



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



SEPTEMBER 2011

Grand Master's Address to Grand Lodge on 2nd June 2011



Dear Brethren, following the meeting of Grand Lodge in Carlow my activities have been limited, due to my taking a sixteen day family holiday in Florida during April and May.

During this period, I had requests to meet with some American Brethren and with a non-mason who wished to question me about Freemasonry. Knowing that I had taken this break to get away from 'masonic work' for a short time, I declined to meet the Brethren, as I would probably have finished up at meetings and other activities. I did agree to meet with the person who wished to quiz me about our Order but sadly, he didn't turn up.

Following our return from the USA, the Grand Secretary and I were soon on our way to the Grand Lodge of Estonia, which was a truly exceptional visit. The glorious antiquity of the capital city of Tallin and the impressive ritual which the officers performed was most inspiring.

The M.W. Pro. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, the M.W. Grand Master of Sweden and I were respectively presented with Grand Medals of Merit by the M.W. Grand Master of Estonia, acknowledging our 'long term faithful activity for the welfare of the Grand Lodge of Estonia'.

In April, the Grand Secretary and I attended the Grand Lodge of Scotland to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of their magnificent Hall in George's Street and the 275th Anniversary of their Grand Lodge. We had a wonderful time and, as always, enjoyed the hospitality and friendship of the Scottish Brethren, most especially Lord Elgin, who added much to the pleasure and sociability of the Festive Board.

One of the highlights of 2010 was the inaugural "Irish Freemasons of Ireland Young Musician of the Year Competition" which turned out to be a marvellous success. The second year of the Competition will be held, at Freemasons' Hall, on October 6th and October 8th 2011.

The International Jury for 2011 has already been selected, representing England, Ireland, Italy, and Austria. The Music Colleges are currently busy holding auditions to decide on who will represent them at the semi-finals, so that they can notify us before the entry deadline on June 30th. Our own arrangements are well in train. The Final of the Competition will again be broadcast by RTÉ.

Tickets for the semi-finals and final will go on sale at the Porters Lodge from September 1st, priced at €5 and €10 and will also be available to the General Public. I anticipate your support once again for this very important event in our calendar and ask that you purchase your tickets early as last year we had to turn people away.

The winner of last year's competition was clarinetist, Macdára Ó Seiredáin who will give a solo concert with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra at the National Concert Hall on August 9th broadcast by RTÉ and conducted by Conor Palliser; our 4th prizewinner.

We have received excellent publicity and feedback from many high-profile and influential quarters outside the Order for this Competition, and I am very pleased with the way it is proceeding. My personal thanks go to the Concert Chairman, M.W. Bro. Eric Waller; our Director, W.Bro. John Keeley and the members of the Concert Committee.

My 'Home' activities involved an attendance at a Boys' Fund Meeting in Dublin which proved worthwhile and I chaired a meeting of my Council on 24th March where I was most impressed with the contribution of the Provincial Grand Masters.

Lodges visited included:

- Aberfoyle Lodge No. 784, Londonderry & Donegal
- Island of Inch Lodge No. 589, Londonderry & Donegal
- James Chambers Lodge No. 318 Belfast 100th Ann., Antrim
- Chatham Hall Lodge No. 152 Stranocum, Antrim (60 yr. Jewel to V.W. Bro. M. Morrison)
- Londonderry Lodge No. 196 Londonderry & Donegal (50 yr. Jewels to W.Bros. Fred Woods & Albert Austin)

On Thursday 31st March, I had the pleasure of attending the Institution of R.W. Bro. Rev. Canon Noel Regan as Incumbent and Precentor in the Cathedral Church of St. Macartan, Clogher. It was indeed a singular honour for our Junior Grand Chaplain and an undoubted credit to our Order. I thank him for his invitation and wish him well.

It would be remiss of me if I failed to acknowledge the work of my Deputy and my Grand Secretary, who do sterling work and are very committed to their tasks.

Lastly, I very much appreciated my Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Leslie Johnston standing in for me at the Constitution of Lodge 939 in Portadown on 14th May. I was pleased that he felt well enough to undertake the task and am most grateful as he did an excellent job. Sadly, he has had a recent setback and is presently in Hospital. On behalf of all the Brethren, I wish him a speedy recovery and assure him and Florence that they are forever in our thoughts and prayers and I also convey the same sentiments to R.W. Bro. Charles Olden and his wife Jean, who is also unwell and trust that she overcomes her problems soon.

