



A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland

Grand Lodge News



DECEMBER 2004

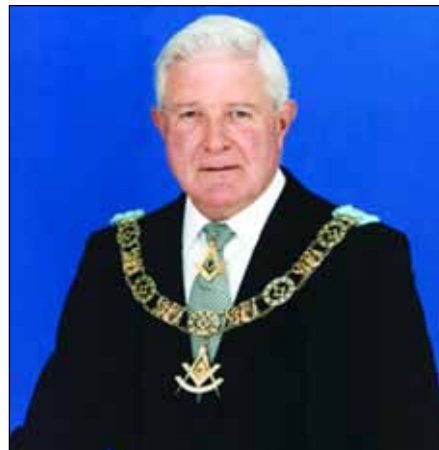
My Vision for the Future

Paper presented by the M.W. Grand Master, Bro. Eric N. Waller at a Series of Talks on 'Irish Freemasonry in the New Millennium' held in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim Masonic Hall, Belfast on Saturday 30th October 2004

The Grand Lodge of Ireland has the responsibility of maintaining the highly respected standards and traditions of Irish Freemasonry throughout our Lodges here at home and overseas. We must also nurture and support regular Grand Lodges of other Constitutions with which we are in amity. We are an essential component in the maintenance of high standards in the World of regular Freemasonry in conjunction with our sister Constitutions of England and Scotland.

During my term of Office as Provincial Grand Master of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Wicklow & Wexford, I became increasingly aware of the poor public perception of our Order. It caused me grave concern. I felt it posed a major threat to our future progress and possibly our very existence. It is almost entirely our own fault that the public see us as sinister, secretive, sectarian and self-interested. We ignore this at our peril. It concerns me that Brethren will talk freely in public about their membership of Rotary, Round Table, Lions, Probus and sports clubs but most will not admit to being Freemasons and indeed many will go to great lengths to hide that fact, which only serves to perpetuate the myth that we are a secret society. If the public do not know what we are, what we do and what we stand for, the result is distrust, suspicion and animosity for which we can only blame ourselves.

Freemasonry is totally different to the above-mentioned organisations. There is so much more to Freemasonry than the shallow depth of to-day's assessment and its scant inspection by to-day's society, obsessed as society is with the material success of the individual, the trappings of success rather than his contribution to society. It is not readily appreciated that membership of a Lodge teaches many life skills often untaught, or not experienced, elsewhere. A Brother must speak in public, make decisions, vote on issues and finally chair meetings. These are invaluable assets in all other aspects of life and for many this may well be the only opportunity of learning, practising and perfecting these skills and



M.W. Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Eric N. Waller.

techniques. The Lodge provides opportunities to experience administration, responsibility, ceremonial activity, fund raising and caring. All in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity and where the increasing turmoil of outside life can be temporarily avoided and batteries recharged to help fit one again for the fray.

There have been dramatic changes in society in recent times. There are fewer so-called "9 to 5" jobs. Work practices have changed to the extent that many folk work long hours and often shifts at anti-social times. Both partners work and there is constant pressure on limited leisure time. Do not forget that Freemasonry is a leisure activity which is not in any way frivolous but must always be a rewarding, stimulating and enjoyable experience. Freemasonry is not for everyone but at all times there will be those to whom it will appeal.

We must ensure that we maintain a correct and interesting balance in planning our Lodge activities, not placing undue emphasis on either ritual or charity fund raising both of which are essential components in the ethos of Freemasonry. Lodge meetings must be planned to ensure that they are something to be enjoyed and not something to be endured.

There is serious concern that American Freemasonry is totally preoccupied with fund raising for non-Masonic causes presumably in a desperate

attempt to achieve popularity and reverse the trend of drastically falling numbers. Some years ago I met a visiting American Brother who attended Wicklow Lodge, Installation meeting, he bemoaned the fact that so much of Masonic Ritual had been lost as it travelled across the Atlantic!

Charity is a natural off-shoot of Brotherly Love and is promoted explicitly in the Masonic ethos but it is not the 'raison d'être' of the Order. Confirmation of this is given in the following quotation by the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, HRH The Duke of Kent who on this point responded:

"On the subject of the Charities, let me remind you first all that Freemasonry itself is not a Charity. Nor does it have charity as its main purpose. Charity is but one expression of the true spirit of Freemasonry, a demonstration to our Brethren and their dependents and to the community that our hearts are indeed expanded by benevolence".

