



# A. F. & A. MASONS OF IRELAND GRAND LODGE NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2014

## Retirement of the Grand Master

The recently announced retirement of our esteemed Grand Master from June 1<sup>st</sup> this year, was a poignant event. It was, as he noted in his resignation letter, only following lengthy consideration and moreover "with much regret".

M.W. Bro. George Dunlop was installed in November 2006 and had therefore, a theoretical further two and a half years to serve, if both he and the Brethren so chose. Sadly, as we now know, ill health prevented this natural term from being completed and the Grand Master accordingly felt obliged to stand down.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master had come a long, long way since his surprise induction into St. Columb's Lodge, No. 297 Moville, Donegal, in July 1968 (a surprise to him that is, that they would want him in the first place). But how right they had been as Brother George took to the ritual of Masonry like the proverbial duck to water and it was not too long before he had become an expert Degree giver and all-round mentor to many a Londonderry & Donegal young Mason. Despite being a very busy and much travelled professional industrial engineer, George, once his children had grown (and there was great sadness along that way) threw himself into the administrative side of things and became the Provincial Grand Secretary of his Province, succeeding his own mentor, the legendary and redoubtable William (Willy) Long, B.A. Soon after that his ritual skills were acknowledged by his becoming a Provincial Representative to the Grand Lodge of Instruction, an ex-officio member of which he has been more or less ever since. Subsequently he succeeded R.W. Bro. Long as the Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Londonderry and Donegal and, of course, in time, Provincial Grand Master.

It somehow seemed a natural progression therefore, that in 2001, when M.W. Brother Eric Waller became Grand Master he should choose George as his Deputy and, along with them both and the late, lamented R.W. Bro. William (Bill) Mawhinney, Assistant Grand Master, the Grand Lodge of Ireland for the next five years was led by a formidable trio indeed. When Grand Master Eric Waller himself decided to step down for health reasons in 2006, he had thus, no hesitation in strongly endorsing his Deputy as his successor.

Naturally, M.W. Brother George embraced the position with gusto and with typical, as his son Terence so accurately put it, *joie de vivre*, he became a most amenable Grand Master, approachable and knowledgeable, effortlessly capable of circulating amongst Brethren both at home and abroad, of

high Masonic status and low. Invariably recounting, as we all recall with trepidation and delight, an enormous repertoire of Masonic anecdotes, straddling, as well he knew teasingly, the sublime to the ridiculous. George seldom if ever turned down a Masonic invitation, being open and available to one and all, and visited in the course of his tenure a staggering number of Lodges, North and South. He took to the skies regularly and apart from reciprocally visiting various European Grand Lodges, presided over our own Overseas Provincial Grand Lodges' occasions in, amongst others, Bermuda, Nigeria, South Africa, Singapore and Hong Kong. In 2008/2009 he instigated and fronted his Grand Master's

Festival, a hugely successful fund-raising venture by the Irish Brethren (worldwide) for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice, the Samaritans and the Laura Lynn Foundation, as it was at the time. He was also primarily instrumental in establishing the enormously popular and professional Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year Competition, now in its fifth year, and will doubtless be present once again on Final Night, on October 11<sup>th</sup> as a senior guest of honour.

Whilst awaiting his updated medical reports earlier in the year, the Grand Master requested the Deputy Grand Master to preside at the March Grand Lodge Communication, and at the latter's absence in June, the Assistant Grand Master officiated. However, the Immediate Past Grand Master, as Brother George is titled now, will continue to visit Masonically, as his health allows, and he will be at the October Communication of Grand Lodge in Belfast and at the Installation of his successor on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> November, in Freemasons' Hall, Dublin (see below).

We wish our Immediate Past Grand Master joy and happiness in the days to come with his beloved children and grandchildren.

**Brethren should please note:** The new Grand Master, as said above, will be Installed in Dublin at the Freemasons' Hall, on Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2.30 p.m. sharp. A Banquet will follow at the nearby Mansion House, at 6 p.m. at a cost of €65/£55 per head; formal Masonic dress, or dark lounge suit; and partners are welcome.

Places in the Grand Lodge Room for Brethren attending the Installation will be strictly limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Booking forms are available from your Lodge Secretary, and from Freemasons' Hall.



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[WWW.IRISH-FREEMASONS.ORG/PAGES\\_GL/GRAND\\_LODGE\\_NEWS.HTML](http://WWW.IRISH-FREEMASONS.ORG/PAGES_GL/GRAND_LODGE_NEWS.HTML)

## *The Late R.W. Bro. Robert Armstrong*

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Down was extremely saddened to hear of the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of our highly esteemed and most loved Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Robert J Armstrong on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Brethren and friends in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down will remember with deep appreciation the many years of dedicated service he gave to Masonry in general and to our Province in particular.

