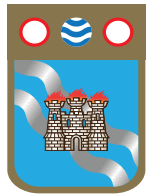




A. F. & A. MASONS OF IRELAND GRAND LODGE NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2015

The Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year 2015



2015



Presented by:
EAMONN LAWLOR

Patrons:

Jane Carty
Dearbhla Collins
Eamonn Lawlor
John Rowden

Supported by:

RTÉ lyric fm

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

Semi-Finals

Thursday October 8th

Final & Prize-giving by The Grand Master

Saturday, October 10th

Sunday Business Post - October 2014

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

The Semi-Finalists, selected by Music Colleges from the cream of their students throughout Ireland, compete before an International Jury to win the title of 'Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year 2015'. Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

Tickets on Sale September 1st.

Tickets: Semi-Finals €10 (All Day Admission)

Final €20 available from the Porter's Lodge at Freemasons' Hall. Tickets *may* also be available at the door on the night but this is not guaranteed as accommodation is limited.

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

INSIGHT: R.W.Bro. Richard Ensor speaks about the IFYM Competition



I was very pleased – and flattered – to be asked by M.W.Bro. Eric Waller to succeed him, on his retirement, as Chairman of the Operations Management Team which produces the Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year Competition for Grand Lodge.

In the many, many, years that M.W.Bro. Eric held this post, this Competition has increased in prestige in

Ireland, the UK, Europe and the United States to the point where the Sunday Business Post described winning it as **“the highest accolade available to young musicians in Ireland today”**. This view is shared by the Music Colleges, the National Concert Hall, and RTÉ amongst many others.

This year will be no different. The Semi-finals will be held here, in Freemasons Hall, on Thursday October 8th in the afternoon and evening, and the Gala Final on Saturday October 10th.

The six Music Colleges on the island of Ireland who award degrees in music performance (as distinct from music theory) are invited to put forward Semi-finalists whom they choose themselves from the cream of their own students in the particular academic year. All of these invited colleges have put forward entrants, with, unfortunately, the exception of Queen's University, Belfast, who have decided not to enter a competitor.

And the 13 Semi-Finalists we have this year are certainly of the hugely high standard we have come to expect. In nationality they hail from Ireland, France, Brazil, England, Poland and the United States, although they are all studying at Irish Colleges.

There's plenty of choice of different instruments too, with various Semi-Finalists playing Cello, Piano, Saxophone, Flute, Classical Guitar, Violin, and this year, for the first time, Organ. The five International Jury members, under the Chairmanship of Jane Carty, who will have the difficult task of eventually deciding on who will be the “Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year 2015” are all internationally known professional musicians, in various disciplines, from Ireland, Austria, Georgia, and Italy.

Tickets will be on sale soon and as we say every year, please be quick if you want to come to the Final as it is always sold out and sold out quickly. It's well worth coming to the Semi-Finals by the way. That way you hear all 13 entrants, when at the final you only hear four!

Once again, the Final will be recorded for national broadcast by RTÉ lyric fm, and also streamed on the RTÉ website. Additionally, this year, we shall be streaming the Semi-Finals

ourselves on the Internet. On 25th August our winner from 2014, Pianist Gary Beecher, will make his first appearance at the National Concert Hall to play the Schumann Piano Concerto with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, conducted by their principal Conductor, John Wilson. This concerto appearance is part of his prize, generously given each year by Anthony Long, the General Manager of the Concert Orchestra. The Grand Master is always invited by the NCH as the Guest of Honour and the concert is broadcast live by RTÉ lyric fm.

There has been no negative publicity at all. Since its inception the Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year has generated over 130 newspaper articles and interviews and 86 broadcast interviews. There has been no negative publicity, it has all been positive to our Order.

