



SEPTEMBER 2013

SUMMER LODGE 2013 Official Launch of TLC Ireland

9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 16th July, 2013 all seems calm in Molesworth Street. Little do the hundreds of people passing Freemasons' Hall know that nerves are stretched to almost breaking point for a small number of 'those guys' in there. It is the day before Summer Lodge, Masons from



Members of the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes with Big Ted and some of his cousins, together with members of the TLC Committee, on the day before Summer Lodge.



Did you pack these bags yourself, sir?

all over Ireland and from much further afield also are preparing to travel here to attend what has become one of the highlights of the annual Masonic Calendar, Summer Lodge being hosted by Philip Daley and the members of the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes.

Meanwhile, somewhere to the north side of London a very important contributor to the above meeting is making his way to Southend on Sea Airport in the back of a taxi belonging to W.Bro. Emlyn Carter. "Big Ted" as he has become affectionately known is about to do what he is



Ted having fun at Southend Airport.

best at, namely entertain those gathered at the airport. He has a busy few hours ahead of him, he will meet and greet the crew of the Aer Arran plane that is about to embark on its journey to our fair land. His travelling companions, W.Bro. Ian Simpson and his lovely wife, Angela, are shown to their seats while Big Ted has a little cavorting to attend to with some members of the crew. Both Ian and Emlyn are members of Skillet and Trowel Lodge No. 981. When all settle in and safety checks are gone through, off they go and they are heading westward to Dublin. While Ian and Angela are regular visitors to Dublin, this is the first time that Big Ted has come over. Secretly he is thinking I might like to stay a little longer than this lot. When they touch down in Dublin, Big Ted is again up to some of his tricks, he manages to get into the cockpit with the pilot and even kicks the Captain out of his seat for a short time. Then it is time to leave his Aer Arran friends and make his way through to the arrivals area. He is travelling on a carriage provided by the Dublin Airport Authority, powered by the strength of his travelling companion, Ian and as soon as the trio emerge through the arrivals door there is a somewhat informally dressed Philip Daley to greet them. A thought crosses his mind that Masonry here in Ireland may be a little different than it is on the island that he had just left. Morning suits and black ties etc.



Magdalena, Senior Cabin Crew, Aer Lingus Regional, another one of Big Ted's friends.



After a pleasant journey from the airport to the city Big Ted is booked into Buswells

Hotel, catching a brief glance of Freemasons' Hall as he arrived. He was somewhat distracted at this moment in that he was approached by yet another good looking lady, Mary Mitchell-O'Connor, TD. who welcomed him yet again



Black Tie and Morning Suit? I'm delighted to be in Dublin.

to our capital. After a brief chat and exchange of Facebook and Twitter addresses things seem to be looking good for Big Ted.

Across the road things are getting somewhat hectic, some of the more active members of the Metropolitan Board are beginning to set up for the events taking place the next day. The Dining Room takes on the appearance of a Party Zone, with helium filled balloons and Teddy bears Picnic areas all set out. The merchandise tables are all laid out and ready to be manned by some of the lady members of the staff at Freemasons' Hall under the guidance of Heather Gyles who is a very hard working member of the TLC Committee. Philip Daley is flying around and preparing for a final practice session to ensure that all goes well when Summer Lodge is held the next day.



Mary Mitchell-O'Connor, TD

Wednesday, 17th July arrives. Big Ted takes his place with all his cousins in the Dining Room. Some of those attending Summer Lodge start to arrive and there is an air of great excitement about. Shortly after 10.30 a.m. a limousine pulls up outside Freemasons' Hall and Peter Lowndes, Patron of TLC England and Wales arrives. He also happens to be the Pro-Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. He is accompanied by Sir Neill Thorpe on this occasion but is visiting Dublin in his TLC capacity. He is met and welcomed by Most Worshipful Brother Eric Waller, Right Worshipful Brother Philip Daley, Right Worshipful Brother Richard Gray and other members of the TLC Committee in Ireland. He is then taken to a small pre-lunch reception where he meets with all the members of the TLC Committee here in Ireland and the Patron of TLC Ireland, Professor Patrick Plunkett who happens to be Worshipful Master of Trinity Lodge No. 357. The reception was followed by a beautiful lunch provided by Catherine and John.



W.Bro. Ian Simpson, Skillet and Trowel No. 981 and R.W. Bro. Philip Daley Chairperson, Metropolitan Board of General Purposes. Both proud fathers of TLC.

Summer Lodge commenced at 2.30 p.m. The meeting itself was conducted very well and the Ritual on the day was as close to perfect as seen in recent times. No problems with the sun's destination were witnessed this year. It was very well attended with Brethren travelling from near and far to be there to witness the launch the TLC Project formally in Ireland. Just as the Worshipful Master was about to close the Lodge there was "an Alarm" and a member dressed as a Teddy Bear entered the Room. He saluted the Worshipful Master and took his place in the Lodge. As the Lodge was being closed this member stood and invited the Brethren assembled to accompany the Worshipful Master at a special Teddy Bears Picnic which was to take place downstairs coinciding with the official Launch of TLC Ireland.

M.W.Bro. Eric Waller spoke to all those attending. He welcomed the representatives from the Dublin Hospitals who were attending and also other members of the public. Little Grace and Avagh Armstrong Patten were there with their mother Caroline, and they, together with a number of other children were made welcome. Grace and Avagh are the girls that feature on the TLC Promotional Brochure. Little Harry Broughall Sykes, the boy on the Brochure, was too small to attend.



Caroline, Grace and Avagh Armstrong-Patton

Professor Patrick Plunkett addressed the gathering and went on to say that he was delighted to be involved and honoured to be Patron of the Project here in Ireland. He spoke from the perspective of the Medical and Nursing staff members in the Emergency Department. He said that the “Hospital Teddies” were being very well received in the hospitals here in Dublin, close on 1000 have been distributed at Our Lady’s Hospital, Crumlin, alone and the Project was being welcomed at Tallaght and Temple Street Hospitals also. He said that the Teddies were a great idea and that they far outstripped the traditional appeasement tool of a Lollipop. He went on to say that everywhere he mentioned the Project it was being welcomed with great enthusiasm.



Rebecca Hayes, Alison Moffatt, Heather Gyles and Cristina Eremia

Peter Lowndes addressed all by saying how proud he was to be present to see this wonderful idea being embraced here in Ireland. He thanked all concerned but made special mention of W. Bro. Ian Simpson who was the father of the original idea back in time. A huge amount of work goes into making this work but is all worth it when we receive feedback from the families of the children who are given the Teddies in the Emergency Departments. He mentioned that well over a million Teddies have been distributed in England and Wales to date. When that number reached 500,000 there was a celebratory get together and he said he was very happy to meet with the first recipient of a Teddy. He was now a happy healthy teenager but still had his Teddy.

In concluding the formalities of the day M.W.Bro. Eric Waller said that he was very proud himself to be involved as Chairman of the TLC Organising Committee. He said



R.W. Bro. Peter Lowndes, Pro-Grand Master, UGLE, Patron TLC UK; M.W. Bro. Eric Waller Immediate Past Grand Master, Chairman TLC Ireland and W. Bro. Patrick Plunkett Patron TLC Ireland.

that a great deal of success had been achieved as a result of the work done to date. He was extremely happy to relate that the Project was to be extended to Our Ladies Hospital, Drogheda in the coming days and throughout the country very shortly. Cork and Sligo Hospitals being targeted in the very near future. The project is planned to be launched throughout Northern Ireland in the Autumn.

