



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



MAY 2007

“I CAN’T THANK THE FREEMASONS ENOUGH”

Diarmuid Hegarty, Chairman of the Friends of the Vocal Arts of Ireland, and of Griffith College, made a very public display of his thanks to the Order to a sold-out National Concert Hall on January 25th. He was addressing a packed audience, which included the President and Dr McAleese, and, in introducing Past Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric Waller and Mrs Waller, called for a special round of applause in appreciation.



(L-R) Dr. Veronica Dunne; M.W.Bro. Eric N Waller; Mrs. Pam Waller and Mr. Diarmuid Hegarty.

The Past Grand Master, Managing Director of Events GLI and his wife Pam, were attending as special Guests, at the Final of the triennial Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition, the initial rounds of which, having been held in Freemasons’ Hall, over a period of three days. He also represented the Grand Master at the Competition’s Gala Banquet at Dublin Castle and at the President’s Reception at the NCH, where further compliments were accorded to Freemasonry.

Dr Veronica Dunne, a very well known ‘icon’ of the Irish musical world, founded the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition in 1995 and it has taken place every three to four years since. It is a major international event, attracting competitors from all over the world, to what has become a showcase for the singers of the future.

The production of the Freemasons’ Hall part of the competition was in the hands of the Operations Management Team of Events GLI and the special lighting of the Grand Lodge Room was designed by international Lighting Designer, Nicholas Malbon.

A DIFFICULT CHOICE

Under the Chairmanship of Jane Carty, founder of the RTE Musician of the Future Festival, the highly

qualified Judges, from Canada, Italy, Austria, Scotland, England and France found it so difficult at the Semi Final that they were unable to choose six for the Final as intended, and had to settle on seven.

although only 20, had a wonderfully creamy, yet powerful voice. The third prize went to Welsh soprano Elizabeth Donovan (26) who is shortly to appear with the Welsh

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FINAL AT THE NCH

The Final was held in the National Concert Hall. The competition ended after another close-run vote by the Judges, with the first prize being presented by The President to Mari Moriya, a 28-year-old soprano from Japan. She had stunned the audience with a wonderful performance of the ‘Queen of the Night’ aria from the Magic Flute, sailing into all the top notes with ease. Second came Ireland’s Tara Erraught, a Mezzo Soprano from Sligo, who,

**A charity Gala
“The Joy of Music!”**

...with

- Finghin & Dearbhla Collins (Piano),
- Mari Moriya (Soprano),
(Competition First prize winner)
- Paul Austin Kelly (Tenor),
- Tara Erraught (Mezzo)
(Competition Second prize winner)
- Simon Morgan (Baritone).
- The Veronica Dunne Chorus.
- The RTÉ Concert Orchestra
conducted by Laurent Wagner

ADVANCE NOTICE

Highlights

- ‘The Carnival of the Animals’ with Finghin & Dearbhla Collins and the RTE Orchestra. Narrated by David Davin-Power
- Viennese Music by Léhar, Johann Strauss and Kalman
- ‘She moves through the fair’ in the special arrangement written for Plácido Domingo
- Act 1 of Donizetti’s sparkling comedy ‘The Elixir of Love’ Staged and costumed.

THE NATIONAL CONCERT HALL, DUBLIN

Saturday, September 22nd 2007 at 8.00pm

Tickets €40 & €20 (Choir Balcony) available from 1st May from the National Concert Hall Booking Office or online at www.nch.ie
‘The Joy of Music’ is presented by Events GLI in association with the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition.
Further info see www.eventsgli.com

“Men of goodwill” honoured at Town Hall

The Freemasons organisation was honoured last week locally when Fermanagh District Council hosted a Chairman's Reception.

The event was attended by the Most Worshipful Brother George Dunlop, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; along with Douglas Grey, Deputy Grand Master; Leslie Johnston, Assistant Grand Master; Harry Weir, Provincial Grand Master for Tyrone and Fermanagh and Barry Lyons, Grand Secretary of Ireland.

Councillor John O'Kane, the chairman of the Council, greeted guests, and he told them he was aware that the Masonic Order had had a long and distinguished history, 'its origins dating back over 500 years', and he noted that the Grand Lodge of Ireland was the second oldest Grand Lodge in the world.

