



MARCH 2014

TLC, Teddies for Loving Care, An Update

To date almost 18,000 Teddies distributed to distressed children in Emergency departments throughout the island of Ireland. The teddies appeal knows no boundaries, if a child is sick and in distress it doesn't matter what hospital that child is in, whenever a nurse or doctor produces the "TLC Bear" some form of easing of the tension is experienced. This can be the start of a long term relationship between the child and his or her Teddy. We are delighted to report that the TLC Bears are now being given out in 31 of the possible 34 hospitals catering for children in an emergency department.

There have been launches in the major hospitals all over the country and our photographs show some of these. Indeed Teddy has been spotted all over the place. He has travelled far and wide and our pictures on page 3 show him visiting parts of Cambodia on a recent trip undertaken by Jude Pen Jeschke.

Big Ted has arrived back in Ireland after a short visit to his family in England. Rumour has it that he prefers our climate to that of Essex where he had lived for many years. He is looking forward to travelling throughout Ireland in the coming weeks. He plans to commence his journey in Waterford.

Fundraising for the support of the TLC Appeal is ploughing ahead, many Lodges are supporting the Appeal very generously and it is hoped that during the coming months more and more novel ideas will be adopted. A number of members of Dublin Garrison Lodge No. 730 in the Metropolitan area took part in a recently held 'To Hell and Back' challenge. Our photograph on page 2 illustrates that these members have no difficulty in getting down and dirty for the cause.



Pictured launching 'Teddies for Loving Care' in the Western Trust area; back row from left to right: Deputy Sister Ann Curran, Western Trust Emergency Department, South West Acute Hospital; Richard H Gray, Chairman of the Northern Provinces Committee, Freemasons of Ireland; Derek Humes, NIAS Paramedic who is the local coordinator for the distribution of TLC Teddies and Emergency Nurse Practitioner Emma Forde, Western Trust Emergency Department, South West Acute Hospital. Front row left to right are: patients Alex Pratt from Dromore and Eolann McMenamin with his mum Sinead from Omagh.



Tweddie's Friendship Maul

The latest known location of the 'Tweddie's Maul' is as follows:

Host Lodge	Province	Date
St. Patrick's Lodge No. 77, Newry	Down	14/09/2013
Farmer's Friendship No. 978	Down	7/10/2013
Strathearn Masonic Lodge No. 680	Antrim	9/11/2013

*Tweddie's Maul has been on vacation over the Christmas and New Year period.
It's now time to move on - over to you Brethren!*



Lodge of Fidelity No. 125 presents Masonic TLC Teddy to The President of Ireland.

The Lodge of Fidelity No. 125 recently celebrated their 175th Anniversary. Their celebrations culminated in an historical invitation to attend a Garden Party hosted by President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabrina Higgins at Aras An Uachtarain on Saturday 8th July 2013. Security and operational requirements limited the size of the group to eight Brethren. The Lodge had an historical connection with the Aras, then the Vice Regal Lodge, during the Victorian Era.

The Worshipful Master Paul Maguire, carrying a Masonic TLC (Teddies for Loving Care) Teddy and seven Brethren of the Lodge, Jimmy Gibson, George Anton, Dave Costello, Jack Gallagher, George Stroughair, Eamonn Rheinich and Ferose Bhasi, had a private audience with the President and Sabina Higgins in the Main House.

The Worshipful Master presented the President with the Masonic TLC Teddy. The Brethren were pleasantly surprised when Sabrina Higgins announced that she knew about the Teddies and she informed the President all about the aims, aspirations and purpose of the Teddies for Loving Care Charity and the Masonic involvement in same.

Worshipful Brother George Anton then acquainted the President with the Lodge's connection with the Aras when it was the Vice Regal Lodge, during the reign of Queen Victoria. Sir Charles A. Cameron C.B., M.D, Chief Medical Officer and Public Analyst for the City of Dublin, was initiated into the Lodge of Fidelity 125 in 1858, affiliated to Lodge 25 in 1866 and was subsequently made an Honorary Member of 125;-

- (1) The Phoenix Park Murders;- Worshipful Brother Charles Cameron, in his capacity of Public Analyst examined the surgical knives suspected of having been used by "The Invincibles" in the murders of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Thomas Henry Burke on the road outside and within view of the Vice Regal Lodge, now the Aras, on 6th May 1882. He gave expert evidence at the trial and described the presence of blood on them.
- (2) Knighthood;- On the 24th May 1885, Queen Victoria's Birthday, Worshipful Brother Charles Cameron received his Knighthood at the Vice Regal Lodge from His Excellency Earl Spencer the Viceroy, at the request of the Queen.
- (3) Medical Visit and Serious Injury;- On 10th June 1910, Sir Charles attended at the Vice Regal Lodge in relation to disinfection procedures following a case of Diphtheria in the Lodge. While returning home in an outside car, the horse fell at the top of Parliament Street, he was thrown out onto the street and received multiple injuries, including fractures.

The Brethren then joined other guests for sumptuous buffet refreshments in the Hyde Room, followed by musical entertainment in a marquee in the gardens. The President addressed the assembled guests at the end of the entertainment. A guided tour of the formal rooms of the Aras brought the visit to a conclusion.

So, what about Teddy, well he has taken up residence in the palatial splendour of the Aras.



Brother Ken Geary, Dublin Garrison Lodge No. 730 with some of his colleagues completing the "Hell and Back" Challenge on Sunday, 2nd February 2014.

The proceeds were for TLC.



