



OCTOBER 2006

RE-INSTALLMENT OF ST. JOHN'S DAY COMMUNICATION

Lodge Secretaries are asked to bring the following extract from the Grand Lodge Minutes of Thursday 1st June, 2006, to the attention of the Brethren and advise them accordingly, viz.

'A recommendation from the Grand Master's Council that the Grand Lodge Communication for the Installation of Officers should revert to December 27th (as from 2006) was discussed and agreed to unanimously. Recommended to Grand Lodge and confirmed.'

Coincident with this change, the regular Grand Lodge Communication on the first Thursday in December is removed, so reducing meetings to four rather than five per year.

Background

A few years ago, some members expressed concern about the difficulty of travelling to the St. John's Day Installation Communication in Dublin, at a time when inclement weather occasionally caused problems. Concern was also expressed about family members, especially those visiting, being left at home during the Xmas period while the Brethren spent the best part of that day in Dublin.

Grand Lodge decided to take account of these apparent difficulties and select a more convenient date. The first option was to meet, for a trial period, on the first Saturday in December. This was not successful as attendances were not up to the usual levels and, in addition, the date corresponded inconveniently with the Stated Convocation of the District Grand Chapter of Down.

The second option was to meet, as before, on the first Thursday in December and define that meeting as the St. John's Day or Installation Communication. In the past, this meeting was generally focused on administrative matters and house-keeping issues and, traditionally, was

not well supported. Once again, attendances did not improve and a further difficulty was that Great Priory meets on the first Wednesday in December, causing reluctance on the part of their members to travel to Dublin on the following day.

St. John's Day has long been a red letter day for Irish Craft Masonry and while the weather can sometimes cause difficulties, there have been few days when it caused high absenteeism. The difficulty of families visiting at Xmas has been a problem and, in this respect, individual members must assess their circumstances, remembering that their public and private duty takes precedence.

Overview

On reflection, it was a mistake for Grand Lodge to change the date of its most important Communication of the year, when new Officers are installed and current Officers progressed. Coach loads of members coming to Molesworth St. on St. John's Day to support their member on his elevation was commonplace; it still happens, but to a lesser extent because of the days chosen during the trial period. We well remember the days, not that long ago, when the Grand Lodge Room was filled to capacity and adjacent rooms were used to accommodate the overspill, even during troubled times.

Craft masonry is the foundation stone and bedrock of our membership and it is vital that it maintains its key position within the Order generally. To meet on St. John's Day removes any difficulty of meetings clashing with other Branches and provides a distinct focus on a keynote occasion in the Masonic year to allow all Irish Masons to meet together as one and consolidate their primary undertaking of support for the Craft.

Deputy Grand Master

OBITUARY



George Power, MA 1917 - 2006

George joined Freemasonry on 22nd August, 1943. Many Lodges benefited from his flair and commitment and a "George Power Degree" was an experience shared by very many lucky Brethren. He was a Past Master of Finaghy Lodge No. 651, Festival of Zion Lodge No. 597 and a Founder Member of St. Peter's Lodge No. 798. Showing his Past Master's Jewel to his late wife Peggy, she remarked how thoughtful the Brethren had been to hang his initial within the Compass and Square. He became the Founding Master of Antrim Lodge of Installed Masters and the Lodge is still working, as a tribute to him, and continues to maintain the high standards set by him.

George prepared and delivered many Masonic lectures both at home and abroad in countries such as England, Bolivia, Italy and the United States of America. A fine collection of photographic slides were used extensively in

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these lectures, which resulted in his appointment as an Honorary Member of the John Wayne Memorial Lodge in New Orleans, a venue he visited on a number of occasions.

During his long Masonic career, many honours were bestowed on him. He was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim; appointed Grand Master's Standard Bearer by M.W.Bro. The Marquis of Donegall and became an elected member of the Grand Lodge of Instruction to mark his expertise in conferring the various Degrees.

