



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



JUNE 2012



Dear Brethren,

Following the very successful December Communication of Grand Lodge I was admitted the following day to Altnagelvin Hospital for a complete replacement of my left knee, which proved to be exceedingly painful. The old adage of 'No Pain, No Gain' rings true which describes exactly how I approached the experience and by my own determination and encouragement from the staff was walking with crutches

within three days and walking unaided within 3 weeks.

I have been active Masonically since the end of January and have been careful to moderate these events so that the good work on my knee may not be undone. My sincere thanks go to those brethren and friends who sent 'get well' cards and phoned me, which I greatly welcomed and appreciated.

My first function was to arrange a Grand Master's Cabinet Meeting on 30th January, held in the White Horse Hotel and attended by my Deputy, my Assistant and my Grand Secretary, which proved very fruitful. I thank them all for travelling to the North West and for supporting me on this occasion.

My first visit was to Lodge 554 Campsie, which I thoroughly enjoyed and was delighted with the performance of W.Bro. Sam McKeane who surprised us all with the quality of his work. My next visit was to Lodge 366, Limavady where I was warmly welcomed by the Brethren and fully enjoyed their company on that occasion.

The Provincial Grand Master's Lodge No. 52 was my next visit and I was pleased to meet so many old friends from rugby circles, some of which, as a referee, I penalised, but thankfully our friendship never suffered. R.W.Bro. Emil Hamilton, who lost both his wife and his daughter, installed the new Worshipful

Master in an excellent fashion and all present were greatly impressed by his work.

Grand Lodge met on 1st March in Dublin and I was surprised and delighted with the impressive attendance, which certainly lifted my spirits.

I attended the Masonic Welfare Fund which met on 8th March in Belfast and was overawed with the manner in which they dealt with specific cases, ably chaired by R.W.Bro. Brownell. I was impressed by the professional manner in which each case was considered and in which the members carefully considered their subsequent recommendations, no doubt, an aspect of the work of all our Welfare Committees, in whom we depend so much.

On finishing my address, I would refer to the recent passing of Mrs Pam Waller, the wife of our past and much respected Grand Master and would convey to him and his family our heartfelt sorrow on his great loss. Pam always met friends with a welcoming smile and gave Eric much support during his time as Grand Master; we trust that the Great Architect will support him in this time of need and give him space to appreciate and treasure the wonderful wife with which he was blessed.

Thank you,
M.W.Bro. George Dunlop
Grand Master

'ONE OF OURS' TRIUMPHS AT THE CONCERT HALL!

Considerable status was added to our own Music Competition when **Alexander Bernstein** – the 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2011' – a pupil of Dr John O'Connor at the Royal Irish Academy of Music - fought his way through the initial rounds of 60 international competitors to be one of the four finalists in one of the world's most prestigious piano competitions, the triannual **AXA Dublin International Piano Competition** at the National Concert Hall. In the presence of the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, he gave a stunning performance of the Tchaikovsky 1st Piano Concerto, accompanied by the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. He also won the Beethoven Prize for his performance of the Sonata in C Minor Op.111 in one of the earlier rounds during the previous week. The Final was broadcast live by RTÉ lyric fm, relayed throughout Europe via the European Broadcasting Network, and streamed live on the Internet. Alex's next major appearance in Ireland will be a concerto at the NCH on August 24th with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, which is part of his prize for winning the Freemasons' Competition. We shall also be able to hear him in Freemasons' Hall again, as he has promised to give a cameo performance during the final of this year's Music Competition on Saturday October 13th.



Macdára Ó Seireadáin, the clarinetist, who was Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2011, and is presently performing all over Europe, will also be back in Ireland at the Concert Hall on July 24th where he will perform Debussy and Rossini with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra.

Both these young men epitomise the very high standard of our Music Competition and should make us very proud!