R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong was Initiated into Malcolm McDonald Memorial Lodge No. 657 in 1962 and progressed to the Chair in 1975 becoming Secretary in 1980, an Office he had to relinquish under the 10 Year Rule. He was subsequently honoured by the Lodge by being elected to serve a further year as Worshipful Master during 2000.

His career in Provincial Grand Lodge commenced in 1983 when he was made Provincial Grand Inner Guard and from there to Provincial Grand Inspector from May 1986 to November 1991. His next Appointment was as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, an Office he served for only a short period, until being promoted to the Office of Provincial Grand Secretary serving from September 1991 to February 1995.

He became a Provincial Assistant Grand Master in February 1995 and the Provincial Deputy Grand Master in December 2001. He was ultimately Installed as our Provincial Grand Master on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2003 and retired from that High Office on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

R.W.Bro. Armstrong's talents as a Ritualist were

developed in the Arthur Square Class of Instruction, which he joined in 1965 and he ultimately became the Class Leader. His obvious ability was rewarded when he was appointed as a Provincial Instructor in 1998 then becoming one of our Representatives to the Grand Lodge of Instruction in 1984. He was made an Elected Member of that Body in 1990 and subsequently had the honour and distinction of being Elected as the Assistant Grand Secretary for Instruction and served in this capacity from 2002 to 2007.

In the Grand Lodge of Ireland he served as the Grand Lodge Standard Bearer in 1993, Grand Steward in 1994, Senior Grand Deacon in 1995 and was also currently the R.W. Junior Grand Warden.

Our Past Provincial Grand Master also had Craft interests beyond our borders having joined Old Portora Lodge No. 859 of which he became Worshipful Master in 2002, being the 8<sup>th</sup> Provincial Grand Master to do so in its 37 year history.

He was the Foundation Secretary of the Antrim Lodge of Installed Masters No. 218 and he served as the Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1991.

Few, if indeed any, could equal R.W.Bro. Armstrong's outstanding Masonic Career. With his wise counsel, ever ready advice and guidance, he continued to hold the esteem and respect of all those who knew him.

*Brian Gardner  
Provincial Grand Secretary of Down*



# The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2014



## Patrons:

Jane Carty  
Dearbhla Colloin  
Eamonn Lawlor  
John Rowden

Supported by:

RTÉ lyric fm

## Freemasons' Hall

17 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2

## Semi-finals

Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

## Final & Prize-giving by The Acting Grand Master

Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.

## SUNDAY BUSINESS POST - 20 OCTOBER 2013

"This was the fourth year of this increasingly prestigious competition, thanks to the Freemasons, a confraternity with a proud history of supporting classical music".

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 2014'. Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

## Tickets on Sale September 1<sup>st</sup>

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

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



## TLC and all that goes with it from the Teddies perspective.



Word has filtered back, to a few of us here in China, as to how we are being received in Ireland. A couple of people in that fair land adopted a project that had started in Southend on Sea, in England (that is part of the other island off mainland Europe) and have started to give us Bears out to distressed children when they go to Hospital Emergency Departments. These children can have suffered catastrophic injuries or have horrendous pain and discomfort. The one common thread is that they are distressed due to being plucked from their comfort zone. I am told that we are being received with great enthusiasm and are being loved by the children and the Medical and Nursing Staff alike.

We tried and tried to work out what the little tag on our back meant, "This Bear has been donated by local Freemasons". No one could tell us what these Freemasons were. We had all sorts of ideas ourselves of course. Then we got word that these Freemasons were giving thousands of us away. Word started to filter back and now we have learned that there are many people from all walks of life in Ireland and throughout many other countries who are members of Lodges of Gentlemen who do good work for their communities in general and have adopted this project in particular. Lorry loads (about 35,000 to date) of us have left here to travel

to Ireland. What a journey we undertake, travelling by road, rail and sea and eventually ending up being dropped off by the local TLC Representative to the various hospitals throughout Ireland.

These guys, The Freemasons, in Ireland have organised this Project entirely on a voluntary basis, getting funding to cover the costs in a great variety of ways. Some of us are sold to raise funds by members of Lodges, we are told that we make great Raffle Prizes and we also hear that some of the more energetic Freemasons are taking part in all sorts of sporting activities to raise much needed funds. Fair play to all those involved and may I say thank you to you all.

We are getting great publicity in Ireland through the medium of Grand Lodge News, The MetroMason Magazine, Local and National Newspapers and we have even featured on the National Radio Channel. I believe that one of the Sunday Newspapers have credited us Teddies as being the cause of a certain Fr. Brian Darcy being invited to attend a ceremony at a Lodge in Craigavon. I am told that he together with many hundreds of supporters of the event had a great time on the occasion.



## Long & Distinguished Service

The Grand Master and Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ireland recognise the valued contribution of the Brethren listed below for their devoted and distinguished service to The Order and the honour they have bestowed upon their Lodges and Brethren.

