



# A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland

## Grand Lodge News



JUNE 2011

### Grand Master's Address to Grand Lodge Communication, Carlow, 5th March 2011



Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John Fryday, distinguished Brethren and Brethren all, I would thank you for the opportunity and privilege of addressing you at this first communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ireland in the Province. A red letter day indeed, with the installation of a new Provincial Grand Master and sadly, the retirement of R.W.Bro. Tom McBain. I wish them both every good fortune and good health in the years to come.

Brethren, as most of us are aware, Freemasonry is undergoing a gradual unmasking as a society of the highest ideals, in the process of which we can all play a part.

I trust that the future traditions and welfare of Irish Freemasonry are safe in my hands and I hope that I am adequately fitted to the task. Under my leadership, Freemasonry in Ireland must maintain, as well as raise its standards, in the process of which, we should all be committed advocates.

If our Order is to achieve credence in Society, then we must strive to meet the following objectives, viz;

- Increase our Membership by consolidation and growth.
- Improve our image and public acceptability
- As benefactors, practise effective outreach & in-reach to those in need.
- Identify problems rather than throw solutions
- Become more proactive rather than reactive.

At Tripartite meetings, i.e. United Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Ireland, we share problems and seek solutions. Harmonious working is vital for the well-being and future of our Order worldwide.

Freemasons must never compromise their family or job responsibilities but strive to establish an acceptable balance between both - preserving moderation in all things - and giving priority to their public and private duties. Freemasonry represents all that is good in life and Society generally could learn a good deal from us.

One of my main priorities is to foster a better public image, dispelling the myths and misconceptions about Freemasonry that have gained credence over the years and to reassure the public that we are not a sinister, secretive organisation and that Freemasons are good, caring and responsible citizens, i.e. they have nothing to fear from Freemasonry.

If we can all work together in a positive manner, totally committed, I am confident that Irish Freemasonry has a great future and that everyone has a part to play; there is no room for apathy.

I leave you with the writings of an anonymous poet:-

He has achieved success, who has lived well, laughed often and loved much,  
Who has gained the respect of

intelligent men and the admiration of his peers.

Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;  
Who has left the world better than he found it.

Who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it;  
Who has always looked for the best in others and given the best he had;  
Whose life was an inspiration, whose memory a blessing.

Brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge South Eastern, I extend my especial thanks on behalf of all for your excellent and most generous hospitality and may this fine Province bring you and your principal Grand Officers much success and satisfaction.

I leave you with some issues which I feel need to be addressed, viz.

1. Should Installed Masters' Lodges be different from Subordinate Lodges by having a dedicated purpose?
2. Should Installed Masters' Lodges be permitted to propose members for Provincial Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge offices?
3. Should Masonic Halls with a tenancy of many Masonic bodies have an Annual Programme of 'Open Days' with the purpose of stimulating membership and securing a better understanding of our Order by the public?
4. Can we supply competent guides to present our history and give proper responses to questions from the public?
5. Should we think again about the re-configuration of our Provincial Boundaries?

Brethren, I thank you all and wish you well.

George Dunlop  
Grand Master



# Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society

## Millennium Charity Cup 2011

At

**KILLYMOON GOLF CLUB – COOKSTOWN**

ON

**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011**

**2011 CHARITIES:**

**'ACTION CANCER; ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**& VIA WINGS'**

**& 'MASONIC CHARITIES'**

**£1,000 IN PRIZES**

**THREE PRIZE CATEGORIES:-**

**1. MASONIC BRETHREN**

**2. NON-MASONS**

**3. LADIES**

**PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE**

**"EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT"**

**THE FIRST 200 ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.**

**NO GREENFEES REQUIRED ON THE DAY**

**ENTRY FEE £25 INCLUDING ENTRY TO THE 'GRAND DRAW'**

**REGISTRATION FORMS AND COMPETITION RULES AVAILABLE FROM:**

**NOEL SIMPSON**

**TELEPHONE NO. (028) 70823129**

**13 CARNEYBAUN DRIVE**

**MOBILE NO. 075 408 62236**

**PORTRUSH BT56 8JA**

**EMAIL: NOELSIMPSON589@YAHOO.CO.UK**

## **GOLF DATES 2011 – for your diary**

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Golf Club</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Armagh Cup - Armagh	Portadown	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Bobby McDowell - (028) 3883 2630
Mourne Cup – T&F	Newtownstewart	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Harry Friar MBE - (028) 8165 8237
Ferris Cup - Down	Kilkeel	25 <sup>th</sup> June	Interim arrangement – contact Noel Simpson – details as below
Grand Masonic Charity Day	Scrabo	1 <sup>st</sup> July	Alan Welch - 07711 482810
Grand Master's Millenium Cup	Killymoon	26 <sup>th</sup> August	Noel Simpson - (028) 7082 3129