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 & Number	Province
Bro. Geoffrey D. Davis	70	Three Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 775	Antrim
W.Bro. Angus J. McDonald	70	Chichester Masonic Lodge No. 313	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert T. McKinley	70	Gortin Masonic Lodge No. 994	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Denis Couzens	65	Donoughmore Masonic Lodge No. 709	Natal
W.Bro. John J. Haughey	65	J McCandless Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 449	Down
Bro. David Doherty	60	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 404	Antrim
Bro. Harry Clarke	60	Samuel Berkeley Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 725	Down
Bro. Joseph Black	60	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 404	Antrim
R.W.Bro. Samuel J.P. Holt	60	Downshire Masonic Lodge No. 662	Midland Counties
W.Bro John McVey	60	Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216	Antrim
W.Bro. Andrew J. Armstrong	60	Downshire Masonic Lodge No. 108	Down
W.Bro. Charles W.J. McIntyre	60	Magherafelt Masonic Lodge No. 211	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Joseph D. Wylie	60	Stranmillis Masonic Lodge No. 568	Antrim
W.Bro. Leslie C. McFarlane	60	Gortin Masonic Lodge No. 994	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Robert K. MacShane	60	Military Masonic Lodge No. 728	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Sydney Burton	60	Andrew Henderson Masonic Lodge No. 512	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas G. Moore	60	Pioneer Masonic Lodge No. 271	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Thomas J. Smyth	60	Falls Masonic Lodge No. 226	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas W. Rainey	60	Sirron Masonic Lodge No. 874	Down
W.Bro. William J. Liggett	60	Chichester Masonic Lodge No. 313	Antrim
W.Bro. William W. Hastings	60	Chichester Masonic Lodge No. 506	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Alfred Irwin	60	Energy Masonic Lodge No. 187	N. Connaught
W.Bro. J. J. Jack	55	Gortin Masonic Lodge No. 994	Tyrone & Fermanagh
V.W.Bro. W. E. McFarlane	53	Gortin Masonic Lodge No. 994	Tyrone & Fermanagh
V.W.Bro. G. A. V. Laaughlin	50	Gortin Masonic Lodge No. 994	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Francis J. Finlay	50	Rashee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 736	Antrim
Bro. Andrew S. Johnston	50	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 173	Down
Bro. Arthur Hanna	50	Cottown Masonic Lodge No. 430	Down
Bro. David E. Waterson	50	Concord Masonic Lodge No. 332	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Dawson K. Kennedy	50	Deramore Masonic Lodge No. 742	Antrim
Bro. John A. Huey	50	Union Band Masonic Lodge No. 336	Down
Bro. John J. Walker	50	Victoria Masonic Lodge No. 473	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Kenneth C. Adcock	50	Shalman Masonic Lodge No. 607	Antrim
Bro. Maurice G. Hogg	50	Lyons Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 778	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Robert A. Dobson	50	Pioneer Masonic Lodge No. 271	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Robert Anderson	50	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 811	Antrim
Bro. William D. Pomeroy	50	Commercial Masonic Lodge No. 164	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. William J. Anderson	50	Albert Edward Masonic Lodge No. 235	Londonderry & Donegal
R.W.Bro. David J. McIntyre	50	Aghadowey Masonic Lodge No. 316	Londonderry & Donegal
R.W.Bro. J. Kenneth Dunne	50	United Services Masonic Lodge No. 215	Midland Counties
R.W.Bro. Shadrach Bailie	50	Union Star Masonic Lodge No. 198	Down
V.W.Bro. Henry F. Keys	50	Irvinestown Masonic Lodge No. 277	Tyrone & Fermanagh
V.W.Bro. Raymond Leadbeater	50	Glittering Star Masonic Lodge No. 322	Grand Lodge
W.Bro. Alan Adair	50	Abbots Cross Masonic Lodge No. 814	Antrim
W.Bro. Albert D. Orr	50	Abbots Cross Masonic Lodge No. 814	Antrim
W.Bro. B. Davison	50	Friendly Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 609	Antrim
W.Bro. Derek Catney	50	Ashlar Masonic Lodge No. 528	Down
W.Bro. Ebenezer Lombard	50	Orange Grove Masonic Lodge No. 767	South Africa, Northern
W.Bro. Ernest L.G. Collins	50	Thomas Campbell Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 489	Antrim
W.Bro. George A.F. Russell	50	Social Masonic Lodge No. 136	Down
W.Bro. George M. Breen	50	Callowhill Masonic Lodge No. 453	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. George M. Campbell	50	Royal Blue Maasonic Lodge No. 404	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. James A. Dougherty	50	Ballymoney Masonic Lodge No. 57	Antrim
W.Bro. James W.T. Glover	50	Holmlea Masonic Lodge No. 740	Antrim
W.Bro. John Gordon	50	Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835	Down
W.Bro. John J. Moody	50	Fidelity Masonic Lodge No. 125	Metropolitan
W.Bro. John L. Sibbald	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 478	Metropolitan
W.Bro. John M. Riddell	50	St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge No. 944	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Michael McMurtry	50	Eagle Masonic Lodge No. 741	Down
W.Bro. Robert Davidson	50	Thomas Campbell Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 489	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert G. Willis	50	Thomas Campbell Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 489	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert H. Bennett	50	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 404	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert Irvine	50	Star of Kilwarlin Masonic Lodge No. 66	Down
W.Bro. Robert J. McFarlane	50	St Andrew's Masonic Lodge No. 944	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Samuel A. Trotter	50	St John's Masonic Lodge No. 230	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Samuel McClenaghan	50	Rosemount Masonic Lodge No. 702	Down
W.Bro. Sidney P. Finlay	50	Portlaoise Masonic Lodge No. 398	Midland Counties
W.Bro. Stewart Morrow	50	Downshire Masonic Lodge No. 108	Down
W.Bro. Thomas A. Hutchinson	50	Newbliss Masonic Lodge No. 794	Armagh
W.Bro. W. Trevor Fleming	50	Magherafelt Masonic Lodge No. 211	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Walter I.W. Bourke	50	Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 131	Meath
W.Bro. William A. Eakin	50	Helen's Bay Masonic Lodge No. 834	Down
W.Bro. William Donaldson	50	Helen's Bay Masonic Lodge No. 834	Down
W.Bro. William J. Hamilton	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 630	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. William J. Kissack	50	Clough Masonic Lodge No. 574	Antrim
W.Bro. William T. Heath	50	Clontarf Masonic Lodge No. 249	Metropolitan
W.Bro. William Taggart	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 428	Antrim

