



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



MAY 2005

Plácido Domingo – A Night of Magic

Commentary by the Deputy Grand Master



Wednesday 9th March was indeed a red letter day for Irish Freemasonry when Events GLI Ltd, an umbrella organisation of Grand Lodge, sponsored a wonderful evening with Plácido Domingo in the Point Theatre, Dublin. It was indeed a night of magic and the response of the audience made us especially proud to be Irish Freemasons and witnessing the practical involvement of our Order in supporting community projects.

The support of the public, which came from all parts, was especially pleasing. The Senior Officers of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodges, regaled in their finery and chains, were thrilled when approached by many theatregoers acclaiming our Order for the excellence of



Plácido Domingo.

its charity work. It was most satisfying to receive this tremendous feedback.

Maestro Domingo has been hailed as the world's greatest tenor and that was obviously so as we listened to his singing and experienced the quality of his top notes and the brilliance of his wonderful tones. This was only his second appearance since he performed at the same venue fourteen years ago. His choice of music was most enjoyable and his rendition of 'Granada' was exhilarating. His encore was most acceptable when he introduced an Irish flavour by singing a Simon Morgan setting of 'She moved through the fair' in duet with Ana Maria Martinez - we were enthralled! Miss Martinez, as well as accompanying Maestro Domingo in duet also sang solo and such was the quality

of her marvellous Soprano voice the audience not only applauded but cheered.

After the performance, the Grand Master's Party including the Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Garda Commissioner and their partners were introduced to Maestro and Mrs Domingo, Miss Martinez and Maestro Kohn, Guest Conductor of the RTE Concert Orchestra. The President and Taoiseach were unable to attend due to personal indisposition and election issues respectively and we were equally disappointed that invitations to northern luminaries were not taken up.

A Grand Banquet was held after the performance in the Four Seasons Hotel in Ballsbridge where we were able to socialise with both artists and friends. The food was very special, the service excellent and a genuine atmosphere of quality was readily sensed. The Grand Master and I sat at either side of Maestro and Mrs Domingo and found them

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Maestro Eugene Kohn, Miss Ana Maria Martinez and Maestro Plácido Domingo.



**Grand Lodge of Ireland
Freemasons of Ireland
Golfing Society**



Millennium Charity Cup 2005
at
Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown

on
Friday 16th September 2005

**2005 Charities:
Race against Multiple Sclerosis
& Masonic Charities**

£1,000 in Prizes
Three Prize categories:-
1. Masonic Brethren
2. Non-Masons
3. Ladies

Prizes will be presented at the Evening of Entertainment
NO QUALIFYING
The first 200 entries taken on a First come,
First served basis
No Green Fees required on the day
Registration Fee:- £15

Registration Forms &
Competition Rules available from:
Noel Simpson
13 Carneybaun Drive
Portrush, BT56 8JA
Tel: 028 7082 3332
Mobile: 07866 554 505
email: par70mm589@aol.com




VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

An Address given by R.W.Bro. Michael W. Walker, Grand Secretary,
at the Quarterly Stated Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England,
held on Wednesday 9th March, 2005, in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

M.W. Pro Grand Master and Brethren,

Firstly let me say that I feel no stranger amongst you. I have been coming here now to visit your Grand Lodge, and to represent my own, for over twenty three years; and have finally mastered the key to the labyrinth that is Freemasons' Hall so that I can now get to the robing room and thence to the doors of Grand Lodge without getting lost. Sadly this acquired skill will shortly be superfluous when I hand the baton on to another and ride into the sunset. However, and because of this, I am indeed grateful for the opportunity to make a short valedictory address on this my last official visit as Grand Secretary for Ireland.

A well-known Dublin character and successful art-dealer was recently quoted in his obituary/appreciation as having frequently remarked that "most of us have delusions of grandeur. If we can afford them, we've a responsibility to occasionally indulge them". Well I have been graciously afforded the opportunity and will therefore accept the opportunity to indulge my delusions by these few words.