May God bless both of them and bring comfort to them at this time.

Thank you.

Summer Lodge

The 13th Annual Summer Lodge took place in the Grand Lodge Room, Molesworth Street on Wednesday 20th July with 170 Brethren present for a very enjoyable afternoon.

R.W.Bro. Philip Daley, Chairman of the Metropolitan Board welcomed the many distinguished Brethren, representing Freemasonry in Ireland and in particular the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey.

During the afternoon the Claret Jug and the Captain Alan Guest Trophy were presented. The Claret Jug is presented to a Lodge in the Metropolitan area that in the opinion of the Board have worked together as a team to enhance all aspects of the Lodge. The criteria covers areas such as membership, new candidates, ritual and degree work, charity giving and the social aspect including festive boards and visiting other Lodges. This year the recipients of the Claret Jug are Ruby Lodge No. 339.

The Captain Alan Guest trophy commemorates the memory of Captain Alan Guest a Past Master of Dublin Garrison Lodge No. 730 and founder of the Alan Guest Ritual Class now known as the Metropolitan Craft Ritual Class. The trophy is presented to a Metropolitan Lodge with the best attendance at the Metropolitan



R.W.Bro. Philip Daley – W.Bro. Connie Carter – R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey

Craft Ritual classes during the preceding year. This year the Lodge with the best attendance at the Metropolitan Craft Ritual class was Dublin Garrison Lodge No. 730.

When the meeting closed we were delighted to receive an excellent and informative presentation on “Are there really WOMEN Masons?” – a short talk by

Worshipful Bro. Connie Carter, of Nore Light Lodge No. 35, Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons, about the establishment of Women’s Freemasonry in England and why she believes all Masons should be working together.” It was a pleasure to welcome Connie and to learn something of the history of Women in Freemasonry.

We were honoured that Jane McKenna of LauraLynn was present to receive a cheque for €5,500 towards the LauraLynn Hospice Foundation. The proceeds were as a result of the very successful Freemasons Masquerade Ball held in the Thomas Prior Hall at Bewley’s Hotel, Ballsbridge during May.

Following the above the Brethren retired to complimentary refreshments. Once again, this was an amazing display of the caterer’s art prepared by our very own and very talented Bro. Tim Murphy and his band of willing helpers.

A wonderful afternoon, good ritual, good speakers, good festive board, good charity and most importantly good fellowship. What more could we ask for.

Next year this event will be held on Wednesday 18th July 2012. Don’t say that you were not told in plenty of time.



W.Bro. Allen Leeson - Bro. Gareth Walsh - R.W.Bro. Philip Daley – Jane McKenna – W.Bro. Douglas Grey – Bro Eoin Meehan – Bro. Luke Walsh

