



JUNE 2015

Grand Master's Address to Grand Lodge in Limerick

“Since I last addressed Grand Lodge the Cabinet has met twice to review progress on various matters.

The new web-site has been activated, from today, and will run in tandem with our original one for a period of about a year; and enormous thanks to R.W.Bro. Bill Clarke for all his work on the original, to date.

As I said on St. John's Day, we will - myself, the Deputy and Assistant - be visiting all Provinces within Ireland, and we have already had a most constructive meeting with Senior Brethren in Antrim. It was encouraging to hear at that meeting of our successful Appeal Court Hearing, and it is my fervent wish that this matter be now declared closed and that we proceed from thence in an atmosphere of Peace, Love and Harmony; with no recriminations.

I was honoured once again to represent Grand Lodge at the Holocaust Memorial event in Dublin in late January, and this was moving and thought provoking, as previously.

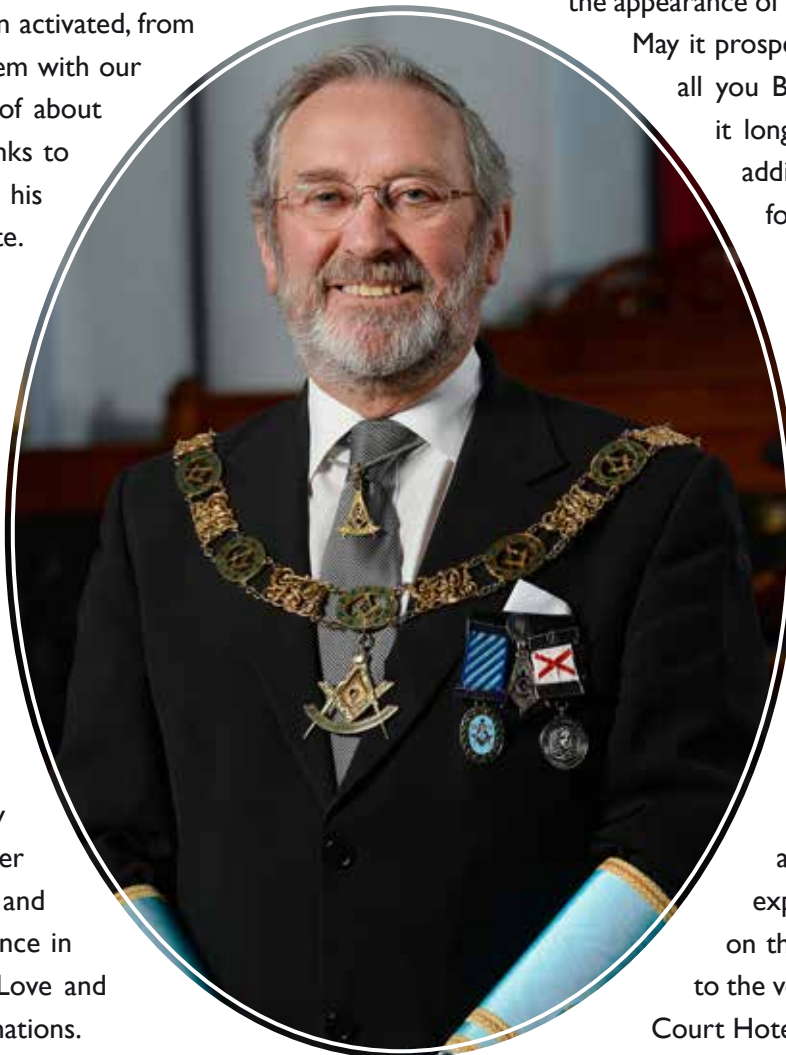
The Constitution of a new Lodge is always a special event and we were delighted to be in Athenry last week for the appearance of its very own Lodge, No. 948.

May it prosper and flourish and I'm sure all you Brethren join me in wishing it long success, the first Masonic addition in South Connaught for many generations.

I must conclude by thanking R.W.Bro. Milne for his excellent stewardship of this Province over the last nine years; in particular of course, we are still in awe of his obliteration, in double quick time, of the large Grand Lodge loan owing for the North Munster Masonic centre.

No surprise then that the arrangements for today were expertly handled, and indeed on that point we say thanks also to the very helpful staff of the South Court Hotel here.

Brethren, I bid you a safe journey home”.



Charities:- Do You Know?

