



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



SEPTEMBER 2009



~ GM'S FESTIVAL ~ CRUNCH BUSTING SUCCESS



GM with Charity Representatives.

THE GRAND MASTER'S FESTIVAL for Charity 2008 was an outstanding success, surpassing all expectations – especially in the current financial climate.

The Brethren throughout Ireland raised a massive €660,000 (£600,000), a magnificent total which is being shared by the delighted beneficiaries - the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice, Samaritans and LauraLynn Foundation.

The finale of the Festival was marked by a meeting between the Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, and the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, and representatives of Grand Lodge and the charities at Government Buildings in Dublin.

Mr. Cowen described the Festival as "an outstanding success" and congratulated the Brethren. "Their generous support will strengthen the capacity of these charities to provide their invaluable assistance to families and individuals in distress and coping with adversity," he said.

Celebration banquets were also held in the Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin, and the Provincial Masonic Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast. The gatherings heard moving yet inspiring stories of the work of the hospice movement among children with life-limiting illnesses and the efforts of Samaritans to reduce suicides.

Actress Olivia Nash, vice-president of the Northern Ireland Hospice, told the Belfast banquet that it was one of the biggest single donations they had ever received. The stage and screen celebrity was among a glittering guest list which also included her BBC TV "Give My Head Peace" co-star, Alexandra Ford, who is ambassador for Belfast Samaritans; Jane McKenna, founder of the LauraLynn Foundation, and other representatives of the charities.

Presenting cheques for €220,000 (£200,000) to each of the charities, the



GM with Taoiseach in Government Buildings.



GM, Jane McKenna, Alexandra Ford and Olivia Nash.



GM with Taoiseach and all charity representatives.



Samaritans.



N. I. Children's Hospice.



LauraLynn Foundation.



LauraLynn Foundation.



N. I. Children's Hospice.



Samaritans.

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Grand Master said: "Like the rest of the community, charities are feeling the pinch of the credit crunch and our support is therefore more important and necessary than ever. The response to the Festival for Charity has been magnificent and is all the more commendable in the current economic climate. The very impressive total which has been raised will, we hope, go a considerable way to supporting the essential and laudable work of these three very worthy charities."

He added: "The huge success of our fund-raising efforts all over Ireland down the years is an achievement of which we feel especially proud. It reflects not only the generosity of our members but also our open and active participation in the life of the community and demonstrates that we are a caring organisation and part of society."

The Festival, launched in November 2007, was originally intended to cover a year-long programme but had to be extended by a further six months to accommodate the number of money-raising events organised by members of the Masonic Order throughout Ireland, north and south. They ranged from barbeques, clay pigeon shoots, quiz and race nights and calendar sales to dinner dances, deep-sea fishing, golf outings, sponsored walks, marathon runs and whiskey tasting. Two members completed a sponsored climb of two peaks in the Himalayas

and another undertook a four-day run over the 167-mile route from the children's hospice on the outskirts of Belfast to the site of the proposed LauraLynn hospice at Sandyford, County Dublin, ... before going on to compete in the Dublin marathon.

A statement from the joint chairmen of the Festival Committee, R.W.Bros. Richard Ensor, Rodney McCurley and Basil Fenton, said: "The ingenuity of our members in raising funds for charity never fails to amaze. We could not have foreseen the major downturn in the economic climate which would take place during our Festival year and could not have been criticised for being pessimistic about the outcome. In fact nothing could have been further from the truth and the Brethren of the Irish Constitution of the Order have risen magnificently to the challenge by demonstrating their generosity and willingness to work hard for charity in what has turned out to be an extremely successful exercise in fundraising."

The Northern Ireland Children's Hospice cares for 250 life-limited children and their families every year. Chief executive officer Judith Hill said: "We rely heavily on voluntary donations and legacies to continue our work. This tremendous effort by the Freemasons will pay for three staff nurses for two years, making a huge difference to those special children in our care."

The all-Ireland Samaritans organisation operates from 20 branches with some 1,700 volunteers to provide round-the-clock confidential emotional support to people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair. Volunteer representative Anita Lawlor said: "As demand for Samaritans services increases in these difficult times the cost of running the charity rises. A donation of this size, for which we are most grateful, is a significant step in ensuring that we can maintain and increase the reach of our 24-hour helpline services over the coming three years and make a significant contribution to the reduction of suicide in Ireland."