Don't forget to visit the Grand Lodge Website at: [www.irish-freemasons.org](http://www.irish-freemasons.org)

# GOLFING IN "THE LAKES"

In 1969 the Fyffe Silver Salver was donated by the Fyffe family in memory of R.W.Bro. Capt. W.H. Fyffe, a former Provincial Grand Master of Tyrone & Fermanagh.

It was to be competed for annually in a golf competition played by the Freemasons of the Province of Tyrone & Fermanagh and since then, it has travelled quite a distance around the Masonic Province. In order that no Lodge or Golf Club would have a monopoly, it was decided in its inaugural year, that the winner's Lodge would host the competition the following year. Because it was won by Cookstown Brethren for the last two years, it was decided to

change the venue for 2011 to Enniskillen Golf Club and as a result, it was won by W.Bro. Robin Black, Lodge No. 315, Ballinamallard.

The grateful thanks of the organisers were extended to the President, Captain and Committee of Enniskillen Golf Club for the wonderful facilities provided, which were greatly enjoyed by those Brethren who participated. A "goodly" number turned out in support of the event and pictured below is the overall winner of the Capt. Fyffe Salver along with the winners of the other categories.



[L-R]

*President  
Thomas Armstrong*

*Captain  
Ian Thompson*

*1st Prize Winner  
Capt'n Fyffe Salver  
Robin Black  
Lodge 315*

*3rd Prize Visitor  
Tom Palmer*

*3rd Prize Winner  
Shield  
Wesley Hutton  
Lodge 459*

*Past Captain  
Ronnie Little*



# 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. Reginald Baxter	70	Magheramorne Masonic Lodge No. 514	Antrim
V.W.Bro. Bryan G O'Neill	65	Light of the West Masonic Lodge No. 20	North Connaught
W.Bro. J Lemon	60	Serviamus Masonic Lodge No. 524	Down
W.Bro. William J Fowler	60	Falls Masonic Lodge No. 226	Antrim
W.Bro. John A L Course	60	Dalkey Masonic Lodge No. 261	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Ven. George C A Miller	60	Cavan Masonic Lodge No. 90	Meath
W.Bro. Hugh M Giffin	60	St. Patrick's Union Masonic Lodge No. 175	Antrim
W.Bro. George W Graham	60	St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge No. 944	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. D Duffield	50	Ballynahinch Masonic Lodge No. 301	Down
V.W. Bro. John W Emerson	50	Wicklow Masonic Lodge No. 748	Wicklow & Wexford
V.W.Bro. Arthur W White	50	Duke of York Masonic Lodge No. 25	Metropolitan
W.Bro. John S Finkel	50	Dalkey Masonic Lodge No. 261	Metropolitan
W. Bro. James T Browne	50	St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge No. 1012	Antrim
Bro. John B Gill	50	Grand Master's Lodge	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Gordon Shellard	50	Wallace Masonic Lodge No. 146	Down
W.Bro. Edward Swidenbank	50	Wallace Masonic Lodge No. 146	Down
Bro. Robert Totten	50	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 811	Antrim
Bro. Harold Buckle	50	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 414	Antrim
Bro. David Moore	50	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 414	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert B Kearon	50	Wicklow Militia Masonic Lodge No. 877	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. George N James	50	Emerald Masonic Lodge No. 139	Midland Counties
W.Bro. John C Milliken	50	Carareagh Masonic Lodge No. 374	Antrim
W.Bro. Herbert C Darlington	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 238	Metropolitan
W.Bro. William N Patterson	50	Maze Masonic Lodge No. 356	Down
Bro. Cecil Coates	50	Maze Masonic Lodge No. 356	Down
Bro. Gerald Wilson	50	Maze Masonic Lodge No. 356	Down
W.Bro. Bernard Levine	50	Sholom Masonic Lodge No. 636	Antrim
W.Bro. Stewart Lyle-Hall	50	Sholom Masonic Lodge No. 636	Antrim
Bro. Norman D Turk	50	Sholom Masonic Lodge No. 636	Antrim
W.Bro. Eric M Ferguson	50	Festival of Zion Masonic Lodge No. 597	Antrim
W.Bro. John J Dunbar	50	Newtownstewart Masonic Lodge No. 547	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Thomas S Page	50	Temple Masonic Lodge No. 138	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. George Laverty	50	Temple Masonic Lodge No. 138	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Robert E Annett	50	Chichester Masonic Lodge No. 313	Antrim