Because Freemasonry is a subjective entity it makes its own special contribution to each individual and it is therefore very difficult to provide an exact definition for an outsider, but I was reminded recently of one of the best definitions I have ever come across when, in a press report on the Holocaust Memorial Day, 60th Anniversary Celebrations, held in Dublin on January 30th this year, the Pope was recorded as saying "There must be no yielding to ideologies which justify contempt for human dignity on the basis of race, colour, language or religion"; and the Israeli President, Moshe Katsav is reported as saying "the will must resurface for a fraternal world, a world based on respect for man and his dignity". I was immediately struck by the similarity of these sentiments to those expressed just two hundred years ago by W.Bro. Daniel



R.W.Bro. Michael W. Walker.

O'Connell, Freemason, Lawyer and Statesman, who when delivering a speech in 1814, upon "illegal associations", described Freemasonry as "Philanthropy, unconfined by sect, nation, colour, or religion". Truth, one of our three main principles and precepts does not change. Truth, in a masonic connotation, may be expanded into, or interpreted as, public and private morality, the knowledge and fear of God and, following on from that, respect for, and love of, our neighbour. This respect includes toleration of his personal viewpoint, his religious beliefs and his political opinions. If we pursue the aims of Freemasonry, our search should widen, yet focus our vision, while ever making us more deeply aware of, and closer to, the Great Architect of the Universe, heightening our spirituality and deepening our insight into that which we may never hope fully to understand. There is so much more to Freemasonry than the shallow depth of today's assessment and its scant inspection and acceptance by today's society, obsessed as society is with overt material success for the individual rather than his overall contribution to society.

The purpose of Masonry is "self-improvement" - not in the material

sense, but in the intellectual, moral and philosophic sense of developing the whole persona and psyche so as, in the beautiful and emotive language of the ritual, "to fit ourselves to take our places, as living stones, in that great spiritual building, not made by hands, eternal in the Heavens". Such an hypothetical, whole, developed, complete person must, in his journey through life, and in his interaction with others, make a more extensive contribution to society in general, thus realizing and fulfilling his expressed wish on initiation, to become "more extensively useful amongst his fellow-men". Such are the lofty, lawful and laudable aspirations of the Order.

In marketing terms we must view Freemasonry as a product. This is what we are "selling", or otherwise providing, for uptake by members and potential members. To increase our sales, we must either improve the product or make the packaging more attractive. Freemasonry is a fairly stable product in itself - very little can be done to alter the product without changing it entirely in both essence and appearance. Its principles and precepts have stood the test of time and are as valid today as ever. We cannot change the product and remain in the same business; and we must be true to ourselves in this. If we want change to the extent of getting into a new line of business it must be accepted and recognized that this is exactly what we are doing; and will it perhaps not be long before somebody decides that the new product is not quite right and needs further adjustment to meet the current demands of society. This, I suggest is not an option which is open to us. What we have and what we stand for will always be right, even if its acceptance rises or falls on the scales of time.

What we can do is upgrade the packaging, and make it look more attractive to potential customers, while also actually making it more palatable to current consumers. In

the former case we can - and indeed already so do - actively adopt a higher profile; and gently but firmly "let our light shine before men". The candle in the window is the invitation symbol understood by all; and some will accept and knock on the door. I am entirely against the "go out into the highways and by-ways and compel them to come in" attitude as is currently being adopted and practised by some North American Grand Lodges. Hard-sell is not for Freemasonry however you may try to dress it up. Freemasonry is there to be adopted and savoured by those with minds attuned to, or even seeking, its attainment and what it provides. Freemasonry is not for everyone; but within all populations and at all times there will be those to whom it will appeal. By its packaging and presentation these customers may be identified and maximised but they cannot be created. Our principles, sometimes referred to as "Ancient Landmarks", must stand firm, upright and visible, like the pillars of stone and brick raised by Enoch in the Land of Siriad, and which were still standing in the time of Josephus, lest the Arts and Sciences - in our case the whole body of Freemasonry - should slip from the knowledge of men.