The LauraLynn Foundation was set up in 2001 as a result of an enormous personal tragedy in the lives of Dublin couple Jane and Brendan McKenna that saw them lose both of their daughters, Laura and Lynn, in the space of just two years. It has teamed up with the Children's Sunshine Home to establish the first hospice for children in the Republic. Said Jane McKenna: "We realise the huge effort which went into the organisation of the many events run by the Freemasons and sincerely appreciate their kind and generous support. The donation raised is astounding and will truly make a wonderful difference to many sick children and their families in the future."

Below – letters from the grateful beneficiaries.



M.W. Bro. George Dunlop,
Grand Master,
Freemasons of Ireland,
Freemasons' Hall,
17 Molesworth Street,
Dublin 2

26th May 2009.

Dear George,

I wanted to put in writing our profound gratitude to the Freemasons of Ireland for the donation of €220,000 to Samaritans Ireland. We were absolutely delighted and never anticipated such a large amount of money would be raised.

The funds will be put to good use and amongst other things, will enable us to recruit and train volunteers to maintain the 24hour help lines over the coming three years. I will keep you updated on the work being supported by the Freemasons donation over the coming years.

Being a beneficiary of the Grand Master's Festival 08 was such a positive experience for everyone at Samaritans, from every aspect. It was a pleasure to meet you all and to learn about the Freemasons and their tremendous work for charities in Ireland. Please pass on my thanks to all the Freemasons around Ireland who worked so hard to raise this money and in particular to Basil, Rodney, Trevor and Richard, each of whom was a delight to work with.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Costello
Director



12 June 2009

Mr George Dunlop
Grand Master
Freemasons of Ireland
17 Molesworth Street
Dublin 2

Dear Mr Dunlop

Ref: 158912

On behalf of everyone involved in the Children's Hospice, I would like to thank you and your fellow brethren in the Freemasons of Ireland for the tremendous donation of £200,000 to assist us with our work with life-limited children and their families.

We were delighted to be chosen as one of the lucky charities to benefit from the Grand Master's Festival and very proud of our association with your organisation. It was a great event and we are overwhelmed by the Foundation and the Samaritans.

There is no doubt that this didn't just happen – a lot of work went into raising this fantastic total and we are very grateful to each and every one of you for doing it all on behalf of the Children's Hospice. It was a privilege to like to mention in particular Rodney McCurley, Basil Fenton, Richard Ensor and Trevor Hanna for their personal efforts in making this partnership such a success.

As you know, this donation will fund three nurses for three years and will make a real difference to the lives of the children we care for and their families. It costs us just over £2m per year to run the Children's Hospice and we only receive 10% of that from government, so you can see how important the gift is to us. We really appreciate it, especially as the Freemasons did all the hard work themselves and left our fundraisers free to get on with our other fundraising.

I would also like to thank you for the generous hospitality given to the Hospice team in Dublin and Belfast. I know that they all thoroughly enjoyed the facilities and were made to feel very welcome.

I know that I speak for the whole Hospice team when I say that it was an absolute pleasure working with the Freemasons over the past months and I would be delighted to welcome you to Hospice House at any stage in the future so you can see first hand how you and your organisation are supporting the Children's Hospice.

Yours sincerely

Prof Judith E Hill CBE FRCH
Chief Executive



The Children's Sunshine Home, formerly known as the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice, is a charity registered in the Republic of Ireland. It is a company limited by guarantee.

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TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

On behalf of LauraLynn, I would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all involved in the Grand Masters Festival for the wonderful donation (€220,000) received. We truly appreciate the amazing kindness, support and wonderful hospitality shown to us throughout the Festival.

The funds raised will help make a great difference to the future success of the Hospice Project. We know firsthand how important it is that seriously ill children and their families be given the respite and support which is so vital, and the difference it will make in easing their burden.

We have now merged with The Children's Sunshine Home at Leopardstown Road, Foxrock, where LauraLynn House will be built.