Brethren we can be, and should be, proud of this outreach effort which has become a landmark in the music world in Ireland. The TV & Radio journalist and presenter Eamonn Lawlor, who kindly Compères the Competition every year for us, wrote in an article,

“All the prize-winners and other finalists act as ambassadors for the Competition every time they play in public and people's notions about Irish Freemasonry are bound to get shaken up as well..... If that is a reward for the vision and generosity of Grand Lodge in giving to Ireland ‘The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year’ it is a reward richly deserved – and one in which all your friends outside Freemasonry will rejoice”

..... And Brethren every single one of us can rejoice as well. This is the Irish Freemason's Competition, NOT the Dublin Freemason's Competition, or the Republic of Ireland Freemasons' Competition. It is Freemasonry as a whole, wherever situated in this island of ours, which is benefiting from the praise and plaudits we receive. This outreach benefits every one of us and we can take great pride in this.

One last quote – an e-mail from Simon Taylor, the Chief Executive of the National Concert Hall – **“The competition is a resounding success and the Freemasons deserve great credit for supporting our young musicians in such a tangible and productive way”**

So there you are and you must be wondering if this is the first time a Grand Treasurer has spoken without mentioning money. So I'll mention it.

Isn't all this very expensive for us you ask. Isn't it costing me a fortune?

Well, Brethren, **no it isn't**. The net total cost of the Irish Freemason's Young Musician of the Year to each Freemason is **46 cents a year**, or to put it another way, it costs you personally, less every year than you would spend on half of one daily newspaper.

I think it's well worth it – I hope you do too.

(Address delivered by the Grand Treasurer at Summer Lodge on 15th July 2015)

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
<i>W.Bro. Thomas Ferrett</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Leslie J Thompson Masonic Lodge No. 61</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>W.Bro. George Ferrett</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Leslie J Thompson Masonic Lodge No. 61</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>W.Bro. Stanley Simpson</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Patrick Masonic Lodge No. 493</i>	<i>Antrim</i>
<i>W.Bro. Desmond T. Taylor</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Dalkey Masonic Lodge No. 261</i>	<i>Metropolitan</i>
<i>W.Bro. James Bain</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Leslie J Thompson Masonic Lodge No. 61</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>W.Bro. William N. Watterson</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 675</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>W.Bro. Kenneth Gilmore</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Andrew Henderson Masonic Lodge No. 512</i>	<i>Antrim</i>
<i>W.Bro. Richard C. Allen</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Portlaoise Masonic Lodge No. 398</i>	<i>Midland Counties</i>
<i>W.Bro. Alan R.G.R. Patterson</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Drogheda Masonic Lodge No. 411</i>	<i>Armagh</i>
<i>W.Bro. John A. Hanna</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Ionic Masonic Lodge No. 168</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>W.Bro. Thomas G. Eakin</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Ionic Masonic Lodge No. 168</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>W. Bro. Cyril Blair</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Cambridge Masonic Lodge No. 727</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>Bro. Edward J. Taylor</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Star of the East Masonic Lodge No. 37</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>W.Bro. Ivan Miller</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Portglenone Masonic Lodge No. 450</i>	<i>Antrim</i>
<i>R.W.Bro. William J. Dyer</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Sure and Stedfast Masonic Lodge No. 619</i>	<i>Antrim</i>
<i>Bro. Robin Stirling</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Patrick Masonic Lodge No. 493</i>	<i>Antrim</i>
<i>W.Bro. Andrew Wylie</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Patrick Masonic Lodge No. 493</i>	<i>Antrim</i>
<i>W.Bro. John McIlwaine</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Dundonald Masonic Lodge No. 303</i>	<i>Down</i>
<i>W.Bro. Stanely C. Stewart</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Dundonald Masonic Lodge No. 303</i>	<i>Down</i>

Masons in Derry Raise £50,000 to Help Local Disabled Girl

A budding gymnast from Campsie, was left with severe mobility problems following a freak accident whilst she was training for an Olympic Team position. Jennifer Smyth was in a controlled training session in October 2013, when the accident happened. Hoping to go home a step further

towards Rio 2016, Jennifer ended the day in a critical condition in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital. Her injuries were so severe that Jennifer became paralyzed from the chest down.