Ted in Cambodia



Childrens Paediatric Emergency Department wins Prize

It is with great delight that we report that the Childrens Paediatric Emergency Department, Tallaght Hospital, were Prize winners for the innovation shown by two of their nurses at Christmas time. During a visit to the Hospital, to deliver Teddies, I noticed that the entrance to the Department was festooned with a number of beautiful Christmas trees. These trees were fully decorated with TLC Teddies. The image was beautiful and on enquiring who had decorated the trees I was told that Nurse Niamh Kerrigan together with Nurse Alana Bowers had taken on the task.

The Hospital authorities were so impressed by the display that the Department was awarded a Prize for Best Festive Display in the Hospital. Well done to all concerned and it is a measure of how well The Project itself is being received in Tallaght Hospital.

Indeed the Project is dispersed throughout the entire Country at the moment with 31 out a possible 34 now being serviced by local Freemasons. Promotion of the Project through Newspaper articles together with Radio Interviews, etc., is happening on a regular basis and the Project is being greeted by Nursing, Medical staff and members of the general public in a very positive way. I am very happy to say that as of today 18,000 TLC Teddies have been distributed to the Hospitals.



Children's Christmas Themed Party

The children and grandchildren of members of the Order were treated to another wonderful event in Molesworth Street just before Christmas. The following, which is an extract from the headmaster's report to the directors of the building explains what happened.

Headmaster's Report

On Sunday 1st December 2013, 81 pupils attended our event, only to discover that the Orb of Ouroboros had been stolen. As you will all know it is from this, which is kept securely locked in my office, that the power of the tutors in the school is obtained.

Its absence caused a loss of our abilities and it was necessary to rely on our young charges to assist in discovering the lost item. They were divided into their houses and then into smaller groups. Then, having given them words of encouragement, we were joined by the Man from the Ministry.

These gallant young boys and girls had to undergo battles, puzzles, and face venomous creatures in their attempt to recover the source of our power. They struggled for some time before the hiding place was discovered. It is through the efforts of these youngsters that the orb was saved.

Dumbledore, Headmaster

Once again a heartfelt thanks must go to the Green committee and all those who assisted on the day (and in the weeks before) in making this day a very special one. Several parents were asked to assist as the numbers, initially estimated at 40, went over the limit and we needed more help to guide the children round the building safely.

I feel a special thanks should go to Eoin Meehan (the man from the Ministry) who designed the game and spent many hours working out the finer details, including having the organ playing some very eerie music, without an organist.

Photographs were taken of all the participants receiving their Certificates which many of the parents bought as a memento.

Although not aimed at being a fundraising event, €500 was raised for the TLC fund.

Since that day I have been thanked by many of the parents who tell how much their children enjoyed the event and how they hope the Green committee will do something similar next year...OK Gareth over to you.



Diary Dates at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin

Event	Day	Date	Time
Worshipful Masters & Secretaries Seminar	Monday	31 st March	19:30
Fellow Craft Degree Day	Saturday	26 th April	-
Metropolitan BBQ	Saturday	21 st June	19:00
Summer Lodge	Wednesday	16 th July	14:30

TLC Northern Committee Quarterly Report

Like most good ideas, the concept is simple, we purchase small Teddy Bears which are provided to Hospital Emergency Departments so that nursing staff can give a Teddy at their discretion to small children who are admitted in severe distress and the nurse feels that a Teddy to cuddle will help relieve the distress so the child can be more easily treated.

The Northern Committee under the Chairmanship of R.W.Bro. Richard Gray was formed to organise the project in the Northern Provinces with V.W.Bro. David Penpraze, as Secretary to the committee, R.W.Bro. Sam Snodden, W.Bro. Terry McSpadden, W.Bro. Craig Wilson and Bro. Stephen Moore.

Not every Emergency Department will accept small children for treatment so we are involved only with those that do. They are :-

- [Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Londonderry](#)
- [Antrim Area Hospital \(ED\)](#)
- [Antrim Area Hospital \(Rowan\)](#)
- [Causeway Hospital, Coleraine](#)
- [Craigavon Area Hospital, Portadown](#)
- [Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry](#)
- [Downe Hospital, Downpatrick](#)
- [Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn](#)
- [Letterkenny Area Hospital, Donegal](#)
- [Mater Hospital, Belfast](#)
- [Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh](#)
- [Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Belfast](#)
- [Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, Belfast](#)



TLC launch in Omagh

We are supplying teddies to the 14 Emergency Departments in the northern part of the island at the rate of about 1,300 teddies each month. In Ireland as a whole 18,000 teddies have already been distributed.



Children admitted to Emergency Departments and Wards are usually frightened and see strange people who want to do strange things to them. Things that might hurt more but 'is to make them better'. These children cannot, for reasons of infection control, bring their own cuddly toys with them. We will supply teddies to these departments for the staff to give, at their discretion, to distressed children if they feel that this will help to calm the child and help them in their important work. These are not for sale.

"Teddies really help the medical teams during what can be an enormously stressful time for a child in an Emergency Department. Sometimes when they arrive here, they are not with their main carer. They don't have their comforter or cuddly toy with them, their whole day has fallen apart, so the idea of being able to take a fresh, clean wrapped cuddly Teddy and give it to the child, is really helpful to us. This helps us win the child's confidence and get on with treatment"

Here is one story about one young boy's experience in attending hospital for the first time. It goes something like this :-

"I am a young child. Something is wrong with me. I am ill, or I've had an accident. It hurt, and I don't know what's wrong. Mum and Dad seem worried, that worries me and I am taken to Hospital – the Emergency Unit I don't understand what is happening.

There are strange people – in uniforms & coats with all kinds of frightening needles and instruments. I am still in pain, but now I'm very scared! I don't want them to touch me – it will hurt.

I am scared at what they are going to do - I cry – I scream – I struggle. Everyone says they just want to make me better but it's so scary – they always say it won't hurt.