W.Bro. Acheson G Singleton	50	Chichester Masonic Lodge No. 313	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas U Burrell	50	T. Hay Masonic Lodge No.685	Down
W.Bro. Laurence E Wilmott	50	Dalkey Masonic Lodge No. 261	Metropolitan
Bro. Robert J Doak	50	True Blues Masonic Lodge No. 606	Down
Bro. Edward G Gibson	50	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 404	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. John W Caldwell	50	Polytechnic Masonic Lodge No. 756	Down
W.Bro. William Connor	50	Callowhill Masonic Lodge No. 453	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. William K Hunt	50	Dalkey Masonic Lodge No. 261	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Albert C Austin	50	Londonderry Masonic Lodge No. 196	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. James H Monteith	50	Desertmartin Masonic Lodge No. 496	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. David B Pettigrew	50	Myra Castle Masonic Lodge No. 516	Down
R.W.Bro. Sydney J Ryder	50	Victoria Masonic Lodge No. 212	Armagh
R.W.Bro. Walter Craig	50	Athy Masonic Lodge No. 167	Midland Counties
W.Bro. James A Smylie	50	Kingsmere Masonic Lodge No. 632	Antrim
W.Bro. Donald A Hill	50	P.G. Master's Masonic Lodge No. 52	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Robert J Brown	50	P.G. Master's Masonic Lodge No. 52	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Edward S Marshall	50	P.G. Master's Masonic Lodge No. 52	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Thomas McCune	50	Rashee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 736	Antrim
W.Bro. Samuel B Craythorne	50	Falls Masonic Lodge No. 226	Antrim
W.Bro. William Fergie	50	Bryantmore Masonic Lodge No. 735	Down
W.Bro. Fredrick A Kyle	50	Bellaghy Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 291	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Robert McKay	50	Bellaghy Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 291	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Hugh L Graham	50	Bellaghy Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 291	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Hugh Mc I Millar	50	Bellaghy Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 291	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Joseph Rodgers	50	St Patrick's Senior Masonic Lodge No. 623	Armagh
W.Bro. Roderick P MacGregor	50	Ara Masonic Lodge No. 348	New Zealand
W.Bro. James Lewis	50	Rathmoy Masonic Lodge No. 591	Antrim
Bro. William Murphy	50	Rathmoy Masonic Lodge No. 591	Antrim
Bro. Leslie D Carruthers	50	Commercial Masonic Lodge No. 164	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William R Watt	50	St Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 160	Antrim

# The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2011



## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 2.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.**

**Final & Prizegiving by The Grand Master  
Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.**

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 2011'

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**

## LODGE 555 AT RIVERDANCE AND POLYPHONICS!

The Harmony Lodge No. 555 (which has met in Cork since 1953) recently organised an excursion to the north Cork town of Fermoy, in order to re-engage with the greater part of the Lodge's history. Many of the forgotten links with the town had been rediscovered in 2009, during research by Bro. Dr David Butler for the bi-centennial celebrations of the grant of warrant No. 555 by Grand Lodge. Intriguingly, Lodge 555 had met from 1801 in Fermoy, under a Carlow warrant which had been endorsed and reissued by authority of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, in the last recorded exercise of a peculiar privilege known as 'The Munster Custom', which dated back to the days of the Grand Lodge of Munster. The Lodge had been dormant at various periods around the Great Famine – eight years in total – such that despite the survival of pre-1809 minutes, two hundred years of working could indeed be commemorated!

