



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



MARCH 2012

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS – ST. JOHN'S DAY 27TH DECEMBER 2011



Since our last communication I have been as busy as ever in which I, once again, had the great pleasure of involving myself with the excellent and very successful 'Young Musician of the Year Competition'. This Competition has been truly embedded in our outward activities and I would especially thank R.W.Bro. John Keeley and his team for the wonderful commitment which they make to its success.

Our activities in the public place must be continued, if not expanded, to demonstrate to the public that we are not an inward-looking organisation, emphasising that we are not a threat to society but rather a private body which cares for the welfare of mankind.

The young musicians who take part are greatly helped to expand their experience and skills in a way which builds their confidence by performing to our audiences and, if winners, playing with the various orchestras in Ireland and the UK. Already, some of our competitors have been elevated to great heights through exposure to larger audiences and through demonstrating their talents and impressing the various talent scouts who are forever seeking new blood and undoubted skills.

I look forward with much eagerness to next year's competition in the knowledge that we are on the right track from which much credibility will emerge.

I presented a number of 50 year medals and certificates this year and was enthralled by the stories of these elderly Freemasons, whose recollections were most interesting and whose love and commitment to our Order was undoubted. May God bless them all in the autumn of their lives and may the great God comfort them at all times.

Our exposure to society through radio and television is an avenue which we must not ignore as there are many benefits to gain. We cannot lock ourselves behind closed doors and expect to gain public trust yet we must educate ourselves as to 'what freemasonry is all about' and to how we can communicate as individuals and convince the public that we are a force for good. Time will tell!

On 30th October, I had the privilege of a radio interview on Sunday Sequence with Rev. William Clark, which was heard by many, including Masons and Non-Masons for which I received much commendation. Other interviews are currently being arranged for the near future and I would appreciate your comments be they good or bad.

On 5th November I attended the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal at which I was well received.

R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley and I were invited to Stormont where the Samaritans of Ireland had organised a reception to promote help for their Society. We were present because Irish Freemasons had raised £600,000 of which £200,000 was given to the Samaritan Society through the Grand Master's Charity.

Much credit was gained by our Order, which pleased us very much, even though they were hoping to receive a further donation. The Grand Master's Charity is planned on a five year cycle approximately, during which we try to focus on new recipients who need genuine assistance. Any recipient must wait for a reasonable cycle of time before they can secure more funding from the Grand Master's Charity which only succeeds by the deeds of the Brethren who commit themselves wholly to its success.

The Grand Secretary and I visited the Grand Lodge of Luxembourg on 11th to 13th November and were treated very well. Their working was quite different to ours and English was only spoken when we socialised with the Brethren.

On 23rd November, I visited the Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone & Fermanagh in Cookstown and had the pleasure of installing R.W.Bro. Norman Humes as P.D.G.M. and R.W.Bro. Maurice Lee as P.A.G.M. The communication was most enjoyable and there was a significant number of Brethren present in support of the promoted Brethren including my Deputy Grand Master who was giving his support.

The 24th November was a tremendous day when my Deputy and I attended the official opening of Virginia Home in Co. Cavan. I had a complete tour of the premises, which impressed me significantly and the senior members of the staff truly deserved the compliments which were accorded to them.

I was involved in the official opening and had the pleasure of cutting the tape and making a short speech in conjunction with V.Wor.Bro. David Young, Chairman completing the task. It was nice to have a mixed population which added a special aura to the event.

In early December I visited Groomsport Lodge No. 337 accompanied by the A.G.M. Designate where it was a pleasure to sit in the premises in their 100th Anniversary Year. Their Hall belongs to the local church but the Lodge has a legal arrangement by which they have use of specific rooms each time they hold their stated Communications. They have excellent accommodation and are able to store Lodge furniture in a separate room which is brought out for each meeting.

I visited Loughbrickland Lodge No. 173 on 14th December and enjoyed every minute of it. I was lifted and laid by V.Wor.Bro. John McKinstry and appreciated very much the help he gave me.

Following the Festive Board, I arose from my chair when my left knee locked and gave me much pain. Knowing that I would be having the knee replaced on 28th December I decided to return to my hotel rather than socialise into the late hours. I will be out of commission for 2 or 3 months but trust that all will go well and that an early release will occur.

Thank you all for your support and kindness and may 2012 be a special year for all.

God Bless.

M.W.Bro. George Dunlop
Grand Master

INTRODUCING THE NEW ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER

At the October Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master announced the appointment of R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley as the new Assistant Grand Master

Born in the East end of Belfast, Rodney spent the first 4 years of his life living on the Castlereagh Road, prior to moving to West Belfast, where he was educated at Springfield Public Elementary School. "Life was very different then, sixty years ago. My grandfather was in World War 1 and lived in Earl Craig Crescent and my father was in World War 2 and after the war his work took us to the other side of the city." Remembers Rodney.