The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2012



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 11th 1:30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Final & Prizegiving by The Grand Master

Saturday, October 13th 7.30 p.m.

Sunday Business Post - October 2011
'a superb competition of very high standard'

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 2012'

Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

Tickets on Sale September 3rd

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.



Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society Millennium Charity Cup 2012

At

KILLYMOON GOLF CLUB – COOKSTOWN

ON

FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST 2012

2012 CHARITIES:

**'THE NORTH WEST HOSPICE'
& '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 2012 – for your diary

Competition	Golf Club	Date	Contact
Mourne Cup – T&F	Newtownstewart	6 th June	Harry Friar MBE - (028) 8165 8237
Ferris Cup - Down	Tandragee G C	22 nd June	Joe Berry (028) 3026 9334
Armagh Cup – Armagh	Portadown	22 nd June	Bobby McDowell (028) 3884 2630
Grand Master's Millenium Cup	Killymoon	24 th August	Noel Simpson - (028) 7082 3129, 07724 484 937

TITANIC CENTENARY CHARITY EVENTS

13th-14th APRIL 2012

To mark and commemorate the Titanic disaster, three Belfast Lodges: Sir George Clark Memorial Lodge No. 669, in conjunction with Belfast Lodge No. 651, and Tower of Lebanon Lodge No.169 hosted a weekend of charity fundraising events.

The first event on Friday 13th April 2012 was a Titanic First Class Passenger menu, dinner and dance at Stormont, Parliament Buildings, Belfast. The evening had been sold out for many months, and 206 guests enjoyed a drinks reception in the Grand Hall, followed by a wonderful five course dinner served in the Long Gallery, and Members dining rooms at Stormont. After dinner the guests returned to the Grand Hall for dancing. Such was the romantic atmosphere of the venue, and the occasion, that Bro. David Kingscott, from Lodge 3185 UGLE, Birmingham, proposed to his girlfriend Ms Jen Casson on the grand staircase, on the way to dinner. We are pleased to report that Ms Casson happily accepted his proposal, and we all look forward to the wedding invitations. All proceeds from the Stormont event (£3,300) went to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. This was followed on Saturday 14th April 2012, by a Titanic Centenary Masonic meeting, held in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim Lodge Room, 15 Rosemary Street, Belfast. The meeting was held under the Belfast Lodge 651 warrant.