"Freemasonry traditionally brings men of goodwill together to enjoy one another's company and to continue traditions dating back hundreds of years. The Order", he suggested, "fulfils as great a need today as it did when it was first formed". Continuing, he stated that, while the Order had been prominent in different activities over the centuries, one strand that had



John O'Kane Chairman of Fermanagh District Council presenting a council plaque to the Most-Worshipful George Dunlop, Masonic Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ireland, at a civic reception in the Town Hall. Also in the photograph are from left, Leslie Johnston, Assistant Grand Master, Barry Lyons, Grand Secretary of Ireland, Harry Weir, Provincial Grand Master for Tyrone and Fermanagh and Douglas Grey, Deputy Grand Master.

remained constant was its support for its members and their families who had fallen on hard times.

"It is this quality", he told the guests, "that characterises your Order, and you should be very proud of this. The Masons have made a valuable contribution to numerous deserving groups and individuals across all

strands of society. This distribution of assistance and resources is testament to a high value of charity and care for fellow human beings by you all."

However, Mr O'Kane explained that the value of the civic reception was two-fold, as he explained: "A reception such as this gives us all an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the Masonic Order and to broaden the knowledge and awareness among the people living in Fermanagh. I wish you well in your endeavours, and congratulate you and acknowledge the hard work the Order has undertaken over the years."

By kind permission of the Fermanagh Herald

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“I CAN'T THANK THE FREEMASONS ENOUGH”

National Opera. The men didn't get a look in until the Anthony Kearns Prize went to Mexican tenor, Dante Alcalá.

MOVING

All of the Events GLI people involved in the Competition found it surprisingly moving, and experienced something in which they found themselves very personally involved having got to know the Competitors over the intensive days of the initial rounds.

Freemasonry can only benefit from such projects. The Grand Lodge Room was at capacity most of the time with people who had never been inside it before and who had never spoken to a Freemason. Everybody was highly complimentary. The museum was busy. Public announcements such as that of the Chairman of the Vocal Arts of Ireland can only serve to raise our standing in the eyes of the general public and improve our image.

Well done the Events GLI Team!

(Events GLI Operations Management would like particularly to express their heartfelt thanks to Barry Lyons, Morgan McCreddie and Paddy Fennell, for all their willing help and ready assistance and expertise throughout the days of the competition, which was essential to its success. Events GLI received a fee for production from the Competition. All EGLI personnel provided their services free of charge.)

ARTICLES FOR GRAND LODGE NEWS

The editorial team will be glad to receive interesting articles regarding functions / special anniversaries / letters etc. We would ask that the "kiss" principle is recognised – "keep it simple and short" – and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

The Editorial Team, Grand Lodge News, c/o 115 The Mount, BELFAST BT5 4ND or by e-mail to: w.clarke@5hoots15.freemasons.co.uk

MILITARY FREEMASONRY

The Armagh Militia (1793-1845)

In 1793 a ballot was taken for precedence in the Irish Militia and the Armagh Militia came 8th (1). At that time it was a quirk of the Grand Lodge of Ireland when warranting a military Lodge to give it a number, if possible related to the number of the regiment (2). As a consequence Armagh Militia were issued with a Warrant No. 888 in 1800. The warrant was returned to Grand Lodge in 1845 after disbandment.

The Armagh Militia had their headquarters at Markethill in Co. Armagh. They had many postings around Ireland and the present Lodge in Markethill has a map of Ireland showing those postings. In 1798 when rebellion broke out in Ireland the Armagh Militia joined the larger army of Lord Cornwallis. At that time the French Government sent help to Wolf Tone and they landed at Killala, Co. Mayo with 1099 officers and men as an advance guard of a sizeable French Armada under the command of General Joseph Humbert. The French marched towards Dublin. Lord Cornwallis gathered his army in Tuam Co. Galway and the Armagh Militia joined him. The ensuing battle lined up against the French and local Irish at Ballinamuck, Co. Longford. In the course of this battle the French were defeated and the Armagh Militia has the distinction of capturing the French flag (the only foreign colour captured on Irish soil).

On its return to Armagh, the Armagh Militia presented the captured French Flag to the Dean of St Patrick's (Church of Ireland) Cathedral. It is now framed and hangs in Armagh Public Library and Museum (Photo top right). R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston the then Provincial Assistant Grand Master, Province of Armagh, presented a framed copy of this flag to Markethill Lodge in January 2006 to hang beside the map of Ireland showing the various postings of The Armagh Militia. Grand Lodge gave permission for Armagh Militia to hold the warrant at Markethill on account of it having been quartered there (G L minutes 8th May 1816).

