



# A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland Grand Lodge News



DECEMBER 2010

## Grand Master's Address – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 - Belfast



Since the June Communication, things have been relatively quiet due to few lodges meeting during the summer months. However, I had the pleasure of accepting invitations to visit a few European Grand Lodges, which I found to be most enjoyable and at which I was well received.

On 4<sup>th</sup> June, my Deputy and I attended an Installation Communication of the Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland in Geneva. The main Communication was preceded by a Confirmation of Marriage Vows Ceremony, in the presence of both members and ladies, which involved a recently married Freemason and his new wife. Duggie and I, along with the visiting Brethren, were intrigued by the ritual which was very interesting but one which we would be unlikely to adopt. The main Installation Ceremony went exceedingly well and contained a number of variations which were quite dissimilar to our working.

We were also shown a video about the 'Origin of Freemasonry' which was most professionally displayed on the both sides of the temple, so enhancing the viewing for all present.

I visited Lodge 814 Whiteabbey on 8<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the Centenary of the Lodge with the Master and Brethren and later presented R.W.Bro. Cyril Ferguson with his 50 years medal. On the following Sunday, a church service was held at Abbot's Cross to mark 100 years of continuous working.

The Annual Summer Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Connaught, held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, proved to be a very pleasant experience. Many Provincial Grand Masters were present and the new Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Norman Reid treated us exceptionally well. We all had a quiet reflection on the absence of R.W.Bro. George Ginnelly, who was so committed to his work as Provincial Grand Master and gave unselfishly of his time and talents to the promotion of our Order.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June, I had a very pleasant visit to Carrareagh Lodge No. 374 in North Antrim. The visit was most enjoyable and I was most impressed with the tremendous Masonic spirit which prevailed.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal held its communication in Donemana on 17<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Donemana Lodge 256. There was a good turnout and the ritual and arrangements were exceptionally well done.

On 18<sup>th</sup> June, the Grand Secretary and I visited the Grand East of the Netherlands to see their new Grand Master installed. Many foreign delegations attended and the hospitality extended to all was top class.

The Tripartite meeting of the Home Constitutions was held in London on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> July when we held our annual discussions relating to International and domestic Freemasonry.

I attended The Summer Lodge in Dublin on 21<sup>st</sup> July and congratulate R.W.Bro. Phillip Daley and his team for an excellent day.

August proved to be a rather quiet month with the exception of the Annual Golf Competition for the Grand Master's Cup at Cookstown. The event was most successful and my thanks go to the Golf Committee for all the hard work they put into this event which raises substantial sums for Charity every year.

R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson and his wife Pauline are the backbone of this competition which would not be the same without them and I thank them dearly for the magnificent and selfless effort which they give every year to ensure its success. Two hundred and fifty golfers took part and we were honoured by the presence of a semi-professional golfer, our Deputy Grand Master. He hasn't been seen since and we believe that he is still out on the course looking for his ball!

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September, I presented and signed a

225 year Anniversary Certificate to St. Columb's Lodge No. 640 at their stated communication as I was unable to attend their formal celebrations.

A very successful 'Open Day' was once again held in Freemasons' Hall, Londonderry on 11<sup>th</sup> September followed by an invitation to the public, at a later date, to attend an evening function in the hall. Some 300 hundred visitors attended this function and a better understanding of our Order was achieved through presentations about Freemasonry and tours of the building. Congratulations to the Chairman, W.Bro. Trevor Taylor and the Board of Management.

We had a most interesting visit to Stockholm by invitation of the Grand Lodge of Sweden, where only Christians may join. A formal communication was not held as they preserve their secrets most tenaciously, however, they gave us a demonstration of receiving a candidate in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree from ancient times to the present day when they decided to Christianise their order. The Swedish Order adopted this change through the wishes of Prince Charles of Sweden. Although a formal communication was not held we were treated to a sumptuous banquet which followed the demonstration and at which I was the principal guest.

My recent visit was to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Forfarshire of the Scottish Constitution, in Dundee, when a new Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Sandy Christie, a good friend of mine, was installed by the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, another good friend. A number of Irish Masons were present and were paraded in with me when I was received and welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master.