Many Masons seem to view Freemasonry as just another charity and they can fulfil their Masonic commitment by an appropriate cash donation. It is not so, more is hoped and expected of us and as that 'more' may demand time and personal involvement it becomes more difficult to provide. Let us hope that we may prove equal to the task. We strive to do that which is right – to be open and honest to deal fairly, justly and equitably with all men irrespective of creed, race or colour. One of our most famous Masons, Daniel O'Connell, referred to Freemasonry as "Philanthropy, unconfined by nation, colour, sect or religion"

In the past, the Press regularly carried reports of Masonic functions, Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge meetings, frequently mentioning the names of those installed as Officers. For some inexplicable reason this practice died out and we seemed to retire behind closed doors, unwilling to attract attention to ourselves, again perpetuating the myth of secrecy. Our

public profile became almost non-existent.

Tremendous benefits will accrue from informing the public about the true nature of Freemasonry and thereby achieving a vastly improved public image. A major step in this direction was the creation of the Grand Lodge website, an excellent source of accurate information about Irish Freemasonry which can be accessed by the general public and our members wherever they may be at any time. Our website is the envy of our sister Constitutions and reflects great credit on our Webmaster, R.W.Bro. Richard Gray who is with us today. We must try to improve others' perception of our Order. I firmly believe from that new members will emerge.

We must try to correct the false perception of us conveyed by the media and the Churches for they are the agencies who can and do formulate and direct public opinion and both are highly suspicious and even antagonistic.

The Churches find it impossible to accept that we are not in competition but that, in fact, we are supportive of religion and encourage each Brother to increase his interest in his own beliefs. We have no theology, do not have sacraments, do not engage as Freemasons in worship in our Lodges and cannot offer the means of salvation through good works or in any other way. It is interesting to note that we have been approached by The Church of Ireland who is interested in holding talks with us so that they may have a better understanding of Freemasonry and our relationship with the Anglican Church. This is encouraging. The first meeting is scheduled for early December.

I feel very privileged to have been installed as Grand Master in November 2001. It may seem strange but at no stage was I ever briefed as to my duties or responsibilities. I could act largely as a figurehead, appearing mainly on ceremonial occasions but that is not my style. I am not by nature a passenger. For my own satisfaction I must contribute to the success and add to the momentum of our Order.

I made it known that I was prepared to talk to the Media in an attempt to set the record straight and present a very positive public image of our great Order. Appropriate opportunities must be taken to dispel the old myths and focus on the benefits of Freemasonry. Let us identify the positives about our

Order, then talk openly about them and try to promote them. This will necessitate across-the-board activities, starting in the home and family, expanding through one's circle of friends and acquaintances, into the work-place and leisure places – leaving it up to Grand Lodge, of course to deal with the media so that a consistent and coherent message comes across.

Following many years of largely ignoring the media, in the past three years we have had significant success in achieving positive media coverage which would have been virtually impossible without the excellent professional PR expertise and support that we received from Bro. Vere Wynn-Jones in Dublin and W.Bro. Trevor Hanna, here in Belfast. PR projects take quite a time to organise and a lot of groundwork is needed to arouse the interest of a newspaper editor or a radio producer. You must be aware that we have enjoyed very positive press coverage of the support given by the Freemasons of Ireland Medical Research Fund over a four-year period to the Cochlear Implant project for young children born deaf organised by the ENT Dept. of the Belfast City Hospital, a wonderful story of Freemasonry working for the good of the community. Just over a year ago, Bro. Hanna was able to arrange for me to be interviewed by David Dunseith on the BBC Radio Ulster 'Talkback' programme, I survived the experience and believe that the result was positive. That afternoon Bro Hanna arranged a press conference here in Rosemary Street where I was supported by R.W.Bro. George Dunlop and R.W.Bro. Adam McKinley. Reporters attended from the major Belfast papers and over the next few days we received a lot of coverage which was balanced and mostly favourable. Please bear in mind that we have no control over what is printed and 70% success is very successful. The media will not be interested in trivia so we must bide our time until we have an important and interesting story to tell before we take action again. We are regularly in touch with W.Bro. Hanna who is on the alert for suitable opportunities for media exposure which will arise in the future.