Yours sincerely,
Jane McKenna
CHY 2633

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

To Grand Lodge, Thursday 4th June, 2009

Brethren all,

I am delighted once more to summarise my activities since our last Grand Lodge Communication.

Grand Lodge Communication – Armagh – Saturday 7th March

This particular meeting was held in the Armagh Royal School in March and proved so successful that the large attendance forced us to tile the Porch area. Over 300 Brethren were present.

I was especially privileged and pleased to welcome the respective heads of our associated degrees and thank them sincerely for their generous support, as I do today.

The principal business of this meeting was to install R.W.Bro. Wilson Mark as the new Provincial Grand Master of Armagh, whom I welcomed into my team. I am confident that he will fill the post well and maintain the previous standards set by his predecessor, R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins.

R.W.Bro. George has been an excellent Provincial Grand Master and has served the post with distinction. I greatly appreciate his past dedication, commitment and stewardship. Thank you George!

UGLE – Installation of the new Pro. Grand Master

On 11th March, I was honoured to attend the Installation of M.W.Bro. Peter Lowndes as Pro. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and thank him for the kindnesses he extended to me and my Grand Secretary on that occasion. I am delighted that he and V.W.Bro. Derek Dinsmore, Past Grand Deacon, are with us today.

I was very impressed by the large attendance, the magnificent Masonic Temple, and the excellent ritual exemplified by the M.W. Grand Master and the subsequent installation of his Officers by the new Pro. Grand Master.

The M.W. Grand Master Mason of Scotland and I were privileged to join his Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent at the banquet which followed.

Lodge Visits

I attended Glittering Star Lodge No. 322 in Birmingham on 14th March with R.W.Bros. John Rowden and John Smith at which the Lodge presented me with a £10,000 cheque

for the Grand Master's Festival. I thank them sincerely for their beneficence and care and welcome them to Grand Lodge today.

Other Lodges visited were Star Lodge No. 16 Kilrea, Stalwart Lodge No. 96 Ballymena, Island of Inch Lodge No. 589 Londonderry, St. Columb's Lodge No. 640 Londonderry, Coleraine Lodge No. 716 Coleraine, Aberfoyle Lodge No. 784 Londonderry, Installed Master's Lodge No. 939 Londonderry and Internet Lodge No. 2000 meeting in the home of my mother Lodge at Moville in Co. Donegal.

I was pleased to visit W.Bro. Cameron of Lodge No. 716 at his home in Omagh, accompanied by V.W.Bro. Brian Simpson and V.W.Bro. Robert Ross, to present him with his 60th Anniversary Medal.

Grand Master's Festival

I would formally thank all the Brethren for the magnificent result and express my pride that we have realised such an amount. When we set out on this project, we were concerned about the result as the economic downturn was gradually taking hold.

I needn't have worried because your determination and your will to win prevailed and we raised the magnificent sum of £600,000. (Currently valued at 660,000 Euro).

My thanks also go to the Samaritans, the LauraLynn Children's Hospice and the N.I. Children's Hospice who were always willing to involve themselves in our promotion.

The overall Chairman, R.W.Bro. Richard Ensor, the Vice-Chairmen, R.W.Bros McCurley and Fenton and their Festival Committees deserve my heartfelt thanks for driving the project to such a successful conclusion.

Presentation to Beneficiaries

On 20th May we were hosted by the Taoiseach in Government Buildings, Dublin, where he met the representatives of the beneficiaries



and assisted me in handing over the cheques.

We were thrilled with his input and his willingness to break from his other responsibilities to highlight the needs of these organisations and to thank us for our successful project.

A subsequent presentation was made in Belfast on 22nd May in Rosemary Street, where we failed to attract any government ministers. However, many photographs were taken and I was accompanied by two well-known stars of Local TV, namely Olivia Nash & Alexandra Ford, sponsors of the N.I. Children's Hospice and the Samaritans respectively, in presenting the cheques.

All in all a wonderful experience!

International Conference on the History of Freemasonry

This Conference was preceded by an evening of music when three students competed in the final of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland Young Musician of the Year Award for 2009. The event was sponsored by The Grand Lodge of Scotland and the three Home Constitution Representatives presented the prizes. A Banquet followed and added to a wonderful evening.