The first Masonic Charity to become registered with the Charity Commission is the Down Masonic Widows' Fund. After being called to register in February 2014, the submission was made in March of that year. There was a prolonged period of discussion and negotiation with the CCNI and following a few changes to the Laws and Constitutions our registration was eventually confirmed on 17th December 2014. At our A.G.M. in February 2015 it was with delight that the Fund Chairman, R.W.Bro. Ian Ritchie, announced our success and congratulated all involved for a tremendous team effort. While the process was described as "no walk in the park", the Fund office bearers and Trustees were delighted with the achievement. The Fund was pleased to have present at that meeting the R.W. Assistant Grand Master and the R.W. Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Down. However everyone must realise that with registration comes responsibility! With regular reports and accounts being submitted to the Charity Commission we must realise that they are continually scrutinising our activities and our rules must be strictly adhered to. It is hoped that this first success in registration for the Masonic

Order at large will make it easier for the other Masonic Charities which have been called to register having proven that the Masonic Charities are legitimate and do provide a "Public benefit".



Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Leslie Nixon, DMWF Secretary R.W.Bro. Noel Sufferin and Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Down, R.W.Bro. Harold Henning at the AGM in Ballynahinch.

Big Ted on the Move

After an enjoyable evening at Ramada, Big Ted stayed a few days in Belfast before going to Dublin. He stayed overnight with V.W.Bro. Jim Gilchrist and his wife Heather.

The next morning got a lift to Dublin with W.Bro. Ken McKnight, R.W.Bro. Barry Brewster, V.W.Bro. Jim Gilchrist and W.Bro. John Moody. On the way they stopped for a coffee.



On arriving at Grand Lodge Big Ted stopped on the steps to take in the view. Big Ted will now be helping the Southern Committee of T.L.C. with his twin brother helping the Northern Committee.



The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2015



2015



Presented by:
EAMONN LAWLOR

Patrons:

**Jane Carty
Dearbhla Collins
Eamonn Lawlor
John Rowden**

Supported by:

RTE lyric fm

**Freemasons' Hall
17 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2**

Semi-finals

Thursday October 8th

Final & Prize-giving by The Grand Master

Saturday, October 10th

Sunday Business Post - October 2014

The reputation of the Competition now is second to none - - *"it is the highest accolade available to young musicians in Ireland today"*

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 2015'. Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

Tickets on Sale September 1st.

Tickets: Semi-finals €10 (All Day Admission)
Final €20 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

[Please Note: It is with much regret, this function is NOT suitable for children under 12 years of age]

Tweddie's Friendship Maul

The latest known location of the 'Tweddie's Maul' is as follows:



Host Lodge	Province
St. Patrick's Lodge No. 77, Newry	Down
Farmer's Friendship No. 978	Down
Strathearn Masonic Lodge No. 680	Antrim
Sir George Clark Memorial Lodge No. 669	Antrim
Morning Star Masonic Lodge No. 193	Down
Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
Union Band Masonic Lodge No. 556	Down
Now residing at:	
Armagh Masonic Lodge No. 39	Armagh

Tweddie's Maul: It's now time to move on - over to you Brethren!

Metropolitan Area Summer Lodge

The Chairman of the Metropolitan Board, R.W.Bro. Philip Daley, invites all Brethren to Summer Lodge on Wednesday, 15th July 2015 at 2.30 p.m. in The Grand Lodge Room, Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

Prior to the meeting of Summer Lodge, the Metropolitan Board is hosting a luncheon (Ladies welcome) at 12.30 p.m. Tickets are available from the Hall Porters desk, Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. at a cost of €20.

Golf Dates for your 2015 Calendar

Competition	Venue	Date	Contact
Mourne Cup - T&F	Newtownstewart	3 rd June	Harry Friar MBE 028 81 65 8237
Armagh Cup - Armagh	Portadown	19 th June	Bobby McDowell 28 3884 2630
Ferris Cup - Down	Lisburn G. C.	26 th June	Alan Ferris 028 9269 3625 (H) 07543967254 (M)
Lodge IV 102 nd Annual Golf Night	Sandyford Pitch & Putt Course - Dublin	27 th June	Devan Hughes 086 6410326 (M)
Grand Master's Millennium Cup	Killymoon	28 th August	Noel Simpson 028 7082 3129 077 244 849 37 (M)

Grand Master's Annual Golf Competition

16th Year



16th Year

**Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society
Grand Master's Millennium Charity Cup 2015
at
Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown
and
Friday 28th August 2015**