Most of our Brethren for years past have been overly defensive about their membership. It is very encouraging for all of us to read or hear something positive in the media about this organisation to which we are so deeply committed. We will feel good and more relaxed and take pride in our

involvement which is good for our morale and the continued success of our Order.

We must demonstrate to the public, hopefully making our Order more attractive to prospective members that Freemasonry aims to develop the individual as a good citizen and as a man with a good moral foundation. Other benefits to society may follow, but they come from individuals acting in their personal capacities and not as Freemasons. It is not easy in the modern world to convince people that while Freemasonry as a body is not for anything and is certainly not a pressure group, its influence on the personal standards of its individual members must be good for society in general and is to be welcomed.

Our greatest critics would like everyone to believe that we are in terminal decline and are engaged in a recruitment drive. The reality is totally different. In its 279 years of existence, the Grand Lodge of Ireland has never embarked on a recruitment drive and it is inconceivable that it ever will. Total membership will always be cyclical. Our numbers reached an unsustainable level during the 1950s and 1960s in the aftermath of the Second World War. To-day total numbers are stabilising and are showing encouraging signs of increase in many areas. Living in South County Dublin, I am very much aware of what is happening among the 36 Dublin Metropolitan Lodges. This month 15 candidates are being processed. This an entirely spontaneous situation and compares with a monthly average of probably two several years ago. Membership in many Provinces has stabilised and in some cases, is on the increase. Our main goal is not to openly seek new members but to improve others' perception of our Order, from that, I believe candidates will emerge and I feel that this is already proving to be the case. At no stage must we ever compromise on our standards for admission, membership being open to men of integrity, of any religion, who believe in a Supreme Being.

I believe that every Brother in every Lodge can play a constructive part in ensuring a successful future for our great Order. In Freemasonry everyone matters. It is up to all of us to decide on the right mix and balance of our activities to maintain the momentum of Freemasonry for our own and future generations' benefit.

FREEMASONS' OF IRELAND GOLFING SOCIETY

The Grand Master's Millennium Cup 2004

The 5th Annual Grand Masters' Millennium Cup finals day was held at Killymoon Golf Club Cookstown on Friday 10th September 2004. Despite the inclement weather, out of the 200 entries, 170 competitors braved the wet conditions and returned some excellent scores.

Once again there were entries from Scotland and the North and South of Ireland, which included Masons, Non Masons and Ladies. This year's competition was won by W.Bro. Jack McGowan from Lodge No 56 in the Province of Antrim, with a score of 43 stableford points playing off a 15 handicap.

The Grand Master M.W.Bro. Eric Waller presented the Millennium Cup and other prizes. This year's event raised a total of £4,500 for Masonic and Outside Charities. The Outside Charity chosen this year by The Chairman of the Northern Provinces, R.W.Bro. George Ginnelly is 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'.



Kate Mark, Carol Knox-Campbell and Valerie Reid.

Prior to the prize giving, an evening of excellent entertainment was enjoyed by all. The entertainment was provided by Mr Ian Coulter who acted as MC for the evening. Mr and Mrs Wilfred Crowe accompanied by a banjo player performed works by Percy French. The father and two sons from the Farry family provided music on the pipes and drums.

The Evening was well attended by approximately 70 people who included the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master, The Grand Secretary and Provincial Grand Masters and Officers from the Northern Provinces with their Partners.

The Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society Committee would thank most sincerely, those who entered this year's competition, sponsors, Lodges and particularly the Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodges for their continual support and encouragement.

The Committee would especially thank The Captain, Council and Members of Killymoon Golf Club for their hospitality, the Caterers and the ground staff for having the course in excellent condition. A new 'Team Prize,' to be played for annually, was added this year, thanks to W.Bro. David Blakely who presented a Cup on behalf of Lodge 409 in the Province of Armagh.



The Grand Master presents the Millennium Cup to W.Bro. Jack McGowan, Lodge 56, Province of Antrim.

Lodge 473 in the Province of Tyrone and Fermanagh won it this year.

Next year's Competition will be held at Killymoon Golf Club on **Friday 16th September 2005**. Details regarding entries can be obtained from the Competition Secretary R.W.Bro Noel Simpson Telephone No. (028) 7082 3332 , E-mail: par70mm589@aol.com

Masonic Charities Bowling Competition

The final of the Masonic Charities Bowling Competition was held on 18th September 2004 in Ballymena – one of the very few sunny days in the month!

