freemasonry. We must attract quality candidates or face a decline in both numbers and standards. We must be confident that we will contribute effectively to this challenge and in concert with our peers, confront the problems and develop the solutions to rightly promote and uphold our Order. Strong Lodges will undoubtedly ensure strong Constitutions!

As to the alleged secret character of the organisation it may be appropriate to quote a statement made some years ago by his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of England. He said: "Be it known to you, that we are loyal, true and faithful to the laws of our country ... we have concealed from the eyes of men, secrets which may not be revealed but these secrets are lawful and honourable and not repugnant to the laws of God or man. They were entrusted in peace and honour to the Masons of ancient times, and having been faithfully transmitted to us it is our duty to carry them unimpaired to posterity. Unless our craft were good and our calling honourable we should not have lasted for so many centuries, nor would we have had so many eminent Brethren in our Order".

My activities have been most enjoyable over the past quarter when I visited a number of Lodges and witnessed the excellent working and active commitment given to their growth in membership. Broomhedge Star of the North Lodge No. 335 was a truly exceptional experience on the occasion of their 250 year celebrations and I congratulate them. I had the pleasure of travelling with St. Columb's Lodge No. 640 on a visit to Southport during which I met a number of old acquaintances from the Province of West Lancashire. We attended their Craft Lodge and their Royal Arch Chapter, both No. 640, and were hosted most generously.

In December, I was accompanied by the Provincial Grand Master of Down on an excellent visit to Lodge 79 Newry on its 250th celebrations.

The Grand Secretary and I visited the United Grand Lodge of Germany in

October, during which we had a guided tour to the remains of the Berlin Wall, on an extremely cold day, which caused me to suffer from a most uncomfortable head cold; my movements were restricted for a time because of this: nevertheless, the visit was very successful.

In December, we visited the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, where I was the most senior Grand Master present and was privileged to receive a Patent and Jewel from the Grand Master, gifting me with Honorary Membership of his Grand Lodge.

Being elected to the office of Grand Master is the highest honour to be accorded to any Brother, bringing with it a feeling of personal accomplishment, a renewed sense of duty and a clear indication of one's personal worth. We all consider ourselves members of a prestigious society and our actions should constantly endorse this image; especially the need to give support and leadership to Craft Masonry, the root and substance of our being, without which no associated level can grow or survive.

There is no doubt that we are an organization of mixed loyalties where some members 'give their lot' to one or more Masonic units but not to all. HRH the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, is currently addressing this issue and I wait with interest to hear the outcome. Brethren, I apologise for getting on my 'Soap Box' but the matter raised must surely be resolved.

Lastly brethren, I welcome Grand Lodge's adoption of the custom of reading a synopsis of the 1938 Concordat, made between the Home Constitutions, which makes clear the principles and tenets by which our Constitutions are bound. This document must be read at the Installation Communication of every Lodge so that members will be more aware of their duties in this respect.

Brethren, I am truly honoured to serve you as Grand Master and would thank you all for your friendship and support which you exhibit willingly and unselfishly.

May the Great Architect bless and keep you all.

M. W. Bro. George Dunlop
Grand Master



Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society Millennium Charity Cup 2010

At

KILLYMOON GOLF CLUB – COOKSTOWN

ON

FRIDAY 27TH AUGUST 2010

2010 CHARITIES:

'ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION'

& '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"

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

TELEPHONE No. (028) 70823129

13 CARNEYBAUN DRIVE

MOBILE No. 075 408 62236

PORTRUSH BT56 8JA

EMAIL: noelsimpson589@yahoo.co.uk

GOLF DATES 2010 – for your diary

Competition	Golf Club	Date	Contact
Captain Fyffe Salver - T&F	Killymoon 2:00pm	4 th May	Leslie Graham - (028) 8676 2773
PGL Londonderry & Donegal	Castlerock	6 th May	Raymond Aiken - 07739 419 727
Provincial Priors' Golf Society	Killymoon 9:30am-1:30pm	25 th May	George M J Stewart - (028)79428348, 07793223464
Mourne Cup - T&F	Newtownstewart	9 th June	Harry Friar MBE - (028) 81658237
Armagh Cup - Armagh	Portadown	25 th June	Bobby McDowell - (028) 3883 2630
Ferris Cup - Down	Kilkeel	25 th June	William Andrews - (028) 4062 3780
Grand Master's Millenium Cup	Killymoon	27 th August	Noel Simpson - (028) 7082 3129