The Lieutenant Colonel Commandant was Arthur, Viscount Gosford. He later became Earl of Gosford in 1806. His son, Hon Archibald Acheson, a Lieutenant succeeded his father as 2nd Earl in 1807. The 2nd Earl of Gosford was elected Junior Grand



French Flag captured by Armagh Militia at Ballinamuck, Co. Longford, 1798. Presently placed in the Armagh Public Library.

Warden in Seaton's infamous "Grand East of Ulster" without establishing his willingness to serve (3). The Earl's brother Hon. Edward Acheson, an ensign also served in the Armagh Militia.

The warrant was returned in June 1845. A local Lodge 678 was warranted and worked in Markethill from 1788 to 1845.

A revival of Masonry took place in Markethill in June 1919. They asked Grand Lodge to reissue warrant 888 and this warrant is still working to this day in a newly rebuilt Masonic Hall.

(1) *Transactions of Quatuor Coronati Lodge Vol. 10. p.261.*

(2) *R F Gould History of Freemasonry Vol. 3. p.403.*

(3) *History of the Grand Lodge, Leeper and Crossle Vol. (1) p.380.*

SEAGOE PAST MASTER IN THE NEWS AGAIN

W.Bro. Philip McAvoy is in the news once again. Having made the national headlines for his part in a dramatic rescue of a man from the sea at Creevy Pier, Donegal. Philip was again honoured by receiving an invitation to the Awards Ceremony of the Irish Water Safety Association.

The Association makes awards in several categories every four years and Philip and Mrs Sarah Meehan were invited to Dublin Castle to receive an award in the "just in time" category.

This category is sponsored by Seiko Watch Company and W.Bro. Philip and Mrs Meehan each received a beautiful Seiko wrist watch and wall clock. The awards were presented



(L-R) W.Bro. McAvoy; Mr Pat Gallagher and Mrs Meehan.

by Pat "The Cope" Gallagher T.D. for Donegal.

The 100 or so recipients of various awards were also entertained to a beautiful buffet meal.

R.W.Bro. J L McKinney P.M.

History in the making for Shalman 607



On Saturday 27th January at an Installation communication of Shalman Masonic Lodge No. 607, a bit of Lodge history was made when W.Bro. Nigel Stewart installed his brother Robert as Master of his Lodge. Included in the photograph (L-R) R.W.Bro. J L Frazer P.A.G.M. (Antrim); W.M. W.Bro. Robert Stewart and W.Bro. Nigel Stewart, Installing Officer.

W.Bro. Nigel Stewart, Secretary.

CHARITY CORNER

EVEN MORE BLOOD FROM A MASON!



In a recent issue of Grand Lodge News, an article was published regarding a Brother who had donated blood 60 times.

I have donated blood 117 times to the Red Cross Society of India, but have had to stop donating due to renal complications.

The attached photograph shows me receiving a certificate for a 100 donations from the then Governor of Maharashtra State, India, Ahmed Faizal.

Bro. Michael Lewis

A SATISFIED ANNUITANT

Dear Janice and Rosemary,

My sincere thanks for the beautiful Christmas Card you sent to me. The painting of the basket of flowers was simply beautiful; in fact I have ordered a frame to display it in my lounge.

I would also like to thank you for the Brochure you send me each year, it has been very helpful to me, you are very caring, my thanks again.

I would like to mention about my late husband's Masonic Lodge No. 809, Carryduff, who have also been very caring to me, since my husband's death 25 years this August 2007, a Mr. Jack Glass has made a visit to my home for all those years, and brought me a Christmas Hamper and M&S Voucher from the W.M., Wardens and Brethren of Lodge No. 809. I would be so grateful, if you would write and congratulate them for 25 years of caring.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you, Janice and Rosemary and everyone at the Masonic Benevolent Institutions, good Health & Happiness in the year 2007.

Mrs C. (Bangor, Co. Down)

Marie Curie benefits from Lord Arthur Hill No. 147

In 2006, the Worshipful Master of Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge No. 147, Blaris, selected Marie Curie Cancer Care as the Lodge's external charity.

The Brethren and friends raised £500 towards this worthy cause.



Pictured presenting the cheque to the Marie Curie representative is the Lodge Treasurer W.Bro. Mervyn Algje, P.P.G.S, and the Worshipful Master for 2006, W.Bro. Trevor Carruthers.