Pictured below is W.Bro. Gilbert Beattie (Capt. of Forth River Bowling Club) with some of the victorious team, who won the "Sir William Baird trophy".



Also, R.W.Bro. Noel Millar (P.A.G.M. of Antrim) is seen presenting the runners-up trophy to W.Bro. Stephen Shimmon (Carrickfergus Bowling Club).



4th Generation of Lodge Family Members at St. Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 142, Castlewellan

Pictured right are W.Bro. William James Blackwood, P.G.L.S.C. and his son W.Bro. William F Blackwood, P.M.. This is a case of keeping it in the family as William is the fourth generation to pass through the chair.

W.Bro. Thomas Blackwood passed through the chair in 1904, W.Bro. George Blackwood, 1934, W.Bro. W J Blackwood, 1974 and W.Bro. William Blackwood in 1998. Watch this space there is a possibility of making it a five timer in the future.

W.Bro. John Smyth, P.M. Secretary



How Freemasonry came to China

Freemasonry first reached China on the Prince Carl, a ship of the Swedish East India Company. The Freemasons on board had a document giving them permission to hold meetings whenever they entered a port and they did so in Canton (Guangzhou) in late 1759.

The records of the Grand Lodge of England show that in 1768, Lodge Amity No. 407 was meeting in Canton; however, it had ceased working by the end of the century.

Two Lodges were established in Hong Kong soon after the British acquired the Territory. The older one, Royal Sussex Lodge No. 501 EC (named after the Duke of Sussex, who was then the Grand Master of the English Freemasons) was warranted on 18th September 1844. It later moved to Guangzhou, then on to Shanghai and only returned to Hong Kong in 1952. The second Lodge, Zetland Lodge No. 526 EC was warranted on 21st March 1846. It was named after the Marquis of Zetland, the next Grand Master. Zetland Lodge claims seniority over Royal Sussex Lodge as it has remained in Hong Kong since its formation. Other Lodges were established over the following years.

In 1853 Zetland Lodge built a hall for its meetings on the upper part of Zetland Street where New World Tower now stands. This was the first Zetland Hall and in time it became the meeting place of all the Hong Kong Lodges.

In China, Lodges were formed in Shanghai, then in Ningbo and Tianjin. Lodges were formed eventually in most of the ports of China that were open to foreigners, and in the inland cities of Nanjing, Beijing, Harbin and Chengdu. These operated under charters granted by the supreme Masonic

authorities in many countries, with those with most Lodges being from England, Scotland, Massachusetts and later, the Philippines.

Because of restrictions imposed by the Imperial Government, it was almost impossible for a Chinese to become a Freemason during the Qing Dynasty, although in 1873 the leader of a Chinese educational mission in Massachusetts did so. The first known Chinese to become a Mason in China was Bro. Shan Hing Yung, a Lieutenant in the Imperial Navy, who was initiated into Lodge Star of Southern China No. 2013 EC in Guangzhou in 1889. Early Chinese Freemasons in Hong Kong included Sir Kai Ho Kai and the Honourable Wei Yuk.

By the beginning of the Sino-Japanese War, many Lodges in China had a majority of Chinese members, especially those meeting under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. During the war, the Japanese persecuted Freemasons in the occupied areas of China. Lodges however continued to meet. Several of the Hong Kong Lodges met informally and under very dangerous conditions in the internment camps and Perseverance Lodge No. 1165 EC, meeting in Stanley prison, even kept a minute book.

With the end of the war, the Lodges in China and Hong Kong revived, although some Lodges moved from the provinces into Shanghai, Tianjin and Hong Kong. Enthusiasm was so great that the six Philippine lodges meeting in China, which had an almost entirely Chinese membership, formed the Grand Lodge of China in 1949.

With the establishment of the People's Republic of China, all the Lodges continued to meet, but those that met

in the American Masonic Temple in Shanghai - including the Grand Lodge of China - closed down in 1952. The English District Grand Master of Northern China offered to close if the Central Peoples' Government requested it, affirming that regular Freemasons always give obedience to the lawful government of whichever country they are in. No request was made and the British lodges meeting in the Masonic Hall in Beijing Road West in Shanghai continued to meet without difficulty. Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 428 SC met there until 1962, when it transferred to Hong Kong. This was because its largely foreign membership had by then left China and not because of any conflict with the authorities. The British Masonic Hall then became the Shanghai headquarters of the Five Chinese Medical Associations.