Following 4 weeks in the Royal and a further 5 months in Musgrave Park Hospital; Jennifer and her family were faced with the daunting task of finding funds for house adaptations and specialised equipment, so that she could return home.

When local Freemasons heard about her plight, members of Masonic Lodge 554 set about organising funds to help Jennifer and her family. To date £50,000 has been given to Jennifer, to cover costs for house adaptations, specialist wheelchair and a recumbent cycle. As well as provide for educational needs so that she is able to maintain her place at school in Limavady.

Jennifer's continues to need specialist care and faces future visits to Stoke Mandeville Hospital in England, to receive much needed therapy for continued improvements in health and mobility.

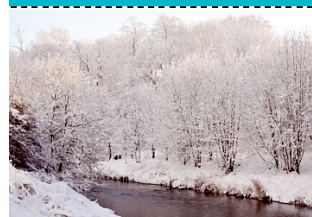
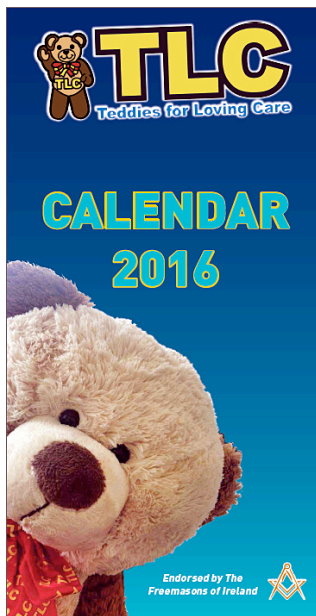
Arthur Woolsey, who is a member of the Masonic Order said, "Too many people associate Freemasons with silly things like secrecy, when in fact helping people in Jennifer's circumstances is what we're really about."

The Masonic Order will continue to monitor Jennifer and her progress and have indicated a willingness to contribute further to her needs as and when they arise.



Pictured with Jennifer is R.W.Bro. Noel Drain P.G.M. (Londonderry & Donegal)

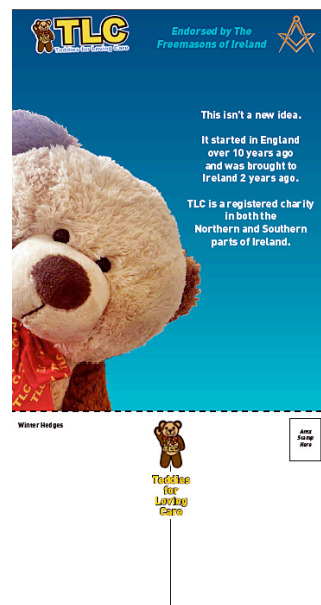
The TLC 2016 Calendar



Example of a "month" with the postcard below

Size 17 cm x 33 cm

View of reverse of month



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



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

Ivan, a retired Quantity Surveyor living in Donaghcloney, was initiated into the Lodge on the 4th March 1965 and served as Worshipful Master in 1977.

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

Union Band Lodge 556 and the Mahee Charity Golf Day

On Friday the 31st July 2015 approximately forty golfers played in Mahee's Charity golf day.

W.Bro. Fred Smith from Moneyreagh Lodge 556 approached the Captain and Council of Mahee Golf Club to see if they would support T.L.C. as their charity this year.

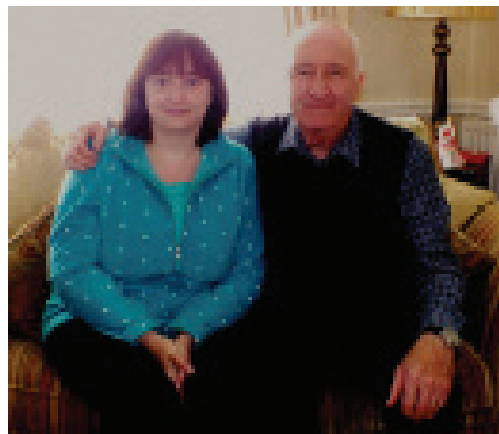
Fred along with his daughter Andrea, who ran a ballot and

checked the score cards, were busy all day. The golfers enjoyed a meal after their round and a great day was had by all.