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
V.W.Bro. Robert A Maxwell	70	Star of Kilwarlin Masonic Lodge No. 66	Down
W.Bro. Thomas Turkington	60	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 811	Antrim
W.Bro. James A Harbor	60	Headfort Masonic Lodge No. 244	Meath
W.Bro. Malcolm McP Brodie	60	Press Masonic Lodge No. 432	Antrim
W.Bro. Hugh Wilson	60	Clough Masonic Lodge No. 574	Down
Bro. Robert J Hamilton	50	St. Patrick's Union Masonic Lodge No. 367	Down
W.Bro. William J Ferris	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 941	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William J Elliott	50	J. Pim Thompson Masonic Lodge No. 349	Antrim
W.Bro. Ronald McConaghie	50	Chatham Hall Masonic Lodge No. 152	Antrim
V.W.Bro. Vivian O Westley	50	Germiston Masonic Lodge No. 710	South Africa Northern
V.W.Bro. Richard N Moore	50	Woods Masonic Lodge No. 590	Londonderry & Donegal
V.W.Bro. Thomas S Coulson	50	Woods Masonic Lodge No. 590	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Thomas A Evans	50	Woods Masonic Lodge No. 590	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. James Clements	50	Abercorn Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 149	Antrim
W.Bro. Henry H Fitzsimmons	50	Crusaders Masonic Lodge No. 440	Antrim
Bro. Graham McKenzie	50	Press Masonic Lodge No. 432	Antrim
Bro. George W A Smith	50	Crichton Masonic Lodge No. 204	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Samuel Irwin	50	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 210	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. James Donaldson	50	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 210	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Robert C Thompson	50	Neptune Masonic Lodge No. 190	Munster
W.Bro. Thomas Quinn	50	Temple of Fame Masonic Lodge No. 46	Down
W.Bro. Trevor Mercer	50	Festival of Zion Masonic Lodge No. 597	Antrim
W.Bro. William D McCauley	50	St. Columb's Masonic Lodge No. 640	Londonderry & Donegal
V.W.Bro. Alexander McA Ireland	50	East Belfast Masonic Lodge No. 559	Down
W.Bro. Walter Christie	50	Rosemary Masonic Lodge No. 578	Down
W.Bro. Robert Greer	50	Bailieborough Masonic Lodge No. 796	Meath
R.W.Bro. William Kerr	50	Drumcree Masonic Lodge No. 979	Armagh
W.Bro. Thomas Bradshaw	50	Friendly Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 609	Antrim
V.W.Bro. William M Scott	50	Clotworthy Masonic Lodge No. 593	Antrim
W.Bro. Brian Green	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 602	Antrim
W.Bro. William Whitney	50	True Blues Masonic Lodge No. 935	Wicklow & Wexford
V.W.Bro. Gary H Russell	50	Rosburgh Masonic Lodge No. 622	Natal
W.Bro. David B Hunter	50	Star of Kilwarlin Masonic Lodge No. 66	Down
W.Bro. Robert Walker	50	Star of Kilwarlin Masonic Lodge No. 66	Down
V.W.Bro. Baey Lian Peck	50	St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 765	South East Asia
W.Bro. Ean Thompson	50	Rising Sun Masonic Lodge No. 170	Down
W.Bro. Thomas Turkington	50	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 811	Antrim

Province of Antrim Freemasons see “Lifelites” project in action at the Northern Ireland Children’s Hospice

Children’s charity “Lifelites” – which has just won the ‘Technology 4 Good’ awards as the only charity that provides a fun and education package of accessible technologies for children in hospices - provided a package of technology to the hospice, in Belfast, this week.

For children and young people who may not have experienced jetting off to another country, the opportunity to use new technology to experience the sensation of flying has today been made possible with a high spec computer including a wide HD screen and flight simulator software, as well as a wonderfully authentic joy stick so the children can feel just like a real pilot.

John Dickson, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Province of Antrim, and Bill Dryer, Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master, Province of Antrim, were present to mark the handover of the Lifelites donation and they were able to see first hand what this new technology will do to enhance the lives of children facing serious medical conditions and disabilities.

With the addition of the Northern Ireland Children’s Hospice to their network, Lifelites - which was originally a millennium project of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (RMTGB) in England before becoming a separate charity in 2006 – now provides its unique package of technology for every children’s hospice in the UK.

Lifelites Chief Executive, Simone Enefer-Doy, said she is delighted to be able to include Northern Ireland on the Lifelites map and to continue the charity’s association with Freemasons through this new project. She said, “Though we were an initiative of the RMTGB, we no longer receive funding from them, therefore we are always looking for new ways in which we can involve Freemasons in this vital work.



“Volunteering and any donations make a world of difference to helping Lifelites enhance the lives of children in hospices. For example, this project was made possible by a donation which was specifically for the children of NICH from the Thomas Cook Children’s Charity.”

Children and young people visiting the hospice will now have access to lots of fun software with a wide variety of special computer accessories to help those with limited movement and dexterity play the games for themselves.

Tina McCrossan, Director of Children’s and Young People’s Services at the hospice, said, “The kind gift from Lifelites will ensure that children and young people visiting the hospice receive the best possible mind stimulating facilities. I have no doubt that

this will be a popular choice and what makes this gift even more special is that it is something that all the family can enjoy. Often we find that children using stimulating equipment develop new responses which perhaps their families have yet so to see. Seeing a child respond in a new way is very exciting for both their families and our hospice staff.”

The Lifelites package also provides access to the Internet so the children can safely explore the world on the web and broaden their limited horizons.