Zetland Hall on Zetland Street in Hong Kong Island had been damaged by Allied bombing at the end of the war and the present Zetland Hall at No. 1 Kennedy Road, was constructed in 1950. This enabled Lodges from Xiamen, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Shantou and Shanghai to be revived, and also permitted expansion of the Craft to take place.

There are now 27 Lodges, with over 1,500 members, meeting at Zetland Hall, together with a considerable number of higher Masonic orders. All Lodges and Orders still meet under the three Grand Lodges of the British Isles, but enjoy considerable local independence.

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Blue Chamber.



Red Chamber.

A Letter from an Outgoing Master

Dear Brethren,

Once again it is time for the outgoing Worshipful Master's letter to the Brethren of Premier Lodge of Connaught No. 14 Galway, so let me start as I intend to end by wishing sincere, hearty and fraternal greetings to all of you whether you attend regularly or irregularly and especially to those whose cable tows are so long that it is some time since they were in Galway.

My letter deals with changes and events, not all of which are happy ones. Sadly, I must record the sad loss of the following brethren...

Turning to happier matters, I am glad to report that it has been a busy year for degrees. Bro. Doyle received his 2nd degree and Bro. Heyworth his 2nd and 3rd degrees. An Emergency Communication of Lodge was held in March so that Bro. Gevers, in spite of his international cable tow, could receive his third degree in his Mother Lodge in Galway. We also initiated three new Brethren, Bros. Conroy, Wright and Kelly. Welcome Brethren! I know that you joined because of a 'preconceived notion of the excellence of the Order' but you would not have known what goes on in Lodge 14, so I hope you are pleased with what you found. I am pleased to report that Bro. Temple, who left Lodge 14 in good standing some years ago, has now rejoined us.

Plenty of degrees means lots of rehearsing. We share out our activities to give as many as possible the chance to participate. Many thanks to all those who did. We are proud of our degree and Lodge working. Certainly, I knew that I would never be embarrassed in front of visitors. Much credit goes to the Officers of the Lodge and especially our Director of Ceremonies W.Bro. Houghton who has always been conscious of the continuing concern of his predecessor R.W.Bro. Bob Hackett. Bob has some strong views on the correct working of the Deacons - we made him a Deacon for 2004 so that he can practise what he preaches!

I must pay special tribute to our Treasurer and Secretary (W.Bros. Chapple & Fenton). Difficult tasks with such an active Lodge as ours. W.Bro. Chapple operates the Website

(<http://indigo.ie~bchapple/index.htm>) and will act as both Treasurer & Secretary in 2004. He must be a glutton for punishment!

The Grand Secretary defined what Freemasonry means to him and concluded that 'above all, the Lodge provides peace & tranquillity, a haven where the expected is unfailingly found'. One change in Lodge is inevitable: we all get older; the 'greying' of the Order is a serious problem. We are fortunate in having one of the healthiest age profiles of any Lodge in Ireland but maintaining this profile requires constant effort by all of us to recruit new members. Failure to do this can be seen in many Lodges where numbers may look healthy but the age gap deters them from attracting younger members and ultimately the Lodge ceases to function. The Province is aware of this and we are fortunate that our W.Bro. De Lacy has been appointed Provincial Development Co-ordinator with responsibility for tackling this problem. W.Bro. De Lacy was also Lodge Development Officer during my term of office. It has been his task to make us all aware of the situation but it is your responsibility to respond to the challenge.

As always, the Lodge has its social events. The Installation Dinner was held in March and there was the chance to entertain partners and friends after our December Communication at Lodge 248 (Roscommon) Ladies Night and at the Provincial Christmas Event. Once again W.Bro. Lynch played a major role in organising this. Following the 'Party on the Square' (The Great Southern, Eyre Square) we had 'The Party at the Lodge' (Oranmore Lodge Hotel). It is rumoured that John plans to take over the Crossing Keeper's hut at Athenry next year so that he can organise 'The Party on the Level'.