Name	Years	Lodge No.	Province
Bro. William Blair	65	Ulster Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 549	Antrim
W. Bro. Theodore Lilburn	65	Lilburn Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 731	Down
W. Bro. Hugh A Taggart	65	Rashee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 736	Antrim
W. Bro. Alexander R McKay	65	Rashee Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 736	Antrim
W. Bro. George Roch-Perks	60	Youghal Masonic Lodge No. 68	Munster
W. Bro. John McLean	60	Social Masonic Lodge No. 136	Down
Bro. Wesley Livingstone	60	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 210	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W. Bro. George Greig	60	Lilburn Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 731	Down
W. Bro. Kenneth W Davies	50	Edgeworth Masonic Lodge No. 76	Meath
W. Bro. Thomas S Redpath	50	Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
W. Bro. James B Wilson	50	Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
W. Bro. Harry R J Bonner	50	Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
W. Bro. Richard Wilson	50	Abbey Masonic Lodge No. 180	Antrim
W. Bro. James L Fletcher	50	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 210	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W. Bro. Joesph Kingsberry	50	Industry Masonic Lodge No. 240	Down
W. Bro. William H Mulholland	50	Industry Masonic Lodge No. 240	Down
W. Bro. William J McClelland	50	Industry Masonic Lodge No. 240	Down
W. Bro. Robert A Wilson	50	Royal Armagh Masonic Lodge No. 263	Armagh
W. Bro. Lester B Locke	50	Royal Armagh Masonic Lodge No. 263	Armagh
W. Bro. William Hilland	50	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 267	Antrim
Bro. W H Gilmour McCorkell	50	St. Columb's Masonic Lodge No. 297	Londonderry & Donegal
W. Bro. William E Stanley	50	Dublin Masonic Lodge No. 500	Metropolitan
W. Bro. David H Beattie	50	Ulster Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 549	Antrim
W. Bro. Wilbert J McBride	50	Ulster Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 549	Antrim
W. Bro. John G McNally	50	Ensor Masonic Lodge No. 625	Armagh
W. Bro. John S Lyness	50	Roselands Masonic Lodge No. 693	Antrim
W. Bro. Thomas H Taylor	50	Richview Masonic Lodge No. 711	Antrim
W. Bro. John T Monteith	50	Richview Masonic Lodge No. 711	Antrim
W. Bro. John Bell	50	Lilburn Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 731	Down
W. Bro. John H Smyth	50	Parkgate Masonic Lodge No. 776	Antrim
W. Bro. Victor Dillon	50	Breda Masonic Lodge No. 821	Down

# Wreath Laying Ceremony at Islandbridge

Douglas Grey, Deputy Grand Master, Acting Grand Master - Heather Humphreys, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – Major General The O'Morchoe, President of the Republic of Ireland Branch of the Royal British Legion – Major Sean Murphy, Chairman of the Republic of Ireland Branch of the Royal British Legion at the recent Annual Commemoration and Wreath Laying Ceremony at The Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge in Dublin. The occasion commemorated those Irish Men and Women from the island of Ireland and further afield, who lost their lives in WWI.



## Grand Treasurer visits Ensor Lodge No. 325



On the 14<sup>th</sup> May this year, the Grand Treasurer, R.W.Bro. Richard Ensor visited Ensor Lodge 635 Loughgall, for the first time.

His visit was mostly of a personal nature as his Great-Grandfather, Captain Charles Ensor was one of the Lodge's Founders in 1888 and indeed it's first Worshipful Master.

R.W.Bro. Ensor was kind enough to provide the Lodge with a talk about his family history and expressed how delighted he was to have visited our fine hall and attend a meeting of the Lodge his Great-Grandfather helped to found.

*R.W.Bro. Richard Ensor with the current W. Master*

## Phoenix

**Long Serving Brethren of Phoenix Masonic Lodge (Caledon) are presented with their Certificates.**



*Bro. Wesley Livingstone receiving his 60 Year Certificate from W.M.W.Bro. Karl Magee.*



*W.Bro. James L Fletcher W.M. 1991 (centre) receiving his 50 Year Certificate & Jewel from W.M.W.Bro. Karl Magee (right) and his son W.Bro. Stuart Fletcher, Secretary.*

## Callowhill supports Horizon West; Autism N.I.; TLC & Mitre Trust

On Monday evening 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 Brethren from Callowhill Masonic Lodge No. 453 made a number of presentations to Charity.

Cheques for £500.00 each were presented to Gladys O'Callaghan on behalf of Horizon West Children's Hospice, Michelle Higgins on behalf of Autism N.I. and W. Bro. Derek Humes on behalf of Teddies For Loving Care.

A further cheque for £500.00 was presented to Mrs Pam Anstey on behalf of Mitre Trust based at Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast. The charity was nominated by our Junior Warden, Brother Mark Edmondson. Brother Mark underwent intensive physiotherapy there for a severe nervous condition, Guillian Barre Syndrome.