The following days were taken up by a wide range of interesting research papers on the History of Freemasonry presented by both members and non-members alike.

That concludes my report Brethren. Thank you.

OBITUARY

As we go to press, we have been informed of the death of Mrs Edna Dunlop, mother of our esteemed Grand Master, to whom we extend our deep and sincere sympathy. Mrs Dunlop (in her 101st year) passed away on 21st July at her home in Florida and was buried in Pittsburgh, U.S.A.

GRAND LODGE NEWS – THE FUTURE

One of M.W.Bro. Eric N. Waller's wishes as Grand Master was that Grand Lodge should communicate better with its Brethren across the whole of the Constitution and he introduced the "Grand Lodge News" and its immediate popularity led to the publication we have today.

Over the years, many interesting articles have been submitted and many acknowledgements have been received from various quarters around the world, regarding the excellence of the publication. Our Overseas Brethren and our Senior Brethren within Lodges find it of immense use, as it keeps them in touch with all that is on-going both locally and across the Constitution.

However, as some 9 years have now passed, it is regrettable to report that like it's predecessor, the Grand Lodge News is generally not being fully distributed and is, in an increasing number of cases, becoming more and more used as a "door-stop".

The cost of producing the Grand Lodge News has escalated taking

into account ever increasing printing overheads and the impact of new postage costs - the overall cost has quadrupled to £10,000 per annum. In its present format the Grand Lodge News is not now value for money.

Previously, the only option was to discontinue publishing, however, with advances in and availability of computer technologies, coupled with the ever growing population of computers in the home, there is a large body of Brethren (or members of their family) who have access to the Internet. Therefore, it is proposed to publish the Grand Lodge News in "digital format", on the Grand Lodge Web Site. This proposal was first mooted about a year ago, but in view of the then current Grand Master's Festival of Charity, the decision was deferred until it had finished and the outcome had been fully reported. Accordingly, the last printed edition of the Grand Lodge News will issue in December 2009.

All previous publications of the Grand Lodge News are already on

the Grand Lodge site (www.irish-freemasons.org) and can be accessed by any interested party, including the general public. Such publicity can only be good for our Order as it gives an insight into the Charitable and many other works in which we as Freemasons are involved.

For those Brethren without access to computers, it is suggested that Lodge Secretaries / Almoners etc. decide how best to circulate copies to these Brethren. The quarterly magazine can be easily downloaded from the Web Site and to avoid the unnecessary use and cost of coloured inks, it can be printed in greyscale. Generally speaking, members without internet access are usually the older Brethren. Therefore, the Grand Lodge News, if delivered personally, could be a very vital opportunity to make personal contact with the "senior" Brethren and therefore help keep the Lodge Almoner up to date as to the circumstances of those non-attending members.

Therefore, as and from March 2010 the Grand Lodge News will only be published in digital format on the Grand Lodge Web Site and thus will still be available to all interested parties worldwide. In this format there will be almost unlimited space available for photographs and text relating to special occasions at Lodge level as well as those of interest to Irish Freemasons in general.

The Editorial Team will not disappear, so please keep your articles flowing into the usual points of contact.

*R.W.Bro. Douglas T Grey,
Deputy Grand Master*

RAISA GREER – FENCING CHAMPION

We are supporting and watching Raisa with great interest and our hopes are that she goes on to represent her country in both the European and World Championships. What better could a sportswoman want than have all the Irish Freemasons on the support team? We wish her all the best. This is what Raisa says:-

"I believe I am a very passionate sports person and enjoy competing at a high level. I currently represent Foyle and Londonderry College as their Fencing Captain as well as representing my country (both Northern Ireland and the Republic). I was selected for the 2008 Junior Commonwealth fencing championships and the Senior five nations, (two years running). I have to date gained one out of the two required World Cup qualifiers for

the 2009 World Junior Championships and have already qualified for the 2009 European Junior Championships. Over my seven years of attending Foyle and Londonderry College I have won many Junior and Senior titles and awards, which all consequently have enabled me to climb higher in the Irish women's epee rankings where I currently hold 1st place."