Many of us enjoy visiting other Lodges and having other masons visit us in Galway, either individually or in groups. Visiting and receiving visitors has become such a part of Lodge activities that I will not list all such events in this letter. A visit by Brethren to Ossory Lodge 150 (Rathdowney) was notable in that Bro. Gevers was with us to receive his Master Mason's Certificate in open Lodge. I must also

mention the visit of a delegation from Redcliffe Lodge No. 564 (Bangor) led by W. Bro. Ruttle who was returning to his Mother Lodge and the visit of the Newry Brethren who drove a tractor around Ireland collecting for the support of The Childrens' Hospice. As well as being an excellent social event, this visit and the return visit to Newry to attend the handover of the money collected, raised many new ideas about the public image of the Masons and our duty to the community.

This past year, members of the Lodge have been generous in their donations to charity, both to the Masonic Benevolent Funds and outside charities and in donating a garden bench to the Masonic Havens Sheltered Accommodation in Virginia.

The nature of what has traditionally been called charity is changing. Now the requirement is for other help than merely financial. Brethren showed this in practice when they saw to the needs of a Brother who was taken ill during the visit to Bangor Lodge. When I identified the need for a visiting scheme for 'out of town' Masons hospitalised in Galway, I received the Lodge's support and have now circulated details of the scheme throughout Ireland. We cannot help with the needs and problems of Brethren and their dependents unless we know that they exist. If you (or some other Brother or dependent that you know) are in need of any kind of help, let the WM or the Lodge Almoner know.

I inherited an active, healthy Lodge from my predecessor and thanks to the efforts of all of you, I believe that I have handed it on in the same condition to our new WM, W. Br. Trevor McCamley. We live in interesting times in Freemasonry. Our contact with the general public and potential new members is being discussed. New views are also emerging on the true meaning of charity in the Order. I am not ashamed that we are called the 'Premier Lodge' because in many ways we are. I do not say this in a spirit of competition but when a challenge needs to be met, the Brethren of Lodge 14 do not say 'Why?' But 'Why not?'. Long may this continue!

With sincere & hearty fraternal greetings.

Peter Finlay Malpas Engineer, Prisoner of War & Freemason



Peter Finlay Malpas was born in Glasgow on 17 July 1920 and started his engineering apprenticeship in 1936.

In September 1941, Peter was aboard

the tanker 'Athelking,' sailing to Indonesia when his ship was sunk by gun fire by the German raider 'Atlantis'. ('Athelking' right afire)

The Captain was killed by the gunfire. Peter and the remaining survivors were picked up by the raider as POWs. Weeks later, the raider transferred all the 250 POWs aboard the raider to a captured cargo ship 'The Durmitor' and taken to an Italian POW camp in Somaliland. The POWs were liberated at Merca in March 1941

but Peter was hospitalized in Aden. There, Peter was initiated in 1943 into Lodge Felix No. 355 SC and shortly affiliated to Light of Arabia Lodge No. 3870 EC. After bouts of malaria, dengue fever and being seriously ill with typhoid he was finally discharged in 1944.

In 1948 Bro. Peter arrived in Hong Kong and he joined the Hong Kong Electric Company from 1950 until his retirement in 1975. In 1953 Peter affiliated to Shamrock Lodge No.

712 IC in HK. Bro. Peter still attends his Irish lodge at the age of 83. In October he will be a member of Shamrock Lodge for 50 years!

Peter Finlay Malpas has been a Freemason for 60 years and is one of the distinguished few who have served the Craft in three Constitutions.

Bro. Peter currently lives at the 'China Coast Community' in Kowloon, Hong Kong.



Stanley collects charity accolade

East Belfast man, V.W.Bro. Stanley McLroy (Corinthian Lodge No. 34) had his years of tireless fundraising recognised when local charity Cancer Research NI bestowed on him their highest honour.

Stanley, who is no stranger to awards, was made an Honorary Fellow of Cancer Research NI and travelled to London on June 4 to receive his award from Baroness Hayman, the charity's chairperson.

Since 1987, Stanley has single-handedly raised £650,000 for vital research into a disease that will affect one in three of us at some time in our lives and his immense loyalty and dedication continues in spite of the fact that he has just celebrated his 80th birthday.

They say behind every successful man there is a good woman and that is certainly the case where Stanley is concerned. His wife Noreen also devotes time to Cancer Research NI as a volunteer in the



V.W.Bro. Stanley McLroy, Corinthian Masonic Lodge No. 34.

Cregagh Road shop and was by Stanley's side in London to see him receive his well deserved accolade.