But one of them has a teddy, they give it to me to cuddle. They tell me what they need to do. They show me what they are going to do on teddy - Teddy doesn't cry – It didn't seem to hurt him. If it didn't hurt teddy, it won't hurt me, I cuddle teddy very hard. It doesn't hurt as much, they say I'm very brave - as brave as Teddy.

They say I'm going to get better. They say I can go home, Mum and Dad are smiling and the nurse says I can take teddy home – I am smiling.”

Although no boundaries as such exist there are two committees. The Southern Provinces Committee and the Northern Provinces Committee. This is purely to make the administration easier. We also have a Euro bank account and a Sterling bank account which means we can reduce bank charges and exchange fees. Our aim is to keep overheads to an absolute minimum!



You may have seen us on BBC Newsline a few weeks ago together with our Constitution's own motorcycle Chapter, The Widow's Sons, at Craigavon Hospital, the first hospital launch, introducing them to TLC.

Another thing we are doing is to use a TLC Friendship Maul – this has been really expertly produced by none other than R.W.Bro. Tommy Yarr – a really magnificent maul for which the Committee are really grateful! This maul has already been awarded to a Lodge, Lodge No. 77 in Newry, when they celebrated their 275th Anniversary and has changed hands several times since!

The Lodge with the maul will retain it until challenged, at one of their ordinary Stated Communication, by three visiting Brethren from another Lodge. They can request, on payment of a ransom of £15, the maul to take to their own Lodge. The relinquishing Lodge will send us at least the £15 and details of the Lodge now holding the maul. We will acknowledge this by issuing a certificate of possession to them.



There is also a scroll inside the maul which will record the Lodges who have “held” the maul but you'll have to get it to access the scroll. We hope this will be not only a fund raiser but one which will encourage the spread of Masonic friendships throughout the Constitution. If you wish to try to claim the maul then the current holders is being listed on the G L Website at :-

http://www.irish-freemasons.org/TLC/Pages_TLC/Tweenies%20Maul.html

The TLC site and the Facebook and Twitter pages – the Twitter page and the teddy bear who ‘does the blog’ is called Tweddle.

We estimate that in a full year we will require 35,000 Teddies costing approximately £56,000 or €70,000 which is very affordable when you consider the benefits which will accrue to so many people in our communities. Response to fund-raising has been very positive but great care must be taken to ensure that extra funds are raised for this project and funds are not diverted from our Masonic Charities. It should also be remembered that this is an on-going and open ended project which will need our continued support.

We hope Brethren that you will get behind this and support the children in our community.

The teddies are ideal gifts for your children or grandchildren and make great raffle prizes and we are very happy to donate a big teddy as long as we get the proceeds from the raffle or fundraiser.

If you have any fund raising ideas Brethren please share them with us. We want you to drive this, not be passengers and we are all in for the long haul. Continuity is the essence.

The Province of Londonderry & Donegal have pledged a minimum of £100 per Lodge per year.

Northern Team Members are always willing to visit any Lodge or Group to make a presentation about TLC, organise the sale of fund raising items etc. All we need is your invitation!

The initial point of contact for the Team is :-

- 115 The Mount, Belfast BT5 4ND – 028 9045 9694
- pgldown@btconnect.com

The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2014



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 9th 1:30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Final & Prize-giving by The Grand Master

Saturday, October 11th 7.30 p.m.

Sunday Business Post—20 October 2013

"This was the fourth year of this increasingly prestigious competition, thanks to the Freemasons, a confraternity with a proud history of supporting classical music".

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 2014'. Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

Tickets on Sale September 1st.

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.

Advance Booking is definitely recommended

[Please Note: It is with much regret, this function is NOT suitable for children under 12 years of age]