**2015 Charities:
British Heart Foundation Cancer Care for Children
Masonic Charities**

£1000 plus in Prizes

Three Prize Categories:-

- 1. Masonic Brethren**
- 2. Non—Masons**
- 3. Ladies**

**Prizes will be presented at the
“Evenings Entertainment”**

The First 200 entries will be taken on a first come, first served basis

NO GREEN FEES REQUIRED ON THE DAY

Entry Fee £25 includes entry to the Grand Draw

Registration Forms and Competition Rules available from:

**Noel Simpson
13 Carneybaun Drive
Portrush BT56 8JA**

Tele. No. (028) 70 82 3129 Mob. No. 077 244 84937

noelsimpson589@yahoo.co.uk

Glittering Star 322 Installation



Saturday, 14th March saw Lodge Glittering Star 322 honoured by a visit from the Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley at the Installation of W. Bro. David Monk P.M. as Master for the coming year. The installation was held in Kidderminster Masonic Centre with V.W.Bro. Raymond Leadbeater PGD; V.W.Bro. Tony Darlison PGD; V.W.Bro. Charles Shimplton PAGDC and V.W.Bro. Ian Thorpe PGSwB in attendance. Also in attendance was R.W.Bro. Robert C Vaughan, the Provincial Grand Master of the English Constitution's Masonic Province of Worcestershire, accompanied by a plethora of English Constitution Grand Officers who witnessed an excellent ceremony as W.Bro. Monk was installed in the Chair by V.W.Bro. Tony Darlison.

Lodge Glittering Star traces its history back to 1759 and exercises its Travelling Warrant throughout the UK by kind permission of UGLE. Through this fraternal goodwill extended to the Lodge by UGLE almost 18,000 English Masons have been able to witness the Irish workings as Glittering Star exemplifies the Irish ritual wherever invited by a host Lodge to hold a meeting.

Lodge Glittering Star presented R. W.Bro. McCurley with cheques to the value of £1,000 for The Victoria Jubilee Fund and Grand Lodge Charities.

The meeting was rounded off by a delightful Festive Board with humorous and interesting speeches which were enjoyed by all. R.W.Bro McCurley took the opportunity to congratulate the Lodge on the excellent meeting and ritual, thanked the Lodge for its generous support to Grand Lodge and wished the Lodge and its members an enjoyable and successful year ahead.



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.