The well-attended excursion to Fermoy commenced at Christ Church, where the communion rails, a Lodge memorial to V.W. Bro. The Revd. Canon Arundel Hill, PPGC, late rector of the parish and long-time Lodge Secretary, until he died in 1885, were viewed. The Brethren and their guests then visited the former Lodge rooms at Fermoy Assembly Rooms (now Batavia Antiques), where the Lodge met from the early 1860s until the last Lodge meeting there, on February 6th 1953.

The final stop of the excursion, by special permission, was Castle Hyde (photographed on left below), the palatial seat of Mr Michael Flatley of *Riverdance* fame. The Lodge had met in the courtyard of Castle Hyde estate in 1930-31, while the Lodge premises were being extensively renovated. The Brethren and their guests were given an exclusive tour of Castle Hyde and its gardens, and then entertained to tea by Mr Flatley's private secretary and household staff, before a group photograph (see right) was taken on the steps of the main front entrance.



Continuing in a musical vein, on March 19th 2011, Lodge 555 held its third annual musical evening, in aid of Cork local charities. The event, entitled 'A Musical Miscellany', featured The *PolyPhonics*, Ireland largest and longest established male barbershop chorus, as well as guest artists. The programme (see illustration), featured both classical and contemporary entertainment, and



was preceded by a wine reception. A total of €1,000 was raised for this year's charitable beneficiaries, namely The Cork International Choral Festival – which has, since last year, held a coffee concert in The Masonic Hall, Cork on the last Friday of April, during festival week – and The Munster Benevolent Fund.

Munster Freemasons in association with Cork International Choral Festival present

# A Musical Miscellany

AT THE MASONIC HALL

A special fundraising concert, featuring:

**PolyPhonics Male Barbershop Chorus**  
Conductor: Douglas Kelly

With special guests:

**Jennifer Davie** Soprano  
**Thomas Grogan** Baritone  
**Michaela Maher** Saxophone  
**Kevin McGrath** Classical Guitar  
**Liam McCarthy** Tenor

Accompanied by **Padraig Wallace**

**Saturday 19th March 2011**  
The Masonic Hall, Tuckey St, Cork  
Reception 7pm & Concert 8pm  
Tickets: €20 (incl. refreshments)

**CORK INTERNATIONAL choral festival**  
More information: [www.corkchoral.ie](http://www.corkchoral.ie)



## FREEMASONS SUPPORTING GUIDE DOGS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Following the annual Grand Master's Millennium Charity Golf Competition 2010, Guide Dogs Northern Ireland, was selected, amongst others, to receive a donation from the funds raised. The Provincial Grand Master of Down and Chairman of the Northern Provinces Committee, R.W.Bro. Richard Gray explained, "The Masonic Order takes great pride in its charitable work, the golf competition attracts players from all over Europe and to date have been able to donate £65,000 to a wide range of charities." When presented with a cheque for £500, Kathy Peart from Guide Dogs NI, said, "All funds are gratefully received as training a dog was very expensive. From 6 weeks old a puppy is sent to a volunteer puppy walker, after 14 months the puppy is then sent to Forfar in Scotland to The Guide Dog Training School for a further training period of 4-5 months before it is matched with its new owner." One of the dogs to be puppy walked was Lez, a black Labrador, named after Les Hopson, who was the manager of Bow Street Mall, Lisburn. Before his untimely death, Les had selected Guide Dogs Northern Ireland as the charity for Bow Street Mall and the pup was so named, as a tribute to his memory.



PICTURED (right to left) Kath Peart from Guide Dogs Northern Ireland with Tully, Richard H Gray Provincial Grand Master of Down, and Liz Apsley volunteer puppy walker with the trainee Guide Dog puppy Lez.

## CAPPAGH MASONIC LODGE No. 350 - 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Cappagh Masonic Lodge ended its 250th Anniversary Celebrations in 2010 with a most enjoyable and successful "Festive Ball" in the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh on Friday 1st October.

The "Ball" was the culmination of a series of very successful events, organised during 2010, to mark this major milestone for the Lodge, being one of the oldest in Irish Freemasonry.

The Anniversary Celebrations began in January, with a record attendance of 105 Brethren, at the Installation of Officers, followed by the Festive Board in the Silverbirch Hotel, when the charity collected was a magnificent £1,500.

On 31st March, Omagh District Council kindly hosted a civic reception, in the Council Chamber, for the Lodge, when its history and that of the Order was recounted, by officers of the Council.