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 No.	Province
W.Bro. James M. Kenny	65	King Harman Masonic Lodge No. 65	Meath
V.W.Bro. Bill Nevin	60	Armagh Home Guard Masonic Lodge No. 747	Armagh
V.W.Bro. William T. Cavanagh	60	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 555	Munster
W.Bro. Stanley McKinney	60	Curran Masonic Lodge No. 532	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. George A. Sheppard	60	Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 141	Metropolitan Area
W.Bro. Samuel C. McFarland	60	Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835	Down
W.Bro. Robert D. McClure	60	Woods Masonic Lodge No. 590	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William M. Longrigg	60	Portglenone Masonic Lodge No. 450	Antrim
W.Bro. Douglas W. Ross	60	Magheramorene Masonic Lodge No. 514	Antrim
Bro. David C. Rankin	60	St. Columb's Masonic Lodge No. 297	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Robert H. Henderson	60	Helen's Bay Masonic Lodge No. 834	Down
W.Bro. Charles F.T. Silcock	60	Helen's Bay Masonic Lodge No. 834	Down
W.Bro. Mervyn R. Wallace	60	Helen's Bay Masonic Lodge No. 834	Down
W.Bro. William J.E. Dukelow	60	Eden Masonic Lodge No. 73	North Munster
W.Bro. John Logan	60	Kells Masonic Lodge No. 990	Antrim
W.Bro. Desmond T. Taylor	60	Dalkey Masonic Lodge No. 261	Metropolitan Area
W.Bro. Robert J. Johnston	50	Maine Valley Masonic Lodge No. 492	Antrim
R.W.Bro. John Whittaker	50	Hibernian Masonic Lodge No. 95	Munster
V.W.Bro. Arthur Davison	50	City Masonic Lodge No. 686	Down
W.Bro. Norman F. Rooney	50	Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 141	Metropolitan Area
W.Bro. John G. Wallace	50	Royal Larne Masonic Lodge No. 615	Antrim
W.Bro. Hugh Montgomery	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 443	Down
W.Bro. William J. Wallace	50	Cavehill Masonic Lodge No. 751	Antrim
Bro. Stanley Holmes	50	St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 675	Down
W.Bro. Alexander R. Berry	50	Belturbet Masonic Lodge No. 99	Meath
W.Bro. Stanley Rowe	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 238	Metropolitan
W.Bro. James E. Brown	50	Bloomfield Masonic Lodge No. 543	Down
W.Bro. James L. Kelly	50	Fellowship Masonic Lodge No. 530	Antrim
Bro. David B. Rutherford	50	Ulster Star Masonic Lodge No. 133	Down
Bro. Robert R. Gillespie	50	Ulster Star Masonic Lodge No. 133	Down
W.Bro. Sidney Vokes	50	Abbey Masonic Lodge No. 180	Antrim
W.Bro. Hugh J. Parker	50	Lischoole Masonic Lodge No. 763	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert G. Kelly	50	Lischoole Masonic Lodge No. 763	Antrim
Bro. John S. Gilliland	50	Lischoole Masonic Lodge No. 763	Antrim
W.Bro. William J. Mulligan	50	Moat Masonic Lodge No. 546	Down
W.Bro. William C. Hamilton	50	Moat Masonic Lodge No. 546	Down
W.Bro. Ivan E. Price	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 495	North Connaught
W.Bro. William S. Scott	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 495	North Connaught
W.Bro. William H. Harris	50	Craigtlet Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 486	Down
W.Bro. Christopher N. Thompson	50	Aghadowey Masonic Lodge No. 316	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Robert Casey	50	Union Band Masonic Lodge No. 556	Down
W.Bro. William H. Tedford	50	Helen's Bay Masonic Lodge No. 834	Down
Bro. John R. Johnston	50	Chichester Masonic Lodge No. 313	Antrim
W.Bro. John P. Alexander	50	Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216	Antrim
W.Bro. James C. Stanley	50	Ossory Masonic Lodge No. 150	Midlands
W.Bro. Alfred C. Gooding	50	Bangor Union Masonic Lodge No. 746	Down
Bro. William R. Wright	50	Garvagh Masonic Lodge No. 779	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. James Jest	50	Scrabo Masonic Lodge No. 714	Down
Bro. Alexander Richardson	50	Kells Masonic Lodge No. 990	Antrim
W.Bro. William Webb	50	James Chambers Masonic Lodge No. 318	Antrim
W.Bro. John D.W. Pollock	50	The Belfast Masonic Lodge No. 651	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert D.T. Gibson	50	The Belfast Masonic Lodge No. 651	Antrim
W.Bro. Alan F. Harrison	50	Garrison Masonic Lodge No. 730	Metropolitan Area
W.Bro. Herbert W. Graham	50	Meredith Whitla Masonic Lodge No. 55	Armagh
W.Bro. John Dalzell	50	Tartaraghan Masonic Lodge No. 789	Armagh
R.W.Bro. George Drury	50	Ara Masonic Lodge No. 348	New Zealand

Grand Master's Annual Golf Competition

15th Year



15th Year

Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society

Grand Master's Millennium Charity Cup 2014

at

Killymoon Golf Club – Cookstown

on

Friday 29th August 2014

2014 Charities:

**Cardiac Patient Care & Teddies for Loving Care
Masonic Charities**

£1,000 in Prizes

Three Prize Categories:-

1. Masonic Brethren
2. Non-Masons
3. Ladies

Prizes will be presented at the
“Evening of Entertainment”

The first 200 entries will be taken on a first come,
first served basis.

NO GREEN FEES REQUIRED ON THE DAY

Entry Fee £25 including entry to the ‘Grand Draw’

Registration forms and Competition rules available from:

Noel Simpson
13 Carneybaun Drive
Portrush BT56 8JA

Telephone No. (028) 70823129

Mobile No. 07724 484 937

Email: noelsimpson589@yahoo.co.uk

Golf Dates for your 2014 Calendar

Competition	Venue	Date	Contact
<i>PGL Londonderry & Donegal</i>	<i>Castlerock</i>	<i>24th April</i>	<i>Raymond Aiken 07739 419 727</i>
<i>Captain Fyfe Salver - T&F</i>	<i>Enniskillen @ 1:00 p.m.</i>	<i>6th May</i>	<i>Albert Warwick 028 8676 4187</i>
<i>Antrim Provincial Cup</i>	<i>Ballymena Golf Club</i>	<i>16th May</i>	<i>Robert Wilson 07813 682 234</i>
<i>Provincial Priors' Golf Society</i>	<i>Killymoon 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.</i>	<i>27th May</i>	<i>George M J Stewart 028 7941 8348 (H) 07793 223 464 (Mob)</i>
<i>Mourne Cup – T&F</i>	<i>Newtownstewart</i>	<i>4th June</i>	<i>Harry Friar MBE 028 8165 8237</i>
<i>Armagh Cup – Armagh</i>	<i>Portadown</i>	<i>20th June</i>	<i>Bobby McDowell 028 3884 2630</i>
<i>Ferris Cup – Down</i>	<i>Lisburn Golf Club</i>	<i>4th July</i>	<i>Alan Ferris 028 9269 3625 (H) 07543 967 254 (Mob)</i>
<i>Grand Master's Millennium Cup</i>	<i>Killymoon</i>	<i>29th August</i>	<i>Noel Simpson 028 7082 3129 (H) 07724 484 937 (Mob)</i>

The Grand Master

The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother George Dunlop is currently undergoing a series of investigations in order to gain an accurate picture of his current state of health. Under the circumstances and in the best interests of Grand Lodge, pending the outcome of those investigations he will stand aside from discharging a number of the duties associated with his role.