350 Supports Renal Unit

Earlier this year, Brethren of Cappagh Lodge 350 (Omagh) organised a barbeque in support of the Worshipful Master's nominated charity. The photograph below shows Members of Cappagh 350 presenting staff in the Renal Unit of the Tyrone County Hospital with a cheque for £700.

W.Bro. W J Young, Secretary



Staff Nurse A Buchanan; W J Young (Lodge Secretary); Staff Nurse J McCrory; G D Ferguson (Steward of Charities); Staff Nurse C O'Hagan; S S Wilson (W.M.) and Staff Nurse C Kilpatrick.

Forty Years of Serviamus

On 28th February 2004, Serviamus Masonic Lodge No. 524 celebrated the installation of W.Bro. R McKnight as our new Worshipful Master and the 40th anniversary of our foundation. Though the Warrant of Serviamus Lodge dates back to 1775, to one of the first travelling military Lodges in the Irish Constitution, the current Lodge was not established until 28th February 1964. The Warrant, however, was granted on 5th December 1963 by the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The Lodge Warrant keeps it's military connection because Serviamus was founded at Kinnegar Army Ordnance Depot in Holywood, Co.Down. W.Bro. J H Lemon, our longest serving Founder Brother, entered into preliminary talks about founding a Lodge for military and civilian personnel at the facility in 1963. Early meetings of interested Brethren were held in his Joinery Workshop and later at the home of one of the military officers. Our first constituted meeting was in The Mount, Belfast. The name **SERVIAMUS** means "We have served" and many of the Brethren have a direct or family service connection.

At the Installation Banquet we were honoured to have present another of



W.Bro. R Ringrow; W.Bro H Galbraith; W.Bro W J Ringrow; W.Bro. R McKnight, W.M. of Serviamus and W.Bro. J H Lemon.

our founding Brethren, W.Bro. W J Ringrow, who was to be presented with his 50 year Jewel by the R.W. Bro. Robert Armstrong, Prov.-Grand Master of Down. W.Bro. Ringrow now practices his Freemasonry in England, and his son Roderick, also present on this occasion, is PM of Lodge 3362, UGLE. His other son, Peter, is PM of Lodge 8421, UGLE, and a Provincial Officer for Berkshire.

Currently we have two Brethren who are founder members - W.Bro. H Galbraith (our Treasurer) and W.Bro. C Hall - and two Brethren who were founder officers. W.Bro. J H Lemon was our first Chaplain and W.Bro. W J Ringrow was our first Steward.

Chest Heart & Stroke Association benefits from Table Quiz

The Brethren of Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835, held a Table Quiz in the Saintfield Sports Pavilion to raise funds for the Chest, Heart & Stroke Association. Their efforts resulted in raising a princely sum of £600 for the Charity.



Pictured above is W.Bro. Girvan Lutton (W.M.) and Bro. N W McFarland presenting the Cheque for £600 to Mrs Dorothy Stevenson and Mrs Abbie Donnan, representatives of the Chest, Heart & Stroke Association. Also included in the picture are Secretary, Treasurer and Brethren of Ardmore Masonic Lodge.

W.Bro. S C McFarland Secretary

Master Mason Certificates to 3 generations of same family in Dromara 498



A unique event in the history of Dromara Masonic Lodge No. 498 in the Province of Down, took place at their April Communication when 3 generations of the same family were presented with their Certificates.

Our photograph shows (L-R) R.W.Bro. Robert McMurray (PAGM), who made the presentations, Bro. Keith Megarry, Bro. Guy Megarry, Bro. Malcolm Megarry recipients of M.M. Certificates and W.Bro. Raymond Jess, W.M. of the Lodge.

Dromore No. 70

Friday 7th November 2003 saw the unveiling of a Past Masters Board for Lodge 70 in Dromore Masonic Hall. Lodge 70 was warranted in 1761 and the board records the Past Masters from 1811 which is the oldest of the records held by the Lodge.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Down, R.W.Bro. Cecil D Burns, unveiled the board. After the unveiling the P.D.G.M. joined the Brethren of the Lodge and guests at a Celebration Dinner after which W.Bro. P Butler gave an interesting talk on the history of Lodge.