M.W. Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I have been the counterpart or colleague, and I hope, the friend of three Grand Secretaries of England and three Grand Secretaries of Scotland from whom at all times I received the utmost co-operation and support symbolising the essence of the Masonic Ethos, for which I personally, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland which I represent, are and will be forever grateful. May I say that I am sure you will accord the same reception, support and many courtesies to my successor.

I would like to close by likening my experience of Freemasonry and the wealth of kindness, generosity and friendship extended to me over the years by so many, but particularly by those representing this Grand Lodge, by paraphrasing a description, by our probably best known poet and philosopher, William Butler Yeats, of Lady Gregory's home at Coole, in Co. Clare, - certainly a "maternal shelter" for craftsmen of a different "métier" - that "this house has enriched my soul out of measure, because here life moves, without restraint, through gracious forms".

Plácido Domingo

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to be most charming company. I presented my 'Irish' Masonic bow tie to him and in return he gave his tie causing both necks to be naked for a short period! I trust that it is not fourteen years until he returns again and I can't believe that it's all over!

This was indeed a mighty project during which many hours of work and dedication were expended by the Concert Operations Committee by whom the stress in organising such a major event was borne in a most professional manner. Our grateful thanks are due to them for a truly magnificent effort.

The Operations Committee is comprised of the following members (excluding titles):

John Keeley, Concert Director
 Derek Stone, Chairman
 William Clarke, Secretary/Aide-de-camp
 Robert Winters, Treasurer/Aide-de-camp
 Douglas Grey, Hospitality/Functions
 Noel Simpson, Logistics/Transport
 John Frazer, Logistics/Transport
 Trevor Hanna, PR Consultant
 Vere Wynne-Jones, PR Consultant
 Tom Murphy, Back Stage

We greatly appreciate the invaluable contributions made by two non-masons who also donated their skilled services to the Event, viz.

Simon Morgan,
 Assistant Concert Director

Mark Brown, Backstage Manager

Two charities were nominated by Maestro Domingo and The Point Theatre respectively and the others by Grand Lodge, viz.:



Miss Ana Maria Martinez.

The Marie Keating Foundation
 The Irish Autism Alliance
 The Ulster Cancer Foundation
 The Irish Cancer Society
 The Meningitis Research Society
 St Vincent de Paul Society

BBC (N.I.) Children in Need Appeal

The Irish Red Cross

The Northern Ireland Chest, Heart & Stroke Society

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

The extent to which these charities benefit will be determined over the following months when the relative income and costs have been reconciled, following which, formal presentations will be made.

I would thank all those brethren and their partners who attended the Concert and those who were unable to attend yet sent contributions or bought copies of the Concert Programme. Brethren who wish to enhance our contribution to the named charities may yet purchase programmes at €11 or £8 (incl. postage) from William Clarke, 5 Beech Hill Gardens, Lisburn, Co Antrim BT28 3HH.

OVER 200 YEARS IN MASONRY



The Brethren of Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge No. 147, Province of Down, were delighted to welcome R.W.Bro. David Lovesy, P.A.G.M., to their December Communication at which he presented Bro. Glenn Keery with his 50 Year Jewel and Certificate. Congratulating Glenn on this milestone in Masonry is the Lodge's other holders of 50 Year Jewels, pictured from left, W.Bro. Jack Wright (1950), R.W.Bro. David Lovesy, Bro. Glenn Keery, R.W.Bro. Ken Cochrane P.A.G.M. (1949), W.Bro. Jim Anderson (1949).

NEWRY MASONS SUPPORT M.S. AND HOSPICE



R.W. Bro. Mawhinney (AGM) and R.W. Bro. Armstrong (PGM) with Dr Donaldson and Fiona Stephens, representing Southern Area Hospice.