The Grand Master will keep the situation under review over the coming months and he hopes to be in a position by the middle of the year to make a fully informed decision about whether or not to remain in office, taking into consideration the guidance of his medical advisers.

On behalf of the Brethren throughout the Country we wish the Grand Master a speedy recovery to good health.



Ovarian Cancer Appeal

After the close of the Province of Down's Stated Communication on Saturday 1st February, a unique event was initiated by the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Gray began by addressing the 600 Brethren present as follows :-

"Over a year ago the P.G.L. of Down was approached by R.W.Bro. Brewster with the request that they consider a special fund raising proposal under very exceptional circumstances. After careful consideration the Province gave R.W.Bro. Brewster permission to launch the 'Ovarian Cancer Appeal Fund' to Lodges within the Masonic Province of Down.

The Lodges in the Province really took this appeal to their hearts and with R.W.Bro. Brewster's endless work and encouragement have supported the appeal in many ways.

The initial plan was to ask the Brethren of Down to give just one pound per month for 12 months but over the course of the year the appeal crystallised into many and various fundraising projects – members of a Lodge in Annalong climbed Slieve Donard mountain and raised over £3,000, a Worshipful Master and a Brother rode round Lough Neagh on push bikes and raised over £1,100, the recently established Widows Sons Chapter made a most generous donation of £600 and it has been amazing the lengths to which other members went to support the Appeal. We had a Lodge member's wife and friends run a ladies night which raised £500 – the general public even contributed when a Ladies Probus donated £50, church members have gift aided monies and we had an unsolicited donation from a Scottish trawler skipper!

The Appeal even spread beyond the Province of Down with several Lodges in the Province of Antrim donating to the fund. Indeed the Grand Council in Dublin donated the collection raised at the last Grand Council meeting in Dublin - another £500."

R.W.Bro. Brewster then addressed the Brethren as follows :-

"Brethren when my wife was diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer, Dr Price who tended to Denise during her illness, had explained the need for funding to attain an early detection of this type of cancer and as a result I felt the Order could help in a small but meaningful way to raise monies to help the research which is ongoing.

Little did Denise or I think that this idea would take on a life of its own with the unbelievable response of those members of the Order who went beyond the suggested request. Within one week a close friend arrived at the house with a Cheque for £1,100 which had been raised at his Preceptory. Needless to say Denise could not believe that anyone would or could donate that amount for the appeal in her name.

Having been involved in Masonic Charities over the years I have never been so proud to be a member of this fine Order as over the last year.

All this effort brought me back to a quote from a President of the U.S.A over 50 years ago in which he stated :-

"Ask not what your Country can do for you, but what you can do for your Country." and I say to all members of our Order.

"Ask not what Masonry can do for you, but what you can do for Masonry."

You have proved that we do reach out to the public and have done so for many years and with our new Information Officer we may get the message out there.

From my family, Denise, and myself a humble and heartfelt thank you for your support for this appeal."

R.W.Bro. Gray then, on behalf of the Masonic Province of Down and that of the Brewster family, handed over to Dr Price the largest single sum of money ever raised for one cause within the Province - a cheque to the value of **£34,382** with the sincere wish that it would enable Dr Price and his team to expedite their objective developing a test for the early diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer.

Dr Price then responded by thanking the Brethren for the magnificent cheque, he detailed some of the research they were undertaking and assured those present that every pound of the donation would be used to fund this most important research project.



Photo showing the cheque presentation by R.W.Bro. Barry Brewster, the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Richard H. Gray and R.W.Bro. Samuel Snodden to Dr John Price.

The amount raised for the Ovarian Cancer Appeal Fund was **£34,382**.

5th Annual Lodge 555 Musical Miscellany

– *Masonic Hall, Cork*

The fifth Annual Lodge 555 Evening of Musical Miscellany took place in the Lodge Room of The Masonic Hall, Cork on Saturday November 16th last, this year's beneficiaries being The Cork International Choral Festival, Teddies for Loving Care and the Lodge 555 Charity Fund, respectively.

The evening commenced with a wine and canapés reception in The Supper Room, followed by a musical line-up that included the Déjà Vu Female Barbershop Quartet; Michael J. Crowley (classical guitar), Pádraig O'Donovan (organ), Bro. Denis J. Lane (baritone), Claire Adams (soprano), Michelle O'Brien (mezzo-soprano), and Dr Rhoda Dullea (piano). The evening generated profits of €1,300, as well as TLC Teddy bears sales worth €300, and was the most successful in this musical series to date.

The Harmony Masonic Lodge 555 of the Province of Munster Freemasons proudly presents

A Musical Miscellany

AT THE MASONIC HALL

In aid of The Cork International Choral Festival & Teddies for Loving Care Charity

A special concert featuring:

- Déjà Vu Female Barbershop Quartet
- Michelle O'Brien Mezzo Soprano
- Denis Lane Baritone
- Michael Crowley Classical Guitarist
- Pádraig O'Donovan Organist
- Dr Rhoda Dullea Accompanist
- and many more.....

Saturday 16th November 2013
The Masonic Hall, Tuckey St. Cork

A reception will take place in The Supper Room from 7pm.
The concert will commence at 8pm.

Tickets €20 (incl. refreshments)

Available on the door, by emailing munsterfreemason@gmail.com
or from Civic Trust House, 50 Popes Quay, Cork, Tel: 021 4215125

CORK INTERNATIONAL choral festival
www.corkchoral.ie



The capacity attendance at The Masonic Hall Musical Evening.



Déjà Vu Female Barbershop Quarter perform in the lodge room

Articles Wanted

The success or otherwise of this type of publication depends upon the quality and variety of articles it contains. "Grand Lodge News" is not solely for the promotion of Grand Lodge matters, rather it is there to serve Provincial Grand Lodges and Subordinate Lodges alike. The editorial team will be glad to receive interesting articles regarding functions / special anniversaries / letters etc.