Looking forward, I would remind you all of the forthcoming 'Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year Competition' running from 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October in Freemasons' Hall and would appeal to you all for your support. We plan to run this competition each year, for the next five years when we can reassess the financial outcomes and hopefully plan for the future. I anticipate that Grand Lodge profit will grow over that period and will eventually stabilise in 2015 and that our competition will continue into the future.

God Bless you all.

Grand Master

# The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2010

by Eamonn Lawlor



Eamonn Lawlor is a Founder Patron of the Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year. Before joining RTÉ *lyric fm* when it started in 1999, he was one of Ireland's leading news broadcasters for many years, presenting 'Six One' and 'Prime Time' on RTÉ 1 television. He has now become the most prestigious 'voice of music' on RTÉ *lyric fm*, where he presents a number of flagship music programmes including the regular Friday night RTÉ Symphony Orchestra concerts live from the National Concert Hall. He acted as the Presenter for both the Semi-Finals and Final at Freemasons' Hall on October 14th & 16th. The Final was broadcast in full by RTÉ *lyric fm* on Monday evening Oct 18th, when it was also introduced by Eamonn Lawlor.

## First Prize:

Macdára Ó Seireadáin  
*Clarinet*

## Second Prize:

Jessica Grimes  
*Clarinet*

## Third Prize:

Soo-Yeon Ham  
*Piano*

## Fourth Prize:

Conor Palliser  
*Piano*

## Brennan Prize:

Daniel Dunne  
*Saxophone*

Beneath the gaze of the Grand Masters in their gilded frames, a young saxophonist stepped onto the dais in the Grand Lodge Room on Thursday afternoon and launched into Yoshimatsu's Fuzzy Bird Sonata. Music with a whiff of rock and jazz - a splendid surprise, and the perfect opening for the inaugural competition: the vibrant musicality of Daniel Dunne's performance blowing away any doubts that the event would be all we had hoped for - and more.

Not that our hopes were modest: from the beginning we knew this was an initiative that could not have been more timely. Young musicians are beginning their careers at a particularly difficult time. Music lovers are trimming their sails and thinking twice before buying concert tickets; corporate sponsorship of music has also suffered. Now more than ever we need reminding that today's tickets and today's concerts are not a luxury for the moment, but an investment in the joy of music for the generations of audiences to come. The Irish Freemasons have made that investment - and the return is bound to be great.

In October last year, when Grand Lodge decided to sponsor the competition for a minimum of five years, the groundwork had already been laid. An organizing committee was in place, availing of the expertise and experience of Events GLL; the four Patrons (Dearbhla Collins, Jane Carty, John Rowden and myself) had gladly lent our support. Soon the Music Colleges (The CIT Cork School of Music, Cork; The DIT Conservatory of Music & Drama, Dublin; The Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, University of Limerick and The Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin) would be enthusiastic participants, seizing the opportunity to promote their talented students and selecting the eleven semi-finalists.

The inspiration had come from the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland Staffa award, which is supported by the Grand Lodge of Scotland - but there was much to be done to adapt the model to local needs and circumstances. Jane Carty, with her extensive experience of music competitions, was our guide through several potential minefields, such as the rulebook and the recruitment of the jury. Not that Jane thinks in terms of minefields: for her, the rulebook was a means to securing the highest standard of competitor and a well-chosen jury would ensure the credibility of the competition and enhance its value.

I am glad to say that from the start my RTÉ colleagues shared my own enthusiasm for the venture. We were keenly aware that the lapsing of the RTÉ Musician of the Future Competition had left an important gap in our support for music, and the invitation to be associated with the Freemasons' Competition was an opportunity to be seized with both hands. Without hesitation *lyric fm* resolved to broadcast the final; both RTÉ Orchestras offered performance opportunities to the winner, who will also be our nominee for the European Broadcasting Union's New Talent Competition; our Executive Director of Performing Groups served on the inaugural International Jury. So happily has the co-operation turned out this year, we can only hope for it to be renewed and intensified in the Competitions to come.

I have dwelt on those parts of the organization in which I had some involvement - but they were the tip of the iceberg. As the finals approached I saw for the first time the full scale of the operation: jury members flown in and ferried to their hotel rooms, the stage set and lights hung, publicity interviews arranged; rehearsals scheduled, everything following the meticulously detailed production script (modeled on Covent Garden's). Making it happen was a group of organizers so self-effacing that I am asked not to name names, but of whom Grand Lodge should be very proud.