Name	Years	Lodge No.	Province
W.Bro. Thomas Frame	75	Friendly Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 609	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas P. Ferrett	70	Leslie J. Thompson Masonic Lodge No. 61	Down
W.Bro. Cecil J. Corken	70	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 121	Antrim
W.Bro. Eric A. Aiken	70	Irvinestown Masonic Lodge No. 277	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Lyster Donnan	70	Warrenpoint Masonic Lodge No. 697	Down
W.Bro. Robert P. Bennett	65	Ossory Masonic Lodge No. 150	Midlands
Bro. Joseph Black	65	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 404	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. David Doherty	65	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 404	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Donald C. Reid	65	Drogheda Masonic Lodge No. 411	Armagh
W.Bro. John Coulter	65	Windsor Masonic Lodge No. 538	Antrim
W.Bro. Hugh Wilson	65	Clough Masonic Lodge No. 574	Antrim
W.Bro. William R.H. Charley	60	Ark Masonic Lodge No. 10	Antrim
W.Bro. Peter D.H. Simms	60	Union Masonic Lodge No. 23	Down
W.Bro. Robert Thompson	60	Union Masonic Lodge No. 23	Down
W.Bro. Edward J. Thompson	60	Ossory Masonic Lodge No. 150	Midlands
W.Bro. John Murphy	60	Coronation Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 304	Down
W.Bro. William Moorehead	60	Oak Masonic Lodge No. 326	Antrim
Bro. George A. McDonald	60	Richhill Masonic Lodge No. 328	Armagh
Bro. Thomas J. Briggs	60	Star of the North Masonic Lodge No. 335	Antrim
W.Bro. Henry J. McCullagh	60	Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 366	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. David Cubitt	60	Seven Towers Masonic Lodge No. 476	Antrim
W.Bro. Cecil A. Geelan	60	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 478	Metropolitan
R.W.Bro. Robert S. Hackett	60	Dublin Masonic Lodge No. 500	Metropolitan
Bro. John Tunstead	60	Dublin Masonic Lodge No. 500	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Cecil Hall	60	Serviamus Masonic Lodge No. 524	Down
W.Bro. James O. Wills	60	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 811	Antrim
W.Bro. Samuel L. Paul	50	Nelson Masonic Lodge No. 18	Down
W.Bro. George Whiteside	50	Nelson Masonic Lodge No. 18	Down
W.Bro. Francis R. McTurk	50	Union Masonic Lodge No. 23	Down
W.Bro. James Bain	50	Leslie J. Thompson Masonic Lodge No. 61	Down
W.Bro. Frederick J. Stevenson	50	Antiquity & Integrity Masonic Lodge No. 80	Down
W.Bro. Samuel Tedford	50	Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
W.Bro. William McAuley	50	Union Masonic Lodge No. 148	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas H.S. Harpur	50	Tyrian Masonic Lodge No. 182	Antrim
W.Bro. James Walker	50	St. James' Masonic Lodge No. 186	Down
W.Bro. Niall McKee	50	Sunbeam Masonic Lodge No. 191	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. James C McM Welsh	50	Star in the East Masonic Lodge No. 205	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Kenneth R. Sanderson	50	Star in the East Masonic Lodge No. 205	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. John E. Hornibrook	50	Bezaleel Masonic Lodge No. 234	Munster
W.Bro. John L. Farrar	50	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 270	Wicklow & Wexford
Bro. Noel James	50	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 270	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. Percy H.W. Milligan	50	St. Johnston Masonic Lodge No. 281	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Thomas J. Wilson	50	Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 291	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. John F. Bradley	50	Culmore Masonic Lodge No. 320	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Samuel J. Porter	50	Alexandra Masonic Lodge No. 366	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Thomas J. Hare	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 478	Metropolitan
W.Bro. William G.R. Megrath	50	Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 513	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas M. Walsh	50	Friendly Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 609	Antrim
W.Bro. Ronald M. Champ	50	Mountmellic Masonic Lodge No. 660	Midlands
W.Bro. Albert J. Thompson	50	Mountmellic Masonic Lodge No. 660	Midlands
W.Bro. James A. Anderson	50	Anahilt Masonic Lodge No. 683	Down
W.Bro. John C. Clarke	50	T. Hay Masonic Lodge No. 685	Down
W.Bro. David D.M. Shannon	50	T. Hay Masonic Lodge No. 685	Down
W.Bro. Frederick Law	50	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 811	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas V. Davidson	50	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 811	Antrim
W.Bro. Samuel Crooks	50	Abbots Cross Masonic Lodge No. 814	Antrim
W.Bro. James Wilson	50	Ederney Masonic Lodge No. 819	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. John E. Scott	50	Mourne Masonic Lodge No. 823	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Harold Mannis	50	Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835	Down
W.Bro. Hugh A.T. Wade	50	Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835	Down
Bro. Joseph S. White	50	Culrathain Masonic Lodge No. 940	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Henry G. Greenaway	50	St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge No. 944	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Harold McMullan	50	St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge No. 944	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Hugh Robinson	50	Seaforde Masonic Lodge No. 1009	Down

The West's Awake

On Wednesday, 22nd August 1798, three French frigates, the *Concorde*, the *Médée* and the *Franchise*, all surreptitiously flying British colours, sailed into 'Killala's Broad Bay'. On board was a small French army of 1019 troops, including two females posing as soldiers, together with a large cargo of arms and ammunition and a smattering of Irishmen, including Mathew Tone, Wolfe Tone's brother. The expedition (the first of three) sanctioned by the French Directory at the behest of the leadership of the United Irishmen, was commanded by General Jean Joseph Amable Humbert.

'Killala was ours before midnight, and high over Ballina town

'Our banners in triumph were waving before the next sun had gone down'

The French came ashore at the historic and ancient anchorage of Kilcummin, after which, having been joined by a corps of 'Rebel Pikemen' they captured the town of Killala - 'St. Patrick's City'. A short time later, following a successful engagement with a large British force under Colonel Sir Thomas Chapman and Major Kerr near the celebrated and magnificent ruins of the Franciscan Abbey of Moyne, Humbert's "Franco-Irish Army" entered Ballina by *Bóthar na Sop* - 'The Roadway of Straw' and took the town. The troops were billeted in the Military Barracks which still stands today.

Before departing Ballina and marching, via Lahardane, to a signal victory at Castlebar, a battle since known as 'the Races of Castlebar' and afterwards, crushing defeat at Ballinamuck, in County Longford, General Humbert appointed Captain Antoine Truc, as 'Town Commander'. For almost a month, both Ballina and Killala were held by the Franco-Irish forces, during which time they did battle with the British at Scurmore and again at Castlebar. Ballina was re-taken by the British on 22 September and Killala the following day.