At the age of sixteen Rodney went to work for a computer manufacturing company known as TAB, "It wasn't what I wanted to do and I knew I could never work in a factory, that wasn't my nature, but in those days if you got work you took it." The following year saw a career change he was really looking for and he joined the General Post Office as an apprentice engineer. Staying with the General Post Office throughout his whole working life as it went onto be a public corporation before finally being sold off as British Telecom in the 1980's; he progressed through to management within the organisation, retiring in 2002.

Rodney married his wife Mary and moved to Glengormley. In 1974 his father-in-law introduced him into Freemasonry, Abercorn Masonic Lodge No. 114, in Newtownards Road. There wasn't any previous family tradition of Freemasonry in Rodney's family, so the experience was new to him. Although Mary had grown up knowing the routine and adapted successfully to Rodney's Masonic Career. Being nominated for Provincial honours by his Lodge, Rodney took the office of Provincial Grand Lodge Sword Bearer in 1992; following that, he went onto become a Lodge Inspector, which he enjoyed thoroughly. Serving as a Lodge Inspector, Rodney was approached to become Provincial Grand Lodge Secretary in 2000; before progressing to Provincial Assistant Grand Master in 2006. Then in 2008, when Richard Gray was promoted to Provincial Grand Master, Rodney was invited to become Provincial Deputy Grand Master.

The week following the funeral of the past Assistant Grand Master, Rodney was preparing to make a trip to Chicago to visit his son,

when he received the call from the Grand Master to ask him to become the next Assistant Grand Master.

"After getting up from the floor, I asked if I could take time to think it over and give a response following my holiday. I always like to be sure I'm doing the right thing and don't like to take a job without knowing what it entails. Ambition is not the driving force of my Masonic career, being useful and competent are much more important." Added Rodney.

On being asked what he considered to be a highlight of his life within Freemasonry, he said that it was probably the Grand Master's Festival. Raising £600,000 for charity, by the Brethren was a tremendous achievement and being a part of that was a privilege. Continuing the work with the Charities as Assistant Grand Master is something he shall relish and is looking forward to.

The new Assistant Grand Master was installed at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin on St. Johns Day, following which he will visit his Mother Lodge in Newtownards Road, before beginning any other of his official duties, for which we wish him health and happiness.



May Ball

Saturday 12th May, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Dance the night away to the big band sound
and swing music of the Belfast Jazz Orchestra
Followed by 'The Usual Suspects'

A hot fork supper will be served in the Long Gallery

Bring along guests who may be interested in Freemasonry

All proceeds are in favour of Marie Currie Cancer Care

Price £50 each – to include ballot purchase

Contact:- James Wilson 07734 926969

Craig Wilson 07800 794103

Black Tie – Carriages at 12.00



The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2012



Patrons:

Jane Carty
Dearbhla Collins
Eamonn Lawlor
John Rowden

Supported by:

RTÉ lyric fm

Freemasons' Hall
17 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2

Semi-finals

Thursday October 11th 1:30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Final & Prizegiving by The Grand Master
Saturday, October 13th 7.30 p.m.

Sunday Business Post—October 2011

**‘a superb competition of
very high standard’**

The semi-finalists, selected by Music Colleges from the cream of their students throughout Ireland, compete before an International Jury to win the title of 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2012'

Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

Tickets on Sale September 3rd

Tickets : Each Semi-final €5, Final €10 available from the Porter's Lodge at Freemasons' Hall. Tickets *may* also be available at the door on the night but this is not guaranteed as accommodation is limited.

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.