Representatives from Newry Lodges and their wives met in Newry Masonic Social Club and were honoured by the presence of R.W. Bro. William Mawhinney (Asst. Grand Master); R.W. Bro. Robert Armstrong (PGM of Down) and R.W. Bro. Robert Campbell (PPGM of Down).

R.W. Bro. Armstrong presented a cheque for £1,000 to Dr Donaldson from the Southern Area Hospice. This cheque was composed of late subscriptions to the Masonic Tractor Tour O'Ireland and brings the final total for that event to £40,300.

R.W. Bro. Campbell presented Ms Pat Aiken, secretary of the Newry & Mourne Branch of the M.S. Society, with a donation of £1,111 from Francis Crossle Lodge No.83.

Following the formalities, the Brethren of Lodge 83 entertained their distinguished guests to lunch in Warrenpoint Golf Club.

V.W. Bro. Robert Kelly
W.M. Lodge No. 83



R.W. Bros. Mawhinney & Campbell are seen making the presentation to Ms Aiken, M.S. Society.

Dr R W M Strain Trustees visit Masonic Havens Ltd., Co. Cavan

On the 24th of February 2005, four members of The Queen's University of Belfast Masonic Lodge, No. 533, paid a visit to St John's Close, a retirement village for the active elderly, and to the adjacent St Joseph's Nursing Home, both divisions of Masonic Haven's Ltd., situated near Virginia, Co. Cavan. They were met by R.W. Bro. Douglas T Grey, the Chairman of Masonic Haven's Ltd., V.W. Bro. William J McIlwaine, the Chairman of the Activities Committee at St John's, Mrs. Josephine Taite, the Matron of St Joseph's and Mr. Alan Kneale, the Warden of St. John's Close. After being entertained to lunch the visitors were shown round both Haven facilities. They expressed great satisfaction with the facilities available and the evident high standard of care being provided in the Nursing Home.

Before leaving, the visitors, in their capacity as Trustees of the Dr R W M Strain Masonic Charitable Trust, undertook to provide a sum of £1000 stg. from the Strain Trust for the purchase of a number of television sets for the use of residents in St Joseph's Nursing Home. A cheque



Left to right: W. Bro. Duncan Burns (Ass. Secty. QUB); W. Bro. J Fearon (Secty. QUB); W. Bro. Graeme J F Kerr (W.M. QUB); R.W. Bro. Douglas T Grey (Chairman, Masonic Havens Ltd.); R.W. Bro. Norman Jackson (I.P.M. QUB); V.W. Bro. William J McIlwaine (Chairman Operations Committee St. John's)

has subsequently been passed to R.W. Bro. Grey.

The Dr R W M Strain Masonic Charitable Trust was established using a bequest left to the Queen's Lodge by the late Dr R W M Strain (W.M. 1948) who died in 1999. The trustees of this Charity are elected from the membership of the Queen's Lodge and are empowered to assist a wide range of Masonic charities.

St Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 142

During the November communication of St Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 142, we had the honour to present three 50 year jewels to three of our more senior Brethren.

R.W. Bro. Samuel McConnell, (PPGL Insp.; Foreign rep. Ohio and W.M. of the Lodge in 1979) presented the jewels and certificates to W. Bro. William Nesbitt, W. Bro. Sidney Porter and W. Bro. Hugh Oliver, with the assistance from W. Bros. Robin Imrie; Mervin Proctor; William Pritchard and Robert English.

The three Brethren who received their jewels had given between them 150 years of loyal and devoted service to St. Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 142. W. Bro. William Nesbitt, P.P.G.L.S.B. was initiated, passed and raised in 1955, while W. Bro. Sidney Porter and W. Bro. Hugh Oliver were initiated, passed and raised in 1954.



Front row: W. Bro. William Nesbitt, W. Bro. Sidney Porter and W. Bro. Hugh Oliver.

