



A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland

Grand Lodge News



JUNE 2003

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Deputy Grand Master's Remarks

Time flies and eighteen months have elapsed since the installation of the new team who are pleased to have been received so positively by all. In our travels around the many Lodges, the old adage rings true that we don't know what we are doing right but it seems to work! What we do know is that all are equally important, from the newest Entered Apprentice to the Grand Master himself.

The Grand Master's Council has been reformed and is now composed entirely of Provincial Grand Masters and is undoubtedly a leaner and more effective body than heretofore. The Provincial Grand Lodges play an important role and work closely with the Grand Master's Cabinet in addressing the important issues, which bear upon the Order in Ireland.

Changes in our system have already taken place, such as the reduction in the number of representatives on the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, which has removed a long-standing inequality.

For a trial period, Grand Lodge now meets four times per year as a result of the St. John's Day Communication being dropped and the December meeting being held on the first Saturday. This change appears to have worked well.

The most important matter to occupy our attention is the significant drop in membership, which we hope is now starting to bottom out. A Committee is presently addressing this and every member has a part to play in solving the problem. I would encourage all to identify what they can do to retrieve lapsed members, recruit new members and ensure that our activities work to retain a keen and vibrant society on which we can build our future.

The Grand Lodge News Sheet is proving successful and the Grand Master has authorised an increase in volume so that more Brethren will have access to it, but remember, we need plenty of material from you and your Lodge to keep the membership informed and to learn from the deeds of others in maintaining interest and enjoyment in their membership.

The Grand Master has personally made significant inroads into improving our image through interviews by the Media, the most impressive of which, being the excellent article in the supplement of the Irish Independent on 8th March last. He has made presentations to various Community Associations, etc., and has emerged with distinction. We are indeed fortunate in having a Grand Master of such high calibre and we wish him well.

Father & Son Duo

Groomsport Masonic Lodge were delighted to install W.Bro. Terry Pyper (P.P.G.S.C.) as Worshipful Master for 2003. Terry has given many years of devotion and support to Groomsport 337 and following his recent affiliation to membership, it was as a consequence that the Brethren unanimously voted to install him as W.M.

Terry was installed into the Chair by his son W.Bro. Ronnie Pyper (P.G.I.) who had himself been given all his degrees by his Father, during his masonic career including that of W.M. of Copestone Lodge 474, the Mother Lodge of father and son.

Terry was delighted that his son installed him into the Chair and the Brethren of Groomsport 337 were privileged to be part of this piece of Masonic history within the Pyper family.

W.Bro. Graham A Eve, Secretary



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Lodge Ireland 2000 Supports Mayor's Appeal



The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland attended a Civic Reception, hosted by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Betty Campbell on Saturday 4th January 2003. He was in the Borough to attend a meeting of Lodge Ireland 2000 (The Internet Lodge) that afternoon, where the Brethren decided that the retiring Charity Collection would be in support of the Mayor's Appeal – The Samaritans.

Pictured above right is the Worshipful Master, V.W.Bro. Arthur A Prentice presenting a cheque for £700.00 to the



Mayor. Also, included in the picture are W.Bro. William Hamilton (Treasurer) and W.Bro. Noel Sufferin (Secretary). Also, pictured above are the Brethren's wives, outside Government House, Hillsborough, prior to a conducted tour of the premises.

Lodge 716 Coleraine Social Evening

Some ten years ago, a handful of young members of Lodge 716 disappointed that their Lodge had no history of Ladies' Nights, met in a Portrush hotel with their partners and friends for a pre-Christmas get-together organised by the then Secretary, W.Bro. Robert McKane. A relaxed meal was followed by dancing to the hotel's entertainment.

In the intervening years, the event has grown to become the highlight of the Lodge's social calendar. In December past, 48 Brethren, partners and friends sat down to enjoy a meal in the Lodge Hotel in Coleraine. Homegrown entertainment was provided by W.Bros. John Cairns, David McClarty, Billy Bones & Brian Simpson. The evening ended with a Christmas sing-song.

R.W.Bro. Noel Drain (P.G. Secty. Londonderry & Donegal) remarked on the uniqueness of this type of event, when he thanked the Lodge for their hospitality and hoped that many other Lodges would follow the example of 716.

W.Bro. Brian Simpson, Secretary

Premier Connaught No.14



Lodge 14 has been awarded the George Washington Past Master's Award for Website excellence. The site:-

The site:-

(<http://www.irish-freemasons.org/14.htm>)

contains a full history of the Lodge dating back from the earliest records, photographs of the Lodge Warrant and the various Lodge Premises going back to the 1800's. A list of the Masters of the Lodge from

1803 is also included. Since 1997 it has become a tradition for the W.M. to issue letters detailing the activities of the Lodge and these are reproduced and give an insight into the many and varied activities of the Lodge and the reasons for its continued good health.

V.W.Bro. J W Patching, Secretary.

Culmore visit Ardrossan

Ten members from Culmore Masonic Lodge No. 320 (Londonderry & Donegal) travelled to Ardrossan as guests of St. John's RA Lodge 320 Saltcoats & Ardrossan, on Friday 8th November 2002.

That evening we saw the Installation of the Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. Colin Hannah, somewhat different from what we here in Ireland witness. A Fine Festive Board followed and a lot of new friends were made.

The following day we made our way home taking in the sights en route. A beautiful evening meal was taken in Stranraer, prior to boarding the Ferry. It is planned that this trip will become a biennial visit with St. John's hopefully coming to Culmore in March 2003.