We would like to pass our sincere thanks to Mahee Golf Club and the staff and those who supported T.L.C. The total raised was £875.00 a great effort by Lodge 556 in the year of their 200th anniversary.



Golfers (left to right): R.W.Bro. Sam Snodden, W.Bro. Norman Moore, W.Bro. Trevor Ferguson (Secy 556), Raymond Pauley – prize winner



The workers
W.Bro. Fred Smith and daughter Andre



W.Bro. Fred Smith

Grand Master visits Rathfriland



On Saturday, 30th May the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Douglas T. Grey, attended Rathfriland Masonic Hall for the opening and dedication of the Hall extension. Also in attendance was the Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Down, R.W. Bro. John C. Clarke.

The Lodge Room was filled to capacity and a joint meeting of Lodges 80 and 155 was chaired by W. Bro. David Craig, ably assisted by W. Bro. Andrew Scott.

The Grand Master unveiled a plaque to commemorate the momentous occasion, and a service of dedication was carried out by W. Bro. William Fitzsimmons, Chaplain of Lodge 155.

After the meeting, members and guests were treated to a very enjoyable meal, served up by the members of the two Lodges, followed by speeches when the Grand Master



spoke about how he saw the progression of Masonry in Ireland and R.W. Bro. John Clarke spoke of his first memory of attending an Installation Dinner in the Hall back in 2007.

Articles Wanted

The success or otherwise of this type of publication depends upon the quality and variety of articles it contains. "Grand Lodge News" is not solely for the promotion of Grand Lodge matters, rather it is there to serve Provincial Grand Lodges and Subordinate Lodges alike. The editorial team will be glad to receive interesting articles regarding functions / special anniversaries / letters etc.

We would ask that the "kiss" principle is recognised - "keep it short and simple" and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

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

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

Support Maze Masonic Lodge No. 356

Maze 356 is endeavouring to raise monies for the refurbishment of their hall.

Like most Masonic Halls, they need, from time to time, care and attention and despite a significant overhaul of the premises some years ago, the Hall needs further maintenance work carried out.

The Lodge is promoting an "ABBA" themed night and dance in the Belmont Hotel, Banbridge, as detailed in the advert shown here.

Please lend you support.

BELMONT HOTEL, BANBRIDGE
FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2015
 DANCING 8PM TILL LATE
 BALLOT PRIZES

TICKETS £10
 CONTACT BELMONT HOTEL 4066 2517 OR JIM GRAY 9267 0169



180 years Combined Service

On Friday 22 May, Lodge 61 celebrated a unique event; in fact it could be described as "a triple whammy". W.Bro. Thomas Ferrett completed 70 years service, his younger Brother, W.Bro. George Ferrett achieved 60 years service and the baby of the 3, W.Bro. James Bain completed 50 years service with the Lodge. A total of 180 years between them.

All 3 still attend the Lodge regularly.

To put it in context, W.Bro. Tom joined the Lodge 2 weeks after V.E. Day in 1945, whilst he was still in the Royal Navy.

Another coincidence was that W.Bro. Tom was Worshipful Master when W.Bro. Jim was installed in the Lodge in 1965.

The Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, a long time friend of Tom's, and The Provincial Grand Master of Down, R.W.Bro. Roger Matthews presented the long service awards to the Brethren.

A total of 33 Brethren attended the Lodge and the Festive Board afterwards – a good night was had by all.