General Humbert's short but epochal expedition is mentioned by James Joyce in *Ulysses*; William Butler Yeats and Lady Gregory set their play *Cathleen ni Houlihan* to the backdrop of the '98 Rebellion in Mayo, and Killala, in particular. Furthermore, it also gave rise to the vernacular epithet *Bliain na bhFrancach* - 'The Year of the French' and bestowed the colloquial title 'French Mayo' to the county. This period of our history was also known as 'the Turnout,' 'the Hurry/Hurries,' 'the Ruction,' 'Bliain na Buairte,' [the Year of the Troubles], 'Bliain na Speir' [the Year of the Houghing], 'Bliain an Áir' [the Year of the Slaughter], 'Aimsir na bhFrancach'

[the Time of the French], 'Éiri Amach' [the Rising]).

In 2008, following the publication of his critically-acclaimed book *In Humbert's Footsteps*, the author and historian, Stephen Dunford was visited in his home in Killala by French historian and re-enactor Patrick Charlot who was on a visit to the area. Coincidentally, a French academic and friend of Dunford's, Cecile Dejardin, also happened to be in Killala at the same time and following several "meetings" and a glass or two of French wine, the kernel of a Humbert re-enactment idea was formed. A few months later, TG4 filmed a six part TV series based on another of Dunford's publications *The Irish Highwaymen*: the series was called *Rapairi-Rapparees*. During the filming, Dunford was introduced to the members of Lord Edward's Own, an Irish re-enactment group, who were featuring part in the shoot and struck up a lasting friendship with several members of the aforementioned group, Ros Keddy and Barry Walsh, in particular.

So it came to pass that in in 2012 when Government plans for 'The Gathering' were unveiled, Dunford drew on his French and Irish re-enactor friendships and 'In Humbert's Footsteps,' an historical re-enactment of the opening events of French General Jean Joseph Amable Humbert's military campaign in Mayo, in August, 1798, was born. Unsurprisingly, 'In Humbert's Footsteps' was selected to be one of the three Flagship Gathering Events for County Mayo and over an un-forgettable weekend in August 2013, four communities across Mayo, Kilcummin, Killala, Lahardane, and Castlebar united and four remarkable re-enactments were staged: beating off competition from 5,000 other events 'In Humbert's Footsteps' won the National Gathering Event of the Year.'



In June 2014, over an action packed, family-friendly weekend in June, Ballina hosted 'In Humbert's Footsteps', during which, a massive authentic 18th century military camp was set up in the grounds of the previously mentioned Military Barracks and the largest Napoleonic Battle Re-enactment ever seen in Ireland was staged. The re-enactment was attended by a host of dignitaries including, an Taoiseach Enda Kenny, TD, and his Excellency, Jean Pierre Thébault, French Ambassador to Ireland, as well as re-enactors from Ireland (North and South), England, France, Spain and Germany. In an off-the-cuff speech, The Taoiseach noted the huge success of 'In Humbert's Footsteps' and pronounced that the events had brought this period of our history to life in a truly spectacular and unique manner and in turn gave a genuine insight into what life was like in Ballina and Ireland, back in the 'Rebellious Days of 1798.'

Attended by upwards of 15,000 spectators, the 'In Humbert's Footsteps' re-enactment was covered extensively by both RTÉ TV and Radio, TG4, Newstalk, and featured in the national press (Irish Times and Irish Independent) as well as receiving massive coverage in the local press and on Mid-West Radio.

Roll on 2016 when 'In Humbert's Footsteps' will be commemorating the proclaiming of the First Republic in Ireland, 'The Republic of Connaught' which was proclaimed in Castlebar in 1798 by General Humbert. Enthusiastically promoting the ideals of 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity,' Humbert appointed a Mayo native, John Moore, of Moorehall, as the First President of the newly proclaimed Republic.

In January 2015, 'In Humbert's Footsteps' erected a plaque to the memory of General Jean Joseph Amable Humbert- 'Vainquer de Castlebar' in New Orleans, his final resting place.

Follow us on facebook:

www.facebook.com/inhumbertsfootsteps





DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE GRAND LODGE WEBSITE AT:
WWW.IRISH-FREEMASONS.ORG

Larne and District Masonic Charity Committee Presents

Stena Line  **Teddy Bear's Picnic**  **Stena Line**

Larne Masonic Centre

Saturday 23rd May
12pm-3pm
Everyone Welcome!