A high quality printer for photos and digital stills and movie cameras are also part of the package and Lifelites has paid for both installation of the equipment and training of hospice care staff on how to get the best use out of it all with the children.

Moneymore 531 Supports Multiple Sclerosis

Jill Kenning, Treasurer of the Mid Ulster Branch of Multiple Sclerosis and Committee Members Sylvia Rankin and Ena Somerville pictured above, as they receive a cheque for £1,750 from Worshipful Master W.Bro. G Miller and Brethren of Unity Masonic Lodge 531, Moneymore.



COMBINED OLD IRISH LODGES MEET IN 2011 TO CELEBRATE THEIR IRISH HERITAGE "THE WHOLE WORLD IS IRISH ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY"

Each year, in sunny Queensland, Australia, on or near to St. Patrick's Day, Lodges who were formerly consecrated under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ireland in Queensland, meet to celebrate their Irish heritage. This year the oldest of the Lodges, St. Patrick No. 5 UGLQ, formerly consecrated in 1863 as No. 279 Irish Constitution, was not represented as its Warrant was declared dormant by the Grand Master in July 2010. Four of the remaining Lodges in the Brisbane region namely: Duke of Leinster No. 8 UGLQ (283 IC – 1864); United Tradesmen's No. 12 (288 IC – 1865); Southern Queensland No. 29 (312 IC – 1878); and Theodore Unmack No. 60 (337 IC – 1889), gathered on Wednesday 16th March 2011, at a combined meeting hosted by Theodore Unmack Lodge No. 60, to confer the Degree of a Fellow Craft Freemason on Bro. Justin Buckley of the Duke of Leinster Lodge No 8. The meeting was supported by a large contingent of visiting Brethren and a brilliant retinue of Grand Officers led by the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Dr Gary Bacon. An overseas visitor in the person of W.Bro. Rob Phillips of Churchill Lodge No. 478 E.C., Oxford, England, in his own words came ...looking forward to seeing how things are done here. All in attendance hope that he was well satisfied with what he saw.

The Worshipful Master of the Duke of Leinster Lodge obligated Bro. Buckley and the work of the major aspects of the degree was shared by selected members of the other three Lodges with Theodore Unmack Lodge officers occupying their respective stations. The proceedings of this evening will no doubt be a memorable milestone in Bro. Buckley's Masonic career.

The Director of Ceremonies of Theodore Unmack Lodge has refurbished the original Director of Ceremonies baton of St. Patrick's Lodge and it was used for the first time for many years in the ceremony this year – it is intended that this baton will be used at all future Combined Irish heritage Lodge meetings – the baton is made of ebony and is upholstered with a significant green velvet band midway between the ends and is mounted with sterling silver bands and caps, and as such is a unique, valuable and historic article.

It was a time to revisit the history of Irish Freemasonry in Australia and in particular Queensland and the R.W.D.G.M. took the opportunity to do this in his address to the Brethren. He recapped on how Freemasonry was spread through the then burgeoning colonial world and how the Irish military Lodges with their Ambulatory Warrants were responsible for the eventual establishment of Masonic Lodges in the garrisons of those far flung British colonies. He pointed out that this was the case in Australia with the founding of the Australian Social Lodge No. 260 I.C. in Sydney Town in 1820. Other Lodges followed under the Irish Constitution including the Auckland Social Lodge No.348 I.C. (now Lodge Ara) in New Zealand, which received its dispensation from The Leinster Masonic Committee in Australia in 1842. Irish Freemasonry came to Queensland in 1863 with the founding of the St Patrick Lodge 279 I.C. in Brisbane Town. Provincial Grand Lodges for the three constitutions soon followed and Freemasonry began to grow. Due to the tyranny of distance and the obvious difficulty in resolving matters that required a decision from Grand Lodge it was inevitable that a Grand Lodge would be erected on Queensland soil and this occurred in 1904 – due again to the initiative of the Irish Constitution Lodges – the Scottish and English Grand Lodges remained aloof until 1921 when the United Grand Lodge of Queensland was erected.