Don't forget to visit the Grand Lodge Website at: www.irish-freemasons.org

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. Thomas Hinds	74	Star of the North Masonic Lodge No. 335	Antrim
W.Bro. Wilbert Branyan	64	Baillieborough Masonic Lodge No. 796	Meath
W.Bro. Joseph A Stanley	64	Jubilee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 652	Armagh
W.Bro. William H Martin	63	Jubilee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 652	Armagh
Bro. Thomas Condron	63	Crichton Masonic Lodge No. 204	Tyrone & Fermanagh
V.W.Bro. Herbert A Walsh	61	Jubilee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 652	Armagh
Bro. Joseph Doake	60	Acacia Masonic Lodge No. 24	Armagh
W.Bro. Thomas J Shanks	60	Sidon Masonic Lodge No. 275	Antrim
W.Bro. Harold A Earl	60	Waterford Masonic Lodge No. 5	South Eastern
Bro. William Larmour	60	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 166	Antrim
W.Bro. William A McKee	60	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 396	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Hugh Carson	60	Belfast Volunteers Masonic Lodge No. 439	Antrim
R.W.Bro. Edward T Preston	60	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 79	Down
W.Bro. David McClean	60	Deramore Masonic Lodge No. 290	Down
V.W.Bro. Robert Twinem	60	Wellington Masonic Lodge No. 82	Armagh
W.Bro. Thomas J Davison	60	Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 291	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Herbert V Claythorn	60	City Masonic Lodge No. 686	Down
W.Bro. Harry J Osman	60	Acacia Masonic Lodge No. 225	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Samuel P Spencer	60	Acacia Masonic Lodge No. 225	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Herbert Shecklton	58	Baillieborough Masonic Lodge No. 796	Meath
W.Bro. Robert H B Wright	57	Jubilee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 652	Armagh
W.Bro. John E Corrie	57	Baillieborough Masonic Lodge No. 796	Meath
R.W.Bro. John McLean	55	Social Masonic Lodge No. 136	Down
Bro. Martin Stevenson	54	Jubilee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 652	Armagh
V.W.Bro. Dean Stuart I McGee	52	Tyrawley Masonic Lodge No. 217	North Connaught
W.Bro. George D McSpadden	52	Independent Loyalists Masonic Lodge No. 155	Down
W.Bro. Albert G Parr	50	Baillieborough Masonic Lodge No. 796	Meath
W.Bro. J Caughey	50	Seaforde Masonic Lodge No. 1009	Down
W.Bro. Harry (Henry Paul) Love	50	Fifteenth Lodge	Munster
Bro. Stanley Curran	50	Acacia Masonic Lodge No. 24	Armagh
Bro. James Lappin	50	Union Band Masonic No. 556	Down
W.Bro. John C Mills	50	Ashfield Masonic Lodge No. 795	Meath
W.Bro. James Williams	50	Portaferry Masonic Lodge No. 104	Down
W.Bro. W Arthur Lockhart	50	Anahilt True Blues Masonic Lodge No. 683	Down
W.Bro. Robert F Mills	50	United Services Masonic Lodge No. 215	Midland Counties
Bro. Robert M Kerr	50	Albert Edward Masonic Lodge No. 235	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Frederick D O Fielding	50	Ara Masonic Lodge No. 348	New Zealand
W.Bro. Samuel G Weir	50	Ara Masonic Lodge No. 348	New Zealand
W.Bro. Robert J Hanna	50	Maghera Masonic Lodge No. 42	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Thomas R F Payne	50	Tullamore Masonic Lodge No. 321	Midland Counties
W.Bro. John Fisher	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 77	Down
V.W.Bro. Frank W Harley	50	Neptune Masonic Lodge No. 190	Munster
W.Bro. Robert M McKinney	50	Felicitas Masonic Lodge No. 760	Down
W.Bro. Robert S Whiteford	50	Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216	Antrim
W.Bro. Edmund P McCann	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 286	Down
W.Bro. Richard G Allen	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 122	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. William V C Elliott	50	Jubilee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 652	Armagh
W.Bro. Herbert S Graham	50	Gordon Masonic Lodge No. 780	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Victor Greer	50	Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 366	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. George B Crooks	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 396	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. William J A Oliver	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 352	Armagh
V.W.Bro. Frederick G Thompson	50	Kingstown Masonic Lodge No. 510	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Dawson Bailie	50	Holmlea Masonic Lodge No. 740	Antrim
W.Bro. Meyer Ross	50	Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 11	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. Patrick J E Knowd	50	Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 11	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. Alexander Aicken	50	Farmers' Masonic Lodge No. 1000	Down
W.Bro. Keith K Houston	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 79	Down
Bro. David B Irwin	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 79	Down
W.Bro. John R Bell	50	Independent Loyalists Masonic Lodge No. 155	Down
Bro. John Allen	50	City Masonic Lodge No. 686	Down
W.Bro. Thomas Hunter	50	Cairncastle Masonic Lodge No. 788	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert McNinch	50	Cairncastle Masonic Lodge No. 788	Antrim
W.Bro. William A Holden	50	Cairncastle Masonic Lodge No. 788	Antrim
W.Bro. Walter H Skelton	50	Fitzgibbon Masonic Lodge No. 331	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Robert G McSeveney	50	Magheramorne Masonic Lodge No. 514	Antrim
W.Bro. William J Agnew	50	Magheramorne Masonic Lodge No. 514	Antrim
W.Bro. Johnston S Barrett	50	St. Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 160	Antrim
W.Bro. Alfred Entwistle	50	Woodland Masonic Lodge No. 803	Antrim
W.Bro. James Gillan	50	Kells Masonic Lodge No. 990	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert A Brown	50	Inniskilling Masonic Lodge No. 744	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. James K Thompson	50	Mourne Masonic Lodge No. 823	Tyrone & Fermanagh