All three Brethren were then presented with due ceremony to the W.M., W. Bro. Robert Gill where he passed on his congratulations and thanked them for their dedication and wished them many more years of fraternal Brotherhood.

W. Bro. John Smyth P.M. Secretary

New stained glass window unveiled in Coleraine Masonic Hall

Some two years ago W.Bro. C D McClintock, then Junior Warden of Royal Blue Lodge No. 754 offered at his own expense, to design and manufacture a stained glass window to replace the existing landing window in Coleraine Masonic Hall provided that the Masons of all branches of The Order, meeting in the Hall, would raise a sum approximating to the estimated cost, the resulting fund to be donated to the Masonic Charities.

The scheme was readily adopted by the 6 Lodges, 2 Chapters, a Council of Knight Masons and a Preceptory, and in all a sum of £6,725 was raised through subscriptions and the proceeds of various money-raising functions run by the Brethren.

The unveiling and dedication of the window took place at the Installation Communication of Royal Blue Lodge No. 754 on 14th February 2005, when W.Bro. McClintock was installed as W.M. in the presence of the M.W. Grand Master, who graciously accepted the invitation to be present and unveil the new window. R.W.Bro. Rev. D Selwoode Graham. Junior Grand Chaplain conducted the ceremony of dedication, and a cheque was presented to V.W.Bro. R Bankhead, Grand Steward of Charities, for the Victoria Jubilee M.B.F. Among other distinguished Brethren present was R.W.Bro. R G Quigley, Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry & Donegal.



The photograph shows the M.W. Grand Master, W.Bro. C D McClintock W.M., R.W.Bro. D S Graham, Junior Grand Chaplain; R.W.Bro. R G Quigley, Provincial Grand Master and V.W.Bro. R Bankhead, Grand Steward of Charities.

At the following Festive Board in the Lodge Hotel, Coleraine some 132 Brethren had the opportunity to hear the Grand Master give his views on the way forward for Irish Masonry in the 21st Century, and the Brethren had the opportunity to discover the Grand Master's engaging personality and to interact with him on a personal basis.

Guests were present from as far distant as Beirut, Lebanon and the window was greatly admired. W.Bro. McClintock's skills in stained-glass and in the Masonic symbolism that he had incorporated into the design were highly praised - it was an installation which he will long remember and the appearance of the Hall has been enhanced for generations to come.

Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 366

At the February communication not only was it a special night for our new Worshipful Master and Officers for 2005, but a 50 year jewel was to be presented to W.Bro. James A Douglas.

W.Bro. Douglas joined Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 366 on the 15th February 1955 and 50 years to the day he was presented with his Jewel and Certificate by R.W.Bro. William Manning (P.A.G.M.). The evening concluded with 65 guests and Brethren enjoying the Installation Festive Board.

W.Bro. V Young - Secretary



L-R (front): W.Bro. C.Keys, W.M. W.Bro. J A Douglas, R.W.Bro. W Manning P.A.G.M. (back): V.W.Bro. J January; R.W.Bro. B Kershaw P.G.Treas.; R.W.Bro. V Whyte, W.Bro. J Thompson and W.Bro. R Bond P.M.

Royal Blue 140 honours the "Father" of the Lodge



W.Bro. Officer Gorman seated, with W.Bro. Nigel Hamill (W.M.) and V.W.Bro. James McClurg. Photo: R.W.Bro. Bill Cummings.

On Tuesday 2nd November 2004, four members of Crumlin Royal Blue Lodge visited W.Bro. Officer Gorman in his home to present him with a 60 year bar to his 50 year Jewel.

The Brethren who attended were, the W.M. W.Bro. Nigel Hamill, Lodge Secretary W.Bro. David McFetridge, Lodge Historian R.W.Bro. W S (Bill) Cummings and V.W.Bro. James H McClurg P.G. Chaplain.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE



W.Bro. Brian Compton (centre) presenting cheque for £500 to representatives of Emergency Medical Care.