At the Festive Board the R.W.D.G.M. continued his overview of Irish Freemasonry and in particular the role played by R.W.Bro. Theodore Oscar Unmack Provincial Grand Master, and the Theodore Unmack Lodge in company with the other Lodges then under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in the latter years of the nineteenth century. His was a dynamic, informative and interesting presentation which left all in attendance the better informed about the important role that Irish Freemasons played in the founding and development of freemasonry in this country.

An important part of the programme at the Festive Board was the traditional handing over of the Shillelaghs to the Worshipful Master of the incumbent Lodge. This was all the more significant on this occasion as they were currently in the custody of the last Worshipful Master of St. Patrick Lodge No. 5 UGLQ (Dormant), W.Bro. Flav Weller. The shillelaghs handed over and the toasts honoured and the game of skill finished, another year is added to the past forty-eight years that this event has been running in its present form.

*VW Bro Lou Grimshaw AGSWks
Duke of Leinster Lodge No. 8 UGLQ – Australia*



Bro. Justin Buckley with Wor. Bro. Don Fenwick (L), W.M. Theodore Unmack Lodge and Wor. Bro. Graham Vallance (R), W.M. Duke of Leinster Lodge



W.Bro. Flav Weller (L) handing over the shillelaghs

A "Youngster" in the Chair of Moneyreagh!!

The attached a photograph was taken at the Installation of W.Bro. Eric Longley, Lodge 821 Moneyreagh on Saturday 15th January 2011.

The Worshipful Master is only 87 'years young' and this was his first time to be Installed in the Chair. It may well be a record for our W.M. to be installed at this age but we don't know for sure. In the photo he is flanked by his son David, Senior Deacon, and also R.W. Bro. Brian Eve, For. Rep. Belgium Lodge 556.



Two Brethren return to their Mother Lodge Gortin 994

W.Bro. Rufus McFarland, Worshipful Master of Gortin 994, welcomes R.W.Bro. George Lutton, W.Bro. Sam McFarland and W.Bro. Alan Campbell of Ardmore Lodge 835 Saintfield, to the April Communication of Gortin. W.Bro. Sam McFarland joined Gortin in December 1963 and W.Bro. Alan Campbell joined in November 1971.

The Saintfield Brethren had a wonderful evening of fellowship especially, W.Bro. Sam McFarland, who has relatives in Gortin area. In fact he was finding that some of the McFarland Brethren of Gortin Lodge were related to him.



Family membership in Ardmore M.L. 835 Saintfield

The attached photograph, taken at our convocation on 9th June 2011, depicts three members of the Lutton family, who together have 77 years membership of the Lodge. In the middle is R.W. Bro. George Lutton who was Master in 1984 and is presently D.O.C and Stewart of Charities. On the right is his son Girvan who was Master in 2004 and is presently Master in Cathedral View M.L. 917 Crossgar. On the left is his other son, Alan who is the present Master of 835. These years of dedicated service have been possible due to the support given, in particular, by George's wife, Eileen, and we wish them all good health to continue to serve Ardmore Lodge for a long time to come.



May Masonic Ball in Limerick

On Saturday 7th May last 200 diners assembled in dinner jackets and “posh frocks” at the Strand Hotel Limerick for a most successful May Masonic Ball. Members, families and friends enjoyed a beautiful meal followed by a superb floor show with Riverdance-style entertainment from local group Damhsa. At one stage they were accompanied by W.Bro. Brendan O’Gorman of Triune Lodge 333 on the bodhran for an impromptu session to everyone’s delight.

To settle everyone down V.W.Bro. Brian Ruttle wheeled a substantial amount of money from the diners with an auction and raffle of donated items with the proceeds going to LauraLynn House.

Cash was also collected for the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent Fund and the Masonic Welfare Fund and to round off the night everyone danced their socks off into the wee small hours to a great live band.

As a further bonus, and with everyone in great form, a huge amount of money was also raised for the benefit of the North Munster Masonic Centre Building Fund.

It was a happy co-incidence that not only did the Dublin Metropolitan Masons and North Munster Masons choose the same night for their May Ball (quite independently) but both also chose LauraLynn House as a most worthy non-Masonic charity to be supported.

After the June meeting of Grand Lodge R.W.Bro. Hugh Milne, Provincial Grand Master of North Munster presented a cheque for €2,500 to Mrs Jane McKenna of LauraLynn House, in the presence of the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey.