(Front Row L-R) R.W. Bro. Maurice Lee, Provincial Grand Master, Gladys O'Callaghan, (Northern Ireland Hospice), W. Bro. Derek Humes, (Teddies For Loving Care), Michelle Higgins, (Autism N.I.), W. Bro. Stephen Kennedy, W.M.

(Back Row L-R) W. Bro. Noel Humphrys, W. Bro. John McMaster, Almoner, V.W. Bro. Robert Dane, Secretary, W. Bro. Sam Blair, Chaplain, V.W. Bro. William J Dixon, Bro. Stanley Humphreys and W. Bro. Charles Surphlis.



Pictured front L-R. R.W. Brother Maurice Lee, Provincial Grand Master, Brother Mark Edmondson, Junior Warden, Mrs Pam Anstey, Mitre Trust, Wor. Brother Stephen Kennedy, Worshipful Master. Back - Wor. Brother David McMullen, Treasurer, V.W. Brother Robert Dane, Secretary, Wor. Brother Bert Robinson.



## Calling all Old Campbellians!!

### The Queen's University of Belfast Masonic Lodge No. 533



As the Honorary Secretary of The Queen's University of Belfast Masonic Lodge No. 533 and an Old Campbellian it has long been my wish, along with a few others, to establish a new Masonic Lodge for ex pupils of Campbell College, Belfast who are still active Freemasons within the Irish Constitution.

The constitution of such a Lodge currently has the sponsorship of The Queen's University of Belfast Masonic Lodge which contains a number of Old Campbellians.

If there are any Old Campbellians who are still active Freemasons and who wish to be involved in the formation of such a Lodge, or simply wish to express their interest in such a venture, I would be grateful if they would contact W. Bro. Graeme Kerr at [gkmrics@btinternet.com](mailto:gkmrics@btinternet.com) or call me on 07808954060 so I can judge the level of interest and support that is out there.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Sincerely & Fraternaly  
W. Bro Graeme Kerr  
Honorary Secretary QUB Lodge No 533

## TLC Fundraising Event: An interview with Father Brian D'Arcy



R.W. Bro. Sam Snodden; Bro. Stephen Moore; Father Brian D'Arcy; R.W. Bro. Richard Gray (TLC Northern Committee Chairman); W. Bro. Trevor Waddell (Lodge Secretary) prior to the event.

Recently Iveagh Masonic Lodge No. 184 in Maralin decided to raise the profile of TLC and the Masonic Order in general and asked the most famous Priest, broadcaster and journalist in Ireland, Father Brian D'Arcy to come and be interviewed by their genial Secretary, W. Bro. Trevor Waddell.

Some members of the Lodge met Fr. D'Arcy in their hall for tea before the event and he was shown the Lodge Room and he signed the Lodge Bible. He said: "It was certainly new for me and I think there would be an awful lot of Protestants, too, who haven't been inside a Masonic hall. I was a bit hesitant to sit in the Master's chair but the Worshipful Master himself told me it was OK."

Not long ago it would have been unthinkable - a Catholic priest accepting an invitation from a Masonic Lodge to be the guest speaker in a Protestant Church Hall. But tickets for the charity event, in which Enniskillen priest Fr. Brian D'Arcy shared snippets from his fascinating life story, sold in such high numbers that a change of venue had to be arranged to accommodate the crowds.

This unique fundraiser for TLC was organised by Trevor Waddell, and Trevor hopes that as well as boosting the charity fund by thousands, the event also went a long way towards helping demonstrate just how open and inclusive the Masonic Order has become and hopefully it will have broken down all sorts of barriers.

His personal admiration for Fr. D'Arcy, which came about after reading the popular priest's bestselling autobiography, is what gave him the idea.

Father D'Arcy, who is based in Enniskillen, has courted controversy himself over the years with his outspoken opinions about his own church. A noted author, newspaper columnist and broadcaster, he preaches at St Gabriel's Retreat, the Graan.

Initially, he was to appear in Maralin Masonic Hall, which holds just 80 people, but tickets proved so popular that more than 350 were sold and the venue was changed to the Jethro Centre, a church hall belonging to Shankill Church of Ireland Parish in nearby Lurgan.



R.W. Bro. Richard Gray chairman of the TLC Committee



Gene Fitzpatrick "warms up"

The Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 184, Bobby Wilson, welcomed everyone and then R.W. Bro. Richard Gray, Chairman of the TLC Northern Committee gave a short talk on the scheme. Then well known comedian Gene Fitzpatrick warmed up the audience before Trevor Waddell started the interview with Fr. Brian on his life. The audience listened attentively to this tremendous raconteur.