Formalities out of the way Big Ted met with a number of Committee Members and was “persuaded” to stay in Ireland for a few months to help us with further official launches throughout the country. I understand that his diary is rather full even at this early date and he looks forward to meeting you all in the coming months.



Grand Master's Address

Stated Communication of Grand Lodge - June 2013

M.W.Bro. George Dunlop appraised Grand Lodge of his many visitations throughout the Constitution, since the last Stated Communication of Grand Lodge, in March.

22nd March

Lodge No. 589, Island of Inch, Londonderry

Despite the awful wintry conditions prevailing at the time, a meeting of Island of Inch Lodge No. 589 was held and attended by many members and visitors. A good time was had by all and those Brethren present contributed significantly to the Lodge Charities. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay and was delighted with the standard of the ritual which was really excellent.

A number of the young members of the Lodge are developing their degree skills and improving their knowledge and understanding of our ritual with alacrity.

I respect the input they receive from their senior members such as R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson and look forward to their ongoing work in future times.

27th March

Lodge No. 914, Quarerere Verum, Arthur Square, Belfast

Lodge 914 was equally enjoyed by the Brethren and friends of the Lodge which met at Arthur Square for their meeting and supper. A good time was had by all.

I know quite a number of the Brethren as we were keen rugby players and represented our grammar schools respectively. As a referee, I took and gave a bit of abuse at the Lodge meeting (all in good taste) as we highlighted the qualities of both Belfast Academical Institute and Foyle College, Londonderry. However, I returned home safely and reflected, with much pleasure, on the joy and the remembrance of past and present contacts.

3rd April

Lodge No. 836, Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone

The highlight of my visit was the presence of R.W.Bro. William McClain, (also District Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh), a good and faithful friend for many years who received a sixty year bar to his previous 50 year medal, which he was delighted to receive at my hand.

Billy entertained us with his past memories and usual interjections, which were told and enjoyed by the Brethren. I also reminded him of the occasion where he dropped his late wife off to work which was followed by a shout from

the Security Man at the Gate; "Hello Mr. McClain" to which Billy replied "how are you doing?" When Billy returned in the evening to retrieve his wife he said to her, "who was that fellow in the security hut who called to me"? - to which his wife responded "he told me that you "teached" him English at Grammar School".

His profile represents an enormous contribution to the Craft and especially to the Chapter which has brought him many friends and lasting experiences

6th April

Stalwart Lodge No. 96, Ballymena.

There was quite a turnout at the Lodge which met at 3 p.m. on the 1st Saturday, at which a good number of members and guests attended.

The ritual was extremely good and the Banquet at which the ladies were present, added much to the meeting and eating. The toasts were, understandably, shorter than usual, which pleased the members and their ladies and brought the business to reasonable conclusion.

Stalwart Lodge No. 96 is a vibrant Lodge whose communication I thoroughly enjoyed. I wish them every good wish for the future and may their standards hold firm into the future.

13th April

Lodge No. 960, Constitution of 'Quis Separabit'

The Constitution of 'Quis Separabit' Lodge No. 960 was performed by me and the key Officers of the new Lodge, with the Installation of the Worshipful Master, conducted by R.W. Bro. James McFarlane. The ritual was expertly performed and this was due to the commitment of the Brethren involved. Following his Installation the new Worshipful Master performed the Installation of his Officers.

The confidence and assurance of the Brethren was surely due to their preparation, which raised the quality of the communication. It was wonderful to witness the military standards and the manner by which they addressed their task. It was most reassuring to recognise the future standards of a new Lodge and its positive effect on its members. Lodge No. 960 most assuredly will maintain the highest standards of Freemasonry in Ireland.

24th April

Lodge 346, J. Heron Leper, Carrickfergus

Coming to Lodge 346 was a wonderful visit, at which I felt very much at home and enjoyed socialising with the Brethren. The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Paul Letters and



many senior members were present, two of whom received their long-service medals from me, one of 50 years and one of 70 years.

The W.M. gifted me with a Lodge 346 tie and a pleasant buffet was served. The Temple was filled to the top and the visiting Lodges added much to the entertainment of the evening. We were joined by the wives and partners of the Brethren at the buffet.

28th April

Hospice Service in Saint Ann's Cathedral

On Sunday 28th May I was invited to the Cathedral where I was accorded a place of prominence and met many friends from the Hospices in Ireland with my Assistant Grand Master, with whom we have close communication.

The address of the clergy and the quality of the singing by the various choirs, especially those from the local Hospice was outstanding.

It was a surprise and delight for me to discover that my Assistant Grand Master is the present Chairman of the Northern Hospice Board, resulting in a meeting with Hospice representatives from all over Ireland, who are keen that we do not lose sight of them.

A large congregation gave a substantial collection and the Hospice staff hoped that our connection with them would prevail for some time to come. It was truly a wonderful experience.

7th May

Lodge No. 697, Warrenpoint

R.W.Bro. Rev. Charles McCurdy asked me sometime ago to come to his Lodge and present him with his 50 year long-service medal, which I did on the 7th May last. His popularity was confirmed when a large number of his friends from a wide range of Lodges filled the Masonic temple to capacity. The overall reception and ritual were excellent and Charles loved every minute of his experience.

A very welcome buffet was served by the Lodge Brethren which all the visitors truly enjoyed.

19th May

Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal, St. Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry

Resulting from the brainwave of the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Noel Drain, to have a large service in the Cathedral proved to be a great success when £5,000 was raised and 800 to 900 (estimated) Brethren and friends filled the place to capacity.

The Dean, Rt. Rev. Dr. William Morton, B.Th., M.A., M.Mus., Ph.D., A.L.A.M and F.R.S.A delivered a most excellent and appropriate sermon.

The gentlemen and boys of the choir sang beautifully and

the music which filled the Cathedral was very pleasant on the ear. The selected hymns fitted the occasion well and were absolutely brilliant.

Brethren travelled from many parts covering all points north, south, east and west and the event proved to be an absolute winner.

We were very fortunate to be monitored by the local police on foot, in cars and in a helicopter without a single hitch.

Everything was caught on video camera which can be found on a website entitled, 'Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal'

24th May

Lodge No. 823, Mourne, Strabane

R.W.Bro. Winston Patterson received a 50 year medal presented by myself in my capacity as M.W. Grand Master of Ireland. Winston and I have been close friends for some time and his commitment to the welfare and expansion of The Order and Mourne Lodge No. 823 Strabane, in particular, lies very close to his heart.

I was much pleased and honoured to present his service medal which he received with much pride and I thank him for his support for his Lodge and the standards which are set by his promptings as a senior Freemason. I wish him well and may he be blessed with good fortune.

The Grand Master in concluding his address to Grand Lodge then made reference to the portrait of Augustus Frederick Fitzgerald as follows:

"Brethren, the central portrait on my right, which was unveiled in 1869, you see **Augustus Frederick Fitzgerald** our longest serving Grand Master, who I feel it is fitting to remember today.