The Birth of Castletown Lodge No. 949

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Armagh welcomed a new Lodge to its membership on the 14th May 2011 when Castletown Masonic Lodge No. 949 in Dundalk, was constituted at an occasional Communication of Grand Lodge held in the Masonic Hall, Thomas Street, Portadown.

In the absence of the Grand Master, who was indisposed, the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Leslie V Johnston, although convalescing from a serious illness, very kindly and bravely stepped in to chair the Communication. After the Lodge was Constituted Grand Lodge closed and the Provincial Grand Master of Armagh, R.W.Bro. R Wilson Mark installed the founding Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins, who subsequently installed the Lodge Officers.

The new Lodge has 30 foundation members and 16 prospective initiates. Castletown Masonic Lodge No. 949 will meet in the Masonic Hall, Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, on the fourth Thursday of each month @ 7.30 p.m. with the exception of months June, July, August and December. Enquiries may be made to the Secretary, W.Bro. Terry E Woods, Phone: 00 353 87 2566502



Photo Back Row from left to right.

Bro. Eamon Crosby, W.Bro. Terry Woods, Bro. Nigel Eakins, R.W.Bro. John J. Ramsay, W.Bro. John Matchett, W.Bro. Colin Baigrie, R.W.Bro. Barrie Crawford, Bro. David Mc Ardle

Photo Front row from left to right.

W.Bro. Colin Davidson, Bro. Dr. Brendan Ryder, W.Bro. Tom Murphy, V.W.Bro. Alan H. Treadwell, Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro. Leslie V. Johnston, Founding Worshipful Master R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins, Provincial Grand Master of Armagh R.W.Bro. R Wilson Mark, W.Bro. Denis Mc Loughlin, R.W.Bro. Joe Rodgers, W.Bro. Theo. Henry

The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2011



Patrons:

Jane Carty
Dearbhla Collins
Eamonn Lawlor
John Rowden

Supported by:

RTÉ lyric fm

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

Semi-finals

Thursday October 6th 1.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Final & Prizegiving by The Grand Master

Saturday, October 8th 7.30 p.m.

The semi-finalists, selected by Music Colleges from the cream of their students throughout Ireland, compete before an International Jury to win the title of 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2011'

Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

Tickets on Sale September 1st

Tickets : Each Semi-final €5, Final €10 available from the Porter's Lodge at Freemasons' Hall. Tickets *may* also be available at the door on the night but this is not guaranteed as accommodation is limited.

Advance Booking is definitely recommended

FULL HOUSE FOR MACDÁRA

The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2010, Clarinettist Macdára Ó Seireadáin, faced a full house when he came onto the stage of the National Concert Hall recently. As part of his prize for winning last year's competition he was awarded a concerto with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, and the Concert Hall was packed with a capacity audience, to hear him give a superb performance of C. V. Stanford's Concerto for Clarinet in A Minor. By way of a bonus for us, the Concert Orchestra was conducted by Conor Palliser, who was also a finalist in our Competition last year. The Concert was broadcast live by RTÉ lyric fm, and, in introducing Macdára, the presenter Liz Nolan referred to the Freemasons Music Competition. The Grand Master was represented at the Concert by the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Barry Lyons, who went backstage after the performance to congratulate Macdára and Conor, and chatted with senior Executives of RTÉ.



Photographed backstage after the Concert are (L-R) Conor Palliser (Conductor), Macdára Ó Seireadáin, Séamus Crimmins (CEO, RTÉ, Performing Groups) Anthony Long, (General Manager, RTÉ Concert Orchestra,) and the Grand Secretary.

Some Freemasons just keep on going.....

Like V.W.Bro. Hill Robinson, Mourne Lodge No.823, still presenting the Mourne Golf Cup to the winner each year for the past 47 years.

The winner this year was W.Bro. Robert Findlay, Lodge No.341 Stranorlar, Co.Donegal, who, despite the inclement weather managed to produce a creditable 43 points to secure victory.

As always, the venue was Newtown Stewart Golf Club and it was reasonably well supported despite the weather by Lodge members and visitors from the Provinces of Antrim, Tyrone & Fermanagh and Londonderry & Donegal.