Master Masons from Sir George Clark Memorial Lodge 669, Tower of Lebanon 169, and the Belfast Lodge 651, conferred an Entered Apprentice Degree on a Lodge 651 candidate, in the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, two Grand Lodge of Ireland Officers, two Assistant Provincial Grand Officers of Antrim, and many visiting Brethren from English, Scottish, and Irish Constitution Lodges. There was a collection for Masonic Charities.

Continuing with the Titanic theme, another charity fundraising event was held on Saturday evening 14th April, it was an informal 3rd Class Passenger Buffet and Céilidh. This



event was held in Freemasons' Hall, Arthur Square, Belfast. Music was provided by the Titanic Ulster Scots Group with a "caller" in the band who helped get us dancing. A raffle was organised in the interval, and Bro. Tura Artura gave a magnificent exhibition of Irish dancing with an African twist! All proceeds from the Saturday events went to Masonic Charities. The overall total raised for charity during the weekend exceeded £5,000.00.

Congratulations to all who took part, and gave so generously. It was certainly "a Weekend to Remember".

W. Bro. Brian McBride



MARGARET ELIZABETH DANIEL RESPITE FUND LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS.

Friday 20th April 2012 was undoubtedly one of the social highlights in the Province of Down's Masonic calendar, when an audience of 400 comprising Brethren, family members and friends attended a concert provided by the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment (TA) accompanied by the pipes and drums of the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment in aid of the Margaret Elizabeth Daniel Respite Fund at the Island Arts Centre, Lisburn.

The Fund, a registered charity, was established in 2007 when the widow of a Bangor Mason bequeathed her estate to the Province of Down for the provision of respite care for Masons of the Province or their close family relatives. Since then many applicants have received sympathetic consideration thereby helping to improve their quality of life.

As the Fund must operate from interest accrued on its investment, the current turmoil within the financial markets has had a restrictive effect on its assets. Consequently the opportunity to top up reserves with the proceeds from the concert were most welcomed by the Trustees who take great pride in being able to manage the Fund without incurring the burden of administrative overheads or operating expenses.

The concert was the original idea of a Beneficiary of the Margaret Elizabeth Daniel Respite Fund who offered the services of the Band and made the necessary initial introductions.

The only remaining military band, of any of the Armed Services, within Northern Ireland, the Royal Irish Regiment (TA) Band consists of 36 personnel, all skilled volunteer Territorial Army musicians who come from a wide variety of civilian backgrounds to provide musical support not only to the Northern Ireland Garrison but who have also been at the forefront in community engagements both at home and abroad.



Drummers of the Royal Irish Guards

Following a welcome from R.W.Bro. Roger Matthews, Provincial Deputy Grand Master, the platform was handed over to the compère for the evening, W.O. Chris Atterill, who before raising his conductors baton provided interesting and amusing anecdotal introductions to a comprehensive selection of popular classics.

All too soon what proved to have been a superb evening of outstanding musical entertainment was brought to an end with an emotional rendition of Killaloe, the Regimental March of the Royal Irish Regiment, being played as an encore and receiving a well earned standing ovation from those fortunate enough to be present.

As a final gesture members of the Band formed a Guard of Honour in the auditorium to say goodnight, bid farewell and wish their audience a safe journey home after a most memorable and enjoyable evening.

BELFAST MASONIC CHARITY FUND 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 150th Anniversary of the Belfast Masonic Charity Fund was celebrated with a formal dinner and dance in the Belfast City Hall on Friday 9th March 2012. The Charity's President, Chairman, and committee want to thank all the Brethren and their wives and partners who attended, and helped to make the evening such an outstanding success.

A total of 350 guests attended the event in the Great Hall, hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Ruth Patterson, and included: R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, Assistant Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Ireland; Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, R.W. Bro. John Dickson along with the District Grand Kings of Antrim & Down M.E.C. Cyril Ferguson & M.E.C. Kenneth Abernethy. An apology was received from R.W.Bro. Richard Gray, Provincial Grand Master of Down, who was unwell.

Thanks were expressed to the Belfast City Council for use of their wonderful venue, and to their staff on duty, who provided guests with an excellent meal and service.



During the evening there was a surprise presentation by R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley to W.Bro. Norman Campbell, the B.M.C.F. President, and Hon. Secretary, of a certificate from Grand Lodge of Ireland appointing him as a Past Grand Steward of Charities. V.W. Bro. Norman Campbell was indeed surprised, and unusually lost for words. Well deserved recognition for many years of service to the B.M.C.F.