He was born as Marquess of Kildare in Carton House in 1791 and became the 3rd Duke of Leinster in 1804 on the death of his father William Robert Fitzgerald, our Grand Master in the 1770's.

In 1813 he took his seat in the House of Lords and in June he was Installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Taylor's Hall, Back Lane, Dublin.

So this year marks the 200th Anniversary of the beginning of his 61 year reign, a period in which Irish Freemasonry was reformed and reorganised. He eliminated superfluous Masonic Degrees and established the system of Provincial Grand Lodges, under Grand Lodge, for governance. The Boys' School was founded and the Order was provided with this new purpose built permanent home in Molesworth Street.

His legacy cannot be underestimated or forgotten".

Viewed by some as a mysterious, men-only organisation, MARIA ROLSTON talks to Cork historian Dr David Butler about what it means to be a Freemason in today's society.

IT'S one of the oldest fraternities in the world and despite being shrouded in mystery for centuries due to its use of secret signs and symbols, the Freemasons is open to "all good men", according to Dr David Butler. Dr Butler, a UCC historian and the Provincial Grand Librarian and Archivist for the Munster Freemasons, is a member of one of the eight city Lodges that meet in the Masonic Hall on Tuckey Street.

He says the basis of Freemasonry is 'the Lodge' which, by definition, is a group of men meeting together. Membership is open to any man over the age of 21 who doesn't have a criminal conviction.

Reasons for Freemason membership are usually threefold - social, historical and charitable - and despite its reputation for elitism, Dr Butler says it is essentially a social organisation concerned with moral values.

"With the advent of the internet, membership became more open and transparent but potential members still have to ask to join the Freemasons and go through an application process.

"Membership of the Freemasons has never been closed - it was, and still can be, cautious.

"Historically, Irish people have always kept their cards close to their chest because Ireland has always been such a revolutionary society but there are certain traditional signs and symbols that we still use within Freemasonry that probably add to the mystique of the society," he said.

Freemasons evolved from the medieval guild of stonemasons and have been in existence in Scotland since the early 1500s, applying the traditions, practices and high standards of stonemasons to personal morals.

The earliest records of Freemasons in Cork go back to 1725 and the eight city Lodges have been meeting in the Masonic Hall on Tuckey Street - built in the late

Freemasonry helps to make good men better



The Grand Lodge meeting room in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons in Munster on Tuckey St, Cork, and inset, Provincial Grand Master Leslie Deane, receives a Civic award from Cllr John Buttimer, at the Lord Mayor's Community and Voluntary awards. Picture: David Keane

1760s as the Cork City Assembly Room - since 1926.

To become a Freemason, potential members have to go through a rigorous process, first being proposed and then seconded by an existing member. Names of potential members are then circulated to all Lodges in the province to ensure applicants haven't already attempted to join another Lodge and failed, and to make sure there is nothing untoward known about the applicant's character.

On approval, members have to agree to uphold the regulations of the State and to always put their family and business before membership of the Freemasons.

Each Lodge meets once a month and the eight city Lodges and six Lodges of Cork county are governed under the umbrella body of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster.

Dr Butler says it is simply a traditional, non-religious, men's society that has retained its moral ethos and ceremonial procedures over the eras. "Most people join the Freemasons for social reasons because you get to meet people outside your own age group, your own geographical location and your own economic and professional background.

"Some people join because of the charitable good work the Lodges do; some join because it's the world's oldest fraternity and they like the history of it. Some people join because of the mystique and the mystery — if there is any left — and some people join because

they want a combination of all of the above.

"Freemasonry is a secular organisation and is open to all religions. Anyone who believes a Supreme Being made the world can join the Freemasons, so long as they meet the other criteria. "In this Province, we do have some Muslim and Hindu members, we have a Baha'i member, we used to have Jewish members and the rest are from Christian traditions.

"Historically, the Lodges evolved from being stonemasons to people using the traditions and practices of stonemasonry and brotherly love on their morals, education and family, for the good of society, between the 1300s and 1400s.

"The stonemasons had their own language, signs, symbols and tokens. We don't have our own language but some of the signs have been kept for tradition.

"All the meetings are run like business meetings with minutes, correspondence, matters arising and reports but there are also lectures and information events, concerts and charitable events held throughout the year.

"Since 2006, we've been opening the Masonic Hall to the public on Heritage Day and on Culture Night every year since 2008. The building is open for use by the public, mainly by historical groups who are interested in the furniture and furnishings, who do tours of the building. Every year, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster - which has about 400 members, divided between the 14 Lodges — raises about €25,000 to

€50,000 in charitable donations.

"These combined activities contributed toward our Provincial Grand Master, Leslie Deane, being awarded the Lord Mayor's Community and Voluntary Civic Award this year.

"Freemasonry is about making good men better. There is a women-only Freemason's Society that's been in existence in the UK and America for the last 100 years. When the Freemasons were founded, all organisations were gender-explicit so Freemasonry was no different.

"We use a lot of symbolism - the skull and crossbones are emblems of mortality - to remind us that we are but dust and that we will become dust again.

"We have a couple of sayings that sum up Freemasonry and this is one that I think is succinct: 'I shall pass this way but once and if any good I can therefore do for my fellow humans, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again'.

"There's an emphasis within Freemasonry on doing things properly, from the way you carry yourself to how you treat others to how you treat education and charity. "Within the chaos of society, Freemasonry hasn't changed for the sake of change. We still have the same old-world traditions and sayings and that's something that interests me," he said.

"by kind permission of the Evening Echo published July 18th 2013"

The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2013



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 10th 1:30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Final & Prizegiving by The Grand Master
Saturday, October 12th 7.30 p.m.

**‘a superb competition of
very high standard’**

The semi-finalists, selected by Music Colleges from the cream of their students throughout Ireland, compete before an International Jury to win the title of 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2013'

Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

Tickets on Sale September 2nd

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.

Masonic visit to the Philippines - April 2013



Portadown Brethren with Batangas Lodge No. 35, members

There are not many people in the world that would be prepared to make a 12,000 miles round trip, taking some 50 hours involving flights and stopovers to attend a Masonic Lodge meeting.

However seven Master Masons from the Portadown area did just that in April 2013, making the arduous journey to the Philippines to attend the Batangas Masonic Lodge No. 35 meeting on the third Saturday of the month.

Adorned in their specially made Masonic shirts, the Portadown Brethren arrived at the Masonic Temple in Batangas City some forty minutes prior to the meeting. There our Masonic travel warrants were checked and a warm welcome received.

Soon after we had a first glimpse of a very fine Lodge Room which included its own sound studio. Batangas Lodge meets under the Scottish Rite and opens on the Third Degree. Following the singing of the Ode, the national flag of the Philippines was presented into the Lodge Room in ceremonial fashion.

The Irish Masons were warmly welcomed along with two visiting Australian Brethren and W.Bro. P Bowbanks (The Hugh Wallace No. 584) and W.Bro. M Flannigan (Drumcree No. 979) were invited to sit on the dais.

We had the privilege to witness the Filipino ritual of the conferral of the Master Mason Degree upon Bro. Lopez, a bank manager from Manila.