*Leslie J. Thompson - Masonic Lodge No. 61
 Freemasons' Hall, Newtownards Road, Belfast*



(Back row) R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, the Worshipful Master of Lodge 61, W.Bro. Denis McKnight and R.W.Bro. Roger Matthews
 (Front Row) W.Bro. George Ferrett (60 years), W.Bro. Tom Ferrett (70 years) and W.Bro. James Bain (50 years).

A MASONIC MINE of INFORMATION

A Must for every Freemason

950 pages packed with information and Masonic Facts

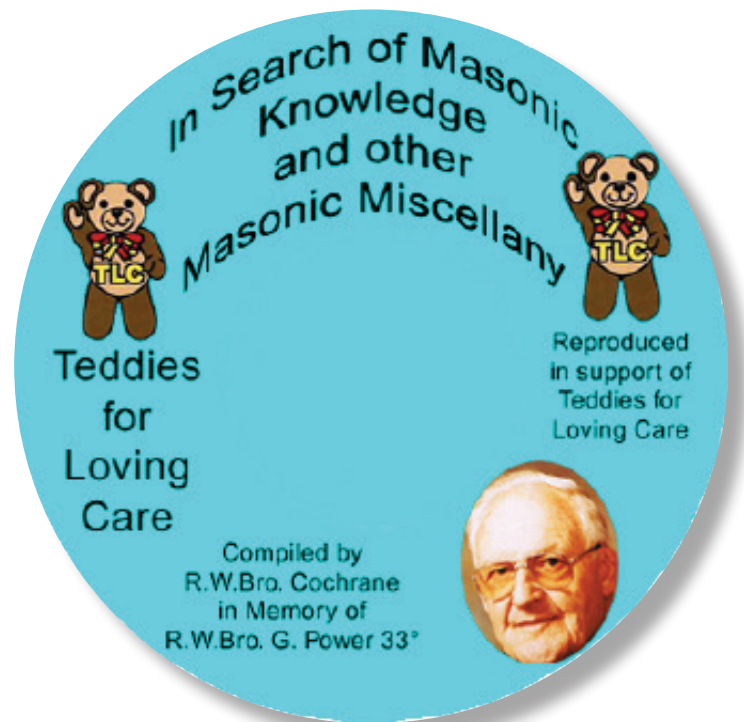
Accessible by any PC with a CD player

An "Active" Table of Contents

Fully indexed

Some Examples :-

- *An Extraordinary Mason*
- *Are Freemasonry and Christianity compatible*
- *Circumambulation*
- *Enniskillen Apron*
- *First Duty*
- *How to read a church*
- *Job's Daughters*
- *A Lewis*
- *Noah's Way*
- *On presenting a Bible*
- *Rosslyn Chapel*
- *Shriners*
- *The Apron*
- *What is a tenet*



Tweddie's Friendship Maul

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



Host Lodge	Province
St. Patrick's Lodge No. 77, Newry	Down
Farmer's Friendship No. 978	Down
Strathearn Masonic Lodge No. 680	Antrim
Sir George Clark Memorial Lodge No. 669	Antrim
Morning Star Masonic Lodge No. 193	Down
Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87	Down
Union Band Masonic Lodge No. 556	Down
Armagh Masonic Lodge No. 39	Armagh
Now residing at:	
Seaforde Masonic Lodge No. 1009	Down

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

Killinchy Celebrates Centenary of Mrs Grace Morrison

To celebrate the 100th Birthday of Mrs Grace Morrison, the members of Killinchy Masonic Lodge presented her with a bouquet of flowers plus a Gift Token to mark her special milestone.

Mrs Morrison's husband, Sammy, was a long standing member of the Lodge.

Also, through its contact with the Lodge, the Down Masonic Widows' Fund whose main aim is to look after the welfare of Masonic Widows (whose husbands were members of Lodges within Co. Down), especially presented Mrs Morrison with a Gift Token.