The Belfast Masonic Charity Fund was set up for the relief of poor and distressed Masons or their families. No matter where they live, Brethren of every Masonic Lodge in the Province of Antrim, and Brethren whose Lodge is in the Masonic Province of Down, and meets within a six mile radius of Belfast, are eligible to seek

assistance from the B.M.C.F. via their Lodge Almoner, immediately they receive their first degree.

Following requests from Brethren for the B.M.C.F. Patron Jewel, a limited edition of 100 were ordered. There are still some blue ribbon Craft jewels and RAC Ribbon jewels available to purchase. These can be obtained from the B.M.C.F. Office at 115 The Mount, Belfast BT5 4ND, at a cost of £30.00 each. Cheques should be made payable to the "B.M.C.F. 150" account. Early application would be advisable.

BROOMHEDGE HANDS OVER CHARITY CHEQUES

On the 23rd March 2012 the Officers and Brethren of Broomhedge Star of the North Masonic Lodge No. 335 presented two cheques for £750 to Una Brennan, Principal of Parkview Special School and David Hilland of Lisburn Assessment & Resource Centre, at Broomhedge Masonic Hall.

Fund raising events held during 2011, raised a total sum of £1500. This amount was split between two good causes and Cheques were presented by the Immediate Past Master. V.W. Bro. T Willis who as W. Master in 2011 had nominated Parkview Special School Lisburn and L.A.R.C. Wallace Ave Lisburn as his charities to receive proceeds of the events.



ARDMORE SUPPORTS MOTOR NEURON DISEASE ASSOCIATION

Members of Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835 presenting a cheque for £1,700 to the Motor Neuron Society. The money was raised by the members of the Lodge, their guests and sponsors at a golf outing organised by the Lodge and held at Rockmount Golf Club.



THE JUNE 2011 COMMUNICATION OF THE P.G. LODGE OF MEATH MET IN CAVAN MASONIC HALL.

Pictured right are 3 Very Worshipful Brethren of Lodge 90 which also sits in this hall.

Excluding the P.G. Master R.W.Bro. Cecil Tilson and the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, these 3 Brethren have a combined total of over 190 years of Masonic service.



From the left, V.W. Bro. R. Morrow, R.W. Bro. C. Tilson, (P.G.M. of Meath), V.W. Bro J. Armstrong, M.W. Bro. G. Dunlop and V.W. Bro. G. Miller.

FATHER INSTALLS SON AS WORSHIPFUL MASTER

At Lisburn's St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 267 Installation Communication the new Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Colin Watson was installed by his father W.Bro. Robert Watson. This was the second time Robert had been Worshipful Master of the Lodge and he only took on the roll for a second term of office so that he might install his son. Robert learned the degree of Installed Master specifically for this occasion, this being the first time he'd conferred the degree. At the dinner after the Installation, the assembled Brethren were told of how their new Worshipful Master was an active member of Lisburn's local community. Colin joined the scouting movement some 25 years earlier and had been a scout leader helping boys develop their scouting skills, generation after generation. Colin also played for the local rugby team and was now chairman of Lisburn Rugby Club and was hoping to see them promoted this season. A keen golfer he can also be seen regularly at the local golf club, having won several accolades. "I hope to serve the Lodge with all the energy and enthusiasm I put into all my undertakings." Colin told the Brethren. He went on to add, "If I am half as good as the men who have gone before me then I'll be happy."



Pictured: Colin Watson and his father Robert Watson

FRATERNAL FRIENDSHIP WITHIN MASONRY

Proof, if proof was needed to demonstrate the fraternal friendship within Masonry.

The Regional Welfare Committee, comprising Brethren from the Provinces of North Connaught & Londonderry and Donegal, ceased a few years ago after being in existence for over twenty years.

The last Secretary, R.W.Bro. Victor Whyte correctly suggested that former members should still meet on an informal basis at least once per year to maintain this camaraderie. To this end a number of Brethren met in Kee's Hotel, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal, on Saturday 31st March 2012 to renew old friendships and in some cases make new acquaintances.



A beautiful dinner was enjoyed by everyone and much reminiscing as well as some interesting conversations took place. There was unanimous agreement that everyone would like to meet again next year.

Arthur Graham (Provincial Grand Almoner in Londonderry and Donegal).