We were all astonished that Bro. Lopez had to recite his Fellowcraft obligation in full, plus answering a series of questions. Only when the W.M. was satisfied of Bro. Lopez's competence did the Degree ensue.

Almost every Officer of the Lodge was involved in the conferral of the Degree. The legend of Hiram Abif was then dramatised in full theatrical costume.

Following this, the tracing board was then explained to Bro. Lopez.

W.Bro. R Harkness (The Hugh Wallace No. 584) was presented before the W.M. and asked permission to read a specially illustrated scroll, prior to presenting it to Batangas Lodge No. 35.



Portadown Brethren with Officers of Batangas Lodge No. 35

Affixed with a roving microphone W.Bro. Harkness read:

“We, Master Masons of our respective Lodges sitting within the Provincial Grand Lodge of Armagh and belonging to The Most Worshipful , The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and accepted Masons of Ireland are pleased to have this opportunity to extend fraternal greetings to the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Batangas Lodge No. 35, Batangas City and to all members of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland is the second most Senior Grand Lodge of Freemasons in the world and the oldest in continual service with records dating back to 1725.

We, in company with fellow Freemasons throughout the world, share our own traditions and differences, but we all subscribe to the same three basic principles – Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth”.

The W.M. again thanked the Irish Brethren for their attendance and invited them to return to Batangas Lodge No. 35 in February 2016 when they would be celebrating their Centenary.

W.Bro. Bowbanks and W.Bro. Flannigan replied on behalf of the Visiting Brethren. The meeting was then closed in ritual fashion and the national flag taken from the Lodge Room.

In total the meeting lasted 5 hours and twenty minutes.

On their final day, travelling through Manila en route to the airport the Brethren visited The New Plaridel

Masonic Temple, the Headquarters of The Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Driving under an impressive archway the Brethren came face to face with a magnificent edifice, probably one of the most elegant Masonic buildings in the world.

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines was founded in 1912 and consists of over 350 Lodges and more than 16,500 Brethren.

The Lodges represented on the visit were, Wellington No. 82, The Hugh Wallace No. 584, Ensor No. 625 and Drumcree No. 979.

W. Bro. R. A. Harkness



New Plaridel Masonic Temple



Presentation of scroll to W.M. of Batangas Lodge No. 35. From left to right: W.Bro. R Alexander 584, W.Bro. P Bowbanks 584, W.M. of Batangas Lodge 35, W.Bro. R Harkness 584, Bro. J Braga 979, W.M. F Flannigan 979, W.Bro. J Robinson 82

Bandon Freemasons celebrate 275 years of history



Brethren in attendance at the meeting, pictured in the grounds of the Lodge.

The Freemasons of Bandon recently celebrated a major historical milestone, with the celebration of 275 years of the continuous present of their Lodge – titled The Antient Bandon Lodge No. 84 and first warranted to the town of Bandon May 29th, 1738 – where the first meeting was held on June 12th of that year.

The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop spent two days in the area, when he was guest of honour at the 275th celebratory meeting at The Masonic Hall, Brinny, on the afternoon of June 15th. The Lodge Room was filled by a large and representative attendance of some sixty members of the Masonic Order, many of whom had travelled considerable distances – from Dublin, Limerick, Cork and across the whole island to support the Bandon Brethren, and some of whom followed the proceedings on video link. Other guests of honour included R.W.Bro. Geoffrey Ashton, Junior Grand Warden of Ireland; R.W.Bro. Leslie Deane, Provincial Grand Master of Munster; and R.W.Bro. Hugh Milne, Provincial Grand Master of North Munster (Limerick), besides a large number of Officers and Brethren of Munster Lodges.

The attendance was treated to a lecture on the trials and tribulations of two hundred and seventy-five years

of Freemasonry in Bandon town and district by W.Bro. Dr. David J. Butler of the Departments of Geography and Adult Education at University College Cork, in his capacity as Provincial Grand Librarian and Archivist to the Masonic Province of Munster. Together with his co-editor, V.W.Bro. Alwyn C. Williams, former headmaster of Bandon Grammar School, Dr. Butler recently completed the compilation of the history of the several Masonic Lodges and Chapters which have met in Bandon over the years and the fruits of their labours. Two Hundred and Seventy-Five Years of Freemasonry in Bandon, runs to over 150 pages, incorporating many full colour illustrations of the historical treasures of Bandon Freemasonry, past and present. This book, which is a major resource for local and regional studies and genealogy, is available for general purchase, at a cost of €20, by writing to Dr. David J. Butler at The Masonic Hall, 27 Tuckey Street, Cork, from Rebecca Hayes at Grand Lodge Archives, or by emailing munsterfreemason@gmail.com

Following the meeting, one hundred Brethren and guests enjoyed a gala banquet at The Carlton Hotel, Kinsale.

R.W.Bro. Basil Fenton
P.G.M. South Connaught



P.G.M.'s of North Munster and Munster with the G.M. and W.M.

{P.G.M. North Munster presented the W.M. and S.W. canopies to Bandon from their own collection in honour of their 275th year}.



presentation of the book 275 years of Freemasonry in Bandon to the G.M. and the W.M. (W. Bro. Jeffrey Johnstone) by the editors.



Doagh Masons attend Kilbride Primary School Sports Day



L-R W.Bro. G Cummings, R.W.Bro. Jack Dunlop PAGM, W.Bro. Clive Cooper, W.Bro. Delwyn McMullan, Bro. Leith Burgess & W.Bro. Leslie Lewis

Representatives of Doagh Union Masonic Lodge visited Kilbride Primary school sports day where they presented a cheque for £250.00 to contribute to the running of the school's sports day. This initiative was started three years ago when it was identified that the increasing costs of running sports days could lead to cancellation of what is an important day in the school calendar especially for the children and parents.

The Lodge decided that they would help sponsor the three local schools, Doagh, Tildarg & Kilbride and by so doing would help them to integrate with community life in the area.

Three of the brethren present had been pupils at the school, Bro. Leith Burgess who started at the school in 1947, W.Bro. Delwyn McMullan and W.Bro. Clive Cooper. Brother Leith Burgess reminisced that his first teacher at the school had

been the well known local and famous author Florence Mary McDowell who wrote "Other days around me"

The Provincial Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Jack Dunlop, a member of Doagh Lodge thanked the principal Mr. Currie and pupils for the warmth of their welcome and said that although it had taken Lodge members over 100 years to get from Doagh to Kilbride with their gift he promised they would return as soon as possible.

The principle Mr Currie thanked the Lodge for this much needed funding and the parents and children showed their appreciation also. The children seemed to know it had been Brother Burgess's birthday the previous day and sang happy birthday to him.

*James H Furphy,
Asst. Secretary, P.G.I.; P.P.G.S. (Down).*

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
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Londonderry - City of Culture Celebrations



Dignitaries heading the parade to the Masonic Divine Service in St.Columb's Cathedral on Sunday 19th April 2013 to mark Londonderry's U.K. City of Culture year 2013. Left to Right: Past Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Robert Quigley; Provincial Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Brian Kershaw; Provincial Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Kenneth Doherty; Provincial Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Raymond Robinson; Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Bro.Noel Drain; Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley;The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop.