Raisa Greer participating in a World Cup competition in Portugal in 2008.



ARTICLES FOR GRAND LODGE NEWS

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

The Editorial Team, Grand Lodge News, c/o 115 The Mount, BELFAST BT5 4ND or by e-mail to: williamclarke746@btinternet.com

Celebrating 150 years “down under”

The Assistant Grand Master R.W. Bro. Leslie Johnston and his wife Florence had a wonderful holiday in New Zealand during March this year.

During that time the Assistant Grand Master had the pleasure of being entertained by the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Roland Whyte of our Irish Constitution Lodges.

On 3rd February 1859 the Grand Lodge issued the Patent of Appointment to the Irish Constitution Lodges and thus during this year they are celebrating this 150 years milestone.

At a Provincial Grand Lodge meeting held at De Burgh Adams Lodge No. 446 New Plymouth, the A.G.M. conveyed a letter of congratulations and good wishes from The Grand Master. He also had the pleasure of



(L-R) R.W.Bro. Bruce Gudopp Past P.A.G.M.; R.W.Bro. Roland Keat Past P.D.G.M.; R.W.Bro. Murray Smith P.A.G.M.; The Assistant Grand Master; R.W.Bro. Roland Whyte P.G.M.; R.W.Bro. Garry Gough P.D.G.M. and R.W.Bro. Frank Griffin P.A.G.M.

investing R.W.Bro. Murray Smith with his chain of office after R.W.Bro. M Smith had been obligated for the position of P.A.G.M. by R.W.Bro. Whyte.

The A.G.M. and Florence had a lovely weekend at New Plymouth and found

it interesting to speak with so many Brethren who had Irish connections.

The four Lodges within the Irish Constitution are prospering very well and they were very pleased to have a visit from a Grand Lodge Officer.

Masonic Orphan Welfare Committee ~ A.G.M. 14th March 2009 ~

The Committee were pleased to have in attendance one of our Joint Presidents, R.W.Bro Richard Gray the P.G.M. of the Province of Down. Also on this occasion we were delighted to have as our special guest speaker Miss Rebecca Henry who had recently qualified as a Doctor and was a past recipient of the Fund.

R.W.Bro Gray was asked to take the chair and spoke briefly on topics like the present credit crunch and its effects on charity giving. He commented and congratulated the Committee on the friendly and smooth running of its affairs, adding that the annuitants should always come first. He handed over the Chairmanship to W.Bro. George McMullan who conducted the

Installation of the remaining Officers. The business being brought to a close, everyone retired to have an excellent meal.

Our speaker, Dr. Henry, then gave us an insight into her training, part of which was abroad in Kenya, learning about infectious diseases and malaria. By means of a slide show she showed us her working conditions in a village called Kibera, it is said to be the second largest slum in the world where some 40,000 people live in the space of 10 football pitches!

All of the assembled Brethren asked many questions and I wish I could list them all but it would not be practical as I could easily fill a whole page in this

Newsletter. As a last resort a villager would pay the £3 for medical attention and treatment, that does not sound a lot Brethren, until later on in answer to another question she told us that 50 pence kept a family in coal and food for a week?

Having watched the Comic Relief programme on the T.V. the night before, which was mainly about the work carried out in Africa, my conscience was not only pricked but I couldn't help but think, "I could have done more".

Dr. Henry then thanked the Committee and all the Freemasons connected with the Fund for the grants she received during her 5 years training, whilst she is now practicing in the Royal Victoria she stated it would be her wish to go back sometime in her career to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

The Provincial Grand Master of Down R.W.Bro Gray and the Committee of the Fund would like to place on record their sincere thanks to all the Brethren who contributed and hope that this article goes some way to giving an insight to the work that goes on behind the scenes not only here at home, but in foreign climes.

W.Bros. J M Alexander and
N A Ramsay, Committee Members.



Members of the Committee with R.W.Bro. Richard H Gray, P.G.M. of Down and Dr. Rebecca Henry.