We would ask that the "kiss" principle is recognised - "keep it short and simple" and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

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

or by e-mail to: williamclarke746@btinternet.com

Launch of TLC in Londonderry

As P.G.M. of Londonderry & Donegal, I recently attended what was a very unique experience. The governing board made arrangements for the official launch of TLC at Altnagelvin Hospital and accompanied by my Deputy R.W.Bro. Raymond Robinson, I attended.

All I can say that no one could ever have planned a ceremony in A&E at a more peaceful time. We were warmly welcomed and had the opportunity of not only meeting several levels of admin. staff, but actual nursing "hands on" A&E nursing staff. These are the staff who deal with traumatised children on many occasions. The reaction from all was that TLC is an excellent charity and much appreciated by all connected with A&E.

What a privilege to be a Freemason on occasions such as this. Brethren remember "a man is never as tall as when he

stoops to help a child" so keep up support for TLC in your Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Noel Drain P.G.M.



Hunter Campbell - Fat Boys Cycle Club

The 'Hunter Campbell Fat Boys Cycle Club' was formed just one year ago for those who just enjoy getting out on a bike. This group of friends raised over £8,000 for the Alzheimer's Society by cycling a gruelling 75 miles from Belfast (Arthur Sq.) to Bushmills Masonic Hall in May of 2013. Most of the members are part of Masonic Lodges No. 154, 260, 514, 762, 923 but also quite a few non-masonic friends. Each member raised vital funds through sponsorship, by holding collections and various other types of events.

Mervyn Robinson, Club Chairman said, "Cycling 75 miles for the members was a real challenge, and they were tested on the day by severe weather conditions, especially as some hadn't been on a bike in over 30 years! So it was fantastic to see everyone bond together as friends and stick with the training

they began last September to fundraise for the Alzheimer's Society. We are astounded by the generosity of friends and family who sponsored us and absolutely delighted to have raised over £8,068.75."

Janet Plunkett, Community Fundraising Manager said, "Organising a cycle run like this one is a great way to get in shape and support the Alzheimer's Society at the same time. There are 19,000 people in Northern Ireland living dementia. Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading support and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers."

Anyone interested in joining the group as a beginner contact Mervyn Robinson at mervxyz@hotmail.com



Mervyn Robinson presenting a cheque for £8068.75 to Richard Gilliland of the Alzheimer's Society Back L-R: Lawrence Wilson; David Deering; Nick White; Alex Mitchell; Gary Allen; Michael Russ; Paul Cushley and Colin Neill. Front L-R: James Keenan; Cain Robinson; Billy Thompson and Sam Robinson.

IVEAGH MASONIC LODGE No. 184 Magheralin



Presents
**an Interview with
Fr. Brian D'Arcy**

**on Wednesday, 4th June, 2014
at 8.00pm
in the Jethro Centre,
6 Flush Place, Lurgan**

**Admission by Ticket Only £10
*Proceeds in aid of TLC Teddies***

Launched & Supported by Irish Masons

Open to the Public - THIS IS A TICKET ONLY EVENT
Contact: Trevor C.Waddell,
113 Lurgan Road, Magheralin, Craigavon BT67 0QP
Email: longstoneps@btconnect.com
Mobile: 07710 454 380 Office: (028) 9261 2802
Cheques Payable to "Maralin Masonic Lodge No. 184"

Ardmore 835 Clubbing Together for Charity

W.Bro. Hugh Shields, as Worshipful Master of Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835 in Saintfield, Province of Down, chose two charities to be the beneficiaries of the Lodge's fund raising efforts. Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke as the charity, outside of Masonic Charities, whilst the Ovarian Cancer Appeal was chosen as a selected Masonic Supported Charity, by the Province of Down.

The money was raised by holding a quiz night in a local cricket club in Saintfield as well as a golf outing at Rockmount Golf Club, also in Saintfield. The donations to the Ovarian Cancer appeal was also boosted by the individual collection from the Lodge members.

Lodge Members together with Mrs Dorothy Stephenson from Chest, Heart & Stroke and R.W.Bro. Barry Brewster, Ovarian Cancer



Gorey - Annual Christmas Fair

Some Brethren from Harmony Lodge No. 228 Gorey who were asked to organise R.W.Bro. Santa for the Annual Christmas Fair seen here with some of the Brethren from Gorey.

He was paraded down the street in V.W.Bro. Humprey Spencer's Vintage Car. R.W.Bro. Santa then went on to meet the children and to switch on the Christmas Tree Lights.





The Fermoy Lodge 555 Seal on the Diamond Jubilee Cake.

Harmony Lodge 555 60 Years in Cork

On December 7th last, Harmony Masonic Lodge 555 marked the completion of its Diamond Jubilee Year of meeting at The Masonic Hall, Cork City, by holding its annual excursion in Fermoy, north Cork. The Lodge had previously met in Fermoy for over 150 years, from 1801 until 1953.

The afternoon commenced with a festive lunch at The Grand Hotel for 30 Brethren and guests of the Lodge. This was followed by a walkabout in old Fermoy, viewing the former Lodge Room behind 'Batavia' on the Rathealy Road, courtesy of Mr Michael Glavin. This room, formerly Fermoy Assembly Rooms, was where the Lodge met from the 1860s until the 1950s. The next stop was at Christ Church Fermoy, where Mrs Hazel Baylor arranged access to view the Lodge 555 Masonic brass plaque and the communion rails, dated 1885, in memory of V.W.Bro. The Revd. Canon Arundel Hill, PPGC, Rector of Fermoy and, for many years, Secretary to the Lodge.