Bro. Robert J Anderson	50	Ballymoney Masonic Lodge No. 57	Antrim
W.Bro. John D Nesbitt	50	Scott Masonic Lodge No. 300	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. William Carson	50	Union Star Masonic Lodge No. 198	Down
W.Bro. Arthur D Campbell	50	Maj. Rupert Stanley Memorial No. 831	Antrim
W.Bro. John E Patty	50	Felicitas Masonic Lodge No. 760	Down
W.Bro. Jackson Reynolds	50	Drumcree Masonic Lodge No. 979	Armagh
W.Bro. Richard W Vaughan	50	Drumcree Masonic Lodge No. 979	Armagh
W.Bro. Jack A Bridge	50	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 617	Natal
W.Bro. William J Rainey	50	Royal Larne Masonic Lodge No. 615	Antrim
W.Bro. Humphry T Spencer	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 228	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. Christopher R Bailey	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 228	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. Derek C S Stephens	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 228	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. Joseph N Hyland	50	Dungannon Masonic Lodge No. 185	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Sidney Gilmore	50	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 354	Down
W.Bro. Samuel Erskine	50	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 354	Down
W.Bro. John Glen	50	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 354	Down
W.Bro. William Bailie	50	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 354	Down
W.Bro. William S Hoy	50	J McCandless Memorial Lodge No. 449	Down
W.Bro. Ernest H Nixon	50	Patrick Masonic Lodge No. 493	Antrim
W.Bro. John McCollum	50	Temple Masonic Lodge No. 51	Antrim

Corinthian Masonic Lodge - 100 Years of Masonry

The Lodge warrant was issued on the 7th December 1911; with the first meeting being held on the Newtownards Road Belfast, in the New Year 1912, the first Master elected was Bro. H T Downs. The Arthur Square location has been a meeting place for Masonry since the first week in August 1870, and it was to here the Corinthian Lodge moved, in September 1930, where it has remained ever since; with the exception of a period of two years, 2005 to 2007, when it was relocated in Rosemary Street, during the period of a total renovation of the Arthur Square Hall.



To the best of our recollection our Lodge is one of only a few, in Ireland, which meet during the day. Meetings being held at 1 o'clock on the Third Wednesday of each Month (with the exception of the Summer Months)

Traditionally, Corinthian No. 340 has been known as the Entertainment Lodge, as members were, and still are, employed in Management and as Performers in the Cinemas, Theatres and the Club Circuit, throughout the Province, and abroad; in addition to Television and Radio. Many, indeed were household names. This tradition has been maintained until the present day, as evidenced at the annual Festive Board, with numerous entertainers, giving of their time and talent.