W.Bro. David Parkhill, Secretary

Capt. W H Fyffe Golf Competition 2002

The late Capt. W H Fyffe was initiated into St. John's Lodge 334 Omagh as a young officer on leave from France during the First World War and joined the family law practice and was appointed Crown Solicitor.



In 1969 the Capt. W H Fyffe Golf Trophy, in the form of a beautiful inscribed silver salver was presented; to be played for annually by Brethren from Tyrone & Fermanagh and a "shield" open to any Mason.

The 2002 Competition was run in tandem with the Northern Provinces' Annual Golf Competition at Killymoon Golf Club on 6th September. This year's winner was W.Bro. Leslie Graham, Lodge 291, Bellaghy and also a member of Cookstown Preceptory.



The Shield went to W.Bro. Albert Warwick Unity Lodge 396, Cookstown.

Some years ago V.W.Bro. Hill Robinson and his late brother, W.Bro. Ronnie, of Mourne Lodge 823, Strabane donated a cup called the "Mourne Cup" for annual competition.



This year the Cup was taken back to Strabane by Bro. Gareth McKibbin from Lodge 823. Congratulations to all prize-winners and sincere thanks to all concerned in the efficient organisation, making it an outstanding success.

R.W.Bro. Harry Weir, P.G.M. Tyrone & Fermanagh

North Connaught

Pictured right is R.W.Bro. R J Hunter presenting a cheque for €100 to Mrs Nora McGloin for the North West Hospice.

Also included are R.W.Bro. George Ginnelly (PGM) and R.W.Bro. E C W Smith (PDGM).



Prestonian Lecture



Senatores Lodge of Installed Masters held their regular meeting at the Blackpool Hilton on Monday 2nd September when an Official reading of the Prestonian Lecture was given by W.Bro. C.W. Wallis-Newport, PDGDC (Bristol). The drift of the lecture was the connection between Masonry in the South West of England and the South of Ireland.

The WM. W. Bro. Leon Tax, PAGDC welcomed almost 650 members and guests to what must have been the largest meeting of a private Lodge ever. The organisation was impeccable and a credit to the Lodge.

The Deputy Grand Master of Ireland was a guest of the Lodge accompanied by R.W. Bros. Ginnelly, Smith and Simpson. The Irish party were treated most hospitably under the supervision of R.W. Bro. Steven Reid, PAGM who also arranged golf on the famous courses of Lytham and Kirkby. The DGM had difficulty with both courses but his after-dinner speech brought him some consolation.

How's this for an "aggressive membership drive"?

The Grand Master of New York State, M.W.Bro. Carl J Fitje, in what he terms as his "aggressive membership drive", has approved and authorised the conferral of all three Degrees of Craft Freemasonry in one day.

The Grand Master announced that the procedure will be conducted on 29th March 2003, in nine locations throughout New York State. His goal, for what he termed the "one-day Grand Master's Class", is 5,000 new members. The Grand Master said Freemasonry in New York State needed a "shot in the arm" or a "jump start" to revitalise the Craft and make it grow. He believed this *Grand Master's Class* would provide that assistance.

Some 61% of United States Grand Lodges are now undertaking these one-day classes.

Indiana raised 1,400 in five locations. Most recently Ohio raised 7,700 new members in 10 locations.

*Courtesy of "Freemasonry Today" Issue No. 23
www.freemasonrytoday.com*

Dundalk 384 Celebrates its Bi-Centenary

Lodge 384 Dundalk, celebrated its Bi-Centenary in December 2002. Established by Lord Roden, the Lodge has achieved continuous working for the past 200 years. Such was the importance of the occasion, the M.W. Grand Master (M.W.Bro. Eric N Waller) attended along with many other Provincial Grand Masters and Masonic Dignitaries. The Charity Collection raised over €1,000, which was equally donated to Masonic Charities and the Louth Branch of the Arthritis Foundation of Ireland.

Pictured below are some of the Officers for the Bi-centenary year: L to R : W.Bro. Henry (S.W.); W.Bro. Ramsey (Secty.); W.Bro. Farlow (W.M.); W.Bro. Wilson (J.W.) & W.Bro. Treadwell (DoC & S oC).



An Evening to Remember

Provincial Grand Master's Lodge No. 52 Londonderry



It had all the appearance of being a good night - and indeed appearances were not deceptive - when the Inner Guard announced the arrival of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, accompanied by his Deputy and the Provincial Grand Master.

Already on the dais were the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, two Provincial Assistant Grand Masters and Officers past and present of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Following the Installation of Bro. Malcolm Burns as our 150th Worshipful Master, the Grand Master graciously invested him with his collar and jewel.

At the close of the Communication, the Grand Master asked the Worshipful Master to accept, on behalf of the Lodge, a certificate confirming that 150 years of continuous working had been completed.

The Festive Board was followed by speeches from the Grand Master, his Deputy and the Provincial Grand Master along with a number of others including a synopsis of the Lodge History by W. Bro. Emil Hamilton, the Architect of the evening's success. The speeches were interspersed with excellent entertainment provided by members and guests of the Lodge with popular songs and musical items.

At the end of the evening, the Worshipful Master presented a Decanter to the Grand Master to commemorate his visit. What a tremendous fillip and honour for Provincial Grand Master's Lodge No. 52, named after our first Provincial Grand Master, on the occasion of it's 150th celebrations.

The brethren of Provincial Grand Master's Lodge No. 52 will not forget the Grand Master's visit and we would hope that he will remember us when pouring his nightcap.

Articles Wanted Articles Wanted 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 simple and short" - and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

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