Name	Years	Lodge	Province
Bro. Robert G. Deering	70 years	Tyrian Masonic Lodge No. 182	Antrim
W. Bro. Andrew K. Adams	70 years	Ashfield Masonic Lodge No. 795	Meath
W. Bro. William D. Johnston	65 years	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 586	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Hastings Finlay	60 years	Clough Masonic Lodge No. 574	Antrim
Bro. John R. Cumming	60 years	Regent Masonic Lodge No. 596	Down
Bro. James W. McKay	60 years	Clough Masonic Lodge No. 574	Antrim
Bro. William A. Irwin	60 years	Energy Masonic Lodge No. 187	N. Connaught
R. W. Bro. Arnold J. Cooke	60 years	Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 141	Metropolitan
V. W. Bro. John N. Rowden	60 years	Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 141	Mertroploitan
W. Bro. Gilbert R. Kirkwood	60 years	Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 513	Antrim
W. Bro. John E. Corrie	60 years	Bailieborough Masonic Lodge No. 796	Meath
W. Bro. Robert C. Greer	60 years	Ancient Blue Masonic Lodge No. 537	Antrim
W. Bro. Henry M. Murphy	60 years	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 121	Antrim
W. Bro. James McVicker	60 years	Clough Masonic Lodge No. 574	Antrim
W. Bro. John McMurtry	60 years	Raloo Masonic Lodge No. 175	Antrim
W. Bro. William N. Owens	60 years	McCammon Masonic Lodge No. 221	Down
W. Bro. John McCully	60 years	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 555	Munster
W. Bro. John McVey	60 years	Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216	Antrim
W. Bro. Victor A. Boyd	60 years	Samuel Berkeley Memorial Lodge No. 725	Down
W. Bro. William G. Clendenning	60 years	Edgeworth Masonic Lodge No. 76	Meath
Bro. Alexander McMullan	50 years	Ballintoy Masonic Lodge No. 38	Antrim
Bro. Charles L. Russell	50 years	Irvinestown Masonic Lodge No. 277	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Donald McC. MacArthur	50 years	McCammon Crozier Lodge No. 497	Down
Bro. George C. Hutchinson	50 years	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 178	Antrim
Bro. Herbert Stewart	50 years	Ballintoy Masonic Lodge No. 38	Antrim
Bro. John H. Greer	50 years	Mount Masonic Lodge No. 358	Down
Bro. John McQuoid	50 years	Ulster Star Masonic Lodge No. 133	Down
Bro. Cecil McMullan	50 years	Dromara Masonic Lodge No. 498	Down
Bro. Collen R. Megaw	50 years	Border Masonic Lodge No. 482	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. David H. Robinson	50 years	Crichton Masonic Lodge No. 204	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Francis G.C. Bamford	50 years	Hiram's Ancient Band Lodge No. 103	Antrim
Bro. John McN. Steenson	50 years	McCammon Crozier Lodge No. 497	Down
Bro. Robert D. Glenn	50 years	Ederney Masonic Lodge No. 819	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Robert McMurray	50 years	Ulster Star Masonic Lodge No. 133	Down
Bro. Thomas W. Doonan	50 years	Crichton Masonic Lodge No. 204	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W. Bro. George Johnston	50 years	Killeshandra Masonic Lodge No. 310	Meath
W. Bro. Robert J. T. Beattie	50 years	Scott Masonic Lodge No. 300	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W. Bro. Edward Hayes	50 years	Union Band Masonic Lodge No. 35	Down
W. Bro. Norman S. Allen	50 years	Ensor Masonic Lodge No. 625	Armagh
W. Bro. William H.J. Knox	50 years	Broughshane Masonic Lodge No. 246	Antrim
W. Bro. Albert Dickson	50 years	Anchor Masonic Lodge No. 128	Antrim
W. Bro. Andrew D. Gamble	50 years	Ramelto Old Masonic Lodge No. 407	Londonderry & Donegal
W. Bro. Brian J. Andrews	50 years	Ballynahinch Masonic Lodge No. 301	Down
W. Bro. Caldwell O. McClaughry	50 years	Ederney Masonic Lodge No. 819	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W. Bro. Charles W. Reid	50 years	Hugh Wallace Masonic Lodge No. 584	Armagh
W. Bro. David Bell	50 years	Maze Masonic Lodge No. 356	Down
W. Bro. Edmund R. Brown	50 years	Ballynahinch Masonic Lodge No. 301	Down
W. Bro. George A.V. Laughlin	50 years	Gortin Masonic Lodge No. 994	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W. Bro. George Graham	50 years	Morning Star Masonic Lodge No. 193	Down
W. Bro. Harold M. Proctor	50 years	St. Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 142	Down
W. Bro. Ian P.C.H. Workman	50 years	County Masonic Lodge No. 381	Down
W. Bro. James M. McKelvey	50 years	Olive Branch Masonic Lodge No. 599	Antrim
W. Bro. James Megraw	50 years	Ulster Star Masonic Lodge No. 133	Down
W. Bro. John C. Houston	50 years	County Masonic Lodge No. 381	Down
W. Bro. John C. Miller	50 years	Garrison Masonic Lodge No. 730	Down
W. Bro. John M. Hudson	50 years	Kingstown Masonic Lodge No. 510	Metropolitan
W. Bro. John S.R. Harcourt	50 years	County Masonic Lodge No. 381	Metropolitan
W. Bro. Joseph Ferguson	50 years	Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 341	Down
W. Bro. Matthew Moody	50 years	Garvagh Masonic Lodge No. 779	Londonderry & Donegal
W. Bro. Maurice Murray	50 years	Polytechnic Masonic Lodge No. 756	Londonderry & Donegal
W. Bro. Robert J. Madden	50 years	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 706	Down
W. Bro. Robert Lenaghan	50 years	Abbey Masonic Lodge No. 180	Antrim
W. Bro. William J. Hanna	50 years	Sharman Crawford Masonic Lodge No. 403	Antrim
W. Bro. William N.C. Castles	50 years	Stewartstown Masonic Lodge No. 783	Down
W. Bro. William Stanfield	50 years	Cherryville Masonic Lodge No. 695	Antrim
W. Bro. Charles R.W. Bell	50 years	Seagoe Masonic Lodge No. 851	Down
W. Bro. Edward D. Gilpin	50 years	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 811	Armagh
W. Bro. Ernest Flack	50 years	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 645	Antrim
W. Bro. George C. Bleakley	50 years	King Harman Masonic Lodge No. 65	Antrim
W. Bro. Ian C. Henderson	50 years	Queen's University Masonic Lodge No. 533	Meath
W. Bro. James D. Francey	50 years	Oldstone Masonic Lodge No. 56	Antrim
W. Bro. John Marshall	50 years	Cairncastle Masonic Lodge No. 788	Antrim
W. Bro. Mervyn H. Jackson	50 years	Meredith Whitla Masonic Lodge No. 55	Armagh
W. Bro. Robert E. Lowry	50 years	Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
W. Bro. Robert V. Breakey	50 years	Meredith Whitla Masonic Lodge No. 55	Armagh
W. Bro. William E. Davison	50 years	Francis Crossle Masonic Lodge No. 83	Down
W. Bro. William H. Turner	50 years	Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 366	Londonderry & Donegal
W. Bro. William McMillan	50 years	Francis Crossle Masonic Lodge No. 83	Down



Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society

Millennium Charity Cup 2012

At

KILLYMOON GOLF CLUB – COOKSTOWN

ON

FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST 2012

2012 CHARITIES:

**'THE NORTH WEST HOSPICE'
& '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) 70823 129

13 CARNEYBAUN DRIVE

MOBILE No. 075 408 62236

PORTRUSH BT56 8JA

EMAIL: noelsimpson589@yahoo.co.uk

GOLF DATES 2012 – for your diary

Competition	Golf Club	Date	Contact
PGL Londonderry & Donegal	Castlerock	28 th April	Raymond Aiken - 07739 419 727
Captain Fyffe Salver - T&F	Enniskillen 2:00p.m.	10 th May	Albert Warwick(028) 86764187
Antrim Provincial Cup	Ballycastle	18 th May	Robert Wilson 07813 682 234
Provincial Priorities' Golf Society	Killymoon 9:30am-1:30pm	29 th May	George M J Stewart (028) 7942 8348, 07793 223 464
Mourne Cup – T&F	Newtownstewart	6 th June	Harry Friar MBE - (028) 8165 8237
Ferris Cup - Down	Tandragee G C	22 nd June	Joe Berry (028) 3026 9334
Armagh Cup – Armagh	Portadown	22 nd June	Bobby McDowell (028) 3884 2630
Grand Master's Millenium Cup	Killymoon	24 th August	Noel Simpson - (028) 7082 3129, 07724 484 937

PEACE LOVE & HARMONY MASONIC LODGE 684 ON THEIR VISIT TO THE RUC GC MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Worshipful Master and Brethren of Peace Love & Harmony Masonic Lodge 684 on their visit to the RUC GC Memorial Garden at Police Headquarters, Belfast. Following their visit the Brethren and the Lodge made a donation of £100 to the RUC GC Widows Fund.



HARMONY

Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 723 presents a cheque for £1,000 to R.W.Bro. John Clarke P.A.G.M. of Down, as Chairman of the Margaret Elizabeth Daniels Respite Fund. The money was raised as the result of a Pig Roast and Dance. Thanks to all who so generously supported the night.

Right: W.Bro. Ivan Chambers J.W.; W.Bro. David Meeke W.M.; R.W.Bro. John Clarke P.A.G.M.; W.Bro. Ashley Brown S.W.



SUNBEAM MASONIC LODGE'S 3 DEGREES

Sitting in Bishop Street, Londonderry, Sunbeam Masonic Lodge No. 191 have amongst them Brethren extraordinary. Brother Roy Alcorn was originally invited to join Freemasonry by a friend some 20 years ago. However it wasn't until 2006 that he eventually said yes and was then raised to a Master Mason in 2007. Roy became instantly fascinated by the degrees he received and began to learn them. Just 3 months after being raised, Roy gave his first Entered Apprentice Degree. He went on to invite his younger brother Norman to join the Lodge and game him all of his degrees. Norman too became interested in the work of degrees and is now doing degrees himself. When the youngest of the brothers, Noel joined the Lodge, the 2 older brothers shared the degrees between them. They are now at a stage that all 3 brothers are taking part in degree work. What is even more extraordinary is that none of the boys have yet been through the chair. Sunbeam's Installation will take place in March when Bro. Roy will be installed into the chair, whilst Norman will become Junior Warden and Noel, Inner Guard.



Brothers Norman Alcorn, Noel Alcorn and Roy Alcorn

CHICHESTER MASONIC LODGE 506, MAGHERAFELT

Brethren of Chichester Masonic Lodge 506 from Magherafelt held a quiz night and buffet in order to raise funds for 2 local charities. Supported by other local Masonic Lodges and Officers from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal, the Lodge raised £1,050 and was able to present a cheque for £500 to Emergency Medical Services of Magherafelt. Started in 1992, the charity was to teach first-aid to members of the public. Next year it is hoping to celebrate its twentieth birthday with the purchase of an ambulance. A second cheque of £550 was presented to the charity Londonderry Orphans. This charity has been running for 39 years and is currently supporting 22 orphans. Accepting the cheque on behalf of the charity, The Rev. McClain said, "All donations are greatly appreciated and it is very heart warming in these lean times. The charity provides educational items for a range of age groups; from school uniforms through to books for university. This money shall be put to very good use."