Sadly, many of the entertainment venues, had become fewer than some three decades ago. Fortunately though, many new venues are again available, and the Club Scene is continuing to grow, with a plethora of Talent, old and new.

Historically, as the Entertainment Lodge, we are fortunate, that numerous of those personalities still remain, as friends and members of 340, who still work and give pleasure to many, in these new settings, as the entertainment industry continues to develop throughout Belfast, Ireland and elsewhere.

The Daytime meetings remain popular and convenient for those Brethren who are Retired, working within the Entertainment or Transportation Industries and other fields of endeavour, which may allow them an hour or so in the middle of the day, to attend the Corinthian Lodge No. 340. Any member of the Order will be cordially welcomed, should they care to attend our meetings and informal post meeting Festive Boards.

Peace, Love and Harmony Prevails
Worshipful Master, V.W.Bro. Alan Crowe
Secretary: W.Bro. J Penman
Research and Photography.
W.Bro. W J Dill BEM

"Well in the Swim"

Two recent 3000 metre sponsored swims in Coleraine have raised a combined total of £10,000 for Masonic Charitable causes. The first, 2 years ago, raising £6,600 towards the Londonderry & Donegal Provincial Grand Lodge Welfare Fund and the second, more recently, producing £3,500 in aid of the Grand Master's Festival of Charity. The participant was V.W.Bro. Christopher Thompson, a member of Aghadowey Masonic Lodge No. 316 and Old Portora Masonic Lodge No. 859.

W.Bro. I J Reilly Secretary

A first for Francis Crossle Lodge No. 83 & Irish Freemasonry

Lodge history was made at the 2010 Installation Dinner of Francis Crossle Lodge No. 83 when W.Bro. Noel Magowan was installed as Worshipful Master, by his grandson W.Bro. Robert McCready.

The Province of Down was represented at the Installation Dinner by R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley (Provincial Deputy Grand Master) and R.W.Bro. Robert McMurray (Provincial Assistant Grand Master).

R.W.Bro. R McCurley; W.Bro. N Magowan; W.Bro. R McCready & R.W.Bro. R McMurray



Broomhedge Star of the North, Celebrates 250 Years

The year 2009 saw the 250th Anniversary of the issuing of the Warrant for Lodge No. 335 with celebrations taking the form of four major events throughout the year and which had been the result of five years of planning by a Committee known as "The 2009 Committee". Various events took place during the year raising funds for both Masonic and non Masonic Charities. They included:

Lisburn and District Charity Committee
A Church Service was held in the local Parish Church at St Matthews' Broomhedge, a Service which was well attended with the collection amounting to £1,400.

A Civic Reception in the Lisburn Civic Centre, hosted by the Mayor of Lisburn Councillor Ronnie Crawford. The Mayor was presented with a cheque for £250 towards his nominated charity and also received a pair of suitably inscribed goblets from the Lodge.

The Lodge held a 250th Anniversary Emergency Communication in the Belsize Road Masonic Hall in recognition that its warrant had been issued on 4th October 1759. A well attended event with 132 Brethren signing the Attendance Book and a total of 145 sitting down to the Festive Board.

Those present included The M. W. Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop; R.W.Bro. John Dunlop, R.W. Prov. Grand Master of Antrim and his Deputy, R.W. Bro. Dennis Millen. During the meeting the M.W. Grand Master presented each member of the Lodge with the 250th Anniversary Jewel which had been struck for the occasion and in return was himself presented with one of the Jewels by the W. Master, W.Bro. M McCrea, as a memento of the evening. A most successful evening was enjoyed by all present and was a credit to the Committee. The collection for Masonic Charities again raised the magnificent sum of approximately £1100 Gift Aided and £300 in non-Gift Aid donations.



W. Master, W.Bro. M McCrea & The M.W. Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, at Broomhedge Star of The North No. 335, 250th Anniversary Festive Board, 2nd October 2009

A Ladies Night Dinner and Dance was held in Lisnagarvey Hockey Club premises at Hillsborough Co. Down, with a total of 111 members, wives and friends enjoying another excellent evening. The Tombola stall raised the sum of £670 from presents and gifts donated by the Lodge members.

In addition to these events, V.W.Bro. H E Hayes, a Past master of the Lodge, undertook the enormous task of researching the Lodge history and after many months of diligent work produced a 136 page booklet entitled **"The Light That Still Shines Brightly"** copies of which are still available to Brethren direct from The Lodge.