At the close of the evening a comprehensive vote of thanks was proposed by W.Bro. W J Mawhinney seconded by W.Bro. W T McNeill to all who had helped in fund raising to help purchase the



Pictured at the unveiling from left to right: W.Bro. I. Doig Sec.; W.Bro. W J Mawhinney Treas.; W.Bro A Brame W.M.; R Wor.Bro C D Burns PDGM.; W.Bro T Yarr (Maker of P.M. Board) W.Bro P Butler PM (Lodge Historian).

board and W.Bro. T Yarr who had made such dignified and delightful board.

The W.M. of Lodge 70 W.Bro. Arthur Brame then presented the P.D.G.M with an inscribed gavel as reminder of his evening with Lodge 70.

Castlemervyn No. 58 Trillick host Scottish visit

A connection was established between the above Lodge and Barrhill Twecker Lodge No. 1444 from near Glasgow because a son of one of the members of Trillick joined Barrhill two years ago. An interest was expressed by our Scottish Brethren to visit Trillick to exemplify the 3rd Degree according to the Scottish Rite.

On May 29th when R.W.Bro. John McNeish opened Barrhill Lodge at 7.00 p.m., Enniskillen Masonic Hall was packed with Brethren from Lodges in Tyrone and Fermanagh including R.W.Bro. Harry Weir (P.G.M.), R.W.Bro. Norman Humes (P.A.G.M.) and V.W.Bro. Maurice Lee (P.G. Sec. & Gd. Steward).

After welcomes etc. our Scottish Brethren proceeded to exemplify their 3rd Degree in what can only be described as a faultless exposition



The photograph includes R.W.Bros. Weir & Humes; V.W.Bro. Lee together with R.W.Bro. McNeish (W.M. Barrhill) and W.Bro. Hunter (W.M.Castlemervyn)

which was watched by a rapt audience who marvelled at the detail, precision, actions and above all how word perfect everyone was.

The Lodge and team were warmly congratulated by R.W.Bro. Humes and this was greeted with prolonged

applause. Gifts were exchanged and the evening concluded with almost 90 guests and Brethren enjoying the Festive Board and some good craic. A generous contribution was made to our Charities.

W.Bro. Brian Edwards

Culmore Lodge No. 320 – Presentation of sixty year bar to V.W. Bro. Joe McLucas

On Thursday 12th October 1944, V.W. Bro. Joe McLucas joined Culmore Masonic Lodge No. 320. I suppose like all young men of his time he probably thought that he would never see sixty years as a Mason but, he was proved wrong. At 83 years of age he proudly returned to Victoria Hall, Culmore to receive his 60 year bar to his 50 year jewel which he received in 1994. Joe was very proud to be a Mason and having been through the chair in 1955, involved himself in all aspects of the Craft, carrying out the important position of Secretary for a considerable number of years before the advent of the 10 year rule. He was elected to office in Provincial Grand Lodge, attaining the rank of Provincial Senior Grand Warden and had a very active role in the Derry Masonic Fund and was very proud of both.

However, it was the setting up of 'Joe's Class of Instruction' that set him apart. Tuesday nights were class nights at Culmore and many 'up and coming' young Brethren from Culmore and neighbouring Lodges have Joe to thank for the quality of their ritual and their degree work. The Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. George Dunlop presented Joe with his 60 year bar and recounted that it was at Joe's Classes that he cut his teeth in Masonic



The photograph shows Joe with the Wor. Master, W. Bro. Maurice Lynch, The Deputy Grand Master, V. Wor. Bro. Joe McLucas and the Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry & Donegal.

workings which probably contributed much to the launch of a successful career in the Order. He added that Joe was a perfectionist in all that he undertook but, even if class members performed well, he would often avoid superlatives and comment 'that wasn't too bad', which was taken by all as a compliment.

The Deputy Grand Master also presented Joe with an authentic copy of the Daily Express issued on the date of his initiation. He added that he had known Joe as a working colleague, friend and Freemason for over 40 years and was honoured and proud to be associated with the presentation.

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Robert Quigley also attended along

with R.W. Bro Arthur Fielding, Past Grand Deacon, Provincial Officers from both Londonderry & Donegal and Down and a considerable number of other Masonic friends who were all delighted to meet with Joe, once again.

A very enjoyable supper followed the meeting at which Joe expressed his sincere thanks having recovered his emotions following the presentation in the Masonic Temple.

W. Bro. G.D. Parkhill, Secretary

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 simple and short" - and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

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