He joined the Irish Lodge of Research and was Editor of their Transactions from 1985 to 1991, then became Secretary in succession to R.W.Bro. Bill O'Brien, serving, in that capacity, for three years. During this period he became the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Mexico (York) at the Grand Lodge of Ireland, a position which he held for a period of ten years. He became a Founder Member of Internet Lodge of Ireland No. 2000, a Lodge Constituted in 2000 with a remit to widen the global contribution of Irish Freemasonry.

Royal Arch Masonry also benefited from George's membership when he joined Finaghy Royal Arch Chapter and he eventually filled the Office of Excellent King in 1964 having progressed through most of the Offices twice. He affiliated to Ardmoyny Royal Arch Chapter and served as Excellent King in 1981. Additionally he was elected an

Honorary Member of Queen Victoria Royal Arch Chapter No. 294. Further honours followed in this branch of the Order when he was elected Chief Scribe in the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim. He was also an active member of the Royal Arch Chapter of Research No. 222.

He joined St. John's Preceptory, on 16th January, 1956, and later affiliated to Cliftonville Preceptory, which he attended regularly and was very involved. George's great love in Knight Templar masonry was the Knight and Prior of Malta Degrees when he acted as Prior for many Preceptories enabling them to confer these Degrees "in house." This involvement resulted in Honorary Membership of a number of Preceptories. Membership of the Great Preceptory of Instruction and the post of First Constable of the Provincial Priory of East Ulster where the natural result of all this work. Great Priory saw fit to further honour George for his contribution by appointing him a K.C.T. in 1981, an honour which was upgraded to K.G.C. in 2002.

George was perfected in Heredom Chapter of Prince Masons in May, 1973. He served as M.W.S. in 1982 and became Leader of the Prince Masons Class in Belfast, a position which enabled him to pass on his vast knowledge of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. He was advanced to the 28th Degree of the A. & A. Rite for Ireland, ultimately progressing to membership of the Supreme Council

of the A. & A. Rite in 1988, holding the post of Grand Chancellor before being elected as an honorary member prior to his death.

Author of four volumes of "A Masonic Miscellany", he gave much "knowledge, interest, pleasure, and inspiration," both to himself and mostly to a host of Brethren who became dedicated readers of his works.

George Power passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 19th July, 2006. He leaves behind his Son, George; Daughter in Law, Josephine; Grandsons David and Robert; Sisters Mrs. Lily Uprichard, now living at Portadown; Mrs. Molly Wilson living at Dundonald and of course his cousin Mrs. Annie Rynhart of Gorey. Annie contributed greatly to George's well being over his final years and he liked nothing better than going down to Gorey and staying in her new bungalow.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of George Power was held in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Carrickfergus on Tuesday 25th July. The Address was given by his long time friend the Venerable R. Clayton Stevenson. Interment followed in the family plot in Lurgan. The closing prayer from the Thanksgiving Service is fitting:-

"Mark well, Great Architect of the Universe,

The labours of thy servant George in the quarries of this world,

And grant that they may pass inspection through the mediation of

Thy Son, the Overseer of us all.

Grant that he may know the joy of continuing his labours with the

Angels of Light, in the Quarries and gardens of that Temple, not

Made with hands, Jerusalem, eternal in the Heavens, through

Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

George Power – a good and faithful servant – you have done your duty to the full and will be severely missed.

It would be the intention to compile a CD of as many as can be traced of George Power's lectures, talks, etc., and hopefully this will act as a fitting memorial to a fine gentleman and Freemason, a friend to many and particularly to R.W.Bro. Keith Cochrane.

Mourne celebrates 60th Anniversary

On Friday 30th September 2005, Mourne Masonic Lodge No. 696 arranged a special "Fish Night" in the Annalong Masonic Hall, to celebrate its 60th Anniversary. To further mark this unique occasion, the Lodge was honoured with a visitation by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master, as pictured below.



(Published by the kind permission of Arthur Girvan)

P.G.L. of Wicklow and Wexford's visit to the P.G.L. of South Connaught in Galway March 2006

On Friday March 24th a delegation of nineteen Brethren from the Province with thirteen Ladies set off for Galway on a two night visit to the City of the Tribes. On Friday night we met in the hotel for drinks and were joined by members and ladies of the P.G.L. of South Connaught and also by five Brethren and ladies from the Province of Down, better known as the circuit of Ireland tractor drivers.