Ardmore supports Motor Neuron Disease Association

The Worshipful Master of Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835, Saintfield, W.Bro. H A T Wade is seen here presenting a cheque for £2,500 to Mr. Stephen Thompson, a representative of the charity, Motor Neuron Disease Association. The money was raised when members of the Lodge held a Table Quiz and a Golf Competition to raise money for the charity. Also included in the photograph are W.Bros. S C McFarland, R S McClenaghan, R S Murphy and H Mannis.



Union Band 336 Celebrates 250 years

The Officers and members of Union Band No. 336 Banbridge had a hectic schedule the first weekend in October when they celebrated 250 years of continuous working. Prior to dining guests were entertained by Harpists playing in the Hotel Foyer. On Friday evening the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Bill Montgomery, his special guests R.W.Bro. Ian Ritchie and R.W.Bro. Canon Harry Trimble and the Officers and Members of 336 were piped in the Belmont Hotel by Piper Gary McDonald. The Worshipful Master welcomed 200 people to the celebration ball. The Guests included a number of Brethren and their wives from England and the Republic of Ireland.

On Saturday afternoon at 4.00pm the monthly meeting of the Lodge convened. The meeting was well attended. It included ten visitors from English Lodges and from Lodges in the Republic of Ireland as well as visitors from neighbouring Lodges and Provincial Lodge Officers. The Lodge Degree Team then exemplified the Fellowcraft Degree. The Degree Team consisted of W.Bros. Jim Elder, Brian Moore, Graham Middleton and Bill Montgomery.

On Saturday evening a large number attended a stew night in the Club at the Masonic Institute.

On Sunday 4th October, 2009 a well attended Church Service was held in St. Patrick's Parish Church next door to the Institute. The warrant was issued on 4th

October 1759. This service was conducted by the Rector Ven. W J Scott B.A. assisted by R.W.Bro. Canon Dr. K W Cochrane, past Provincial Assistant Grand Master of Down. The Preacher was R.W.Bro. Canon T H Trimble B.T.H. Provincial Grand Chaplain of Tyrone & Fermanagh, a past member of 336. The Church Choir was under the direction of the Organist Dr. S Timpany A.R.C.O. Readings were by R.W.Bro. R H Gray, Provincial Grand Master of Down and M.E.C. K Abernethy, District Grand King

of the Royal Arch Chapter of Down. Brethren were invited to afternoon tea in the Church Hall by W Bro Bill Montgomery, the Worshipful Master.

The administrative arrangements for the weekend celebrations were carried out by the Secretary of 336, W.Bro. Brian Moore and the organisational arrangements were in the capable hands of the Treasurer W.Bro. Arthur Kerrigan.



(L-R) Archdeacon Rev. John Scott; R.W.Bro. Canon Harry Trimble; W.Bro. D Sayer, Ellery Park Lodge, Cheshire; W.Bro. R Claydon, Agincourt 7172 Surrey; W.Bro. W Montgomery (W.M. 336); Bro. D Nix, Agincourt 7172 Surrey; R.W.Bro. Richard H Gray P.G.M. Down; R.W.Bro. Canon Kenneth Cochrane P.P.A.G.M.; W.Bro. G Middleton, Chaplain 336; W.Bro. B Moore, Secretary 336 and W.Bro. A Kerrigan, Treasurer 336.

In 2004, Cappagh Masonic Lodge No. 350 (Omagh) launched its May Charity Barbeque to raise much needed cash for local good causes. The nominated charity for each year must have a definite Lodge connection, sadly to reflect the particular experiences and circumstances of a Lodge member and his family. After just six years, the running total now exceeds £7,000, and despite the current recession, a record £2,000 was raised this year, for the Omagh Branch of the Alzheimer's Association.

The cheque was received on behalf of the Charity by its local Treasurer, John Hall, who in turn presented the Brethren with a "Certificate of Thanks" to display in the Lodge. A special vote thanks is due to Daryl Simpson of "Celtic Tenors" fame, who was a guest at the BBQ, and was instrumental in helping the Lodge raise such a magnificent amount for a Charity, which unfortunately now affects so many.