Worshipful Master Jim McGookin presenting cheque to Ven. Archdeacon Rev. McClain

Freemasons' Ulster Fry for Macmillan Nurses & N. I. Children's Hospice

In November of last year, 11 Masonic Lodges from the North Antrim Coastal Area came together to raise much needed funds for Macmillan Nurses and N.I. Children's Hospice. The Freemasons arranged a community breakfast at the Bayview Hotel, Portballintrae. This, the third year in which the event has taken place has become a regular event, with many local business' now adding their support. Cheques of £1,100 each were given to the two Charities, at a recent presentation morning. Anna White who received the cheque on behalf of the Macmillan Nurses Charity, told of the new cancer unit that had been built at the Antrim Area Hospital. Her colleague Barbara Logan added, "The unit is part funded by the government, but the nursing staff must be paid for by charitable contributions for the first 3 years. Fund raising is essential

and we are extremely grateful to the Masonic Order for all of their generous donations."

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the N.I. Children's Hospice, the local Chairman of the support group, Marbeth Hedley said, "Charitable donations are the lifeblood of the Hospice and the contributions made by Freemasons is invaluable." Andy Bellingham, Chairman of the Masonic Charity Committee said, "A total of 177 breakfasts were served during the course of the morning and together with ballot prizes a goodly sum was raised. The craic is good and a great cross section of the community comes along." The breakfast for next November has already been organised at the Bayview Hotel, who like the Causeway Hotel before them do a wonderful job. It is hoped to be on the morning of 10th November and the whole community is welcome. Joining the cheque presentation was the Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Antrim, R.W.Bro. Denis Millen. "This is just one of several breakfast events held across the county. As an organisation we raise many tens of thousands of pounds for charity, it is a wonderful organisation which is often misunderstood.



Trevor Kane, Gardiner Kane, Alistair McKay, Andy Bellingham - Chairman Charity Committee, Marbeth Hedley - Chairman Local Support Group, Denis Millen - Provincial Deputy Grand Master



Trevor Kane, Alistair McKay, Gardiner Kane, Denis Millen - Provincial Deputy Grand Master, Barbara Logan - Macmillan Volunteer, Andy Bellingham - Chairman Charity Committee, Anna White - Macmillan Volunteer.

PORTGLENONE

During their last meeting, the Brethren of Portglenone Masonic Lodge, No.450 paid a special tribute to a fellow Brother Mason by way of unveiling a plaque to the memory of his life.

Worshipful Brother John Bell became a member of Portglenone Masonic Lodge in 1971 and rose through the ranks to become Worshipful Master in 1980. Following this John continued in service to the Lodge as Treasurer for the next 9 years. He was also a very active member in other branches of The Order and was a founding member of Bellaghy Preceptory 291 along with the Rev. Dr. Warren Porter who conducted the memorial service in the Lodge Room on the same night. Worshipful Brother Raymond Kenny (Secretary) said, "John was very well respected and introduced a number of Brethren into Freemasonry. He was a lively character on installation night and it is a great tribute to his memory that Freemasons from across Northern Ireland have joined with us tonight to honour his memory."

John was a great family man who also introduced his sons into the Lodge, Stephen and Leslie and they were joined on the night by



his widow, Pearl and daughters, Laura and Gillian, so they too could appreciate the high regard he was held within the Masonic Order.

A local man John also gave of his time to ensure the upkeep of the hall, ensuring the surrounding area was neat and tidy and that the fabric of the building was kept in good repair. John passed away in October of 2010 after a prolonged battle with cancer; he will be missed not only in Portglenone but by Masons far and wide.

TERENCE MASONIC LODGE 575 DONATES £2,000 TO MILITARY CHARITIES

On 20th August 2011 Terence Masonic Lodge No.575 held a fundraising BBQ with one mission - to raise as much money as possible to benefit two military charities, the Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund and the Army Benevolent Fund (The Soldiers Charity).

Many of the members of 575 have close links with the military through family or service, so it seemed very appropriate to support both these worthwhile charities rather than our regular Masonic Charities.

Some 120 Brethren, family and friends gathered at Hydebank Territorial Army Centre in South Belfast for the evening, all for the sole purpose to allow the Brethren to extract as much cash as possible from their pockets. The attendees willingly participated in a prize draw, an auction and other spot cash games during the evening. Food was supplied by the Master Chef of 204 Field Hospital, the resident TA unit at Hydebank, at cost price and he and his staff gave of their own free time at no charge to prepare a wonderful BBQ for us. This created a massive boost to our fundraising efforts and as such we are deeply indebted and very thankful to him and his staff for the excellent BBQ Fare that was enjoyed by all. At the end of the evening, when the dust had settled, 575 were able to donate £1,000 to each of the two charities to help our soldiers and their families through the dark hours and trying times.