On Saturday morning we were able to shop, sightsee and avail of the leisure facilities and at four o'clock the men folk were despatched to the premises of Lodge 14 for an occasional meeting of the P.G.L. of South Connaught. The Lodge room was probably the smallest Lodge room I have ever been in, nevertheless, we all managed to get a seat and were warmly received by the members and particularly by the P.G. Master, R.W. Bro. Basil Fenton, a Wexford Man.



We were treated to a brief history of the P.G.L. of South Connaught and a demonstration by the deacons of their way of presenting the minute book to the W.M. for signing. R.W. Bro. Basil Fenton presented R.W. Bro. Harvey Heavener with a Secretary's Paper Weight made from Galway Crystal, suitably engraved, and was duly thanked. R.W. Bro. Harvey Heavener presented R.W. Bro. Basil Fenton with a maul and stand suitably engraved to mark our visit to

Galway, a pen and pen holder for his P.G. Secretary, and our P.G.L. Tie.

After the meeting, we all returned to the Hotel to prepare for our social evening at which around sixty people had a very enjoyable meal. It should be noted that our table napkins had a distinctly Masonic theme which were picked up on R.W. Bro. Fenton's recent trip to Australia. We danced to the 'wee' hours and were all treated to a professional display on the floor by W. Bro. Willie Woods, whose demonstration was limited by space. Claudia Carroll was a guest of a member of Lodge 14, better known to us as Nicola Brennan from the TV programme Fair City.

All present thoroughly enjoyed the event and I hopefully look forward to organising another visit.

V.W. Bro. David Valentine
Provincial Grand Secretary

HAT TRICK MASONS

I read with interest your article in the October 2005 newsletter regarding W.Bro. Paul Newton, who, according to your article, has been Worshipful Master of Lodges under the Irish, English and Scottish Constitutions of Freemasonry. Your article went on to say that there must be few if any Irish Masons who have done this and to mark that achievement you have made a permanent record of his labour to be hung in the Lodge room. Without diminishing his achievement, let me inform you of several similar achievers.

There are five Jamaican Masons who have been Worshipful Master of all three home constitutions. They are:-

W.Bro. Whilston Taylor, Past Dep. District Grand Master E.C. He was Worshipful Master of Emerald Lodge No. 899 I.C., Elgin Lodge No. 1562 S.C., and Adair Lodge No. 8146 E.C. (founding Master)

W.Bro. George Dawkins, Past Prov. Grand Organist. He was Worshipful Master of St. James Lodge No. 898 I.C., Harmony Lodge No. 3603 E.C., and Columbus Lodge No.1660 S.C.

W.Bro. Lloyd Moore, Past Sub. District Grand Master S.C. He was Worshipful Master of True Craftsman Lodge No. 921 I.C. (founder) Francis Haddon Bowen Lodge No. 9238 E.C. (founder) and St. John Lodge No. 623 S.C.

V.W.Bro. Bernard Wong, Past Prov. Grand Secretary. He was Worshipful Master of Irish Masters Lodge No. 907 I.C. Imperial Service No. 978 S.C. and installed Masters Lodge No. 7420 E.C.



W.Bro. Earl Brandis Dashfield Frater. He was Worshipful Master of Irish Masters Lodge No. 907 I.C., Liguanea Lodge No. 1479 S.C., and Kingston College Lodge No. 9469 E.C.

The photo above of the inaugural meeting of the True Craftsman Lodge shows W.Bros. Moore, Wong, and Frater, as well as myself.

Another matter of interest. In 1999 there were six members of the True Craftsman who were Masters elect in various Lodges. They were W.Bro. P.H.G. Stuart, Master elect, True Craftsman Lodge No. 921 I.C. Bro. Errol Hanna, Master elect, South Carolina Lodge No. 390 I.C. Bro. Kenneth Gooden, Master elect, Collegium Fabrorum Lodge No.1836 E.C. Bro. Earl Frater, Master elect, Liguanea Lodge No. 1479 S.C. Bro. Dayton Wood, Master elect, Hamilton Lodge No. 1440 E.C. and W.Bro. P E Tomlinson, Master elect, Irish Masters Lodge No.907 I.C. How's that for the record books?