They, together with Joseph Brennan (who sponsored the Brennan Prize in honour of his parents) and all concerned had their reward in the music. The playing by all eleven competitors, by their own accompanists and by competition pianist Dearbhla Brosnan was a triumph - as was the guest recital by Finghin Collins, reminding us of how competition winners build on their success to become even finer musicians.

As we said on the Final night, it was an occasion on which to remember that Mozart was still a youth when he was first helped on his way by the patronage of Freemasons in Vienna. Later, when he became a Mason, his lodge was called 'Beneficence'. He knew how much a young musician is in need of support and beneficence - and he certainly knew a brilliant clarinettist when he heard one. As the Irish Freemasons send Macdára Ó Seireadáin on his way as their Young Musician of the Year 2010, they surely have Mozart's blessing for him, and for their efforts.



1. Councillor Eaoghan Murphy (representing the Lord Mayor of Dublin) and Mrs Murphy. 2. Macdára Ó Seireadáin with Jury Chairman, Mrs Jane Carty 3. The 2010 Winners: Daniel Dunne, Soo-Yeon Ham, Macdára Ó Seireadáin, Jessica Grimes, Conor Palliser. 4. Concert pianist Finghin Collins, who gave a short celebrity recital during the Competition, with Mr Joseph Brennan, donor of the Brennan Prize. 5. Macdára Ó Seireadáin performing his successful final 6. The Grand Master presents the 2nd prize to clarinettist Jessica Grimes. 7. Macdára Ó Seireadáin is congratulated at the Reception by Jury Member, Maestro Robin Stapleton. 8. The Grand Master presents the 1st prize to a delighted Macdára Ó Seireadáin. 9. The Grand Master with 3rd prize winner, pianist, Soo-Yeon Ham.

# Grand Master's Speech at the Final of the Young Musician Competition

Councillor Murphy, representing The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Our predecessors, the original operative Masons, were encouraged to study within their Lodges, the 'Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences'. These were: — Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy and Music.

The study of these Liberal Arts has been handed down and is still a part of our Craft today. It is therefore a very particular pleasure for me that, during my time as Grand Master, it has been possible to institute the Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year Competition, which will be evidence for many years to come of our abiding interest in this particular Art.

However, the status of competitions has become somewhat cheapened these days. They are so ubiquitous. "The X Factor", "Dancing on Ice", "Pop Star to Opera Star" where, often with only a few weeks training, someone becomes the 'winner' and is feted as such.

Our competitors over the last few days have not had just a few weeks training. They have been working hard at their chosen profession for years, day in and day out, studying and practicing to reach the high standard we have been privileged to witness in the semi-finals and the finals.

In fact, all these young people are really winners, but to maintain their profession they have many years of hard work before them, which may never stop until they retire.

To them I say, thank you so much for agreeing to take part and I hope that it has not been too stressful and has been a rather enjoyable experience.

I know that you all (and particularly our Finalists) are anxious for me to hand over to the Chairman of the Jury so that you can hear their adjudication - but there are some people whom I really must thank and hope you will bear with me for a little while longer. There is one group of people without whom this competition would never have got off the ground - our Patrons, namely; Jane Carty, Dearbhla Collins, Eamonn Lawlor and John Rowden.

Without the slightest hesitation they freely gave us every assistance they possibly could, to the absolute utmost of their very considerable expertise. We shall be forever indebted to them all.

The status of any competition is, to a huge extent, influenced by the status of those who adjudicate it: Professor Carol-Dawn Reinhart, Mr. Seamus Crimmins, Mr. Martin Loveday, Monsieur Dominique Merlet and Maestro Robin Stapleton, our Jury, who are all pre-eminent in their field and, as a consequence, very busy and sought after people.

I am grateful indeed to them that they felt able, within their very

tight schedules, to agree to bring their expertise to bear on our Competition here.

The selection for the semi-final was made by the Music Colleges themselves, namely;

The Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin;  
The DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama in Dublin;  
The CIT School of Music in Cork;  
The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in Limerick.