To celebrate the U.K. City of Culture the Provincial Grand Lodge (Freemasons) of Londonderry & Donegal held a Service of Thanksgiving in the beautiful and historic St.Columb's Cathedral in the City of Londonderry on Sunday 19th May 2013.

Having been granted permission from the Parade's Commission the Brethren assembled in the Masonic Hall Bishop Street, (which was in years gone by the Bishop's Palace), the Brethren paraded the short distance to the Cathedral.

Upwards of 1000 Brethren, family and friends were in attendance and it was really standing room only as the numbers fulfilled all expectations. The Dean of the Cathedral, welcomed everyone to the Cathedral and stated it was indeed his pleasure to be invited by the Masonic Order to conduct their Divine Service in this the year of Culture in the City.

The Dean was ably assisted by Canon John Merrick and the Senior Grand Chaplain to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, R.W.Bro. Rev. Selwoode Graham.

The procession was led by the MostWorshipful Grand Master

of Ireland, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop who lives in the City and who is a member of the Cathedral Congregation, R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley the Assistant Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry & Donegal, R.W.Bro. Noel A Drain and the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Raymond Robinson. There was a large number of Provincial Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren from the City and across the Province with a large turnout of Past & Provincial Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal.

During the service the Dean spoke very highly of the Charitable Work that was so freely given to many worthwhile charities by the Brethren of the Masonic Order and in a very challenging and inspiring address he spoke on Faith & Hope, taking his address from The Epistle of James Chapter 2 "Even so Faith, if it hath not Works, is dead, being alone".

Mr Ian Mills the Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster, together with the Cathedral Choir led the praise, the Hymns included, "Guide me O thou Great Jehovah", "There is a Green Hill Far Away", "Be Thou My Vision", "Lord of the Church" to the beautiful tune "the Londonderry Air" and the final Hymn was "To God be the Glory".

The offering taken at the service was presented to the Cathedral for the Restoration Fund.

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Noel Drain read the First Lesson which was taken from Isaiah Chapter 58 and the Second Lesson was read by the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Raymond Robinson, this was taken from The Epistle of James Chapter 2. The service concluded with the Benediction and the singing of the National Anthem.

Thanks must go to all those who supplied the refreshments which were provided in the Masonic Hall afterwards and to everyone who contributed to the arrangements for the service. The catering was under the supervision of W.Bro. Norman Boyd and his wife Margaret and the Hall Caterer Bro. N Kelly.

The Provincial Grand Master would like to place on record his very sincere thanks to Dean William Morton for his kind invitation to host the Masonic Service in St.Columb's Cathedral, and the warm welcome that everyone received was very encouraging to members and friends of the Masonic Order who had the privilege to be in attendance and in the words of the final Hymn which was sung at the service he finished with "To God be the Glory".



Masons parading to their annual Divine service in St. Columb's Cathedral on Sunday 19th.May 2013 to mark Londonderry's U.K. City of Culture year 2013.



Masons parading to their Church service in St. Columb's Cathedral on Sunday 19th May 2013. Led by The Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies, (Left) R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson (Right) V.W.Bro. Richard Campbell.

Honoured for 50 Years of Service



Dromore Masonic Hall recently hosted the presentation of 50 year membership Jewel to W.Bro. Jackie Reid of Lagandale Lodge 521. Other members due to receive the award were Mr Henry Gamble and Mr Terry Ogle, a Past Master of Lagandale (1974).

Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Richard H Gray made the presentation to Mr Reid. Worshipful Master Jeffrey Martin said, "Jackie has been a lynchpin of the Lagandale Lodge for numerous years and it is not only right but indeed proper that his dedication to Freemasonry in Dromore and the Province of Down is recognised through this 50 year Masonry Jewel.

"Simply 'Jackie' as he is affectionately known by Brethren, was initiated into Lagandale Lodge on 15th January 1963.

"He worked his way up through the various offices of the Lodge room, eventually holding the honoured title

of Worshipful Master in 1972. "Jackie held the Office of 'Director of Ceremonies' for 24 years from 1988 until February 2012. Another landmark was passed in 1998 when he celebrated 25 years Lodge membership and in memory of his father presented to the Lodge a Jewel which is worn by the Worshipful Master:"

V.W.Bro. Reid became a founder member of Star of County Down Installed Masters Lodge No.124 in 2001 and in 2005 he gained admission to the Provincial Grand Lodge, holding the office rank of Provincial Senior Grand Deacon.

Said Mr Martin, "The service and dedication which Jackie has given to Lagandale Lodge over the years is similarly reflected in the service he provided to the Dromore community over many decades by running Reid's Newsagents in Market Square."

"He followed in his father's footsteps into the business and spends any free time outside Masonry devoted to his passion for rugby, being a former Dromore First XV player, and, admiration for golf, being a keen player too".

Mr Martin noted that Freemasonry in Dromore had had what he called a long and illustrious history. The Grand Lodge of Ireland issued the Warrant for Lagandale Lodge of Freemasons, No. 521 on 6th December 1921 with the Lodge being constituted on 14th January 1922.

By the mid 1950s there were three thriving Masonic Lodges in Dromore and plans were put in place to unify the three Lodges in one building namely, the current residence on Hillsborough Road.

The three Lodges - 70, 94 and 521 still meet each month on separate nights.

Sino-Lusitano Lodge of Macau No. 897



R.W.Bro. Gavin Cooper, W.M. Lodge 897, with R.W.Bro. Brendan Bong, P.G.M.

Sino-Lusitano Lodge of Macau No. 897 celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the constitution of the Lodge on Saturday 10th August, 2013. The celebration was held at the new venue for Lodge 897 communications at the Venetian

Macao- Resort-Hotel in Taipa, Macau, and was a great success. The Lodge anticipates that the Venetian will now become their regular venue.



The Provincial Grand Master,

R.W.Bro. Brendan S. C. Bong, attended the communication accompanied by a delegation of Provincial Grand Officers.

They were welcomed by the Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. Gavin Cooper, P.P.A.G.M. and the Brethren of the Lodge.

During the Communication a 3rd Degree was worked for Bro. Cameron Honarvar. The Brethren enjoyed a fine dinner leaving the Provincial Grand Master and his delegation to find their way back to Hong Kong on the late night ferry.

Terence Hicksncial, Grand Secretary, Far East.