R.W.Bro. P H G Stuart
(P.A.G.M. Jamaica & the Bahamas)

CHARITY CORNER

“Old Girl” designs Presidential Shield

Deirdre McCrory (nee Dalzell) attended the Masonic Girls School, Dublin 1952-1959. She went to Belfast College of Art and studied Printed Textiles & Jewellery. This was followed by post-graduate study at the Royal College of Art, London where she obtained M Des (RCA). She married Michael McCrory a silversmith and they have two children. Deirdre taught part-time in the Ulster Polytechnic/University of Ulster and continued with her own work. She works in the medium of enamel on metal and latterly printmaking.



Deirdre McCrory.

In 1997 Deirdre and her husband Michael were asked to submit designs for the Presidential shield for Mary Robinson on her retirement from office. Their proposal was successful and the shield made by Michael and enamelled by Deirdre now hangs in Dublin Castle.

Deirdre, Michael and their daughter Cara Murphy are working together for an exhibition “Silver Connections” at the Island Arts Centre, Lisburn 6 - 29 April, Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart 3 - 26 August and the National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny 13 October - 26 November, 2006.

Girls Benefit Fund to the rescue

I was fortunate to have had the support of MGBF whilst I progressed at university to obtain my law degree. The generous assistance given by MGBF meant an enormous amount to me personally. I did not have to make personal sacrifices or take a part time job during term time to cover any shortfall in money. I was able to manage my money and time better. The support of MGBF allowed me to focus on my course and study. It allowed me to have a modest living for a student.

I am very grateful to MGBF as their contributions have helped me obtain my law degree and diploma in professional practice. MGBF erased the hardship I would have endured in pursuing my chosen career. I graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a law degree in July 2005. At present I am studying the Legal Practice Course for one year at De Montfort University in Leicester. I am doing well and have passed all my exams and assessments to date. I will complete the course at the end of June 2006 and hope to continue my solicitor training with a law firm in the near future.

There are many others MGBF have helped before me and I am sure there will be many more after me who will benefit as I have done. MGBF has greatly contributed to my success and I will always be grateful.

My sincere thanks MGBF.

Amy Elliott

INNISKILLING 744 SUPPORTS FERMANAGH FRIENDS OF THE HOSPICE

On Friday 14th October 2005 Inniskilling Masonic Lodge 744 held a fun bingo night, they raised £610.00 for the Fermanagh Friends of the Hospice.

Pictured is R.W.Bro. D H Weir P.G.M. of Tyrone & Fermanagh, presenting a cheque for £610.00 on behalf of the members of Lodge 744 to W.Bro. Archie Birrell (Lodge Steward of Charities) Chairman of Fermanagh Friends of the Hospice. Also in the photograph is the W.M. W.Bro. David Boles and Bro. Paul



Donaldson who organized the fun bingo night.

W.Bro. Derrick Nixon, Secretary

PRESENTATION TO THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY BENEVOLENT FUND



On Thursday 6th April 2006 W.Bro. David Wilson and W.Bro. Billy H McCoy (Treasurer) called at the RUC Benevolent Fund at Garnerville and presented to the Treasurer Mr Larry McWilliams a cheque for almost £1000, from the Patterson Cunningham Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 861, Crumlin Road Belfast.

The photograph shows W.Bro. David Wilson, Mr Larry McWilliams and W.Bro. Billy H McCoy.

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CHARITY CORNER

Brethren and guests out for a good night's criac!!

It doesn't seem 2 years since the Armagh Provincial Entertainments Committee started to arrange the 1st of these social nights. Once again arrangements are well in hand & all Lodges are invited to attend this year's event which will be held on Saturday 21st October in the Seagoe Hotel in Portadown @ 7.30pm.

There is a top class group lined up in 'Borderline' who play mostly Country music & suit all tastes. The Committee is appealing for Brethren from all of the Province of Armagh and further afield to support this event & to especially invite their NON-Masonic friends for a good night's "criac".