School gets funding boost from Lodge

DOAGH Primary School Sports day saved from cancellation due to the financial generosity of a local Masonic Lodge.

Members of Doagh Union Masonic Lodge donated £250 to the local school, allowing prizes to be presented to the winners of the annual sporting event. Without the funding the prize distribution would have been unable to go ahead.

Speaking to The Gazette a representation for the Lodge said: "We are proud to support the local community especially our youth. It had been the wishes of the Brethren that the Lodge raise money to ensure the children had as enjoyable day".

"We feel sport, whilst promoting good health and wellbeing, also promotes character building.

Primary school children are at the heart of our community and it is important to invest in them.

In the recent difficult times we find ourselves in, we hope this goes some way to making their day special. Doagh Union hoped the children, parents and staff had an enjoyable and exhaustive day and a pleasant summer".

The cheque was donated to the school principal, Mr Bobby Thompson. Thanking the Lodge, he added: "Unfortunately the financial position in schools at present is at crisis point with no sign of any improvement. School budgets have been cut drastically and schools are now reliant on outside support to provide even the most basic of resources. We still have an Annual Sports' Day and try to provide prizes for our Sports' Day Participants. Lack of funds could have prevented this happening this year but, due to the generosity of Doagh Masonic Lodge No.317 in sponsoring our prizes, we were able to continue to reward our pupils for their efforts."



The cheque was presented at Doagh Primary School (L-R) W.Bro. F.G Cummings, Doagh Union 317; R.W.Bro. J O Dunlop (P.A.G.M. Antrim); Mr Bobby Thompson, Principle of Doagh Primary School; Beth Armstrong, Vice Principle and W.Bro. E Lynd, W. Master of Doagh Union 317.

"THE LUKE MURAL"

Provincial Masonic Hall, 15 Rosemary Street, Belfast



The above photograph is taken, not from the Luke painting in the Provincial Masonic Hall, but from the "Sampler" prepared by John Luke for approval by the Provincial Grand Master of the day viz R.W.Bro. Rupert Stanley. Happily, approval was granted and the painting was commissioned.

The painting is located in a recess in the wall "in three separate pieces" and held in place by wooden cleats. Each portion is canvas

on a timber frame and therefore technically not a mural at all.

The Provincial Masonic Hall itself was built in the 1950s. There are two foundation stones, both laid on 7th October 1954, one by M.W.Bro. Raymond I Brooke, Most Worshipful the Grand Master and one by R.W.Bro. Rupert Stanley, the Provincial Grand Master.

R.W.Bro. J L Frazer P.P.A.G.M. (Antrim)

ST. JOHN MASONIC LODGE 330 BALLYMONEY CENTENARY YEAR IN 2011

Lodge of St. John 330 Ballymoney celebrates its centenary year in 2011. Already celebrations have taken place with the Installation Festive Board being held in the Royal Court Hotel Portrush when the Lodge was honoured by the attendance of the Grand Master M.W.Bro. George Dunlop.

R.W.Bro. John L Frazer presented the Lodge at their closing Communication for the summer recess with five prints depicting the ancient working of several degrees. These prints were received by the W.M. W.Bro. Harte on behalf of the Lodge and Bro. Robert Currie S.W., presented R.W.Bro. Frazer with a gift in appreciation of his generosity.

The W.M. hosted a fund raising barbecue in aid of the Widows Fund at his home and those attending toured a most interesting and extensive garden.

Arrangements are under way for a celebratory dinner open to friends when it is hoped the P.G.M. will be present. The centenary year will be wound up with a Burns night in 2012 again organized by the then I.P.W.M., he being a native of Scotland.

The Warrant of the Lodge has had a bit of a journey before it finished up in Ballymoney:

- It started life in Ballinrobe, County Mayo, in 1759; cancelled in October 1813.
- Reissued to Tandragee in June 1825; cancelled 1835.
- Reissued to Amherst Nova Scotia in January 1845. That Lodge through the fullness of time joined the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and the Warrant was returned.
- Reissued to Brisbane Queensland in January 1888 and was returned in 1904.
- Reissued to Ballymoney on 3rd June 1911.



R.W.Bro. John L Frazer with W.Bro. Colin Hart, Worshipful Master, Lodge 330.



Lodge Brethren including W.Bro. Norman B Dunlop.