Both Gift Tokens and the bouquet of flowers were presented to Mrs Morrison by Killinchy Masonic Lodge Members Samuel Snodden, Hugh Robinson and Tom Matchett"



Paddington Bear raises funds for TLC

A special screening of Paddington Bear was held at Iveagh Movie Studios recently to raise funds for, and awareness of, TLC - Teddies for Loving Care.

TLC was initially set-up in Ireland almost two years ago with Union Masonic Lodge No. 105 in Tandragee playing a key role. The charity distributes teddy bears to distressed children in every pediatric emergency hospital across the whole of Ireland, both north and south. There are eight volunteers on the Northern Committee who give up their free time (and their petrol!) to travel to various hospitals where they deliver hundreds of bears every year.

Scarva man Jim Robinson is the coordinator for County Armagh and drops off up to 30 Teddies at Craigavon Area Hospital every week.

Jim explained the ethos behind the TLC Appeal: "We deliver teddies to hospitals in the whole of Ireland for young children who are in need of comfort because they are stressed out about injuries. Nursing staff have told us it is when they are trying to treat children, they calm down when teddy is there.

"I want to thank the management and staff for their support" Jim said. "They were excellent! "We had wine and cheese for the adults and juice and crisps for the children. The film was very appropriate too and the kids just loved it. Everyone had a great evening.



Pictured at Iveagh Movie Studios for the charity screening of Paddington Bear for the Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) and the Hospice were organisers Jim Robinson with family members, Katie Robinson and India Robinson, Esther McCutcheon and James Robinson with 1st Tandragee Scout Leaders Rodney McCann and Sarah Glover.

A Milestone Reached

Skillet and Trowel Lodge 981, one of the newer Lodges in the Metropolitan area, which was only consecrated in 2009 has achieved a major milestone!

From its conception it was of course made up of affiliating Master Masons. One of its original recruits has now worked his way through the ranks and taken the chair of King Solomon and so our congratulations go out to Worshipful Brother Pat Fox on staying the course and achieving this honour.

It became a tradition in this Lodge for the newest member to toast the Founders at the Festive Board. For many

a meeting he was the only person to rise for this toast, accompanied by the occasional visitor. When called upon to make a speech nowadays, he finds it difficult to avoid lapsing into his "Founder Members" oration. Now he is able to listen to Brethren following in his footsteps but notes that the number of such members of the Lodge are swelling in numbers, a testament to the Lodge's activity and ambition.

May Worshipful Brother Pat enjoy his year in the Chair with his usual dry sense of humour. It is obvious that the Lodge will go forward under his watchful eye, his renowned attention to detail and that he will not be the last initiate to reach this honour. Thank you Pat from all the Founders.



*Masters and Officers of Skillet & Trowel Lodge No. 981
photographed 16 February 2015*

Welcome New Arrival

We are delighted to announce an additional member of the TLC Teddies Pin Collection. "Miss Ted" as she is known, is available, together with the other 5 Teddy Pins from the Porter's Desk in Freemasons' Hall or from members of the TLC Committee. The credit for the latest member of this family must go to Ms. Heather Gyles and the other Ladies who work at Freemasons' Hall in Dublin. The idea was

raised by Heather at a meeting of the TLC Management Committee some months ago and was adopted and went into production soon after. The Pins were launched earlier this year at Summer Lodge in the Metropolitan Area. The cost of each Pin is €5 or £4 and all of this money goes to support the TLC Project throughout the island of Ireland and indeed this Pin is also for sale on the other island to our East.



Bermuda Visit

This photograph was taken during a recent visit by Michel Ducas of Lodge No. 884 to Bermuda, where he met our Provincial Grand Mater, R.W. Bro. St. Clair Brinkworth Tucker, better known to his friends as “Brinky”.