W. Bro. Graham Walker, Secretary

Bicentenary Celebrations for Solomon's Band No. 565



To celebrate the Bicentenary of Solomon's Band Masonic Lodge No. 565, the Grand Master of Ireland, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop along with the Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, R.W.Bro. John S Dunlop and his Deputy, R.W.Bro. Denis Millen attended a Stated Communication of the Lodge in the Lisburn Masonic Centre, Belsize Road.

The attached photograph shows the Senior Brethren with members of the Lodge taken at the entrance to the Lisburn Masonic Centre, prior to the Festive Board.

VISIT TO TRIUNE LODGE NO. 333 LIMERICK

On Friday 15th September 2006, six members of Harp & Crown Lodge No. 60 Ballymena, accompanied by three of their wives travelled to Limerick City for the weekend.

The main reason for our visit was to attend Triune Lodge No. 333 and to see the conferring of the Master Mason degree given by R.W.Bro. Cyril Foster - Past Provincial Deputy Grand Master of North Munster. We all had a most wonderful time at the Meeting and so well received and royally entertained.

It was nice to meet up with our friends again and to make new friendships. The icing on the cake was the presence of the Provincial Grand Master - R.W. Bro. Hugh Milne, his Deputy and the immediate Past Provincial Grand Master - R.W.Bro. Geoff Ashton and other Senior Officers.

There is a great affinity between Lodge No. 60 and the Brethren of North Munster and that friendship goes back to 1982 when Harp and Crown Lodge No. 60 was Constituted in Ballymena and long may it continue. Many brethren from North Munster were present in Ballymena on that auspicious occasion.

W.Bro. Ivan Miller, P.P.G.I. brought fraternal greetings from the P.G.M. - R.W. Bro. John S Dunlop and Senior



Officers of P.G.L. of Antrim. He also presented a plaque supplied to him by the Mayor of Ballymena together with a video of the "Glens of Antrim and North Antrim Coastal Areas" and invited the Brethren to come up North on holidays in the summer of 2007 and sample some of our beauty here. The plaque and video was gratefully received by the W. Master.

W. Bro. Ivan Miller, the present W.M. of Lodge No. 60, paid a glowing tribute to R.W. Bro. Ken Brislane, Secretary of Lodge No. 333, regarding his visit to Ballymena on 5th September 2006 to attend the funeral of his dear friend of many years, W. Bro. Bill Fairley who was Past Secretary of Harp & Crown Lodge No. 60.

We also remember with great affection and sadness the late R.W.Bro. Archdeacon Brian Snow who was a member of Lodge No. 333 and an honorary member of Lodge 60.

We headed home on the Sunday morning, all agreeing that the weekend had been "TIME WELL SPENT". Of course the ladies had some time for "retail therapy".

We will remember our visit for some time to come.

W.Bro. Ivan Miller W.M. Lodge No. 60 & P.P.G.I.

Ayrshire visits Breda Masonic Lodge No.821



On 13th January, Breda Masonic Lodge celebrated a double pleasure at their Installation Dinner.

Firstly, R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong (P.G.M.) was guest of honour and secondly, Bro. Angus Middleton, Past Master, Royal Arch, West Kilbride No. 314, Province of Ayrshire, was making a visit to the Breda Lodge. Bro. Angus is also the current President of the Robert Burns World Federation Ltd. Pictured are (L-R) Bro. Angus; R.W.Bro. Armstrong and W.Bro. Paul Dobbin W.M. Breda Masonic Lodge No821.

W.Bro. Andy Magill, Secretary

Fermanagh men on Everest

Congratulations to W.Bro. Neil Elliott member of Energy Lodge No. 187, Manorhamilton, who lead an expedition of friends from Enniskillen to the summit of Mount Everest in May 2006.

A simple text message from the Fermanagh led Everest 2006 expedition relayed the news back. It read "Job Done. Five summited Everest and back at 8,300 metres".

It was the News that everyone wanted to hear. The quest to scale the world's highest peak at 8,848 metres, had been successful for Neill Elliott, the



expedition leader with Fermanagh friends Raymond Hassard and Fergal Corrigan who succeeded at Everest with Steve Hodge and Jonathan Salter from England. Just one of the six climbers, Geoffrey Weir from Bangor missed out due to a chest infection.

"On top of the world"!

BROTHER INSTALLS BROTHER



(L-R) W.Bro. Jim Brown 396 Cookstown; W.Bro. Sidney Brown 185 Dungannon; Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Tyrone & Fermanagh) R.W.Bro. J.R. Hadden; W.M. 185, W.Bro. Cecil Brown and Bro. Tom Brown 396 Cookstown.