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	Masonic Lodge	Province
W.Bro. William T Cavanagh	60	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 555	Munster
W.Bro. Robert Cummings	60	The Belfast Masonic Lodge No. 651	Antrim
W.Bro. Sidney Wilson	60	Star of the North Masonic Lodge No. 335	Antrim
W.Bro. Albert L Fullerton	60	Three Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 775	Antrim
W.Bro. William J Mitchell	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 689	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Robert R Stringer	50	Eagle Masonic Lodge No. 741	Down
W.Bro. Robert Haughey	50	Hilton Masonic Lodge No. 177	Antrim
W.Bro. Richard M Heslip	50	Drumcree Masonic Lodge No. 979	Armagh
W.Bro. Leslie Hill	50	Harlandic Masonic Lodge No. 989	Down
W.Bro. James T Bingham	50	Civitas Masonic Lodge No. 483	Down
W.Bro. James M Pollard	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 689	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Herbert S Graham	50	Rising Sun Masonic Lodge No. 170	Down
W.Bro. Dewi M Parry	50	Dimbula Msonic Lodge No. 298	Sri Lanka
W.Bro. Daniel K Galbraith	50	Albert Edward Masonic Lodge No. 235	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Arthur C McCleery	50	Hilton Masonic Lodge No. 177	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas R Farrar	50	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 270	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. Thomas F Jamison	50	Connor Masonic Lodge No. 189	Antrim
W.Bro. Norman Emery	50	Three Brothers Masonic Lodge No. 775	Antrim
W.Bro. Leslie K Dawson	50	Star of the West Masonic Lodge No. 130	Munster
W.Bro. Leslie Graham	50	Union Band Masonic Lodge No. 35	Down
W.Bro. John McLean	50	Moyarget Masonic Lodge No. 280	Antrim
W.Bro. John F Sutton	50	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 270	Wicklow & Wexford
W.Bro. James Jones	50	Crawfordsburn Masonic Lodge No. 812	Down
W.Bro. David T G McKeag	50	True Blues Masonic Lodge No. 606	Down
Bro. Edward Turner	50	Newtownstewart Masonic Lodge No. 547	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Jackie Reid	50	Lagandale Masonic Lodge No. 521	Down

Lodge 14 Galway - Premier Connaught Lodge

The last 50 years 1963-2013

Following is a short synopsis of activities and locations of Lodge 14 over the last 50 years. Irrespective of location there were regular meetings with much degree and ritual work.

1963 September minutes show a discussion regarding possible sale of a plot to raise funds for extensive necessary refurbishment of the premises in Mill Street, 9 Brethren and 4 Fellowcrafts being in attendance. In November, 8 Brethren travelled to Dublin to carry out a demonstration of an E.A. Degree to the Grand Lodge of Instruction. A similar demonstration was also given in Provincial Grand Lodge.

1964 plans were made to have a July meeting included in the calendar for the many visitors and all Provincial Grand Lodges to be informed in good time. The September meeting decided by majority "We put it out of mind, we sell any portion of property".

1965 At meetings in May and June it was regretfully agreed to put the Lodge buildings up for sale and seek accommodation in the new Parochial Hall. Discussion also considered the possibility of splitting the premises for commercial use and retaining enough for the Lodge. The planned summer meeting took place in July with many visitors including M.W.G.M. Rt.Hon. Earl of Donoughmore with a total presence of 36.

1966 a valuation of £7,000 had been received for the Lodge and whilst the fabric of the building was sound, over £1,000 needed to be spent on the interior. A letter was sent to each Brother outlining the pros & cons of action.

1967 further angst on what to do about the premises, but ongoing Degree activity continued as well as a visit by Brethren of Bangor Lodge 564.

January 1968 the recommendation to sell the premises was unanimously ratified by the Brethren. (Members present and 3 visitors with an E.A. Degree that same meeting.) In May, an offer was received in the region of £10,000 accepted and passed at the meeting. The final meeting in Mill Street took

place on June 14th with 10 members present and 5 visitors. September 1968 saw the start of meeting in temporary home in the Parochial School Hall.

1969 the Brethren of Lodge 14 accepted an invitation from the Brethren in Lodge 101 to join with them for a combined Installation Dinner. Various joint venture accommodations were explored for purchase but came to naught. A further meeting and 2nd Degree was held in Athlone, courtesy of Athlone Brethren.

1970 The Installation and Dinner again took place in Athlete combined with Lodge 101 in April. Concern was raised that the sale of premises had not yet been completed through the courts.

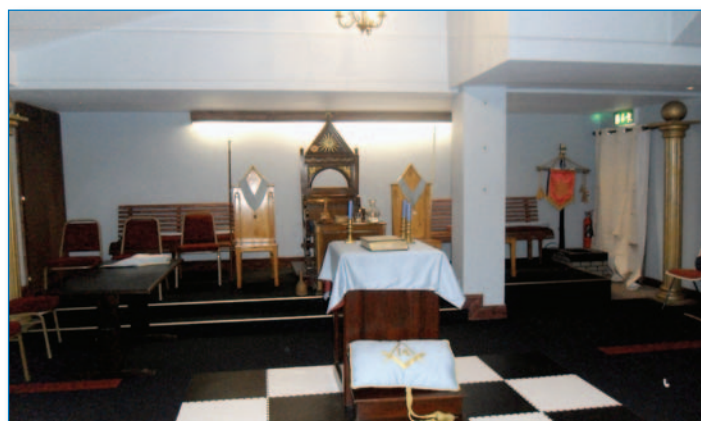
1971 new trustees now lawfully accepted and council had asked for further assurances from Grand Lodge who in turn requested details regarding the sale on Friday 10th May 1968!

1972 September an emergency meeting to approve again the decision to sell immediately the premises as agreed, but this time with new trustees. 8 members present and 2 visitors.

1973 Further demonstrations were given in P.G.L. on opening and closing Lodge and warmly acclaimed.

1974 the January meeting was opened firstly by R.W. The Deputy Grand Master Maurice O'Connell who was also accompanied by the Grand Secretary. In February it was confirmed the sale was completed and in March the £10,000 was lodged. In May details of proposed investments to maximise returns until suitable premises could be located. A subcommittee was set up to investigate practicability of a terrace house that could be converted. 3 were investigated but found unsuitable.

1975 further investigation of property including one on Newcastle Road. A significant contribution of £100 was made to the Athlete Building Fund which was £300 in debt in recognition of support and assistance given when parochial



hall was not available. The property at Palmyra Road was found to be unsuitable and another property at long walk also.

1976 A new Minute Book to replace the current which had been in use for 70 years was requested and ordered. A questionnaire regarding future housing of Lodge 14 was circulated to all members. A demonstration of an examination was given at the April meeting. Discussion took place regarding a joint fund raising activity with The Knights of Columbanus & Round Table. The new minute book began service on Tuesday 21st September with 11 members recorded in the margin and 1 visitor.

1977 minutes show further details of search for premises being found unsuitable but the search ongoing.

1978, members and their spouses attended an enjoyable South Connaught Provincial Ladies Night in Roscommon. In April it was confirmed that suitable premises had been purchased at 69 Prospect Hill for £11,500 with a further cost of £2,500 for alterations. Due to shortfall in finance permission was sought and granted from Grand Lodge to appeal to all Lodges in The Constitution for assistance. At that time the Lodge was £472 in overdraft with expected expenditure of a further £4,000. Permission was granted and the Lodges generously responded. Work continued to refit the premises from a dwelling to an upstairs Lodge Room and downstairs Festive Board area.

Tuesday April 17 1979, the Lodge met for the first time in 69 Prospect Hill, with W.Bro. Jack Totman in the chair. 8 Brethren were present and 3 apologies.

Thursday June 29th a special meeting was held for the purpose of dedicating the new Lodge Room. 16 members of Lodge 14 present and 14 visitors led by the Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. Maurice O'Connell, with the ceremony carried out by R.W.Bro. Robert Hirsch, Provincial Grand Master, South Connaught.