Memorial Brass plaque at Christ Church, Fermoy.



The Brethren and their guests then drove to the former Kilworth Church (now The Village Arts Theatre), where W.Bro. Desmond Corban-Lucas of First Lodge of Ireland gave a talk on the churchyard and its history. The grounds, kept impeccably by Mr Jim Nash, where much admired and appreciated by all. Following the talk, W.Bro. Drew Ruttle, W.M. of 555 for 2013, laid a wreath at the headstone of W.Bro. John Bible, who served an incredible fourteen years as Worshipful Master of Lodge 555, between the years 1808 and 1834 – to his memory and to that of all the Brethren of Fermoy who served Lodge 555 so faithfully during the years the Lodge met in the town.

The Masonic Stained Glass window in the church porch was then unveiled by W.Bro. Dr David J. Butler, W.M. during 2012, when the Lodge conceived the idea of its restoration, holding a series of events that ranged from a musical evening at The Masonic Hall Cork, to book sales and excursions and raising the €3,000 required. Once inside, local historian and author, Mr Bill Power, gave a presentation on Fermoy district, its military and Masonic heritage, which concluded the afternoon's proceedings.



Masonic Stained Glass Window, Kilworth.



Group Photograph, Kilworth.

Bandon Freemasons Fundraise for Hyperbaric Oxygen Centre

As part of their 275th Year Celebrations, The Antient Bandon Lodge No. 84 presented a cheque for €400 to The Bandon Hyperbaric Oxygen Centre. Situated in The Town Hall, Bandon, this registered charity, established in 1997, one of only a handful of specialised centres on the island of Ireland for the treatment of diverse conditions – burns, severe injury, stroke, MS and tissue damage among them – through the healing properties of oxygen.

The Bandon Hyperbaric Oxygen Centre Committee has a policy that no member of the public will be refused on account of their financial circumstances. Due to the high costs of running the centre, the committee was particularly pleased to receive the Bandon Brethren's donation, which they considered to be "a source of encouragement to our team of dedicated volunteer-workers and chamber operators. It is always gratifying to see healthy and fit members of our community show such concern for the less fortunate. Without such tremendous support from fund raisers like you, our project would never have progressed beyond discussion stage. We are privileged that you have chosen our charity on this occasion".



V.W.Bro. J.T. Carlisle Smith, (Director of Ceremonies);
Mr Paddy O'Sullivan (Sec., Bandon Hyperbaric Oxygen Centre Committee);
V.W.Bro. Alwyn C. Williams (Almoner); W.Bro. Jeffrey H. Johnstone (W.M.).

Honorary Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden (Munster) V.W.Bro. William T. Cavanagh

At the September 23, 2013 meeting of Harmony Lodge 555 – to which he affiliated during 1961 – W.Bro. William T. Cavanagh was presented with his 60 year Certificate. This event came three years late as, at the time of his affiliation, the then Lodge Secretary failed to note the date of his initiation to his Mother Lodge in Limerick City! The oversight was discovered thanks to V.W.Bro. Basil Ruttle, serving Lodge Secretary.

Immediately following the initial presentation, R.W.Bro. Leslie Deane, P.G.M. of Munster, then proceeded to invest W.Bro. Cavanagh with the title of Honorary Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden of Munster, to the acclaim of the assembled Brethren. V.W.Bro. Cavanagh is the second oldest – and second longest serving – Freemason in the Province of Munster, having recently celebrated his 88th birthday. Now in his 89th year, Bill continues to serve his Lodge as Chaplain, an office he has held the past twenty years, and seldom misses a meeting.

*V.W.Bro. William T. Cavanagh, Hon. P.P.J.G.W. (Munster) beside his stall as
Chaplain of Lodge 555.*



275th Celebrations for Lodge 90



Members of Lodge 90 Cavan along with their Ladies, the D.G.M; P.G.M. and the P.D.G.M. of Meath prior to dinner in a local hotel as part of its celebrations to mark the 275th Anniversary of the Lodge.

Celebration Night For Bill At Armagh Home Guard Lodge No.747

At the December 2013 Communication of the Lodge in Lurgan Hall, V.W.Bro. Bill Nevin was presented with his Diamond Jubilee Certificate and 60 year bar by the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Colin McCullough.

Bill, originally from North Antrim and a former school teacher now living in Portadown, was initiated into the Lodge on 3rd December 1953, his 24th birthday. He served as Worshipful Master in 1967 followed by 14 years as Secretary and also held office in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Armagh.

In reply to the presentation, Bill thanked the Brethren for marking the occasion. He also recalled some interesting facts and anecdotes from the early years of the Lodge, which was formed after the 2nd World War in 1946.



Blaris Hall Rededicated Following Arson Attack



On a mid summer morning in 2012, a local postman noticed smoke billowing from Blaris Masonic Hall, on the rural outskirts of Lisburn. The hall is the meeting place of three Craft Lodges, Lord Arthur Hill No. 147, Largymore Star of Down No. 753 and Sirron No. 874, as well as Lord Arthur Hill Royal Arch Chapter No. 147 and Council of Knight Masons No. 50. The hall had been broken into, regalia and a volume of the Sacred Law doused with petrol and set on fire and Past Master and Past Kings' jewels in a display case stolen.

What made the event even more upsetting was that it came at the end of a period where the hall was extensively refurbished through the hard work of the Brethren. I won't ever forget the dejected faces of those Brethren when I visited the scene that same day.

The incident was highlighted on the front page of the Lisburn Star with a full article inside and, within a matter of days, a man arrived at Lisburn Station and confessed to the crime. During 2013 he was successfully prosecuted for arson and burglary and received a suspended sentence.