Trevor read letters of appreciation from Sir Terry Wogan, Gay Byrne, Daniel O'Donnell and Jim McDowell, all personal friends of Fr. Brian about what they thought of him. He was quite taken aback at the nice comments. The evening was brought to a close at 10:30pm, the audience wanting more, with a standing ovation.





*Trevor & Father Brian D'Arcy in conversation*

Fr. D'Arcy would not accept any fee or fuel costs. All religions were in the hall and it was a very special evening where **£3,000** was raised for TLC. The feedback has been positive and the Sunday World and the Belfast Telegraph ran features on this unique occasion.

The event raised **£3,000** for the Masons Teddies for Loving Care Appeal, which was launched last September. To date **30,000 teddies** have been given to hospitals across Ireland by the Masons who estimate that another 35,000 will be needed in the year ahead.

Trevor has been a Freemason for 20 years, following in the footsteps of his father and his grandfather, who was a founder member of the Lodge in Magheralin. For him it's all about camaraderie and charity work.

"I'm quite proud to be a Mason, we do good things and I want people to know that. It is not something to be ashamed of. It's all about being a person of good character!"

#### **What did Father D'Arcy make of his hosts?**

Fr. Brian D'Arcy has never shied away from controversy but even he was taken aback when the invitation came through to support a charity function for the Freemasons.

Yet the Enniskillen priest had a superb night despite his gut

reaction when the invite came through: "It was a bit scary," he confessed.

Fr. D'Arcy said: "I'm not all that into secretive organisations, be they Protestant or Catholic, and I really don't have time for organisations which don't allow women into them, but you have to take small steps, so I didn't think about all that, I just thought about the children who would benefit. It is an all-Ireland and all-community charity and who would not help children if they can?"

The priest was pleasantly surprised by his popularity which meant a larger venue had to be found, but admits to feeling some discomfort at being a Catholic priest speaking in a Protestant church hall to a largely Protestant audience.

"It wasn't an easy invite to accept and as a Catholic cleric I'm sure there were people who didn't agree with me being there at all, but I hope they changed their minds by the end of the night. I thought it was great so many people were interested in coming along and everyone had a bit of a laugh. When you are doing something like that and it is new ground you don't know what to expect but it was great, a really pleasant night and I would do it again."

Fr. D'Arcy said he had no insight into the Masonic Lodge or its workings, and while he could find 100 good reasons not to go - all of which he said were prejudicial - he couldn't justify not helping such a good cause.

Fr. D'Arcy was quoted as saying "I found them decent human beings. They might do all sorts of weird things but then they probably view some of the things I would do in one of my services as being weird. It's just a matter of perception. They have their secret rituals which mean something to them and that's fine, I don't need to know about them. The Bible is at the centre of their work and it is the same God after all. You get to a destination by many different paths and it's the destination that counts."

This was a massive event for a small Lodge to undertake.

What will Trevor do next?



*Father D'Arcy responds*



*Father D'Arcy responds*

# TLC Northern Committee Quarterly Report

Like most good ideas, the concept is simple, we purchase small Teddy Bears which are provided to Hospital Emergency Departments so that nursing staff can give a Teddy at their discretion to small children who are admitted in severe distress and the nurse feels that a Teddy to cuddle will help relieve the distress so the child can be more easily treated.

The Northern Committee under the Chairmanship of R.W.Bro. Richard Gray consists of R.W.Bro. David Penpraze, R.W.Bro. Sam Snodden, W.Bro. Terry McSpadden, W.Bro. Craig Wilson, W.Bro. Jim Robinson and Bro. Stephen Moore and we continue to service the following Emergency Departments :-

- *Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Londonderry*
- *Antrim Area Hospital (ED)*
- *Antrim Area Hospital (Rowan)*
- *Causeway Hospital, Coleraine*
- *Craigavon Area Hospital, Portadown*
- *Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry*
- *Downe Hospital, Downpatrick*
- *Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn*
- *Letterkenny Area Hospital, Donegal*
- *Mater Hospital, Belfast*
- *Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh*
- *Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Belfast*
- *Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, Belfast*

And we have already supplied over 9,000 Hospital Teds to the very grateful staff in the Emergency Departments. These teddies are given to distressed children where staff feel that this will help to calm the child and help them in their important work. These teddies are not for sale but they are for the young patients to keep and take home with them.

Children admitted to Emergency Departments are usually frightened and see strange people who want to do strange things to them. Sometimes they are not even with their main carer. These children cannot, for reasons of infection control, bring their own cuddly toys with them. Their whole day has fallen apart, so the gift of a lovely cuddly Teddy helps the staff win the child's confidence and the distraction makes it easier for the staff to get on with any necessary treatment.

Please do not forget the TLC Friendship Maul – expertly produced by none other than R.W.Bro. Tommy Yarr – continues its travels after being initially awarded to a Lodge, Lodge No. 77 in Newry. Since then it has travelled to



Farmer's Friendship No. 978, then to Strathearn Lodge No. 680 in the Province of Antrim, then to Belfast Lodge No. 651 and on to Sir George Clark Memorial Lodge No. 669.