The buffet menu consists of Peppered Steak or Chicken Supreme with mushroom sauce and Tickets are available @ £13.50 per person.

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR MASONIC GIRLS BENEFIT FUND COMMITTEE

The Masonic Girls Benefit Fund Committee meets under the initial Chairmanship of Bro. Diarmuid McNulty.



Back: Bros I Miller, K Spring, D McNulty, B Bradshaw, S T Mahon. Front: R Mark, Mrs Janice Griffin, (Acting Secretary) Mrs Jane Young (Visitor) and Mrs Fiona Hyslop (Visitor).

The Seagoe Hotel has offered a special price of £65 per room B&B for the night, for Brethren who may not wish to make the long journey home.

There are several Brethren who have tickets available and can be contacted as follows:- Joe Robinson, Portadown - 028 3833 7192 or Roger Gill, Richhill - 028 3887 0565

We hope to accommodate at least 200 members & guests to make this a successful night & proceeds will be donated to charitable causes.

This should be a night for Brethren & friends to support, as it is their night to show what can be done for the good of Freemasonry & the community at large.

Light of the West Lodge Social Club



Arising from the proceeds of a "Forked Supper", Light of the West Social Club presented a cheque to the National Association for the Blind.

Pictured is V.W.Bro. Rev. Noel Regan, Eileen Williams, V.W.Bro. David Williams (Treasurer), May Burns (Nat. Assoc. for the Blind) and R.W.Bro. George F Ginnelly (P.G.M. North Connaught).

A WONDERFUL AMBASSADOR



The photo shows Miss Laura Strain, Banbridge, Co. Down. Laura is assisted by the Girls Fund and has been a wonderful ambassador for her family and The Order. Laura will be Head Girl in Banbridge Academy in September 2006 for the year 2006/7.

Foundation Stone Laid for NIVARA project

On the 15th of January, 2006, the Flavia P Lewis Charitable Trust laid the Foundation Stone of NIVARA, a home for the destitute, mentally challenged, at our farm at Vasundri, Kalyan Taluk, Thane district, about 65 km from Mumbai.

The stone was laid by Mr P G Gavai, former Lt. Governor of Delhi, in the presence of about 80 people, of whom 28 were Freemasons, representing all four Constitutions. The Trust has been instituted in memory of my mother, who was ever willing to help others. The basic aim was to set up a Home for the Aged, but we shall commence that project at a later date.



R.W.Bro. Chogle pouring wine over the cornerstone.



R.W.Bro. Chogle handing over the building plans to the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.

Initially we have commissioned an accommodation for 10 children and their carers, with a self-contained kitchen, toilet and bathing facilities, study-cum-workplace and an enclosed garden. In the future we shall be expanding to house 70 residents, both boys and girls, in stages, in a system of cottages, not dormitories. What is to be noted, is that these children, will be with us permanently, growing to adulthood and beyond; as they will never be adopted, or be independent members of society and it is very doubtful that their families will take them back.

In commemoration of the worthy life of Capt. Sam B Aga, Past Prov.

Grand Master, and a gentleman par excellence, the Trustees have decided to erect one of the cottages in his name. Accordingly, the Corner Stone was laid Masonically. R.W. Bro. Chogle proceeded in procession, in full Masonic regalia. Entombed in the cornerstone was a time capsule having the day's English and Marathi newspapers, a Provincial Summons, a list of the Provincial Officers taking part in the ceremony, and some currency. The Stone was lowered; the Plumb, Level and Square were applied and Corn, Wine and Oil were strewn; lastly, the building plans were entrusted to the Prov. Gd. Superintendent of Works.

The function closed with a sumptuous meal, cooked over wood fires; a real treat for the city folk.

It should be borne in mind, that there has been no Masonic Stone-laying ceremony performed for about 100 years, the last probably being for Freemasons' Hall, Mumbai, and definitely not in the Irish Constitution.

V.W. Bro. Michael P Lewis
P.G. Secretary

New P.G.M.'s Standard

Energy Lodge No. 187, Manorhamilton and in particular the "Malloy family", recently presented R.W. Bro. George F Ginnelly (P.G.M. of N. Connaught) with a new Provincial Grand Master's Standard.