The October meeting of Magherafelt Masonic Club was a special occasion for the Members, especially the Treasurer W.Bro. Brian Compton, when he had the privilege to present a cheque for £500 to Mr Timothy Anderson a representative from Magherafelt Emergency Health Care.

The money was raised from the proceeds of the Annual Barbecue and Treasure Hunt.

W.Bro. Matthew Davidson

One Hundred Years of County Lodge 381



Pictured is the R. Wor. Provincial Grand Master of Down and Brethren of 381.

On 19th November 2004, County Masonic Lodge No. 381 celebrated its One Hundredth Anniversary with a night to remember at Royal Belfast Golf Club.

The Warrant was first issued on 8th September 1762 to James Campbell, William McCullough and Duncan Campbell as Master and Wardens, to erect a Lodge of Freemasons in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Foot. There is no further mention of the Lodge until 3rd December 1904, when the Warrant was issued to William E Williams of Lodge No. 88, Edwin Hughes of Lodge No. 7 and Richard A Shekleton of Lodge No. 10, as Master and Wardens, to erect the present "County" Lodge at Holywood. The opening ceremony was performed in the presence of a large gathering of Masonic Brethren by R.W.Bro. Sir James Creed Meredith, Deputy Grand Master of Ireland and other Grand Officers.

On 12th January 1905 the McCammon Memorial Hall was opened and County Masonic Lodge No. 381 was constituted. The new hall which is situated in Sullivan Place was raised as a memorial to the late Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Down R.W.Bro. Thomas A McCammon.

At the Centenary Dinner the Lodge was honoured to have as guests R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong, Provincial Grand Master and R.W.Bro. Robert Thomson present, and both distinguished Brethren had a very enjoyable evening in which they spoke to the Brethren at length about current issues affecting Freemasonry in the Province of Down and the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

County Lodge has a small but growing membership and in the past two years we have managed to gain three new Brethren and the Lodge is now moving forward in the new millennium, and is currently in a healthy position.

W. Bro Daren Patterson, Treasurer

THE CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Since 2003, Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 141 has been running a joint charity venture with The City of Dublin Skin & Cancer Hospital in Hume Street. Our then W.M., Jim Lovegrove, was on the Board of the Hospital and suggested that we combine our resources to revive their golf classic, which had lapsed after 1998 due to the death of the previous organiser.

We formed a joint committee, got a great deal with Edmondstown Golf Club and raised over EUR 23,000 in 2003 and over EUR 19,000 in 2004 - and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The proceeds were divided equally between the Hospital

and Masonic Charities chosen by Leinster Lodge, with the Research Fund, VJMA, Haven and Welfare Fund all benefiting.

We've decided to keep going! This year's event will be held on 20 May 2005, again in Edmondstown, and Trevor Boate (tel. no. 01 - 494 4741) will be delighted to hear from anyone wanting to enter a team of 4 (EUR 700, including dinner and wine) or sponsor a hole (EUR 150) or just to seek information. A number of companies have used it as a way of entertaining valued customers.

W.Bro. Trevor Boate, Committee Chairman



"Picture shows W.Bro. Trevor Boate making the 2004 presentation to the winning team from Davy Stockbrokers, watched carefully by Bro. Colm Flanagan (extreme right)".

Grand Master's Standard Bearer – 2004

V.W.Bro. Samuel W.J. Craig of Richhill Masonic Lodge No. 328 has just completed his year in Office as the Grand Master's Standard Bearer. This honour was not only bestowed on V.W.Bro. Craig but also his Lodge which has just completed 100 years of continuous working in the village of Richhill.

Sam's Masonic career has seen him complete over fifty years membership of this Lodge and he has been a guiding light in maintaining high standards of ritual and Degree work. He continues to occupy the Chair of his beloved Lodge for a short time each January as he installs the new W.M. at the



V.W.Bro. Samuel Craig, P.G.M.Std.B.

annual Installation of Officers.