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. Samuel J Evans	70	Wicklow Militia Masonic Lodge No. 877	Wicklow & Wexford
V.W.Bro. William G Glendenning	70	Barton Masonic Lodge No. 220	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Tom Asher	65	Magherafelt Masonic Lodge No. 211	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William Leslie	65	Magherafelt Masonic Lodge No. 211	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William McMaw	64	Harmonie Masonic Lodge No. 282	Antrim
W.Bro. William J Dunn	61	Redcliffe Masonic Lodge No. 564	Down
W.Bro. J V Perrott	60	Antient Boyne Masonic Lodge No. 84	Munster
W.Bro. David Lindop	60	Commercial Masonic Lodge No. 418	Antrim
W.Bro. Archdeacon Guy N Cave	60	Lough Crew Masonic Lodge No. 252	Meath
V.W.Bro. Robert A Bertram	60	Lough Crew Masonic Lodge No. 252	Meath
W.Bro. Alex Cameron	60	Coleraine Masonic Lodge No. 716	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Cecil Armer	60	Tyrian Masonic Lodge No. 182	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas H Leacock	60	Curran Masonic Lodge No. 532	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. John A Weir	60	Curran Masonic Lodge No. 532	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Andrew Sinclair	60	Ara Masonic Lodge No. 348	New Zealand
Bro. Frank E Blomfield	60	Ara Masonic Lodge No. 348	New Zealand
W.Bro. Richmond L Anderson	60	P.G. Lodge Bermuda	Bermuda
W.Bro. Leslie J Blakely	60	St. Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 142	Bermuda
V.W.Bro. Robert T McCullough	60	Harmonie Masonic Lodge No. 282	Antrim
R.W.Bro. John McCullough	60	Glenarm Masonic Lodge No. 45	Antrim
W.Bro. James Brown	60	Union Masonic Lodge No. 23	Down
W.Bro. Ronald T O'Connor	60	Bryantmore Masonic Lodge No. 735	Down
W.Bro. Richard J Hegarty	60	Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland	Munster
W.Bro. John Wolfe	60	Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland	Munster
W.Bro. Hubert L Simmons	55	P.G. Lodge Bermuda	Bermuda
W.Bro. Gilbert C McC Eve	54	P.G. Lodge Bermuda	Bermuda
W.Bro. Galvin M Rowling	54	P.G. Lodge Bermuda	Bermuda
W.Bro. Herbert H Alcorn	53	Carryduff Masonic Lodge No. 809	Down
W.Bro. Samuel R D Simpson	52	Union Masonic Lodge No. 35	Down
W.Bro. Ross S Tuzo	50	P.G. Lodge Bermuda	Bermuda
Bro. Alwyn Reynolds	50	Magherafelt Masonic Lodge No. 211	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Tom Young	50	Magherafelt Masonic Lodge No. 211	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Maurice W Forrester	50	Cambridge Masonic Lodge No. 727	Down
W.Bro. George Stewart	50	Cambridge Masonic Lodge No. 727	Down
W.Bro. Frederick C Forbes	50	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 173	Down
W.Bro. Frederick Cassidy	50	St. Fin Barre's Masonic Lodge No. 8	Munster
Bro. Thomas Conlin	50	Old Portora Masonic Lodge No. 859	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. John C Fyffe	50	Old Portora Masonic Lodge No. 859	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Samuel R Henry	50	Old Portora Masonic Lodge No. 859	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Robert G Hudson	50	Old Portora Masonic Lodge No. 859	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Ivan G Vaughan	50	Old Portora Masonic Lodge No. 859	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Francis D G Tisdall	50	Crichton Masonic Lodge No. 204	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Isaac W McM Cowan	50	Albert's Masonic Lodge No. 59	Antrim
W.Bro. Brian McCully	50	Morning Star Masonic Lodge No. 193	Down
W.Bro. Robert C Spotten	50	Coleraine Masonic Lodge No. 716	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Valentine H Tomkins	50	United service Masonic Lodge No. 215	Midland Counties
W.Bro. Robert E G Kingston	50	Portlaoise Masonic Lodge No. 398	Midland Counties
W.Bro. John H McCollum	50	Temple Masonic lodge No. 51	Antrim
W.Bro. Alfred R Hogg	50	Curran Masonic Lodge No. 532	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William A McCauley	50	Bloomfield Masonic Lodge No. 534	Down
W.Bro. Desmond A Goodman	50	P.G. Master's Masonic Lodge No. 52	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. George C Millar	50	Union Masonic Lodge No. 105	Armagh
W.Bro. Robert McIlwrath	50	Hiram's Ancient Band Masonic Lodge No. 103	Antrim
W.Bro. Walter E McFarlane	50	Gortin Masonic Lodge No. 994	Tyrone & Fermanagh
V.W.Bro. Ivan C Scott	50	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 712	Far East
W.Bro. Samuel J Morrow	50	Garvagh Masonic Lodge No. 779	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. John F McAfee	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 941	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. William S Irwin	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 941	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Gordon Lyons	50	Nelson Masonic Lodge No. 18	Down
W.Bro. Robert W Kilpatrick	50	Jocelyn Masonic Lodge No. 734	Down
Bro. Frederick D Gordon	50	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 210	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Sidney Jones	50	Abercorn Masonic Lodge No. 219	Armagh
W.Bro. Mervyn G White	50	Abercorn Masonic Lodge No. 219	Armagh
Bro. David E Reid	50	St. Georges Masonic Lodge No. 267	Antrim
W.Bro. James Crossan	50	Sincerity Masonic Lodge No. 661	Down