RECORD CHARITY in 2009 for CAPPAGH 350



Back row: W.Bro. F Breen, Bro. K Preston, Bro. W Wilson, W.Bro. W Young, W.Bro. D Ferguson, W.Bro. S Wilson.
Front row: W.Bro. E Thompson W.M., J Hall (Treasurer of the Alzheimers' Association Omagh), Bro. L Stewart.

Magherafelt Masonic Club supports CHARIS

On 12th October 2009, members of Magherafelt Masonic Club attended at the new Charis Centre, Lough Fea, Cookstown, where the chairman, W.Bro. Brian Campton handed over a cheque for £1,200 (Proceeds of the Annual Bar-B-Cue and Treasure Hunt) to Mr Jim Beattie and Mr Jariath Conway, Charis Trustees.

The Masonic Brethren had a conducted tour of the centre by Mrs Valerie Beattie and were afterwards entertained to tea.

Charis is the name of Mid Ulster's first integrated Cancer Centre, a place to help people living with cancer, and their families with all aspects of the illness.

W.Bro. Brian Campton handing cheque to Mr Jim Beattie & Mr Jariath Conway.



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR LESLIE J THOMPSON LODGE NO. 61

There was a celebrity turnout at the 2009 Installation of Officers of Leslie J Thompson Lodge No. 61 in the Province of Down.

At the same time there was a double celebration for the incoming Master of Lodge No. 61, W.Bro. James Mullan. Marking W.Bro. Mullan's election this year as the Provincial Grand Junior Deacon, Lodge 61 accorded him the honour of being Worshipful Master of his Mother Lodge for the second time.

There are strong family ties within Lodge 61, which was founded in 1891. Present for W.Bro. Mullan's installation was his brother, W.Bro. David Mullan Jr., a former member of the Lodge. His father, the late W.Bro. David Mullan Snr., also a former member of Lodge 61, was well known in Masonic circles throughout counties Antrim and Down.

W. Bro. Mullan was installed by W.Bro. Alan Gregg, Lodge Secretary. It was the first time in over 30 years that a Lodge member had installed the Worshipful Master.

At the Installation in Newtownard's Road Hall, Lodge 61 had the honour of receiving among its many guests, a group of 12 Brethren from Mother Lodge 0, Kilwinning, Scotland, led by R.W.Bro. David Bloomfield, Provincial Grand Master of the R.W. Provincial Grand

Lodge of Kilwinning.

Also in attendance to assist in receiving and welcoming R.W.Bro. Bloomfield, was R.W.Bro. Alan Stewart, Provincial Assistant Grand Master of Down, who at the request of the outgoing W.Master, W.Bro. Christopher Moore, occupied the Chair for a short time.

W.Bro. Moore said Lodge 61 was

Kilwinning Mother Lodge 0 and a number of Brethren of each Lodge are Honorary Members of the respective Lodges. It is a close association going back more than 25 years, with Brethren attending each other's installation ceremonies each year.



privileged and honoured to welcome all guests, including the Distinguished Brethren. He added that he was delighted with the support given to him by the permanent Lodge Officers, Treasurer W.Bro. J E Cains, Secretary W.Bo. Alan Gregg and DoC W.Bro. Albert Rankin.

For the record, Lodge 61 is twinned with

(L-R) W.Bro. David Bloomfield, R.W. Provincial Grand Master of R.W. Grand Lodge of Kilwinning, Ayrshire, Scotland; W.Bro. James Mullan, W.M. of Leslie J Thompson Lodge 61 and R.W.Bro. Alan Stewart, PAGM of Down.



UK-IRELAND - 1ST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Michael Baigent and Bob Cooper To Speak at Masonic Society Symposium London Friday 28th and Saturday 29th May 2010

To celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the Royal Society in 2010, The Masonic Society, in conjunction with Library and Museum of Freemasonry, will hold their 1st Annual UK -Ireland Symposium in London on Friday and Saturday 28th / 29th May.

On November 28th 1660, just months after the restoration of King Charles II, a select group of eminent scientist met to form 'The Royal Society'. Their intention was to remove such limitations as language barriers in the scientific community and awaken the world to a new form of forward thinking science. This was meant to encourage the young men of the time to search for answers to many questions they had previously been afraid to ask.