The idea is that the Lodge with the maul will retain it until challenged, at one of their ordinary Stated Communication, by three visiting Brethren from another Lodge. They can request, on payment of a ransom of £15, the maul to take to their own Lodge. The relinquishing Lodge will send us at least the £15 and details of the Lodge now holding the maul. We will acknowledge this by issuing a certificate of possession to them. We hope this will be not only a fund raiser but one which will encourage the spread of Masonic friendships throughout the Constitution. If you wish to try to claim the maul then the current holders is being listed on the Grand Lodge Website at :-[http://www.irishfreemasons.org/TLC/Pages\\_TLC/Tweenies%20Maul.html](http://www.irishfreemasons.org/TLC/Pages_TLC/Tweenies%20Maul.html)

The committee are delighted with the way the Brethren have got behind this most worthy cause to support the distressed children in our community. But great care must be taken to ensure that extra funds are raised for this project and thereby ensuring that funds are not diverted from our Masonic Charities. It should also be remembered that this is an on-going and open ended project which will need our continued support for the foreseeable future.

We are also aware of a number of "golfing Brethren" in various clubs are running competitions where part of the funds raised are being donated to TLC – in a similar manner to the 2014 Grand Master's Millennium Charity Cup at Killymoon on 29<sup>th</sup> August – see the December issue for amounts raised.

## REMEMBER

Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children annually treats between 30-35,000 children each year and their "target" is to discharge 94% of them WITHIN 4 HOURS!!

### **Can you remember your Degree Dates and your year in the Chair?**

No! – then why not purchase one of the new Engravable TLC Identity Coins – for more details see the TLC Flyer sent to each Northern Lodge Secretary or contact the TLC Team

Remember the teddies are also ideal Christmas Gifts for your children or grandchildren and make great raffle prizes and we are very happy to donate a big teddy as long as we get the proceeds from the raffle or fundraiser. But please remember that all cheques must be made out in favour of “Teddies for Loving Care”.

Word is also spreading beyond the Order and we know of “outside bodies” such as Women’s Institutes and other groups who have expressed interest and want to learn more about TLC. We have at least one local school considering having a “Uniform Free Day” in support of TLC and a

Brother is running a “small bore rifle challenge”.

If you have any novel fund raising ideas Brethren please share them with us. We want you to drive this, not be passengers and we are all in for the long haul.

Remember that the members of the Northern Team are always willing to visit any Lodge or Group to make a presentation about TLC, organise the sale of fund raising items etc. All we need is your invitation!

The points of contact for the Team are :-

- *TLC Northern Committee,*  
*115 The Mount, Belfast BT5 4ND*
- *028-9045-9694 and*
- *pgldown@btconnect.com*
- *Or see the business card sent to each Northern Lodge Secretary*

## **Marimba Triumph At NCH for 2013 Winner**



R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey and his wife Georgine were Guests of Honour at the National Concert Hall on August 5<sup>th</sup> when ‘Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2013’ - Alex Petcu-Colan, performed a Marimba Concerto with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, to huge and sustained audience acclaim. The concert - which was part of Alex’s prize for winning our 2013 Competition - was also broadcast live on RTÉ lyric fm, being presented by Niall Carroll. The photographs taken backstage after the concert show (Left picture) Alex Petcu-Colan, R.W.Bro. Grey, Mrs Grey, and Anthony Long, General



Manager RTÉ Concert Orchestra; and (Right picture) the Greys with Niall Carroll. The concert at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, was also attended by M.W.Bro. Eric Waller, R.W.Bro. Barry Lyons, a number of the staff from Freemasons’ Hall, and many other Freemasons. The 2014 Competition will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 at Freemasons’ Hall when Mr Long has kindly agreed to again arrange a broadcast concerto with his Orchestra for the winner. A very valuable part of the winner’s prize indeed!

## Masonic Charity BBQ and Dance



On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014 a group comprising five Masonic Lodges (315 Ballinamallard, 220 Pettigo, 819 Ederney, 58 Trillick and 277 Irvinestown) and two Royal Arch Chapters (819 Ederney and 58 Trillick) held a very successful BBQ and Dance for Charity at Lough Erne Yacht Club.

A grand total of £1,785.00 was raised for two Charities namely Teddies for Loving Care and the Cardiac Unit of the South West Acute Hospital.

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 a cheque for £500.00 was presented to W.Bro. Derek Humes the local representative of the Teddies for Loving Care Charity.