The Brethren of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 185, hosted a unique double occasion in March 2006 when it was celebrating 140 years of continuous service in the Dungannon area.

This was coupled with the Installation of the Worshipful Master – W.Bro. Cecil Brown who was installed by his brother, W.Bro. Sydney Brown. This was first in the history of St. John's Lodge and also present was another brother, W.Bro. Jim Brown and a nephew Bro. Trevor Brown from Unity Masonic Lodge No. 396 Cookstown. "A Family Affair, Indeed"

W.Bro. W H Davison P.M. Secretary.

GEORGE MAKES IT A HATRICK!

On Thursday 25th January 2007, W.Bro. George Finnigan was installed as Worshipful of Tyre Masonic Lodge No. 724, for the third time. Perhaps not in itself such a remarkable feat, but when you consider that George has only been a Mason for 9 years.

W.Bro. George became a Master Mason on 7th January 1999 and reached the Chair for the first time in 2002 and was installed for the second time the following year.

W.Bro. Finnigan was also recently appointed as a Provincial Grand Lodge Inspector in the Province of Down in November 2006, taking over from his Father-in-Law, the late W.Bro. Eric McKibben.

Pictured below is W.Bro. John Hunter (Secretary); R.W. Bro. Thomas Beattie (Grand Lodge Rep. to Venezuela); V.W. Bro. Clifford Miller (P.P.G.J.W.); W. Bro. George Finnigan (W.M.); W. Bro. William Martin (Installing Officer); R.W. Bro. Shad Baillie (Grand Lodge Rep. to Argentina) and W. Bro. Brian Lee (Chaplain).



Long & Distinguished Service

The Grand Master and Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ireland recognise the valued contribution of the Brethren listed below for their devoted and distinguished service to The Order and the honour they have bestowed upon their Lodges and Brethren.

Distinguished Brethren	Years	Lodge Name & No.	Province
W.Bro. Ernest McCallion (100 years)	70	Concord Masonic Lodge No. 462	Down
W.Bro. Bertie Smith	68	Richhill Masonic Lodge No.328	Armagh
W.Bro. Jack Clendinning	64	Richhill Masonic Lodge No.328	Armagh
Bro. Harry Clendinning	60	Richhill Masonic Lodge No.328	Armagh
V.W.Bro. Sam Craig	54	Richhill Masonic Lodge No.328	Armagh
W.Bro. Robert Robinson	53	Richhill Masonic Lodge No.328	Armagh
Bro. Rex McDonald	52	Richhill Masonic Lodge No.328	Armagh
W.Bro. Fred Lockhart	50	Solomon's Band Masonic Lodge No. 565	Antrim
W.Bro. Herbie Corkin	50	Solomon's Band Masonic Lodge No. 565	Antrim
R.W.Bro. D H Weir (P.G.M.)	50	Kipling Newporton Lodge No. 315	Tyrone & Fermanagh
V.W.Bro. T J N Hilliard	50	Inniskilling Masonic Lodge No. 744	Tyrone & Fermanagh
V.W.Bro. J L Rice	50	Sharman Crawford Masonic Lodge No. 403	Down

What Should We Say If Asked About Freemasonry

What should we tell our non-Masonic Friends when they ask questions about Freemasonry?

When these questions arise, and they often do, our response will undoubtedly influence the mental attitude of our friends towards ourselves and the Craft in general. We should not take a timid approach to our answers. We should not indicate a desire to "change the subject". We should not reflect 'mums the word' attitude. Instead, we should be prepared to speak with ease, pride and authority. Make it known that Freemasonry is a way of life. Freemasonry is a fraternal organization, religious in character, based on the belief in the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of Man and the immortality of the soul.

Be prompt to make it known that Freemasonry is not a 'secret society' as many may surmise. Freemasonry is a voluntary association wherein the interested one comes of his own free will and accord. Discussions on religion or politics have no place in our proceedings. Proclaim that Freemasonry, in its every effort and purpose, strives to do charitable work within its membership and for society and, through its teachings, seeks to make good men better men.

You can proudly state that the basic ethical principles as exemplified in our ritual and Lodge work, are such as are most acceptable to all good men: they are lessons based on the golden rule, tolerance toward men, respect for one's family, charity towards all and being true to God for His gracious and numerous blessings.

Be proud to proclaim that Freemasonry is a band of men bound together in the bonds of Brotherly Love and Affection that extends throughout the World. And to sum it all up, Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in work, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance toward the wicked, help for the weak, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another and, above all, reverence and love for God.