The honour of being chosen as the Grand Master's Standard Bearer for 2004 was the culmination of many years of dedicated and sterling work for the Masonic Institution, not only in Richhill but also in many Lodges in the area. The Brethren of Richhill arranged to have V.W.Bro. Craig's portrait placed in

the Masonic Hall as a fitting tribute to our Brother who has achieved much in his years in Masonry. We, in Richhill, hope that he will continue to enhance our Communications in the years ahead with his wise and valuable counsel.

ST. ALBAN'S – A WORLDWIDE LODGE TITLE

During the summer of 2004 both the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal received communications from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The subject of these communications concerned a "Gathering" of all Lodges worldwide that had the name of St. Alban in their Lodge title.

These Gatherings, initiated by W.Bro. Robert R Savage of St. Alban's 56, New York, have been held since Saturday 9th October 1954. The organisers for 2004, St. Alban's 529 Philadelphia, had belatedly discovered the existence of St. Alban's 719 Limavady in the Irish Constitution and were anxious to be given permission to communicate directly with the Limavady Lodge. Currently a group of 30 Lodges from 6 countries belong to this association whose sole aim is to promote international Masonic brotherhood and friendship.

Permission having been duly obtained the invitation to the Gathering in Philadelphia arrived in Limavady. Unfortunately, the

timescale to answer and attend was too short for the Gathering in October 2004, but the Lodge members have noted with interest that the venue for the 2006 Gathering will be in Northumbria in England. Hopefully with time to organise and prepare, the Limavady Brethren will be able to make their presence felt at this Gathering.

In replying to the invitation St. Alban's 719 Limavady were able to point out a few connections which already existed between the Brethren of Limavady and those in Pennsylvania. This is an excerpt from the history of St. Alban's 719, Limavady:

"Bro. Thomas Mullin of Lodge 229, Pennsylvania was recorded as a visitor to the Lodge (719) in 1873 during a visit to his home town of Limavady. Bro. Mullin was made an Honorary Member and donated £2 to the "Orphans' School". In August 1875 another exile, Bro. Thomas Patton, presented the Lodge with a picture of the Masonic Temple in Pennsylvania. He was at that time, or

became shortly thereafter, the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The picture he presented still hangs in the Lodge room".

Having waited for 129 years to respond to this generous gesture of W.Bro. Patton, the Brethren of St. Alban's have now sent a photographic portrait of the Masonic Hall in Limavady. This Hall which was opened in 1901 would not have existed when the two exiled Brethren visited the Lodge. With the link to Pennsylvania re-established who knows what different and exciting developments might now arise. The Brethren of St. Alban's 719 Limavady await them with interest.

W.Bro. Victor Whyte, Secretary

Armagh Charity Dinner



Pictured at the presentation of two cheques to local charity representatives at Portadown Masonic Hall are members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Armagh who raised the money through a charity dinner held in the Carngrove Hotel, Portadown. The cheques were both for £250 and were presented to Craigavon Cardiac Association and the Mandeville Unit at Craigavon Hospital. Pictured front from left are Roger Gill, Committee Secretary, Bill Cummins Craigavon Cardiac Care Association; R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins P.G.M.; Griania White, Mandeville Unit and Joe Robinson, Committee Chairman. At back are members of the Committee – Ian Spiers; Garfield Hyde & Reuben Mathers. The other charities to benefit were Castleblaney Cancer and the Richardson Memorial Fund.

William Shannon Masonic Lodge No. 373 Celebrates its Centenary



Front Row (L-R) Bro. Clarke (Deacon); W.Bro. Bickerstaff; W.Bro. Hunsdale; Bro. Ritchie; R.W.Bro. Robert J Armstrong; R.W.Bro. William Mawhinney; W.Bro. Hannah (W.M.); W.Bro. R J Dillon; W.Bro. Edwards & W.Bro. Weir (Deacon).