Distinguished Brethren	Years	Lodge Name & No.	Province
Bro. John C Bishop	50	Union Star Masonic Lodge No. 624	Down
Bro. William Craig	50	Union Star Masonic Lodge No. 624	Down
W.Bro. Robert Anderson	50	Harmonie Masonic Lodge No. 282	Antrim
W.Bro. Charles Palmer	50	Harmonie Masonic Lodge No. 282	Antrim
W.Bro. Andrew L Hanna	50	Mount Lebanon Masonic Lodge No. 503	Down
W.Bro. Francis M J Murray	50	St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge No. 944	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. William Browne	50	Ancient Masonic Lodge No. 588	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Stanley Bann	50	Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge No. 147	Down
W.Bro. John B Carrigan	50	Charity Masonic Lodge No. 688	Down
W.Bro. William D McCauley	50	St. Columb's Masonic Lodge No. 640	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Noel Davidson	50	Magherally Masonic Lodge No. 203	Down

Lodge 500 bi-centenary visit to Harp and Crown Lodge No. 60, Ballymena

On the 25th April 2009, 15 Brethren from Dublin Masonic Lodge No. 500, held their monthly Stated Communication, under a travelling warrant, issued by Grand Lodge, at the Ballymena Masonic Centre. This trip formed part of the Lodge's planned celebrations in this bi-centenary year.

As a part of this historic meeting, the Fellow Craft Degree was conferred on Bro. Andrew Courtney. The Degree was delivered in his usual impeccable manner by V.W.Bro. Paul Kenny, (Acting DofC). At the festive board, W.M. Dennis Wheelan made a presentation of a Lodge 500 framed bi-centenary jewel to the W.M. Wesley Mulligan of Harp and Crown Lodge 60. The assembled Brethren then enjoyed a fine convivial evening wherein new friendships were forged.



W.Bro. Wesley Mulligan, W.M. of Harp & Crown Masonic Lodge No. 60 with W.Bro. Denis Wheelan, W.M., his officers and Brethren of Lodge No. 500, Dublin.

After a "not too early" departure from the hotel the next morning, the Brethren visited the Titanic Quarter of Belfast City docks before returning to Dublin later that evening.

Further festivities include a period re-enactment on the 21st November 2009 by the Lodge, of the consecration of its warrant in 1809. Followed by a gala dinner and ladies night.

NEW MASONIC HALL IN BALLINTOY

An Especial communication of Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim was held on 20th February 2008 at 6 p.m. for the purpose of dedicating the new Masonic Hall in Ballintoy.

The previous hall had been fire damaged in June 2003 in which the hall was so badly damaged it had to be demolished. In the fire the Lodge also lost a lot of furniture. Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim was glad to be able to give them a number of items of furniture from the Roselands Room.

The Lodge was originally established in 1763, known as Lodge 408. It exchanged that Warrant for No. 38 on 24th June 1817 and has continued working ever since.