*W.Bro. Derek Humes presented with the cheque by W.Bro. Stanley McMullan.*

## Presentation of Cheque by Doagh Freemasons



Union Masonic Lodge from Doagh presented a cheque for £250 to Doagh Primary School to contribute towards the Primary School's annual sports day awards. The Principle, Dr. Helen McLernon and pupils received the cheque on 2<sup>nd</sup> June this year. Union Lodge 317 some three years ago decided to help 3 local schools, Tildarg, Kilbride and Doagh on a tri-annual basis by raising funds to support the purchase of prizes for their sporting achievements. To date and since 2011 the Lodge has contributed a total of £1,000 to the three local primary schools and hope to be able to sustain this in the years ahead.

*Members of the Lodge, Dr Helen McLernon and pupils at the cheque presentation.*

## Tweddie's Friendship Maul



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

Host Lodge	Province	Date
St. Patrick's Lodge No. 77, Newry	Down	14/09/2013
Farmer's Friendship No. 978	Down	7/10/2013
Strathearn Masonic Lodge No. 680	Antrim	9/11/2013
Belfast Masonic Lodge No. 651	Antrim	22/02/2014
Sir George Clark Memorial Lodge No. 669	Antrim	28/04/2014

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

## The Bucket List (Widows Sons Cold Water Challenge)

Starting off in the Highlands by the Widows Sons of Scotland, if you got a nomination through Facebook you had 48 hours to pour a bucket of water over your head, name two charities to receive a donation of £10 each and nominate another two people, if you didn't you had to pay your nominator £40 for not completing the challenge, which would go to their charity. It filtered its way down through England reaching the North West Chapter of the Widows Sons Wales.

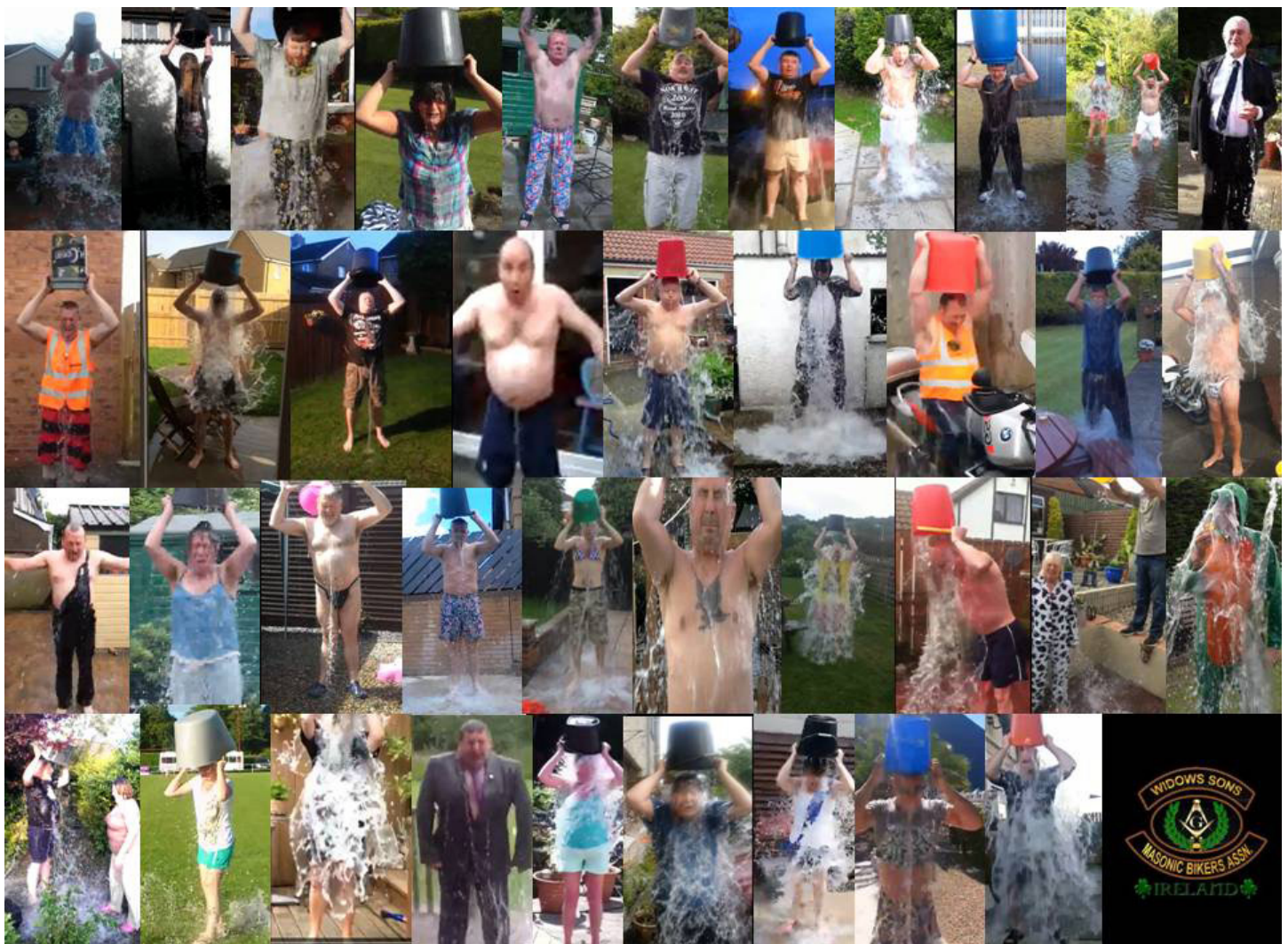
Due to a couple of our members crossing the water to do a charity run around Wales for 3 days with our Brothers across the pond, all for the charity Combat Stress, it reached the president of the North West Chapter who nominated one of our members from the run who in turn of course nominated the other.