William Shannon Masonic Lodge No. 373 celebrated its Centenary on Friday 29th October 2004 in the Newtownards Road Masonic Hall, Belfast. The Lodge was honoured with the presence of R.W.Bro. William Mawhinney, Asst. Grand Master and

R.W.Bro. Robert J Armstrong, Provincial Grand Master of Down.

During the evening, Bro. Ritchie presented R.W.Bro. Armstrong with a cheque for £1,000 to be donated to the Belfast Masonic Widows Fund.

Former “Old Boy” receives 60 Year Bar



Pictured is W.Bro. Joe Vaughan of Carleton Masonic Lodge No. 231, receiving a “60 Year Bar” to his 50 Year Jewel, from R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins (P.G.M. Armagh). Looking on is V.W.Bro. George Robinson, W.M. of the Lodge and R.W.Bro. Sam Patience (P.G.L. Treasurer, Armagh).

W.Bro. Vaughan is a former pupil of the Masonic Boys’ School from 1930-1933. He joined the Lodge in June 1942, received his Fellowcraft degree in July 1942 and his Master Mason Degree in September of the same year. He was W.M. in 1958 and became Secretary in 1959 and continued in office for 5 years.

Outside Masonry, W.Bro. Vaughan is held in high esteem by the cricketing fraternity and has umpired to a high level of competition.

W.Bro. Sidney Conn (Almoner)

THREE FIFTY YEAR JEWELS IN ONE LODGE ON THE SAME NIGHT – CAN THIS BE A RECORD?

The November meeting of St. Nicholas Lodge No. 1014 Carrickfergus was a very special one for all the members, but especially so for three members who had each served the Order for fifty years. The Lodge was delighted that the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Adam J McKinley was able to accept the Lodge’s invitation to join us and to present the Jewels and Certificates.

W.Bro. John J McCormick entered Freemasonry in May 1954, initiated into Lodge 218 in Arthur Square. Sadly the Lodge suffered the fate of many City Centre Lodges due to the troubles and the Warrant was reluctantly handed in. He joined St. Nicholas in 1978 and was installed as W.Master in 1991 and served some time as Director of Ceremonies

W.Bro. Alex G Morrison entered Freemasonry in September 1954 in Tollcross 1194 in the Scottish Constitution, a Lodge with which he still has strong ties. He joined St. Nicholas in 1969 when he brought his bride of 14 years back to her native Ulster. He was installed W. Master in 1977 and serves as Provincial Grand Steward in 1989. Four of the members of Tollcross made the

journey to Carrickfergus and made a fine sight in Black Watch kilts. He also received a Scottish Constitution Certificate from the visiting Brethren.

W. Bro John McClure was initiated into St. Nicholas in September 1954 and was installed as W. Master in 1978 and has been a most faithful, supportive and attentive member of the Lodge. He has lived all his life in Carrickfergus where he has been a successful builder and businessmen.



The picture shows from left to right W.Bro. McCormick, W.Bro. Morrison, the W. Master W.Bro Derek Kane, the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Adam J McKinley and W.Bro. McClure.

W.Bro. Alan Robinson Secretary

Historic Visit for Randalstown Masonic Lodge No. 598

This was the first time in the History of our Lodge to have travelled to Dublin to hold an Emergency Meeting, at which a Third Degree was conferred.



We had 30 Brethren attend the Meeting, including our Most Worshipful Grand Master and R.W.Bro. John Frazer the Provincial Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim and our own

V.W.Bro. John Millar, Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Unfortunately our Grand Master was not able to attend the whole Meeting as he had to attend another 2 meetings prior to ours, but we were

very much honoured by his attendance in the latter part, when he spoke to the Brethren and presented Master Mason Certificates to two of our Brethren.

W.Bro. John Coulter (Secretary)

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