 Prizes for Best Teddy Bear  Don't forget your Picnic!  Prizes for Fancy Dress

 **Bouncy Castles, Inflatable slide, Assault course, Reptile show, Kids disco, Balloon Modelling, Magic Show, Face painting, Temporary tattoos Great Prizes to be won! Dinky Donuts and BBQ available.** 

  **Entry £5 per child. Free gift.**  
larnedcc@hotmail.com

Stena Line

Larne & District Charity Committee in conjunction with the TLC Northern Committee organised a Teddy Bear's Picnic. The Picnic was held at Larne Masonic Centre on Saturday 23rd May from 12pm - 3pm. During the course of the day the following attractions were available for the children; Bouncy Castle, inflatable slide, inflatable assault course, reptile show, kids disco, face painting, temporary tattoos, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue service and St John's Ambulance were also invited. There was food to buy on the day, barbecue by Marty's Catering, Sweets and Candy by Flossy Treats and Donuts by Dinky Donuts.

The children were charged £5 on entry and each child got a small TLC Teddy Bear after that the attractions are free.

Also on the day we had an Extra Large TLC Teddy Bear (Sponsored by W.Bro. John Burns Lodge 41) raffled as well as a Day trip for a family of six to Glasgow or Ayr with Stena Line (Sponsored by Stena Line, thanks to Bro. Tony Molloy).

This event raised much needed funds for TLC and also helped to increase local awareness of the charity and how it raises funds.

A Night out with Big Ted

On Saturday the 18th April Big Ted along with R.W.Bro. Sam Snodden and his wife Sharon were invited to the N.I. Safety Group and National Irish Safety Organisation annual quiz dinner which was held this year in the Ramada Hotel Belfast. N.I.S.G. and N.I.S.O. had chosen T.L.C. as the charity they were supporting at their dinner. After dinner R.W.Bro. Snodden was asked to speak on behalf of T.L.C. after which a ballot took place and raised £755.86 for T.L.C. The evening was very enjoyable and on behalf of both T.L.C. committees we would like to express our sincere thanks to N.I.S.G. and N.I.S.O. for supporting T.L.C. Afterwards a lady from Cork said her friend's daughter received a teddy after falling and dislocating her elbow the little girl was delighted with her new teddy.



In the photo are Big Ted, Mr Jimmy Fenton, Chair of N.I.S.G., R.W.Bro. Sam Snodden and Mr. Pauric Corrigan, President of N.I.S.O.

A Musical Evening for T.L.C.

Come and enjoy a musical evening in the Long Gallery Stormont. The evening will include the Harlandic Male voice Choir and guests. All the Artists are performing free of charge so all monies raised will be going to T.L.C. Tickets

are limited to 200 at £20.00 each. For tickets please contact Sam Snodden (028) 9752 8966 or 115 The Mount (028) 9045 9694. You know you will enjoy the evening



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

The Editor
Grand Lodge News
c/o 115 The Mount
BELFAST BT5 4ND

or by e-mail to: williamclarke746@btinternet.com

Suffren “Jewel” back home!



A Lodge Jewel, hand engraved from a plate of solid silver, has at last returned home to Ireland. Created in the year 1762, (Masonic year 5762) the date can be clearly seen on the coffin emblem, it was then engraved to a John Suffren, Bellaghey Lodge 650. This Lodge was founded in the Co. Londonderry village on 2nd March 1786 with John Suffren being the first Junior Warden. John had obviously been a Freemason in another Lodge when Bellaghey 650 was founded. Past Master Jewels were not the order of the day rather a members “Jewel” which was purchased by the member at his own expense. This is one of the oldest thought to exist in Ireland today. Both sides are extremely finely engraved with Masonic symbols together

with “SIT LUX ET LUX FUIT” - “Let there be Light and there was Light”.

John Suffren’s son, also John, emigrated to St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, about 1814 and then a number of years later on to Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, always taking the Jewel with him. It is only recently that the existence of the Jewel became known and a descendent, also John Suffren, decided to return it to Ireland as the family now had no Masonic connections.

R.W.Bro. Noel Sufferin was delighted to receive it on behalf of the Suffren family here in Ireland. The original John Suffren was Noel’s great (times eight) Grandfather. Bellaghey Lodge 650 closed around 1845.



Share the Love and Save a Life

On St. Valentines Night 2015, the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Munster held a dinner that raised €1,000 for Pieta House plus additional funds for Masonic Charities.