The Lodge's annual barbeque, after the May Communication, with a total attendance of 49 Brethren and friends, raised £2,100 for the Omagh Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and this was presented to the charity before the "Festive Ball"



"Olive Fulton and Violet Pinkerton from the Omagh Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, receiving the cheque for £2,100 from Lodge Members Harold Doherty - Almoner, - William Young - Secretary, Lindsay Stewart - Worshipful Master."

As a final act of charity, £635 was raised from an impromptu raffle at the "Festive Ball", in aid of the Belfast Childrens' Hospice.

To all the visiting Brethren and non-masons, who supported us so willingly during the year, may I, on behalf of W.Bro. Stewart and the Brethren, extend sincere and heartfelt thanks.

W. Bro. W J Young, Lodge Secretary

## BROOMHEDGE MASONIC LODGE HAND OVER CHARITY CHEQUE...

On the 26th March 2011 the W. Master, Officers and Brethren of Broomhedge Star of the North Masonic Lodge No. 335 presented a cheque for £800 to Sylvia Creighton of the N.I. Chest Heart and Stroke Association at Broomhedge Masonic Hall.

The sum of £800 was the result of two fund raising events held during 2010 and was presented by the Immediate Past Master, W. Bro. M Smiley, who as W. Master in 2010 had nominated the Chest Heart and Stroke Association as his charity to receive the proceeds of the two events.

The photograph shows Sylvia Creighton accepting the cheque from W. Bro. Smiley with the W. Master, Officers and few Lodge members looking on.



## GROOMSPORT MASONIC LODGE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

On Sunday 1st May, Groomsport Masonic Lodge No. 337 celebrated its Centenary with a church service in Groomsport Parish Church. The service was led by Rev. Canon Smyth, retired Rector of St. Marks, Newtownards with the Rev. Kenneth Gamble giving the address. Remarking on the beauty of the parish church, the Rev. Gamble went on to detail the foundation of the Lodge by the then Rector of Groomsport, the Rev. S Holmes. Initially finding difficulty in finding a home for the Lodge, permission was granted for use of the lecture halls in the village by the sisters, Miss Annabella & Isabella Maxwell. By way of gratitude, the Lodge presented the sisters with an illuminated address featuring 'Chapman', the lifeboat, which was stationed at Groomsport at the time. Many of the founder members of the lodge were members of the RNLI. In its lifetime this lifeboat rescued 18 lives before being decommissioned in 1920. Currently the lifeboat is being fully restored and shall be placed in the Old Lifeboat Museum, Hoylake, Wirral. The minister added, "The founding members had a vision of Freemasonry, which treated all as equals. Showing there to be no difference between social

standing, cultural or religious status of the time. All Brethren were to be treated on same level." These tenets are still the basis of Freemasonry today and it is hoped that this will continue to drive the Lodge to its next centenary in 2111. Meeting in the parish hall once a month, the Lodge would welcome the chance to speak to anyone who may be interested in joining Freemasonry. The Lodge can be contacted via the Secretary Graham Eve, on 028 91811068



*R. W. Bro. Gray, Provincial Grand Master of Down, surrounded by members of Groomsport Masonic Lodge No. 337*



## RETIREMENT PRESENTATION

Following the closing of the P.G.L. of Down meeting on the 10th May 2011, at Dromore Leisure Centre; the P.G.M. asked the Brethren in attendance to retain their seats as he wished to make a special presentation to Mrs Lynda Latimer. At this point, the P.A.G.M., Alan Stewart, left to escort Mrs Latimer into the room.

Upon entering, the Brethren present rose to greet Mrs Latimer with a standing ovation. Upon being presented to the P.G.M., R.W.Bro. Gray proceeded to give a brief résumé of Lynda's time working at the P.G.L. of Down Office at 115 The Mount Belfast.

Beginning work 17 years previous, Linda had worked for 6 Provincial Grand Masters during her tenure. Not only as office assistant, but taking on many other ancillary tasks always in a happy manner. She had been of great assistance to most of the Secretaries and Treasurers in the Province over the years, being able to offer advice and guidance on many issues without a moments' hesitation.

The PGM also remarked that a particular Lodge Secretary had said of Lynda, "Although I've never met her, I feel like I know her very well." This, the P.G.M. said, typified the warm sentiments felt for her throughout the Province.