21 Years Service
throughout the
Provinces of Antrim & Down



1991



2001



2006



2008



2010



1991 – W.Bro. Brian Lee elected Chairman for the 21st Time – 2012

W.Bro. Brian E. Lee first conceived the Idea to form a Masonic Choir after observing that some members of the Donaghadee Male Voice Choir who led the praise (*had Masonic Aprons under their coats*) at the 200th Anniversary of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 675, Church Service in First Donaghadee Presbyterian Church, held under the auspices of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, when the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. R. E. Gray read the lesson on Sunday 17th May 1987, after the Service he made a few enquires . . . the Mount Masonic Choir was born on 30th April 1991, and was later renamed Masonic Male Voice Choir.

Dress for the Choir members:

Formal with Blue Bow Tie, Craft Apron and P.M. Jewel

Brian said: The Choir has performed at many Church Services for Craft, Royal Arch, Preceptory, a Stated Communication of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Down and a Stated Convocation and 100th Church Service of The District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim and 100th Church Service of Down the same year and he would like to have the Choir sing at a Council of Knight Mason Church Service in the future, if possible, while he is still Chairman. *Brian is a member of two Councils.*

W.Bro. Lee Organised on behalf of the Masonic Male Voice Choir a **21st Anniversary Celebration Dinner** in the Mount Masonic Centre,

45 Park Avenue, Belfast on Friday 27th April 2012

and personally invited as his Guests:

R.W.Bro. John C. Clarke, PAGM Province of Down

M.E.Comp. Cyril E. Ferguson District Grand King

District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim

R.E.Comp. Kenneth W. Vance, District Deputy Grand King

District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Down

Official photographer for the Celebration Photograph

Other photographer present V.E.Comp. William T. Brown on behalf of the Banner Magazine

High & Very Eminent Prior of the Provincial Priory of East Ulster

R.Em. Sir Knt. John S. Traill, GCT

Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent for Greater Belfast

R.E.Sir Kt. Hugh Johnston

Grand Council of Knight Masons

W.Bro. Eugene Davey PPGL Std Br. PGI

Director: Mount Masonic Hall Company Limited

V.W.Bro Clifford Miller PPJGW PGI

Choir President: R.W.Bro Dennis R. Millen, P.D.G.M. Province of Antrim

Invited as his guest



27 Brethren attended the **Celebration Dinner** (supplied by Ervine's Catering).

14 Choir Members, Neil Ritchie Entertainer (a Guest) plus 3 other Choir Guests enjoyed a wonderful night.

Charity Collection

by Choir Secretary W.Bro. I. McDonald PPSGW raised over £150.

Instructions from The Chairman:

Chains of Office to be worn for photograph - 7.00 pm. prompt.

Back:

N. Ritchie - S. Gilmore - H. Marsden - T. Osborne - B. Finnigan
E. Davey - D. Beech - R. Smyth - M. C. Campbell

Centre:

W. Elliott - I. McDonald - J. Erwin - C. Black - H. Johnston
J. Kilpatrick - C. Miller - R. Moore - R. Campbell

Front:

J. S. Traill - K. W. Vance - D. R. Millen - B. E. Lee
J. C. Clarke - E. C. Ferguson - W. J. Dyer

90th ANNIVERSARY OF PHOENIX MASONIC LODGE NO. 836 POMEROY, COUNTY TYRONE

On 14th October 2011 the Brethren of Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836, Pomeroy, held a formal dress special communication of the Lodge in the Masonic Hall, Campsie Road, Omagh, to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Lodge.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. D. H. Weir and other distinguished Brethren were in attendance.

Whilst the Lodge held the meeting, the wives and partners were entertained to a 'Back in Time' fashion show in aid of 'War on Want' charity at the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh.

After the meeting the Brethren joined their wives and partners at the Festive Board which was followed by a dance. This was a most memorable and enjoyable occasion.

The following is a short history of the Lodge.

On 20th July 1921 at 2.30 p.m. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh met in the Bonn Hall, Pomeroy for the purpose of constituting and dedicating Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836, Pomeroy. The ceremony of constitution was carried out after the warrant had been read by the Provincial Grand Secretary.

The Provincial Grand Master installed Colonel Henry G. S. Alexander as Worshipful Master, Brother James Sinnamon as Senior Warden, Brother James Rainey as Junior Warden and Brother W.D. Ramsay as Junior Deacon. The name of David Rainey was proposed for initiation along with the names of eight other persons.