In February 1982 sub-committee appointed to arrange the 250th Anniversary Celebrations. W.Bros. Auchmuty, Hackett, Totman & Bro. Fenton. On Saturday May 28th 1983 in the Captains Deck, Leisureland, Salthill at 3:30 p.m. the 250th Anniversary meeting took place attended by the M.W. Grand Master, Lord Donegal. The meeting was then followed by Commemorative dinner which was also attended by wives and friends of Brethren.

In September of 1983 the Lodge agreed to start letting the downstairs room the first tenants being the Girl Guides @ £4 per week. 1984 saw a demonstration of 2nd or Fellowcraft Degree to G.L. of Instruction in Athlete Masonic Hall on 4th March. In November 1984 Lodge dues increased to £15.

1985 saw the second letting, this time to the Galway camera club at £43 per month.

1991 saw the sum of £650 being spent on repointing chimney

and front of building under the watchful eye of W.Bro. Ed Carpenter. April 1991 also saw the Grand Lodge of Research visiting with a paper delivered by R.W.Bro. Bob Hackett. A social evening and dinner was held in the Warwick Hotel. Brethren from Lodge 13 Limerick joined with the Brethren in Galway for a twinning meeting on 15th October.

1994 saw the first minuted discussions regarding selling the premises and building elsewhere and considering a site some 5-6 miles away. An Auctioneers valuation suggested £30,000 might be reached at auction. Expenditure on repairs to roof, chimney and plastering were now authorised up to max of £4,250. April & May meetings returned to the Parochial Hall during repairs.

1995 Membership recorded as 28 members with 7 country and 8 honorary.

1996 participation and support of Grand Master's Festival for Alzheimer's included Table Quiz, Bottle Drop and Pageant held in Freemasons Hall Dublin followed by Ladies Night and Dinner in Longford. This year also saw the beginnings of relationship with Armor Lodge of the G.L.N.F.

1997 further contact with Armor Lodge discussing twinning & interaction, agreed to be Bi-annually between L'Orient & Galway. A very successful visit took place from members of Tartaraghan Lodge and their spouses.

1998 the formal twinning ceremony and charter with members of Lodge Armor at the May meeting with the French delegation being led by W.Bro. Patrick Beretti. A week of social visits also took place. In October came the visit of Lodge Forfar and Kincardine from Dundee led by W.Bro. Willie Donachie with demonstration of Scottish 1st Degree. The Lodge meeting was held in Salthill Hotel @ 3 p.m. and followed by a Ladies Night and dance till early hours. As well as our Scottish visitors, we had guests from Lodges 101, 137, 248, 13, 357, 215, 217, 925, 511, 321, 333, 357, 789.

1999 in May, a visit from Brethren from Cork with demonstration of 2nd Degree and Cork working followed by Dinner and Ladies Night in the Golf Club. October saw the reciprocal visit by Lodge 14 to Dundee over the October weekend with a party of 27 consisting of 15 Brethren and 12 spouses where Lodge 14 gave a demonstration First Degree under the watchful eye of V.W.Bro. Michael Ward on behalf of Grand lodge of Instruction,

2000 May, saw the first visit by Lodge 14 to Armor Lodge L'Orient a party of 8 led by W.Bro. Jim Houghton. October saw the return of the Dundee bus with the members of Lodge Forfar and Kincardine 225 with their wives for the October weekend. This meeting included Scottish 2nd Degree and was followed by another hectic Ladies Night. 9 people also went to a very successful Ladies Night in Tyrawley Lodge 217, Ballina.

May 2001 was the return of Armor Lodge who joined in

the May meeting and a week of social interaction took place including a night at the dogs! September included a twin visit to Lodge 13 in Limerick by 8 members of Lodge 14. In October a party of 20 including spouses had a very enjoyable weekend in Dundee with Lodge Forfar and Kincardine both Masonically and socially.

2002 April a weekend visit to Lodge 15 in Skibbereen accompanied by some Brethren and spouses of Lodge 13 was a success. A Saturday afternoon meeting with demonstration of Cork Working 2nd Degree followed by a Ladies Night and Dance. May had the next visit by Lodge Armor. The French visitors also visited Lodge 248 in Athlone prior to taking part in a Provincial Ladies Night and boat trip on the Shannon, at which members of Lodge 14 also participated. September was a weekend visit to Bangor and joined with Redcliffe Lodge 564 on Friday night and Wheatfield on Saturday afternoon with Ladies Night Saturday back in Bangor with our hosts Redcliffe.

In 2003 Redcliffe Lodge 564 from Bangor visited Galway with W.Bro. Charles Ruttle in the chair. Charles is also a member of Lodge 14 it being his Mother Lodge since 1963. July saw the arrival of the Newry "Tractor Run" in aid of Southern Area Hospice where W.Bro. Sneddon drove his tractor around most of Ireland accompanied by some 12 Brethren (& Gilian) visiting Lodges as they went. As Galway was a weekend break the travelling party were hosted by the Brethren and spouses of Galway and new friendships formed. A visit by Brethren of Lodge 14 also took place to Rathdowney Lodge and also to Sherbourne Lodge in Stroud. 38 members were minuted on the Grand Lodge return for 2003.

May 2004 saw a band of Brethren once more visit with our French twins of L'Armor in L'Orient for another memorable exchange visit enjoying cultural differences and similarities. August was the visit to Tartaraghan 789 for a Meeting and Festive Board which as always was most hospitable. In October 2004 discussion took place regarding possibility that Lodge premises would not serve the existing and hoped for future membership much longer. Dues increased to build up a reserve.

A visit by the Internet lodge 2000 took place in October with accompanying successful Ladies Night. A visit to Stroud took place in December.

In March 2005 the Australian travelling Gavel was received from Lodge 333 and in November the Lodge visited 217 Tyrawley in Ballina to pass the Gavel on in its Journey. A very enjoyable Lodge Ladies Night was held in the Chinese in Oranmore.

2006 visitation started with a visit by members of Provincial Grand Lodge of Wicklow Wexford at the end of March for a weekend. The Lodge Room was filled to capacity with standing room only, 43 attendees being present. The Ladies Night and Dinner was in the Ardilaun Hotel where all guests

and visitors were royally looked after. In May the Lodge and Brethren were delighted to be able to entertain the returning visitors from Lodge Armor who added colour and even dignity to our May meeting.

2007 started with some Brethren visiting Bologna on a Lodge visit in conjunction with the Irish Rugby International in Rome. May 11-13th weekend saw the Brethren of Lodge 14 in Gorey taking part in the Provincial South Connaught visit to Province of Wicklow Wexford for much enjoyment. Also a function in Limerick with twin/sister Lodge 13 in October.

2008 was honoured by the visit of Grand Lodge for the March Communication to assist Lodge 14 mark the 275th Anniversary. A full weekend activity based around the Westwood Hotel including Saturday Grand Lodge Communication followed by a special emergency meeting of Lodge 14 to commemorate the issuing of the warrant in 1733 and finally a Ladies Night and fundraiser on the Saturday night for the Grand Master's Festival in aid of Laura Lynn Foundation, Samaritans and Belfast Children's Hospice. The Mayor of Galway Councillor Tom Costello met with the Grand Master M.W.Bro. George Dunlop in the Lodge during the morning. The Lodge was also open to public visitors and some 80 people from the city visited.