In finishing he said it gave him great pleasure to present Lynda with a cheque as a token gesture from the Brethren of the Province and wished her many happy years in retirement to enjoy it.

In reply Linda said that she always felt proud to tell people that



R.W. Bro. Gray, P.G.M. Down, Mrs Lynda Latimer and the Provincial Grand Masters of Down.

she worked for the Freemasons and had enjoyed every moment of her time working for the P.G.L. of Down. She also added, "On every occasion when I was asked about the Masonic Order, I would tell people that each and every one of them, were true gentlemen." She went on to thank the Brethren for their support and generosity and that she would miss them all.

Following a further standing ovation Lynda left the room, accompanying the P.G.M. in the retiring procession.

## WILLIAM SEFTON MEMORIAL SUPPORTS MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE



William Sefton Memorial Lodge No. 842, held a charity fundraising night and quiz at Crawfordsburn Masonic Temple on the 25th March 2011, in memory of W. Bro. Joe Anderson, who sadly passed away suddenly, three years ago. W. Bro. Ian Drakeley (Treasurer) and W. Bro. Mark Kernohan presented a cheque for £500 to Lesley Wright (Fundraising Manager for Marie Curie Cancer Care). Over 60 people were present on the night including Joe's widow Mary and their son's Kurt and Craig. Thanks to everyone who made it a special and successful night.

## RICHVIEW 711 SEIZES ITS "WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY"

From the day the Masonic Boys School opened in Dublin back in January 1888, until its closure ninety two years later in 1980, some 1,686 boys ate their meals every day in the School's dining hall. The hall stretched from the front of the main building right through to the rear, where above it were situated two of the three main dormitories, which slept just over 100 boys in total at any one time.

Our meals were perhaps somewhat "enlightened" by the magnificent light that poured in through a number of large stained glass windows. While the four to the rear overlooked the red bricked School House, those to the front and side gave magnificent views over our cricket and rugby pitches, and another good few acres besides. Each window stood some ten feet high, and while in themselves impressive, I think I can safely say, (being one of those 1,686 boys) that the food on our plates was of much more interest than the windows towering above us. I feel that very few of us gave little thought, if indeed any at all, to these windows.

However as we grow older, sometimes things of little interest in our earlier days take on a more significant role in our latter days, and such is the case with these windows.

Following the closure of the School in 1980, many of the fittings were sold or just quietly "disappeared", and among such sales was one of the aforementioned windows, which the Brethren of Richview 711 bought for £100.00. Every member of the Lodge was, at that time, an old boy of the School, and their earlier total lack of interest in the dining hall windows now took on a completely new meaning, with our old School about to slip into Masonic history. The buildings and grounds fetched IR£ 2,530,000, while the contents made IR£ 50,000, which no doubt included our £100.00.

At that time, 711 met in the Rosemary St. Hall in the centre of Belfast, and following negotiations with Provincial Grand Lodge, the window was installed in the entrance hall of the building in May of 1982. It was the unanimous wish of the Lodge that it be dedicated to the memory of our late W.Bro. Herbie Smyth, who had been the main instigator in the formation of the Lodge back in 1947 and there it remained until 2010.

We "flitted" to Whiteabbey Masonic Hall during 2004, having said our

good byes to Rosemary St. and also to our School window at our November meeting. As we closed the door behind us, and put the cat out, the rumblings continued throughout the Province as to whether there would be, or not be, a sale of the Rosemary St. property. While our own worries were not then related to finding a new place to meet, there were concerns as to the possible fate of our window, should there be a sale.

These concerns certainly gave our Secretary, W.Bro. Tom McNeill cause to sharpen his pencil, with correspondence to Provincial Grand Lodge stretching back to September 2007. However, it was some three years later that we obtained the "green for go," both for the removal of the window from Rosemary St. and also from the Directors of the Whiteabbey Hall, as to its installation there.

Our new Treasurer, W.Bro. Des. Johnston then took over. He organised, not only the removal of the window from Rosemary St., but its installation on the main wall leading up to the Lodge rooms in the Whiteabbey Hall. The window is now enclosed in a sealed metal frame complete with lighting, greatly enhancing the entrance to the Hall. It is not however managing to provide the spectacular views that it did way back during its ninety two years of service,

looking over our magnificent cricket and rugby grounds.

The unveiling ceremony was performed on 8th November 2010 by our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John Dickson, ably assisted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Dennis Millen, and the Provincial Asst. Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Jack Dunlop.