On the 7th October 2011, during the Homecoming Parade at the Balmoral Showgrounds, a cheque for £1,000 was presented to Alan McPeake, the Welfare Officer to the Royal Irish Regiment (RIR), by Mrs Anne Hill, wife of W.Bro. Ivan Hill, also from 575, who's son is a serving member of the 1st Battalion RIR. Anne put many hours into preparation of the BBQ event and the collection of gifts for the auction.

On 8th December 2011, at the monthly communication of Terence Lodge in Rosetta Masonic Hall, W.Bro. Col. Hubert K McAllister, Regional Chairman of the ABF, was welcomed to Terence Lodge by the W.M., W.Bro. Colin Magill. W.Bro. David Cairns, a serving member of the TA who had assisted greatly in the organisation of



Pictured (from the left), W.Bro David Cairns, W.M. W.Bro. Colin Magill, W.Bro. Hubert McAllister

the BBQ, presented the £1,000 cheque to W.Bro. McAllister on behalf of the Brethren of the Lodge. W.Bro. McAllister thanked the Lodge for their generosity on behalf of the Soldiers Charity and gave a brief insight into the work of the charity.

These benevolent funds help individuals as well as larger projects. They find the best ways to give medical, technical and financial support to those who sacrifice so much for us. With ever increasing demand on us all financially, it is comforting to know that generosity of this scale is still within the ethos and capability of our great Fraternity. Thank you to all who attended, donated prizes, gifts, time and effort into making this event such a great success.

W.Bro. David Cairns

FILIPINO BRETHREN RAISING FUNDS FOR CHARITY WITH FOOD AND MUSIC

Almost one hundred guests: Masons, their family and friends, enjoyed a wonderful variety of Filipino cuisine at its best, and music from the Below Zero Band, in the 45 Club, Park Avenue Belfast, on Saturday 3rd December.



This was the second occasion the Filipino members of Irish Constitution Lodges have held a food and music charity event, which we now hope will be on their calendar of events every year!

Once again the Filipino Brethren paid for the all food and the musicians.

Two Charities each received half of the proceeds from ticket sales, a raffle and auction, which raised a total of £608.50.

W.Bro. Dezy McCormick accepted a cheque on behalf of the Belfast Masonic Charity Fund. The Fund is the oldest existing Masonic Charity sitting under the Irish Constitution of Freemasonry, and will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2012. It was established for the relief of poor and distressed Masons or their families. Brethren of every Masonic Lodge in the Province of Antrim, and Brethren whose Lodge is in the Masonic Province of Down, and meets within a six mile radius of Belfast, are eligible to seek assistance from the BMCF via their Lodge Almoner, immediately they receive their first degree.



Mrs Gillian Smylie accepted a cheque on behalf of the Miscarriage Association of N.I., a Charity set up in January 1994, by people who had themselves suffered from a miscarriage. It exists to provide support and information, and is available to both men and women for as long as is necessary, including during another pregnancy, whether a miscarriage is recent, or a long time ago. Most women who have been through this experience express a desire to talk to somebody about it. If you, or your partner, would like to talk to someone confidentially, please contact Gillian.

Congratulations to all who participated in making it a wonderful evening.

GROOMSPORT MASONIC LODGE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

On Friday 2nd December, Groomspport Masonic Lodge 337, celebrated its Centenary with a special communication in Groomspport Parish Hall. The Worshipful Master, William Graham, had the honour of welcoming the Grand Master of Ireland, Most Worshipful Brother George Dunlop as well as the Provincial Grand Master of Down, R.W.Bro. Richard Gray. The W.M., William Graham went on to detail the foundation of the Lodge by the then Rector of Groomspport, the Rev. S Holmes. Initially finding difficulty in finding a home for the Lodge, permission was granted for use of the lecture halls in the village by the sisters, Miss Annabella & Isabella Maxwell. By way of gratitude, the Lodge presented the sisters with an illuminated address featuring 'Chapman', the lifeboat, which was stationed at Groomspport at the time. Many of the founder members of the Lodge were members of the RNLI. In its lifetime this lifeboat rescued 18 lives before being decommissioned in 1920. Currently the lifeboat is being fully restored and shall be placed in the Old Lifeboat Museum, Hoylake, Wirral. The Minister added, "The founding members had a vision of Freemasonry, which treated all as equals. Showing there to be no difference between social standing, cultural or religious status of the time. All Brethren were to be treated on same level." These tenets are still the basis of Freemasonry today and it is hoped that this will continue to



Pictured Grand Master of Ireland & Provincial Grand Master of Down, surrounded by members of Groomspport Masonic Lodge No. 337

drive the Lodge to its next centenary in 2111. Following the communication, all assembled Brethren went to the Stables Restaurant for a celebration dinner. Meeting in the Parish Hall once a month, the Lodge would welcome the chance to speak to anyone who may be interested in joining Freemasonry. The lodge can be contacted via the secretary Graham Eve on 028 9181 1068