Pieta House provides a free, therapeutic approach to people who are in suicidal distress and those who engage in self-harm. As the taboo subject of self-harming was little discussed and rarely understood, it was decided that Pieta House would also help people with this distressing issue.

Research has identified that for every €1,000 raised, a life can be saved. In 2013, nearly 4,000 people came to Pieta House for help and the numbers contacting them are rising all the time. As 90% of their income comes from fundraising events, they rely heavily on the support and encouragement of their volunteers and the Friends of Pieta.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of North Munster played their part in saving a life by sharing the love at a St Valentines Dinner at the Ballyneety Golf Club in County Limerick.



V.W.Bro. Herbert Knowles (Provincial Steward of Charities) handing over a cheque to Marian Long (Administration Manager Pieta House) in the presence of R.W. Bro. Tom Peirce (Provincial Grand Master of North Munster). Also included are V.W.Bro. Marcus Lloyd and W.Bro. George Langley of the fundraising committee.

Star of Kilwarlin Masonic Lodge No. 66, Hillsborough hand over Charity Cheque

A great time was had by all at the Ladies Vintage Tea Party in Magherally Masonic Hall.

The event was organised by the Ladies Committee to celebrate the 200th birthday of the Lodge and due to demand was held over two days. The hall was decorated with antique and vintage items including wedding dresses and christening robes.

Entertainment was provided by well known singer Trevor Kelly and ladies, Gwen Miskimmins and Phyllis McCreery recited humorous poems with a vintage theme.

The oldest member of the Lodge, Sydney Hopkins organised a super draw assisted by Alex Shields and George Cairns brought along his vintage car to drive the ladies around the area.



This Tea party was a roaring success and will be remembered for many years to come!

Sunbeam Masonic Lodge No.191 and Sunbeam RAC No.191 Double Celebration



L-R: W.Bro. Billy Smyth, W.Bro. Niall McKee, R.W.Bro. Noel Drain, P.G.M., W.Bro. Scott Simpson, R.W.Bro. John Cairns P.G. Sec. R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson

April 2015 saw a Double Celebration when W.Bro./ E.Comp Niall McKee completed 50 years membership in Sunbeam Lodge 191 and Sunbeam RAC 191.

The Lodge and RAC held a joint meeting to present W.Bro. Niall with his 50 year Jewels and Certificates.

Niall worked as Head Chemist with the DuPont Company at Maydown, Londonderry, until 1988 when he accepted a transfer to Texas in USA. He now lives in Philadelphia, but returns to Londonderry each year to visit family, timing the visit to enable him to attend Meetings of the Lodge and Chapter.



Combined meeting of Sunbeam Lodge 191 and Sunbeam RAC 191 E.Comp Roy Alcorn, E.King of Sunbeam RAC 191 congratulating E.Comp. Niall McKee on receiving his 50 year jewel from the Chapter.

The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Scott Simpson asked the Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry & Donegal, R.W.Bro. Noel Drain, to present the Jewel on behalf of Lodge 191. The Provincial Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. John Cairns presented the Certificate.

The Excellent King, E.Comp. Roy Alcorn presented the Certificate on behalf of RAC 191 and asked E.Comp. Billy Smyth, a long standing friend to present E.Comp. Niall with the 50 year Jewel.

Carleton Masonic Lodge No. 231 Portadown



L-R: R.W.Bro. Robert McDowell; R.W.Bro. Osborne Steenson; Bro. Colin McCusker (Mayor); W.Bro. EDarryl Adams & R.W.Bro. David Hamilton (P.G.M. Armagh).

Lodge 231 changed its venue for its February communication to Craigavon Civic Centre at the invitation of the Mayor, Bro. Colin McCusker, who is a member of the Lodge. Bro. McCusker will be the last Mayor of Craigavon Borough Council as Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Councils will combine on 1 April 2015 to form one of the 12 Super Councils in N. Ireland.

A total of 47 Brethren, including a number of visiting Brethren, attended this historic meeting. Bro. McCusker, as Mayor, welcomed the Brethren and expressed his pleasure at the good turnout. The W.Master, W.Bro. Darryl Adams, thanked the Mayor for his invitation and welcomed all present.

After the meeting a light supper was provided and the Mayor then invited all the Brethren to the Mayor's parlour to sign the Visitor's Book and some light refreshments were served.

Among those who attended was the Provincial Grand Master, Armagh, R.W.Bro. R David Hamilton, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Armagh, R.W.Bro. M. Osborne Steenson and Assistant Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. T. Robert McDowell.