We are privileged to have the Heads of those Colleges here with us tonight. Thank you so much for agreeing to participate in our Competition. I hope this will be the first of a long and fruitful cooperation between us as the Competition goes on from year to year.

We have received splendid cooperation from RTÉ and RTÉ *lyric fm*, hand in hand with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, both of whom who have offered a future engagement to the winner. It is very good to have such support from our National Broadcaster and I thank you wholeheartedly.

Everyone making a speech states the next sentence which I am going to use. "Of course, events like this don't run themselves". There is no other way to put it. The events of this week are the culmination of months of work not only by our Patrons, but by the staff here at Grand Lodge and an Operations team of Events GLL, which includes both Freemasons and non-Masons alike. There are too many to name individually and I suspect that they would not want this anyway, as they consider it a team effort. But please, both individually and collectively, accept my thanks and my appreciation for the professional way everything has been organized. Please make sure you have next year's dates in your diary – we shall need you again!!

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will be familiar with the words of Yeats:

*'I have spread my dreams under your feet  
Tread softly for you tread on my dreams.'*

These young people, who have performed so beautifully for us have indeed spread their dreams under our feet. We must tread softly and nurture them carefully. They are our future!

Thank you.

# 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.

<b>Distinguished Brethren</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Lodge Name &amp; No.</b>	<b>Province</b>
R.W.Bro. Stephen F Sweetnam	70	Harlech Masonic Lodge No. 165	North Connaught
Bro. Frederick A L Gardner	68	Geraldine Masonic Lodge No. 171	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Lyster Donnan	65	Warrenpoint Masonic Lodge No. 697	Down
W.Bro. William J Gordon	60	Mount Masonic Lodge No. 358	Down
W.Bro. David Foster	60	Redhall Masonic Lodge No. 260	Antrim
W.Bro. Joseph H Lemon	60	Serviamus Masonic Lodge No. 524	Down
W. Bro. David E N Muldrew	60	St Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 77	Down
W.Bro. William G Moreland	60	St Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 43	Antrim
R.W.Bro. Mervyn W Morrison	60	Chatham Hall Masonic Lodge No. 152	Antrim
R.W.Bro. Israel Abernethy	60	St Columba Temperance Masonic Lodge No. 637	Antrim
W.Bro. Henry F O Welland	60	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 27	Munster
W.Bro. Samuel A Millar	60	Sir George Clark Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 669	Antrim
V.W.Bro. Lewis G Gray	50	Light of the West Masonic Lodge No. 20	North Connaught
W.Bro. David Jamison	50	Randalstown Masonic Lodge No. 598	Antrim
W.Bro. John F Stuart	50	Cairncastle Masonic Lodge No. 788	Antrim
W.Bro. Gordon B McKay	50	Union Band Masonic Lodge No. 35	Down
Bro. John J McGuire	50	Sunbeam Masonic Lodge No. 191	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Alan J McMaster	50	St George's Masonic Lodge No. 267	Antrim
W.Bro. Ronald V West	50	St Patrick's Senior Masonic Lodge No. 623	Armagh
Bro. Derek Duffield	50	Ballynahinch Masonic Lodge No. 301	Down
W.Bro. John Wilson	50	Latharna Masonic Lodge No. 375	Antrim
V.W.Bro. Richard C R Treacy	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 555	Munster
W.Bro. Mervyn J Johnston	50	Barton Masonic Lodge No. 220	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. George S Malone	50	Ara Masonic Lodge No. 348	New Zealand
W.Bro. Ian P Gray	50	Shaftesbury Masonic Lodge No. 327	Antrim
W. Bro. John Paterson	50	William White Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 682	Down
W.Bro. Frederick I Topping	50	Spa Masonic Lodge No. 703	Down
Bro. Hugh Millin	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 443	Down
Bro. James N Millin	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 443	Down
V.W.Bro. Beckett I Gawley	50	Tyrawley Masonic Lodge No. 217	North Connaught
W.Bro. Thomas L Graham	50	Cavehill Masonic Lodge No. 751	Antrim
W.Bro. Donald E Davinson	50	Charity Masonic Lodge No. 688	Down
W.Bro. George Esler	50	Union Masonic Lodge No. 148	Antrim
W.Bro. William J McCloy	50	Union Masonic Lodge No. 148	Antrim
W.Bro. Derek W Cummins	50	Dundrum Masonic Lodge No. 488	Down
W.Bro. Robert Imrie	50	Dundrum Masonic Lodge No. 488	Down
W.Bro. John W L McCall	50	Mount Masonic Lodge No. 358	Down
W.Bro. Joseph E McKernan	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 428	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas N McAuley	50	St Patrick's Masonic Lodge No. 43	Antrim
R.W.Bro. Norman Humes	50	Castleberg Masonic Lodge No. 799	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. William O Young	50	Castleberg Masonic Lodge No. 799	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Charles Gibb	50	Langford Masonic Lodge No. 616	Antrim
Bro. Philip L Johns	50	Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge No. 147	Down