Now, nearly 350 years later, another group of men met to form an organisation with the aim of researching Freemasonry: The Masonic Society. The name, deliberately chosen, alludes to the Royal Society and the visionary men, many of whom

were Freemasons, who were at the forefront of the Age of Enlightenment. The Masonic Society has plans to be at the forefront of a new age of Freemasonry.

This first Symposium being held in England will have as its theme 'The Royal Society'. The two selected speakers are well known historians: Michael Baigent (The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail, The Dead Sea Scrolls Deception) will present 'Aspects of the Royal Society' followed by questions and answers and a complimentary lunch. The second speaker Robert L D Cooper (The Masonic Magician: The Life and Death of Count Cagliostro and His Egyptian Rite, The Rosslyn Hoax) will talk on 'A Scottish View of the Foundation of the Royal Society'. The afternoon will end with a second session of questions and answers.

The whole day symposium will be preceded on the Friday by a private guided tour of their exhibition 'Freemasons and the Royal Society'

(meet in the first floor lounge Freemasons Hall 4:00pm). This will be the last date of the exhibition which is being held between January 11th and May 28th 2010. The evening will end with an informal dinner and drinks at the popular Prince of Wales tavern on the corner of Great Queen Street.

The following day the symposium will move to the Kensal Community Centre (177 Kensal Road London W10 5BJ) where our talks for the day will be presented, each session followed by questions and answers. Delegates will be invited to a complimentary lunch. The total registration cost for the Saturday event is £10.00 inclusive of lunch. The organising committee consists of Yasha Beresiner(E.C.) (Chairman) David Naughton-Shires(I.C.) (Secretary) and Martyn Greene(S.C.) (Treasurer)

A place at the symposium can be booked by downloading the application form at

<http://masonic-ae.com/tms>

MILITARY FREEMASONRY

A recent article in Grand Lodge News highlighted Lodge 888 in the Armagh Militia. The Irish militia was re-established in 1793 to counter the threat of French invasion or internal unrest, and it consisted of 38 regiments of infantry, one for each county or county borough in Ireland. Officers came from the land owning classes, the soldiers from their tenants selected by ballot – a form of conscription. However, probably most militiamen were volunteers. The regiments served full-time from 1793 to 1816 with two very short breaks in 1802 and 1815. Many of these regiments had Masonic Lodges such as that described for the Armagh Militia.

One of these was Ark Lodge X. The original warrant for this Lodge was issued to the Louth Regiment of Militia in 1809. At that time the regiment had 36 officers and 920 men divided into nine companies. The Colonel of the regiment was Thomas Foster, son of John Foster, last speaker of the old Irish House of

Commons, abolished in 1801, something which, incidentally, Foster had opposed. The family lived at Collon in County Louth.

On 5th May 1809, a warrant was issued to George S. Eccleston, George Patten, and Andrew Thompson to form a Lodge in the regiment. George Shiels Eccleston was a Captain in command of No. 4 Company – companies were commanded by Captains in those days. George Patten was the Sergeant-Major. There was no Regimental Sergeant Major rank then but there was only one Sergeant-Major so this is in effect the rank held by George Patten. Patten was in the 'Colonel's company' commanded by Captain Anthony Brabazon of the well-known Louth family, and Andrew Thompson was in the Lieutenant - Colonel's company which was commanded by Captain Charles Adams.

The regiment had a first class reputation. Colonel Foster 'was a better soldier than politician' said Lord Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant, 1793-1801. It was stood down in 1816. By that time, Captain

Eccleston had left the regiment, Sergeant-Major Patten had retired in 1815, but Sergeant Thompson was still serving and was stationed in Collon.

After 1816 the Lodge became a civil one, sitting in Collon until the warrant was surrendered in 1849. By that time the Colonel of the regiment was Lord Bellew, and he had an Adjutant, a Sergeant - Major, and two Sergeants to command. The HQ was in Dunleer. In effect the Irish Militia existed only in small cadre form from 1816 to 1854.

On 20th February 1849 warrant No X was granted to Thomas Reade, Charles Duffin, and Richard Davison to establish a new Lodge in Belfast. In 1877 Ark Lodge X managed to acquire the jewels of the original Lodge X in the Louth Militia from an 'old man in Collon', and these jewels are in use today. Who was the 'old man in Collon'? Was he a descendant of Sergeant Thompson? We do not know but perhaps in the fullness of time we will find out.

Bro. I F Nelson, Lodge X