Mr Tucker, now retired, was a Police Officer. He studied at Bishop Garth Police College, Devon and Cornwall Police College and the Airport Security Police College and then joined the Bermuda Police Force in 1962. He worked his way up the ladder and became an Inspector in 1978 and served as officer-in-charge of the Airport Police Station, St George Police Station and Hamilton Police Station. He was the first person of St David’s Island ancestry to be promoted as an officer and the first born Bermudian put in charge of Police prosecutions. He later worked as Aide De Camp (ADC) for Sir John Swan when he was Premier of Bermuda.

Michel’s wife is from Bermuda, where her father was a Magistrate and had constant dealings with his friend, “Brinky”. He’s the gentleman standing on the left of the picture with the silver hair. Michel is the skinny Frenchman in the blue shorts, my friend and co-founder of Lodge No 884, France d’Irlande.

The building they are in with the picture of the Grand Master in the background, is the premises of Hannibal Lodge No. 224



in St. George’s, Bermuda. Lodge No. 884 is planning to visit Bermuda in 2017, bringing a new international dimension to Irish Freemasonry, with our French-Irish Brethren bringing our greetings to the Irish Brethren in the Caribbean.

Lodge 884 is, of course, a Dublin Metropolitan Lodge.

North Connaught raises funds for TLC



The Provincial Grand Lodge of North Connacht recently held a Dinner Dance in aid of TLC and Parkinson’s . The night was a great success all round where a magnificent of €1040 was raised.

(L to R) W.Bro. Mark White; Bro. Kilian Keirnan; R.W.Bro. Norman Reid (PGM) & W.Bro. Neill Dawn)

Friends at our Festive Board! - A New Model.

On the 16th of April 2015, Clontarf Lodge No. 249 held a unique and perhaps a 'first' when we hosted our wives, partners and friends at our Festive Board after our Stated Communication. It wasn't a "Ladies' Night" or an "Open Night" for prospective candidates or an 'Ordinary Festive Board'. So what was it? Well, as it turned out it fulfilled all three functions.

Firstly we invited our Ladies and Partners to dine with us after our meeting so in that sense it was a "Ladies' Night". We invited our friends, two of whom were prospective candidates for Freemasonry along so in that sense it was an Open Night. However we also dined very much as a Lodge, giving the Place of Honour to our Brother Fellow Craft who had been passed at our Stated Communication that very evening. The Toasts remained the same as the ones given at any Festive Board the only aspect missing was the absence of the 'fire' which accompanies the proposing of the toasts, which is forbidden when non-Masons are present.

The idea for such an event emanated from the fertile and ever active brain of our Worshipful Brother Treasurer, R.W. Bro. Spring as a way of allowing our friends and family to see what we, as Masons actually did at our Festive Board. This was perceived as an excellent opportunity to 'see how we do things in there', in other words what culture exists and prospers in Masonry when we sit down to dine. As this concept took hold it was decided by the Lodge under the direction of the Worshipful Master Liam Mc Dermott that every effort should be made to make this a memorable occasion for all concerned. Most Lodges outside the Metropolitan Area are fortunate in that, very often, wives and partners are more engaged in the planning and hosting of their social events. Our Festive Board was the beginning of our Lodges' efforts towards achieving this end.

It was decided that the work of the Lodge should not be disrupted or overshadowed by the social event; accordingly the work which fell to be carried out that evening, the passing of a Brother to the Fellow Craft should proceed. The Brethren were also urged to make contact with their Lodge Brothers, who had ceased attending, encouraging them to come along.

We then set to work gathering the names and numbers for our forthcoming supper. The Brethren were most enthusiastic to support this Lodge event and soon the prospective numbers of attendees rose to fifty six. Not an inconsiderable number.

On the night of our meeting, we met at seven o'clock and conducted a full stated communication including a second Degree, where our Brother Gareth Wooster was passed to the Fellow Craft Degree and a ballot. We were delighted

to see some of our more senior members who had made a special effort to be with us. We were also honoured to have R.W. Bro. Philip Daly, Chairman of the MBGP visit with us. As one of the main architects of the Teddies for Loving Care Charity he was doubly welcome as part of the proceeds of our charity giving that evening would go to TLC. We were also pleased to welcome our other visitors, W.Bro. Jean Claude Dorian the Worshipful Master of France D'Irlande 884, R.W. Bro. Selwyn Davis PGSW and V.W. Bro. Leslie Sibbald of the Grand Lodge of Instruction.