As we celebrate 90 years, descendants of these founder members are still active in Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836. Henry Sinnamon – Great Uncle of Worshipful Brother Jim Sinnamon, the Lodge Almoner; James Ramsay and William D. Ramsay – Great Grandfather and Grandfather of Brother Victor Ramsay; David Rainey – Grandfather of Worshipful Brother Kenneth Rainey; Brother Clive Rainey the Lodge Junior Warden and Brother Ivor Rainey and father of the Late Worshipful Brother Harold Rainey, who is always fondly remembered by all the present members of the Lodge.

Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836 Pomeroy has met continuously from 1921 to 2011 at the foothills of the Sperrins except for three months, March, April and May 2001 because of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease which affected the whole of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

No history of Phoenix Masonic Lodge would be complete without a mention of W.Bro. William (Billy) McLain who has installed 40 masters and has conferred in excess of 120 other degrees.

During the years of terrorism in the Province several members of the Lodge served in the security forces either as full-time or part-time members. On 21st May 1987 Brother Ivan Robert King Anderson, a school Principal and a part-time Captain in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was brutally murdered by IRA terrorists whilst he was off duty and travelling in his car along a country road near Carrickmore, County Tyrone.

On 2nd May 2007 The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, accompanied by the Assistant Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh attended the monthly communication of the Lodge to invest Worshipful Brother George Chambers as Honorary Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden, the highest honour which the Provincial Grand Master may confer on any Brother.

In 2008 the Lodge was bereaved by the death of five Brethren due to natural causes. They were namely Honorary Right Worshipful Brother George Chambers who at the time of his death was the longest serving Mason in Ireland, Worshipful Brother George O'Brien, Worshipful Brother David Shackels OBE, Worshipful Brother Jack Peden MBE and Brother Philip (Phil) Ewing. In September 2011 the Lodge was again bereaved by the death of Brother Brian Cunningham due to natural causes.

At this time we remember all Brethren who have passed on over the years to that Grand Lodge above.

The Bonn Hall was attacked and destroyed in a terrorist bombing in 2008 leaving the Lodge to sit at Ballymacall Orange Hall a few miles east of the Bonn Hall. The Lodge now looks forward to the re-building of the Hall and like the mythological bird – Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836 will rise from the ashes to continue for another 90 years at the Bonn Hall nestling at the foothills of the Sperrins in County Tyrone.

Worshipful Brother R.J. Wilkinson



The Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Phoenix Masonic Lodge 836 with the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother D. H. Weir and other Distinguished Brethren on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of the Lodge on 14th October, 2011.



Worshipful Brother Norman J. Burnside, Worshipful Master, and Worshipful Brother Andrew J. McAleer cutting the Anniversary Cake.

RADIANT LODGE 755 – 60th ANNIVERSARY

On Friday 13th April 2012 Radiant Masonic Lodge No. 755 celebrated it's Diamond Jubilee at The Mount Masonic Lodge, Park Avenue, Belfast. The Lodge was honoured and privileged to have in attendance the Provincial Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. David H. Selby, and also two Foreign Representatives and Brethren from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down. Unfortunately due to illness the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Richard H. Gray was unable to attend.

The Lodge was constituted on 19th April 1952 by R.W.Bro. Sir William Robinson, J.P., Provincial Grand Master of Down, in the Freemasons Hall, Newtownards Road, Belfast. By coincidence this was in the same year that Her Majesty The Queen ascended the throne. The Brethren were therefore delighted to receive a letter from the Chief Clerk to The Queen wishing " warm good wishes to all concerned for a most memorable and enjoyable event'.

After the Communication the Brethren and their guests enjoyed a delicious meal, which was followed by a celebration cake, cut by the Provincial Assistant Grand Master David H. Selby and the Worshipful Master Ray Beach, before being musically entertained by the father of one of the Brethren.