Pictured is W. Bro. Harold Molloy with his Grandsons W. Bro. Russell Kennedy and Bro. Peter Kennedy and R.W. Bro. E C W Smith P.D.G.M.

R.W. Bro. Canon Kenneth W Cochrane (P.A.G.M. Down) retires

At a recent Communication, the Brethren of Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge No. 147 were honoured by the visit of R.W. Bro. Canon Kenneth W Cochrane in his last official engagement as Provincial Assistant Grand Master of Down. The Worshipful Master presented R.W. Bro. Cochrane with a clock in the shape of a compass and square on behalf of the Lodge to mark the end of his tenure as a P.A.G.M. R.W. Bro. Cochrane thanked all concerned stating his honour reflected on the Lodge and he was now looking forward to spending more time amongst his Brethren in Lord Arthur Hill.

W. Bro. Graham Walker, Secretary



Pictured Front L-R are R.W. Bro. Donald Milliken, For. Rep.; W. Bro. Trevor Carruthers, W.M.; R.W. Bro Ken Cochrane, P.A.G.M. and W. Bro. Peter Cochrane. Back L-R are W. Bro. Mervyn Algie, P.G.S.; W. Bro. Jim Anderson; W. Bro. Ken Gamble, P.P.G.S.; W. Bro. Andrew Shannon and W. Bro. Richard Livingston, P.G.I. Photo: W. Bro. Alan Walker.

NEW ZEALAND VISIT

R.W.Bro. Leslie V Johnston (P.A.G.M. of Armagh) and his wife Florence, recently visited their niece Sheila McCabe in Auckland. While there R.W.Bro. Johnston joined the W. Master and Brethren of Ara Lodge No. 348. This was an excellent meeting where a 3rd Degree was conferred and three new names proposed on the night. Ara Lodge is a strong Lodge representing Irish Freemasonry in Auckland.

The following morning R.W.Bro. Johnston was a guest at Downtown Auckland Rotary breakfast meeting, where the guest speaker was the



Pictured are R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston, M.W.Bro. David Mace and the President of Downtown Auckland Rotary, Kerry Downey.



Pictured are the W. Master W.Bro. D Waller welcoming R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston in the fine setting of the Ara Lodge room.

Grand Master of New Zealand Freemasons, M.W.Bro. David W Mace. He gave a most informative and entertaining speech along similar lines to the approach our own Grand Master M.W.Bro. Eric Waller takes in speaking publicly.

Mourne Masonic Cup

“The Mourne Masonic Cup” organised by Lodge 823 Strabane was played at Newtown Stewart Golf Club on Wednesday 14th June 2006.

The Cup was originally presented to Lodge 823 in 1963 (43 years ago) by Ronnie and Hill Robinson.

The day was a great success, thanks to Brethren from all over the Province. The winner was W.Bro. Albert Warwick from Lodge 396 Cookstown with a score of 40 points. The prizes were presented by R.W.Bro. George Dunlop, Deputy Grand Master.

Harry Friar



Front Row (L-R) R.W.Bro. G Dunlop; W.Bro. Albert Warwick (Winner); W.Bro. Hill Robinson and W.Bro. Leslie Graham (Runner-up).

YES, YOU CAN GET BLOOD OUT OF A MASON!



W. Bro. Arthur Graham, Almoner of Island of Inch Lodge No. 589 receiving a presentation from Paul McElkerney, N.I. Blood Transfusion Service, to mark his 60th unit of blood on the 60th anniversary of the Service, helping to save over 60 lives.

(with accreditation to Phil Gamble - photographer & The Derry Journal)

Cavehill in Queensland

In October 2005, W.Bro. Tom Harper, Cavehill Lodge No. 751, visited his cousins in Brisbane. The photograph shows on the right R.W.Bro. W J Murphy A.F.S.M., P.S.G.W. (cousin) and on the right (his son) W.Bro. R.W. Murphy presenting W.Bro. Harper with a copy of a Centenary History 1893-1993 of Sir Joshua Peter Bell Lodge No. 180 entitled ‘One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in DALBY’. The information was compiled from Lodge records and runs to almost 95 pages (A5) and is a mine of information.