The hall's Insurance Company acted promptly, appointed a loss adjuster and provided an initial payment which enabled the repairs to commence and, five months later, with a final settlement agreed, the hall was back in service.

With the hall back to its former glory, a Rededication Service was arranged as a celebration of what had been achieved by the Brethren of Blaris. The hall was packed and buzzing as the Brethren shared stories and looked at photographs of the work. The Rededication was lead by R.W.Bro. Richard H. Gray, Provincial Grand Master, who congratulated all the Brethren of the hall and others who had helped in so many ways.

To chronicle the work and the brethren involved a record was produced by W.Bro. Barry Martin, Secretary of Sirron, and this can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3c5uy4lvgnz1ck3/BLARIS%20HALL%20pdf%20Precis%20%26%20Cover%20page.pdf#>

W.Bro. Michael Holden

Banbridge District Masonic Charity Committee Carol Service

The Annual Banbridge District Family Carol Service was held on Sunday 8th December in Seapatrick Parish Church, Banbridge.

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was conducted by Archdeacon Roderic West accompanied by the Church Organist and Choir and members of Banbridge Silver Band.

Lessons were read by members of local Lodges, Chapters and Councils from Lisburn, Banbridge, Dromore, Magherally and Ballyward and the church was filled almost to capacity with Brethren, family and friends.

Many local political representatives attended the service including Mr. David Simpson M.P. for Upper Bann; Councillor Mark Baxter, Mayor of Craigavon Borough Council; Councillor Margaret Tolerton, Mayor of Lisburn City Council; Councillor Olive Mercer, Chairman of Banbridge District Council and Mrs. Jo-Anne Dobson, M.L.A. for Upper Bann.

Masonic dignitaries included R.W.Bro. Richard Gray, Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, Assistant Grand Master, M.Ex.Comp. Ken Vance, District Grand King, R.E. Sir Kt. Robin Imrie, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Mid Ulster and the High & V. Em. Prior of the Provincial Priory of South Ulster, S Gordon Leathem.

The collection in aid of the Down Masonic Widows' Fund raised £960 and at the conclusion of the service everyone was invited to the church hall for a cup of tea and a mince pie or two.



Front row

David Simpson MP; Councillor Mark Baxter, Councillor Margaret Tolerton, Councillor Olive Mercer, Mrs. Jo-Anne Dobson, MLA; R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, Assistant Grand Master

Middle row

W.Bro. Graham Walker, Chairman of Banbridge Masonic District Charity Committee; R.W.Bro. Richard Gray, R.Ex. Comp. Jim Copes, District Assistant Grand King; M.Ex. Comp. Alan Stewart, Grand High Priest

Back Row

R.W.Bro. Ivan Boreland, P.A.G.M.; R.W.Bro. Roger Matthews, P.D.G.M.; R.W.Bro. Harold Henning, P.A.G.M.; High & V.Em. Sir Knt. S Gordon Leathem, M.Ex. Comp. Ken Vance, R.W.Bro. John Clarke, P.A.G.M.; R.Ex. Sir Kt. Robin Imrie.



**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE GRAND LODGE WEBSITE AT:
WWW.IRISH-FREEMASONS.ORG**

Curran 532 hosts Annual Children's Christmas Party

On Friday 6th December Curran 532 hosted 27 children and their families from the local village and surrounding area to their Annual Children's Christmas Party.

The Party is held as a cross community event and for the first time was supported by Magherafelt District Council.

At the event there was Face painting for the children, followed by a Magician and of course Santa.

Santa can be seen giving some of the children gifts which included 'TLC Teddies' (photo of all holding teddies).

Curran 532 decided to support the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal, in purchasing 30 of the TLC Teddies to give as gifts to the local children. The significance of the teddies was explained to all present by W.Bro. Lorne Kavanagh, P.G.L. Inner Guard. Food was served to all by the Lodge members and a great night was had by all.



Presentation to Horizon West by Newtownstewart Masonic Lodge No. 547

A golf tournament organised by Newtownstewart Masonic Lodge No. 547 in aid of the Children's Hospice in Killadeas, raised the magnificent sum of £2,500.00.

Receiving the cheque from W.Bro. Sam Gallager [left] and Bro. Robert Canders [right], is Gemma McCallan, Horizon West Community Fund Raising Officer. Also in the photograph [back row left – right] are W.Bros. Robin McCallan, John Bimson, and Stewart Robinson, who helped with arrangements for the event.



W.Bro. McKinney – 60 not out!!

On Tuesday 3rd December, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Noel Drain, attended Curran Masonic Hall to present W.Bro. Stanley McKinney with his 60 year bar and Certificate.



W.Bro. Stanley joined Masonry on 1st December 1953 and in that period of 60 years has only missed 5 meetings – an excellent record. The presentation was attended by 40 members of Lodge 532, along with other local Lodges and a host of Provincial Officers past and present.

Presentation to Epilepsy Action Omagh Branch

Ex. Comp. Gerry McFarland [left] and Ex. Comp. William Robinson [right] of Royal Arch Chapter No. 547 Newtown Stewart, present a cheque for £250.00 to representatives from Epilepsy Action, this being the Past Excellent King's nominated Charity for 2013.



Wright Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 448 Newtownards

Prior to the Stated Communication of the Lodge on Monday 18th November 2013, Bro. William Allen B.E.M. was presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate to mark 60 years of service. Bro. Allen being unable to attend the Lodge due to ill health, the presentation was carried out at his home by the W. Master, W.Bro. Will Brown accompanied by senior members of the Lodge.

Pictured in the photograph from left to right are the W. Master W.Bro. Will Brown, Bro. William Allen B.E.M., and W.Bro. Tom McCullough.