W.Bro. J. Blair Lodge Secretary



Five Brothers – One Chair

Golden Pillar 156 which sits on the 1st Tuesday of each month in Crumlin Road Masonic Hall, Belfast, Co. Antrim might have something special going on in its ranks.

On the 31st January 2015 Bro. Brian Sloan was put into the W.M. Chair to become the 122nd W.M. of Golden Pillar 156 but that's not the important part as on that date W.M. Brian Sloan also became the 5th Sloan Brother to go through the Chair in the same Lodge.

W.M. Brian Sloan is one of 5 Brothers. His other Brothers: W.Bro. Tom Sloan was the 1st to go through the Chair in 1999 and was the 106th W.M. of Golden Pillar; next was W.Bro. George Sloan who went through the chair in 2002 to become the 109th W.M. of Golden Pillar; then W.Bro. Glen Sloan in 2008 to become the 115th W.M. of Golden Pillar and finally it was the turn of W.Bro. Colin Sloan who went through the chair in 2010, 2013, 2014 to become the 117th W.M. of Golden Pillar & the 1st member in the Lodge to go through the chair 3 times.



We are unsure if this is a record to have 5 blood brothers through the chair in the same Lodge but it's surely a great thing for Freemasonry.

Concord 462 Installation

On 7th February 2015 a number of regular visitors from Lodge Ben Cluch No.782 Scotland were attending the Installation at Concord Lodge No.462 Bangor. On hearing about T.L.C. during a previous visit, the Rt.W. Master, Stewart Robinson Lodge No.782 presented the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Murdock with a cheque of £200.00 for T.L.C.

W.Bro. Murdock passed on his sincere thanks to the brethren from Ben Cluch No.782 for their generosity.



Installation – Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216

W.Bro. James Gray newly installed W. Master of Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216, along with R.W.Bro. J O Dunlop (P.A.G.M. - Antrim) and his father W.Bro. William Gray, following the Installation Communication on 7th March 2015. Following Installation the Brethren retired to the Londonderry Arms Hotel, Carnlough, for their Installation Festive Board.



Star of the North 335 visits Island of Inch 589



L-R: W.Bro. Jason Jack; W.Bro. Frank McCracken (W.M. Broomhedge) and W.Bro. Mark Henderson (S.W.)

The Worshipful Master & Senior Warden of Broomhedge Star of the North Masonic Lodge No.335 presented a handmade "Tommy Yarr" Maul to W.Bro. Jason Jack on a

visit to Island of Inch Masonic Lodge No. 589 Londonderry. Congratulations Jason on your installation as W. Master.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES Barbeque & Raffle



*in Freemasons' Hall,
Moleworth Street, Dublin
on Saturday, 20th June 2015
at 7.00 pm.*

ADULTS €20
(STEAK & WINE)

CHILDREN €5
(BURGER & SOFT DRINKS)

Proceeds in aid of Masonic Charities

Golden Night for Ivan at Armagh Home Guard Lodge No. 747



At the May Communication of the Lodge in Lurgan Hall, Worshipful Brother Ivan Turkington was presented with his Golden Jubilee Certificate by the Provincial Grand Master of Armagh R.W.Bro. David Hamilton and his 50 year Jewel by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, W.Bro. Brian Banks. Ivan, a retired Quantity Surveyor living in Donaghcloney,

was initiated into the Lodge on the 4th March 1965 and served as Worshipful Master in 1977.

In reply to the presentation Ivan thanked the Brethren for marking the occasion and recalled his early years as a member and the offices he held in the Lodge, which was formed after the 2nd World War in 1946.

Amateur Radio and Freemasonry

In 1965 the Radio Fraternity Lodge was formed in London by some of the leading radio amateurs of the day who were also Freemasons. Radio Fraternity Lodge still meets four times a year in London and has always been principally composed of radio amateurs. The Lodge has raised thousands of pounds both for radio-related and other charities. In its 50th anniversary year it is interested in establishing links with other amateur radio Freemasons or groups. To this end, a number of Irish Freemasons who are also radio amateurs are interested in establishing if there is enough interest in forming such a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Ireland with the intention of growing amateur radio activity on air among Freemasons. W.Bro. Jim Smith of Lodge 2 and 981 is interested in hearing from

any Freemason who is involved in amateur radio, or aspiring to a licence. His email address is jimsmith.irl@gmail.com. For those interested his amateur radio callsign is EI4CP and he is also licenced in the UK as GM4DOI.