6 OF THE BEST FOR DOWNSHIRE LODGE NO. 108

On 20th January 2012 Bro. Mark Wilson was installed as Worshipful Master of Downshire Masonic Lodge No. 108. During 2011 and as Senior Warden, the then Bro. Wilson had the privilege to confer the Master Mason Degree on 6 Brethren. Now as W. Master of the Lodge, his first task was to present Master Mason Certificates to the 6 Brethren pictured below, and their names from left to right are: - Bro. Victor Guinto, Bro. Ranel Albarico, Bro. Rey Falconitin, (W.M. in the middle), Bro. Fred Campbell, Bro. Gary McKechnie and Bro. Christopher Onella.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A Masonic Lodge in the Province of Tyrone and Fermanagh has strengthened its links with a Masonic Lodge of a similar name in Scotland. Newtownstewart Masonic Lodge No. 547 in the Irish Constitution, has over the past three years, established on-going links with St. Ninian's Masonic Lodge No. 499 in Newtownstewart, in the Scottish Constitution. In the autumn of 2011 a group of approximately twenty Brethren from Lodge 547, together with two Brethren from a neighbouring Lodge, travelled across the Irish Sea to spend a long weekend with their Scottish Brethren. As well as attending an Installation, the group also witnessed the conferring of a Fellowcraft Degree.

In April 2012, a return visit was made to Northern Ireland by around twenty Scottish Brethren to build further the friendship between the two Lodges and to strengthen the Masonic Fraternity. During their visit, V.W.Bro. Keiron Powell and the other Scottish Brethren were welcomed by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Sam Gallagher. Members of both Lodges enjoyed a weekend of visits, fellowship, building trusting relationships and sharing in extensive hospitality.



Newtownstewart 547 is one of the oldest continuous working Craft Lodges in Ireland. It has a proud tradition of men who formed the Lodge in 1777 and who were committed to the ideals and timeless values of Masonry that are still as relevant today. The Lodge room has a rare feature in having a vault built into the floor, one of only a few in Lodge rooms in Ireland. The membership of this rural Lodge is strong, and over the past 30 years it has been virtually unheard of, for any Brethren in office to be recycled. The Brethren in Newtownstewart 547 are committed to continue to strengthen their links and friendship with their Scottish Brethren and with neighbouring Lodges in the immediate area.

'KUYA W.BRO. HENRY'

The Friendship Masonic Lodge 341, Stranolar, Donegal, had a lot to celebrate at their last meeting on the evening of 24th February. Not only was it their Installation night, when the new Lodge Officers were installed for 2012, but they also celebrated 100 years of continuous working within the Province of Londonderry & Donegal, but are the first Lodge to install a Philippine Brother as Worshipful Master of a Masonic Lodge in Ireland.

The meeting took place in the church halls of the Church of Ireland Parish Church in Stranolar, with just over 100 Brethren assembled. Many of the visitors came from neighbouring provinces as well as Brethren from Dublin, Belfast and the Isle of Man. After the Lodge was opened, they were joined by their Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Robert Quigley, together with his Deputy and three Assistants. Upon addressing the assembled Brethren, the Provincial Grand Master mused as to what was different about the atmosphere since his last visit? Then it suddenly struck him, "The chatter of the ladies from the kitchen was missing."

On this most special of occasions, the ladies were attending a flower arranging exhibition at Kee's Hotel in the town waiting for their hosts to join them for a formal dinner to celebrate the Anniversary.

The Lodge was constituted in 1912 and a delegation of Brethren visited Union Hall, where the Lodge was going to meet; Grand Lodge reports that the Worshipful Brethren filed a satisfactory report. R.W.Bro. Quigley also assured the Lodge that they had been very well represented at Provincial Grand Lodge over the past 100 years with many of their members becoming Provincial Officers. The Lodge had to leave its home of Union Hall, due to a



Worshipful Master, Officers & Brethren of Friendship Masonic Lodge 341, Stranolar.

poor state of repair, with the church hall becoming their permanent home in 1991.

Brother Henry Venzon was then Installed in to the chair of the Lodge, watched on by many of his friends also from the Philippines. They in particular said that they were proud to witness the first member of their community become a Worshipful Master in Ireland. 'Kuya, Henry', was the traditional greeting they used in addressing the new Worshipful Master.

A new Bible was presented to Worshipful Brother Henry on behalf of Masonic Lodge 320, who's members had been in close friendship with one another since the 1920's.

Following the meeting everyone retired to Kee's Hotel for the dinner, at which 160 people were present. At the dinner a charitable collection was taken up and a total of €1,700 was made. The Worshipful Master noted that this was a true testament to the generosity of Freemasons in these times of financial difficulty.