I was unfortunately unable to attend that evening, but I understand that while the Lodge meeting, and the unveiling ceremony were enjoyed by all those present, that both events were equaled, if indeed not surpassed, by the magnificent "fish and chips and mushy peas" that followed.

We, the members of Richview 711, hope that those of you who pass through Whiteabbey Masonic Hall and look up at our window, might now see the poignancy of the description of the School by a former Grand Master, Raymond F. Brooke, when he proclaimed the School was, "Our Shop Window to the World"

Trevor Monteith W. Master





## ST. PATRICK'S UNION MASONIC LODGE NO. 175 - ENTERTAINS UNLIKELY GUEST!

Members of St Patricks Union Lodge No 175 at Larne Masonic Centre had a shaggy dog tale with a twist at their April communication, when Lez the trainee Guide Dog pup visited the Lodge. Lez, who is being puppy walked for Guide Dogs by Liz and W. Bro. Robert Apsley, has attended the Lodge on previous occasions and is fairly relaxed about the meetings. Guide Dog pups, during their puppy walking phase, are given the opportunity to experience situations which their eventual owners may deal with on a daily basis. To date Lez has attended RNLI committee meetings, attended church and been welcomed into many shops and cafes. He spent his time in the Lodge Room relaxing and sleeping. At this point I feel I should ask that no unkind comparisons should be made.

*Right: W. Bro. Apsley occupied the Chair for the W. Master, W. Brother John Geoghegan who was unable to attend the communication. Did you spot the unlikely guest - in his blue coat?*



## YOUGHAL FREEMASONS CELEBRATE OVER 300 YEARS OF HISTORY

The Youghal Masonic Lodge recently celebrated a major historical milestone, with the dual celebrations of 315 years of a continuous Masonic presence in the town of Youghal and 175 years of the present Lodge, which bears the number 68.



The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, was guest of honour at the 175th meeting in Youghal, on the evening of Wednesday, October 20th, when he was accompanied by the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. D. Barry Lyons.

The Youghal Masonic Hall on The Mall – home to Lodge No. 68 since 1863 – was filled by a large and representative attendance of over fifty Brethren, many of whom had travelled considerable distances from Dublin, Waterford and Cork to support the Youghal Lodge. The attendance was treated to a lecture on Three Hundred Years of Freemasonry in Youghal in general – and 175 years of Lodge No. 68 in particular – by Bro. Dr David J. Butler of University College Cork, Provincial Grand Librarian and Archivist to the Masonic Province of Munster.

Bro. Butler's commissioned historical work, entitled Three Hundred Years of Freemasonry in Youghal, was then launched by The Grand Master. The book, which runs to over 150 pages with many illustrations, details the history of the several lodges, royal arch chapters and knights templar preceptories that have met at

Youghal, and includes many full colour illustrations of the Masonic treasures of the town, most notably including a trio of 1830s oil-on-canvas paintings, recently conserved with a grant-in-aid from the Heritage Council of Ireland. There is much of interest to the Masonic historian, particularly of the Royal Arch, Youghal being the earliest proven location for that branch of the Order (A.D. 1743). This book is available for purchase at a cost of €20 from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Molesworth Street, by contacting the librarian and archivist, Ms Rebecca Hayes, by writing to Bro. Butler at The Masonic Hall, 25-27 Tuckey Street, Cork or by emailing [munster-freemason@gmail.com](mailto:munster-freemason@gmail.com). All profits from the sale of the book will be used to professionally refurbish the Youghal Lodge American reed organ.

The 175th anniversary of the grant of Warrant No. 68 to Youghal has proved an excellent opportunity for raising the profile of Freemasonry in the town generally and in the East Cork region, in particular. A half-

page report concerning the anniversary meeting and book-launch in the regional newspaper, the East Cork Journal, resulted in a follow-up interview on Youghal



Community Radio, while a feature article on Freemasonry generally is also planned. The Youghal Masonic Hall – a venerable old building, originally built as the town theatre in the mid-eighteenth century – is currently undergoing the final phase of conservation and redecoration, which it is hoped will be completed in the next year to eighteen months. The Brethren intend to host guided historical tours of their Lodge room and its exhibits during Heritage Week and Youghal Culture Night, and by appointment, from 2011.