Whilst we were at labour, visitors who arrived early were hosted by our Lodge Almoner Worshipful Brother Eamon O'Leary, W. Bro. Eamon selflessly sacrificed a blemish free attendance record to perform this most important task. The Lodge, with great acclaim, awarded him an attendance!

At 8.50 p.m. we closed our meeting in Peace Love and Harmony and proceeded to join our guests for Supper.

The menu on the evening was simplicity itself as we stayed within the choices that are on offer to all Lodges for their Festive Board and within that price range. The main course chosen on our night was roast chicken or salmon with crepes and cheese board to follow, tea or coffee. Attendees chose their meal beforehand to ensure that every body received what they had ordered. The food was expertly prepared and professionally presented by our caterers and John and Catherine of Aramark, with their team, deserve full credit for a job well done.

The proceedings mirrored those of any other Festive Board and the etiquette with regard to addresses etc. was followed. There was no 'fire' after toasts as stated, but we did add a little something extra and interesting for our guests. Our Steward of Charities and Almoner gave a brief outline of the duties of their respective Offices. This was received in a positive manner as another insight into how we, as Masons, look to care for those less fortunate than us, both inside and outside the Order. The reply to the Toast to our Guests was given by Mrs. Sandra Brockman, wife of our Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Paul Brockman (perhaps a first for Masonry) and was met with acclamation. We were also delighted to present a surprise birthday cake to Mrs. Valerie Sheridan, mother of our Brother W. Bro. Wayne Sheridan, on attaining her ninetieth birthday.

A very special raffle was held with a hamper as the first prize closely followed by two Super Cuddly Teddies as prizes two and three. A very competitive auction was also held for a rare and much sought after bottle of Clontarf Millennium Whisky. This very generously supported raffle raised over six hundred euro for distribution to the Charities.

As the Head Tyler sounded the second bell heralding the

end of our unique night we were indeed 'Happy to meet, Sad to part, Happy to meet again'.

In the immediate aftermath of our Special Supper, the collective feeling expressed was that everybody had enjoyed themselves and our guests had learned a little more about what we do, when we as Masons, meet at our Fraternal Festive Board. Old friendships were rekindled and our candidate's Masonic Journey was suitably recognised and marked.

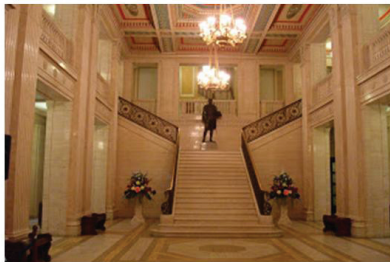
Our prospective candidates for Freemasonry were given a taste of what to expect in our Order and a substantial amount of money was raised. I would therefore suggest that this event was a success on all fronts. We think that it is a model that might suit other Lodges and enhance their Masonic experience and that of their Partners and friends with regard to their interaction with our Order. We believed that it worked so well for our Lodge that we are now in the process of planning for our next such Festive Board!



*Newtownards District
Masonic Charity
Committee
Presents*



***Concert in support of T.L.C.
Compere Mr. Julian Simmons (UTV)***



*Enjoy an evening with
The Harlandic Male Voice Choir,
Miss Gillian McCutcheon, Miss Shelia Greer,
Mr. Bertie McClenaghan and
A String Quartet from the School of Music.*

***Friday 2nd October 2015 7.45pm
Parliament Buildings***



Tickets £20.00 Available from :

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Sam Weir : 07771 855581

Ted Osborne : 07825 121707

Ian McDonald : 07899 718089



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



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

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

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

Amateur Radio and Freemasonry

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

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