R.W.Bro. Bill Murphy was installed in Sept 1953 as W.M. - he was then the youngest member to have been Installed at that time. Incidentally he has just been elevated to the 31st Degree.



R.W.Bro. Murphy’s mother and W.Bro. Harper’s father was sister and brother hailing from Magheralane, Randalstown. W.Bro. Tom Harper is pictured in the middle.

W.Bro. Tom Harper, Cavehill Masonic Lodge No. 751

St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 43, Carrickfergus

The years 2005/2006 have been historic years for St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 43. The year 2005 saw the 200th Anniversary of the replacement of Warrant No. 270 in 1805 (No. 270 being exchanged for the lower number of 43 in 1817), and the year 2006 being the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of the Lodge in Carrickfergus.

The Brethren of the Lodge had been preparing for the principal events and the first of these was an invitation to the Grand Lodge of Instruction to visit Carrickfergus and see an exemplification of the E.A. Degree. This was accepted by the G.L. of Instruction and so their opening Meeting for the 2005/6 Session was held in Carrickfergus. All the current Officers of the Lodge took part in the exemplification and all the work carried out, i.e. Opening, Receiving, Conducting, Obligating, Instructing and Clothing of the Candidate, received a good account from the G.L. of Instruction.

The next big date for the Lodge was St. Patrick's Day, Friday 17th March, 2006. An Emergency Meeting of the Lodge had been called for 3 p.m. on this day and the Lodge was honoured by the attendance of R.W.Bro. G Dunlop, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and also R.W.Bro. J Dunlop, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim and a large number of other visiting Brethren. Among the large number was a representation of our friends from Scotland, namely Brethren from Fortwilliam Lodge No. 43 (S.C.) and



L-R: Back row, G Robinson (Sec.); J Adamson PPGMSB; J Green R.W.M. 43(S.C.); R Grant I.P.M. 43; E Moore W.M. 43; H K Frazer R.W.M .1258(S.C.). Front row: Cllr. T Clements; F Keep (Treas.); D.G.M.; Dep. Mayor Eric Ferguson and the P.G.M.

also Lodge Battlefield No. 1258 (S.C.).

At the meeting, congratulations and gifts were exchanged and a short paper was read by W. Bro. Jim Adamson P.P.G.M.S.B. on the history of the Lodge from 1756. After the closing of the Meeting an Official Reception was given by the Deputy Mayor of the Borough which was attended by the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master, the W. Master of Lodge 43, W.Bro. E Moore, W. Master of Loge 43 (S.C.); W. Master of Lodge 1258 (S.C.) and other representatives of the Lodge, together with the Ladies.

St. Patrick's Day concluded with an excellent Ladies Night in the Clarion Hotel and again we were honoured

by the attendance of the Deputy Grand Master. After an excellent meal during which commemorative gifts were given both to the Ladies



and the Gentlemen, dancing continued until a late hour, the Shamrock being duly honoured.

The conclusion of a memorable weekend saw a special Divine Service being held on the Sunday afternoon in Joymount Presbyterian Church where a large congregation were welcomed by the Minister of the Church who conducted the Service. In a sense it was appropriate for the Service to be at Joymount as this congregation and the Lodge have had a long and happy association commencing with the foundation Minister of the congregation being initiated into the Lodge in 1853.

The celebration of over 250 years of Freemasonry in the Borough continues openly throughout the summer of 2006 with a very lovely commemorative Flower Bed on the Marine Highway sponsored by St. Patrick's.

New Provincial Assistant Grand Master and Provincial Grand Secretary for the Province of Down



The quarterly communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down held on the 17th of May 2006, saw the installation and investiture of R.W.Bro. Rodney L McCurley as Provincial Assistant Grand Master. R.W.Bro. McCurley, who had formerly served the Province as Provincial Grand Secretary, is seen here with his successor in this office, V.W.Bro. David H Selby.