Then it began filtering through the members of Widows Sons Ireland (12 within the first 3 days it started) each pledging £10 to their chosen charities with TLC top of the

list. There were small buckets, big buckets, the famous two buckets, onesie's, some questionable attire, suits, a caravan club, on a bike and even a river involved in the soakings that went on !

Within 3 weeks nearly every member and associate of the Widows Sons Ireland had completed the challenge to the tune of over £900 with TLC getting almost half of the nominations!!! Running out of names the attention turned to the Irish Masonic Network on Facebook which fuelled another bout of nominations outside of the biking group. It has again spread from there into other charities and the general public and even Andy Murray putting himself under the bucket.

It was a great fun way, which went viral, of raising an enormous amount of money for some great charities especially TLC and showing the bond and brotherly friendship created by being a Mason, while of course making people laugh at our expense.



## Charity Masonic Lodge No. 688, Rosetta 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Family of Charity Lodges



W.Bro. Alan Byers, W.M. 688 with senior visiting Brethren.

Charity Masonic Lodge No. 688 is a small but hard working Lodge which sits in the Masonic Hall, Park Road, Rosetta, Belfast in the Province of Down. The Lodge forms an integral part of the Family of Charity Lodges of which there are fourteen all of which are of the English Constitution.

Annually the Lodges gather at a venue in England usually in either Birmingham, Bradford, Bolton, Kidderminster, Nottingham, Warrington or Plymouth. This year it fell upon Charity 688 to host the event and after considerable preparation all came to fruition on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in the Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin.

Lodges from Warrington, Nottingham, Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Bradford and Kidderminster were in attendance most of whom arrived with their wives on the Friday to enjoy what was to be a most memorable weekend. A number of other Brethren from other parts of Ireland also attended.

The Officers of Charity Lodge No. 688 paraded into the Lodge Room and took their places. On entering the Lodge Room one was greeted by the array of colour worn by the visiting Brethren most of whom held either present or past Provincial Rank. The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Alan Byers was accompanied on the dias by R.W.Bro. David H Selby (P.A.G.M. Down and also a member of Charity 688) and W.Bro. D Stuart Cummins, (A.P.G.M. West Riding of Yorkshire).

Once the Lodge was opened our guest of honour, R.W.Bro. John C Clarke, (P.A.G.M. of Down) was admitted and presented to the W. Master who invited him to chair the meeting for a time. R.W.Bro. Clarke accepted the invitation and warmly welcomed all the Brethren to our meeting in the Grand Lodge Room.

Following on from this a deputation of some twenty Brethren from Bangor Union Masonic Lodge No. 746 was received and took their place in the body of the Lodge.

The meeting finished about 4.30 p.m. and following a colourful retiring procession W.Bro. Keith Stent, Head Tyler at Molesworth Street, gave a very informative talk on the Grand Lodge Room and also conducted the Brethren on a tour of the building. This was greatly appreciated by the visiting Brethren most of whom had never been at the Grand Lodge of Ireland before.

The days' proceedings concluded with a fine Festive Board in the dining room. Our thanks go to everyone who in any way contributed to ensuring that the meeting went according to plan. We now can sit back and await for next year when the meeting will be hosted by Lodge of Charity 377 Kidderminster.

*James H Furphy, Secretary, PGI (Down).*



The WM with visiting Officers together with R.W.Bro. John C Clarke, R.W.Bro. David H Selby and W.Bro. D Stuart Cummins, A.P.G.M. West Riding of Yorkshire.



The W.M. with some of his Officers, Seated (L-R) R.W.Bro. Ken Hughes (SW), W.Bro. Alan Byers (W.M.), W.Bro. John Lyttle (Organist). Standing (L-R) W.Bro. Wyndell McGrath (Chaplain), W.Bro. Ronnie Malcomson (Inner Guard), R.W.Bro. David Selby (P.A.G.M. Down), R.W.Bro. John C Clarke (P.A.G.M. Down), W.Bro. William Coulter (Dir. of Ceremonies) and Bro. Ian McIntyre (Junior Deacon).