LODGE 70 CELEBRATES 250TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Dromore Masonic Lodge No. 70 held a number of special events in 2010 to celebrate the Sestercentennial anniversary. In May special guests with strong connections to Dromore were invited to the closing Stated Communication including Right Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down Robert McMurray and Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Armagh Wilson Mark. The festive board by special request consisted of fish & chips. Lodge 70 regalia and memorabilia stretching back over 100 years were on display. Also that Month the Lodge hosted the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down at Dromore Leisure Centre for the Provincial Grand Lodge Stated Communication. This was well attended by Provincial Brethren with the opportunity to catch up afterwards with old friends over a cup of tea. In October, the special guest at the Lodge Stated Communication was the Right Worshipful



History of the Lodge Warrant

On 6th August 1761, Warrant No 371 was issued to Warringsford, Dromore. John Beard, John Wallace and William Kingham were the first three names out of six brethren registered. The Warrant was exchanged for No 70 by Grand Lodge order on 2nd December 1830. It was issued on the 9th December 1830 to Bros James Graham, Moses Pinkerton and Joseph Lowry. From 1830 to 1878 the Warrant remained in Warringsford but on 28th February 1878 it was removed to Dromore when Bro Robert Nelson was elected Worshipful Master.

Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down Richard Gray, on his first official visit as P.G.M. to Dromore Masonic Hall. A Service of Thanksgiving was held on 16th October in Dromore First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church conducted by the Right Reverend Sam Peden. Provincial Officers and Brethren of Lodge 70 outside the Church prior to the Service are shown in the photograph. The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of the Lodge are thankful to Provincial Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren throughout the district who supported the events and made this a successful and memorable year in the life of Dromore Masonic Lodge No 70.

PEACE, LOVE & HARMONY HONOURED

W.Bro. Bill Mc Bride, Treasurer of Peace Love & Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 684, who was invested as Honorary Past Provincial Grand Deacon in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, with the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the lodge. R.W.Bro. Sam Boyle on the extreme right of the photograph also received his 50 year jewel in 2011.



ARDMORE SUPPORTS LOCAL PARKINSON'S GROUP IN NEWTOWNARDS

Brethren of Ardmore Masonic Lodge 835 Saintfield, presented a cheque for £915 to members of the Parkinson's group in Newtownards on 7th November 2011. The money was raised at two events,

1. a Quiz organised by the Lodge Members, and
2. the W. Master W.Bro. Alan Lutton running the Newtownards half marathon.



Included in the photograph above are: (left to right): W.Master W.Bro. Alan Lutton; W.Bro. Alan Campbell, Secretary; Gordon Burrows, Chair Person, Parkinson's, Ena Campbell Treasurer, Parkinson's, Bertie Drain of Parkinson's, and R.W.Bro. George Lutton.

LOUGHBRICKLAND LODGE HAS A TRIPLE CELEBRATION

Royal Blue Lodge 173 had a triple celebration on 14th December 2011.

The first celebration was the result of the generosity of friends and neighbours in the district. In keeping with the Grand Master's desire that Freemasonry should be a part of society, rather than apart from it, the Lodge presented a cheque for £1,300 to the Southern Area Hospice prior to its December Stated Communication. This represented the proceeds from a Vintage Threshing Day, Barbecue and Barn Dance held at the home of Worshipful Master W.Bro. Robert Copeland on 16th September.



Ernie, as he is fondly known, was an Automobile Association Patrolman who received his Entered Apprentice Degree on 14th November 1951. He became Worshipful Master in 1971 and, during his year in the Chair, presided over the conferral of 13 Degrees - 4 Entered Apprentice, 6 Fellowcraft and 3 Master Mason Degrees.

He was elected Secretary in 1978, an Office he held for 12 years until 1990. He received Provincial Grand Lodge Honours in 1985 as Provincial Grand Lodge Steward.

Ernie last occupied the Chair on 10th November 2004, some 32 years after vacating it as Worshipful Master. On that occasion he was deputising in the unavoidable absence of the (then) Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Tom Gray. On that occasion he

- presided over the conferral of two Master Mason Degrees;
- received, on behalf of the Lodge a landscape painting of Scawfell in the Lake District, from visiting Brethren from Cumbria;
- received, on behalf of the Lodge a plaque, from W.Bro. Hans Boggs from California who was the grandson of a founding Brother; and,
- presented an original Order of Service to the Lodge for its Silver Jubilee Church Service.



The second celebration related to the first visit to the Lodge of a Grand Master. The Worshipful Master presented M.W.Bro. George Dunlop with a suitably engraved quiche to mark the occasion.

However, the main business of the evening was to celebrate the 60th anniversary of W.Bro. Ernest Loughlin joining Freemasonry. The Brethren witnessed the presentation, by the Grand Master, of a 60 Year Bar, Certificate and inscribed Masonic Bible to W.Bro. Loughlin.