Above: M.W. Grand Master, with the P.G.M. R.W.Bro. J S Dunlop & distinguished Provincial Brethren and Officers of Ballintoy Masonic Lodge No. 38.

Right: M.W. Grand Master & P.G. Master R.W.Bro. John Dunlop, during the dedication ceremony in Ballintoy Masonic Hall.



Richhill 328 Installation



R.W.Bro. Sandy Spiers B.E.M. presenting the maul to his son, W.Bro. Ian Spiers.

The annual Installation in Richhill Lodge No. 328 was special this year with the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Ian Spiers being installed by his father, R.W.Bro. Sandy Spiers, B.E.M., the Representative at Grand Lodge of the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic. This is the second occasion that W.Bro. Ian has occupied the Chair in a Lodge, having served as W.M. in his Mother Lodge of Victory, No. 459, Coagh.

When R.W.Bro. Sandy Spiers served his second term as W.M. of Lodge 459, he was installed by W.Bro. Ian, so it was fitting that when W.Bro. Ian Spiers was elected as W.M. of Lodge 328, he should be installed by his father.

A packed Lodge Room appreciated the sense of occasion and the Provincial Grand Lodge was represented by R.W.Bro. Ossy Steenson, the Representative at Grand Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Spain. In fact, there were visitors from some 23 Lodges, covering four Provincial areas.

The Festive Board commenced in the Stonebridge Restaurant where the Toast to the Masonic Charities was well and truly honoured and the evening was completed back in the Lodge Room where the remaining toasts were honoured. The evening was brought to a conclusion in time-honoured fashion with Auld Lang Syne.

W.Bro. D.J. Robinson,
Sec. Lodge No. 328

GML'S FRENCH CONNECTION

Grand Master's Lodge (GML) is expanding its international links by forging an informal fraternal arrangement with Tara Lodge No. 1541 from Versailles in Paris.

GML already has representation from all five continents among its 90+ members, and the new 'French Connection' further extends its global reach.

To progress the arrangement between the two Lodges, a delegation of eight French Masons travelled to Dublin in May to attend a Stated Communication of GML and witness a Third Degree ceremony under the Irish Constitution.

The French group - led by Pierre Emery, Past National Grand Officer and Michel Wernert, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Grande Couronne - was received by Matthew Duff, the R.Worshipful Acting Master of GML (the actual Master of GML is, of course, the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop).



Matt Duff (2nd right), R.W.A.M., Grand Master's Lodge pictured with (from left to right), Richard Ensor, Grand Treasurer; Pierre Emery; and Michel Wernert.

GLITTERING GESTURE!

Brethren attending Grand Lodge in Molesworth Street in June were surprised to find that GML did not host its traditional Stated Communication before lunch that day, there is a simple explanation.

In a gesture of fraternal goodwill, GML decided to forego its privilege - it is the only Lodge permitted to hold a meeting on the day that Grand Lodge meets - to allow Glittering Star Lodge No. 322 host the Communication to mark the travelling warrant Lodge's 250th anniversary.

It is intended that GML, which celebrated its sesquicentenary 10 years ago, will resume its traditional role in June 2010.

MANATEE MASONIC LODGE, FLORIDA

At a Stated Communication of Manatee Masonic Lodge No. 31, Brandon, Florida, in January 2009, W.Bro. George Irvine (Fergus Masonic Lodge No. 900) presented a James Orr Memorial Plate to W.Bro. Butch Thurman. Also pictured is W.Bro. Les Martin of Fergus Lodge No. 900.

Orr, a weaver poet, was a founder member of Lodge No. 1014 who fled to America following his involvement in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. In 1831 local Masons and Ballycarry residents erected a memorial to Orr. In 2005 the P.G.L. of Antrim



W.Bro George Irvine, Fergus Masonic Lodge No. 900 presents a William Orr Memorial Plate to W.Bro Butch Thurman W.M. of Manatee Masonic Lodge No. 31, Bradenton, Florida. Also pictured is W.Bro. Les Martin.

Education Committee produced 600 plates to assist in a restoration programme of the memorial. This plate number 83 was purchased by Fergus Masonic Lodge No. 900.