May was the celebration of 10 years twinning with Lodge Armor and was celebrated by a visit once more by Brethren of Lodge 14 to submit to much French hospitality.

2009, Lodge 14 had the pleasure of entertaining visitors from Lodge 702 in English Constitution led by V.W.Bro. J.V. Smith also a member of Lodge 14. A Ladies Lunch took place in December in Days Hotel.

2010 May, saw the appointment of a subcommittee to research and locate the viability of moving to new larger premises. In October Lodge 19 met in Galway and were joined by Brethren of Lodge 14. This also included a trip to the Museum in the barracks and festive board in Park House. Sherbourne Lodge was visited in December and in November some Brethren took place at the Provincial twinning between P.G.L. Bretagne with P.G.L. South Connaught in Brittany.

2011, an interim visit by French Brethren in May and wives prior to the planned regular visit next year. June had the visit of Old Portora Lodge No. 859. Lodge 14 opened the Lodge then handed over to the visitors for a 3rd Degree. This was followed by Ladies Night in the Pillo Hotel where the visitors were staying. In October there was a delegation from Moville who were heartily welcomed due to a long association with R.W.Bro. Hackett. In November negotiations had begun possible premises "An Triantan" having been outbid at previous locations.

2012, January started with confirmation that An Triantan premises had been purchased subject to successful planning permission for change offer on No. 69 currently below perceived asking price. Auctioneering advice sought and

€80,000 subsequently confirmed as reasonable. Offer rejected and property went to Auction in September 2012 and sold at €80,000. Over the next few months contractual details were sorted out on sale and purchase as well as fire and safety certificate applications for An Triantan. The final meeting in No. 69 took place in November and the premises vacated. Contracts were completed in January with Keys of new premises. In the interim Lodge meetings took place both in Athlone and the Westwood Hotel. Grand Lodge register of returns show 54 Brethren for 2013

In January 2013 sale contract of No. 69 was completed with the purchase of An Triantan which was completed on 20th February and work commencing by Cass Facilities on 21st with a target of being open for April meeting. This target was met and Lodge 14 met on Tuesday 16th April in An Triantan with W.Bro. Ed Maginnis in the chair. Various Brethren spoke and complemented the work done Bro. Casserly and his team as well as the flooring by Trevor Goodbody of Footfall. The Minutes record 22 Brethren present at this first meeting with and 9 apologies + 1 visitor. So ready now for the next 30 years and all visitors welcome.

R.W.Bro. Basil Fenton P.G.M. South Connaught



'No Love Here – A Priest's Story'

At eighty two years of age, Bro. Martin Gordon, of Shamrock Lodge 27, Cork, and whose Mother Lodge is Trawley 217, made an emotional return to London to sign copies of his remarkable autobiography, 'No Love Here - a Priest's story'. For the second time in four years, Bro. Martin almost died

in January of this year; this time from massive blood clots in both lungs. He was so ill that he was given the Last Rites. As Fr. Gordon S.C.A., he was used to giving the Last Rites, when he was Chaplain at the Royal Free hospital in London, between 1960 and 1965.



Pictured at the book signing in St. Paul's bookshop, Victoria, are Bro. Gordon with his wife Louise to his right and daughters Victoria and Katherine directly behind them. Son Martin is peeping out from the back.



Henry Kelly and Bro. Gordon after the broadcaster had interviewed him on B.B.C. radio Berkshire. Brian O'Connell, former RTÉ correspondent in London, brought the two men together.

You can listen to the interview by logging-on to the following website: www.authormartingordon.com

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Poet whose stone of remembrance is marked with an arch

The Orr Monument in Ballycarry's Templecorran cemetery is magnificent. For those who do not know Orr, he was Ulster's most prominent Weaver Poet, a writer the great poet John Hewitt and others believed to have been better than Robert Burns.

Of course, Orr and Burns have something more in common than poetry, for both were Freemasons. Orr, in fact, was one of the founders of the Masonic Lodge which used to meet in a room above the public house in Ballycarry in the early 1800s.

James Orr was all but forgotten outside his local community until recent years. But the increase in interest in Ulster Scots identity and heritage has brought him to the fore again. In Ballycarry, we in the Community Association have always fostered an interest in him. He was a Freemason, free thinker, radical and poet. In 1798 he was a United Irishman like most of his Presbyterian neighbours and even today he is held in a position of respect; not least due to a greater understanding of the complexity of the 1798 period in Ireland.

For several years we have talked of restoring the Orr Monument. Now the opportunity has arrived. A grant of £5,000 from the Ulster Scots Agency has set in motion plans for major fund raising to cover the approximately £20,000 which will be needed to see the work through.

The alternative is to see the monument, erected by Masonic and public subscription in 1831, continue to deteriorate and fall apart. Each winter the cracks are filled by water which freezes, expanding the cracks for the next winter. Grass grows around the top of it, and the lettering is fading now.

As a community we are proud to have links with all our various civic bodies, and Redhall Masonic Lodge is one of those who are affiliated to us as a group. They are involved with the Community Association in seeking to raise the much needed funding for the restoration.

It should not go without saying that we see our Masonic friends as representing an honourable and lasting tradition in our society, locally and in the wider sense.

Our community has a proven track record for raising funds and we hope that with the support of Masonic friends once again, the monument can be restored. We appeal to you as Freemasons to help if you can with these plans.

And the final outcome? We hope it will be seen at a number of levels. The monument, with its Masonic symbols, has an important place in the history of Freemasonry in Ireland and it would be fitting that this should be highlighted for all to see. One of the few public Masonic monuments in Ireland would again be restored to its former glory. The official presence of the Freemasons would be welcomed at restoration ceremonies.

From the community point of view, this project is not about merely restoring a monument for occasional viewing by those who like wandering through old cemeteries. James Orr was a major historical figure, and a great poet. He was educated at home, yet became the Robert Burns of Ulster. His monument has a part in our heritage tourism as we see it.

These are early days, but we have a dream that one day Ballycarry will be the Alloway of Ulster. There is currently a James Orr Summer School, and efforts are being made to spread the story of the greatest among the weaver poets.

The story of James Orr needs to be told to a wider audience. The son of strict Presbyterian parents, educated solely in their weaver's cottage, he became a radical and his works often featured in the United Irish newspaper, the Northern Star. After participating in the 1798 Rising he was forced to flee to America, returning under amnesty. His poems are about people, places, and events, his most famous work is called 'The Irishman'.

A local doctor, now passed on, told me of how during the last war he happened upon an American soldier from Redhall army camp, standing in front of the Orr monument in awe. The soldier explained how he had read 'The Irishman' by James Orr in his school text book and could not believe he had come to the home village of the poet and was standing at his grave.

It highlights, I suppose, that history has many turnings. We hope that history will be repeated in Ballycarry, and that, as in 1831, Masonic friends of James Orr will join paying suitable tribute to the outstanding memory whose epitaph was 'When lost among nettles, ye'll find if ye search, my stane o' remembrance is marked wi' an arch.'

*Dr. David Hume, Ballycarry Community Association
Previously published in the P.G.L. of Antrim Gazette, 2004*



Now fully restored