TYRONE & FERMANAGH SUPPORT HORIZONS WEST CHILDRENS HOSPICE.



R.W.Bro. Harry Weir PGM presents a cheque for £4,000 to Derek Wilson of Horizons West Hospice. Included V.W.Bro. Robert Agnew (Cookstown), R.W.Bro. Leslie Nixon (Enniskillen) & V.W.Bro. Pat Donnelly (Omagh).

THE HERDMAN MONUMENT

Introduction by R.W.Bro. John Frazer

This extract comes from a book under the title "Written in Stone". The book details the more interesting headstones in the City Cemetery, Falls Road, Belfast. A copy of the book came into my possession through a family friend who had contributed towards the cost of production of the book and he very kindly gave me a copy.

ALEXANDER FINLEY HERDMAN DIED 13 MARCH 1875.

Alexander, of 6 College Square North, died at the age of thirty four. The Herdman family owned flax spinning mills in Sion Mills and Belfast. The family had a strong connection with the Harbour Board - the Herdman Channel can be found at the end of Corporation Street! They were one of the first linen companies to introduce the spinning of flax by machinery. A member of this family, E T Herdman, spoke in support of Resolution number two at the Unionist Convention of 1892. All the children were educated in Germany.

The architecture of the Herdman monument is Egyptian Revivalist, designed in the fashion of a lower framed gateway of an Egyptian Pylon (a monumental gate or door built in front of an Egyptian temple). Crowning the monument is a gorge or cavetto cornice decorated with symbolic bird wings. At the centre of the symbol is a disc with a Templar Cross in relief. Two falcon heads flank the disc, possibly the winged sun disk symbolising the Egyptian god Re, carried on the wings of the god Horus, which originated with the Hittite people from Asia Minor and Syria. On each side of the monument are inverted torches representing death. In the Christian tradition the inverted torch symbolises the flame of eternal life and the resurrection. A single Corinthian column stands beneath the Herdman name. The columns carries five sets of rings, each set containing four rings. An incised convex moulding, called a torus, runs along each side of the monument, continuing horizontally above the family name. It is designed to look like a series of linked bars with three incisions in each bar. An eight petal flower, perhaps the cosmos flower, set in a ring fronts the small pillars that make up the surround.

The Templar Cross suggests that this is a grave of a senior Mason. The Knights Templar is an order of the Freemasons, which has its origins in a Masonic rite practiced in Germany in the eighteen and nineteenth centuries. This Masonic link is reinforced by the use of the winged sun disk and the falcon heads which may also represent the two headed eagle reputed to symbolise the "33rd degree" the highest order of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Masonry. The Corinthian column, one of the Masonic "Five Orders of Architecture" represents Beauty. The importance of the number five is reflected in the five sets of rings. Five is a mystical number for Masons and has various meanings: geometry is called the fifth science, in the old system of craft Masonry five brethren were required to constitute a Fellow Craft lodge, and there are five points of fellowship; to serve, pray for, keep the secrets of, defend and protect and council and advise.

The four rings may represent the four cardinal virtues: Prudence, Fortitude, Temperance and Justice. Thirty four incised bars make

The author of the book is not a Mason and he may not have got the Masonic symbolism described entirely correctly. The other item of note is that the Herdman Family is still in Belfast, but not under the name of Herdman. However W.Bro. Chris McFerran's mother's maiden name was Herdman, so there still is a family connection. W.Bro. McFerran is a member of Acacia Lodge No. VII.

I hope you enjoy the article.

up the torus. Then again, the two central bars below the cornice appear to be joined as one, which brings the number down to thirty three bars, linking it to the 33rd degree.

The cosmos flower in the ring may represent law, order, harmony and truth in balance with the universe. The flower might also represent an eight pointed star - the octagram - which is referred to as the Cross of St John. Its origins are found in the Maltese Cross, the symbol used by the Knights of Malta and by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. Used during the crusades, it may have a Knights Templar connection. The eight points of the star are thought to represent the knightly virtues of Tact, Perseverance, Gallantry, Loyalty, Dexterity, Explicitness, Observation and Sympathy. They may also represent the eight beatitudes, from St Matthew's Gospel.



- How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage
- Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted
- Happy for those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied
- Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them
- Happy the pure in heart: they shall see god
- Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called the sons of god
- Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven

The Herdman stone has still to reveal the full extent of its Masonic symbolism. The inverted torches and the three incisions on the bars of the torus require further research and explanation. It is listed as having special architectural and historic interest.

Plans for this monument were submitted to the Corporation on 25th July 1870. In the minutes of the Cemetery Committee, 17th April 1871, there is a reference to a Mr Lanyon which may be Charles Lanyon the architect. The name Gemmill on the right hand base of the stone most likely refers to D & J Gemmill, Monumental Sculptors, from 10 Wellington Place, Belfast.