From the: Freemason The Square

SHARMAN CRAWFORD LODGE NO. 403

Presentation of Centenary Certificate

The photograph shows the recently appointed Provincial Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Roger Matthews (Down), on his first official engagement, presenting W.Bro. Stephen Fox P.M. Lodge 403, with a Centenary Certificate. The presentation took place at the Installation Festive Board on 12th January 2007. Also pictured is the newly Installed Worshipful Master, W.Bro. W J Hetherington.



Grand Lodge of Ireland
Freemasons of Ireland
Golfing Society

Millennium Charity Cup 2007
at
Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown

on
Friday 31st August 2007

2007 Charities:
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY
&

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
Entry Fee £20 including Grand Draw

Registration Forms & Competition rules available from:

Noel Simpson

13 Carneybaun Drive

Portrush. BT56 8JA

Tele: 028 7082 3332

Mobile: 07866 554 505

email: par70mm589@aol.com



“HAVE GAVEL WILL TRAVEL” – AN UPDATE

A few months ago, I received a letter from W.Bro. H J Lawthers of Scrabo Masonic Lodge No. 714, enquiring as to the current whereabouts of the “Travelling Gavel” – No. 7, in a series of Gavels travelling around the world.

W.Bro. Lawthers informs me that the Gavel was made by W.Bro. Howes, of Wyong Tuggerals Lakes Masonic Lodge No. 247, Australia and was originally given to W.Bro. William Orr for presentation to Scrabo Masonic Lodge No. 714.

Since then, the Gavel has over the years, gone on “walk-about” throughout the island of Ireland. Accordingly enquiries have been made (with special thanks to R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson) and I have been provided with the following list of Lodges which have had the Travelling Gavel in their possession. The Lodges are as detailed – but not listed in any chronological order:-

Lodge Name	Lodge No.	Province
Premier Connaught	14	North Connaught
Skibereen	15	Munster
Shamrock	27	Cork, Munster
Youghal	68	Cork, Munster
Lord Arthur Hill	147	Down
Commercial Lodge	164	Londonderry & Donegal
Tyrawley	217	North Connaught
St. Columbs, Moville	297	Londonderry & Donegal
Culmore	320	Londonderry & Donegal
Killybegs	522	Londonderry & Donegal
Ancient Donegal	588	Donegal Town, L'derry & Donegal
Island of Inch	589	Londonderry & Donegal
Mourne	696	Down
Farmer's Friendship	978	Down

Maybe the Brethren reading this Newsletter could inform me of its current whereabouts and indeed give some indication as to what year the Gavel was in the possession of the Lodges above.

R.W.Bro. William Clarke, Co-Editor

GOLD WATCH COMES HOME

Mr. Ton Fransen and his wife Sylvia from Loenersloot, Holland paid a special visit to the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Munster on Saturday 18th February 2007, to keep a promise made to his father many years ago. The purpose of the visit was to return a gold watch that had come into his father's possession almost 37 years ago, which had a Masonic origin in Limerick. The half hunter style gold pocket watch was originally presented to R.W.Bro. Michael Furnell (the first Provincial Grand Master of North Munster) on his retirement in 1863.

(L-R) Pictured beneath a portrait of RW Bro Michael Furnell presenting the gold watch are: Provincial Deputy Grand Master R.W. Jack Mitchell, Mrs. Sylvia Fransen, Mr. Ton Fransen, Provincial Grand Master R.W. Hugh Milne, Past Provincial Grand Master R.W. Kenneth Brislane and Past Provincial Grand Master R.W. Geoffrey Ashton.



GOLF DATES FOR YOUR 2007 CALENDAR

Competition	Venue	Date	Contact	Telephone
1. PGL Londonderry & Donegal	Castlerock	26th April	Geoff Millar	02870 344964
2. Captain Fyffe Salver - T&F	Killymoon	8th May	Leslie Graham	02886 762773
3. Provincial Priors' Golf Society	Killymoon	22nd May	George M.J. Stewart	02879 418348 (H) 0779 3223464 (M)
4. Mourne Cup - T&F	Newtownstewart	13th June	Harry Friar Garth McKibben	02881 658237 02891 878859
5. Armagh Cup - Armagh	Portadown	22nd June	David Blakely	02838 871879
6. Ferris Cup - Down	Kilkeel	29th June	William Andrews	02840 623780
7. Grand Master's Millennium Cup	Killymoon	31st August	Noel Simpson	02870 823332

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