## "ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION" (RNLI) BENEFITS FROM MASONIC GOLF COMPETITION

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Master's Millennium Cup Competition organised by the Freemasons of Ireland Golfing Society was held at the Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

Once again, this popular competition continues to attract growing numbers of Masons, Non-Masons and Ladies from all over Ireland, Scotland, England, Finland and the Isle of Man. This year we had a Masonic Brother, from Germany, Professor Rolf Kalff, Head of Neurosurgical Department Friedrich Schiller University Jena, having seen the entry on the Grand Lodge Web-Site.

Rolf enjoyed the competition and hospitality so much he hoped to come back next year and bring a few others.

The weather was excellent for golf, and with a magnificent array of prizes to the value of £1,500; 234 competitors enjoyed the pleasant conditions and returned some excellent scores.

The winner of the Grand Master's Cup was Ken Taylor, of Carareagh Lodge No. 374 (Masonic Province of Antrim), with 42 Stableford points.

The Team Prize was won by Trevor Bownes and Wesley Hutton representing Victory Masonic Lodge No. 459 in the Province of Tyrone and Fermanagh with a combined score of 82.

Best gross was won by Killymoon Secretary Manager Norman Weir with an excellent score of 76 gross.

The prize for the best overseas visitor was carried off by Timo Sankari from Finland.

Ladies prizes were won by Ann Teggarty, May Baxter and Diana McClelland.

Non-Mason's prizes were won by Dave Pollock, Ken Nesbitt, and Glynn Reese.

The day concluded with a great evening of entertainment and prize-giving, well attended by approximately 100 people which included the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master, and Provincial Grand Masters and Officers from the Northern Provinces together with their Partners.

The prizes were presented by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop.

Tributes were paid to the organisers of the event, R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson and his wife, Pauline, and the organising Committee. 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. Also, to the many Sponsors who donated a large number of very valuable prizes which were on display on all the tee boxes on the golf course and display boards in the Clubhouse.

The competition raised in excess of £6,000 in aid of Masonic and non-Masonic charities. A cheque for £3,000 was presented to Emma Gibson, Coordinator for the R.N.L.I, by the Chairman of the Northern Provinces Committee, R.W.Bro. Richard Gray, Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Province of Down.

R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson

## History of the Masonic Boys' School

You will know that the Masonic Girls and Masonic Boys Benevolent Funds continue to provide support for the education of children of our deceased and deserving Brethren at schools throughout Ireland. These Funds were established following the closure of the Masonic Girls' and Boys' Schools in 1972 and 1980, respectively.

The history of the Boys' School, up to its centenary in 1967, is set out in J.F. Burns' book 'Shop Window to the World'. This year, the Masonic Old Boys' Association commissioned a further book on the Boys' School, covering the period 1967 - 1980, and this deals comprehensively with life at the School during those final years and, particularly, with events surrounding the decision to close the School and how the Order managed that difficult situation.

It is intended that the book will be available in March 2011. The two Masonic Schools, which were highly regarded throughout Ireland, were an outward and visible sign of the Order's fraternal benevolence for well over a century and represented a very significant part of the charitable aspect of Irish Freemasonry. You may, therefore, find this book interesting reading. If you would be interested in acquiring a copy (the price has not yet been determined, but it is likely to be inexpensive) perhaps you would let me know, so that I can advise the Masonic Old Boys' Association.

Gerald Hill  
g.hill@nireland.com



1. 3rd Prize Winner (Non-Masons) Glynn Reese & the Grand Master; 2. The Grand Master with the visiting Brethren from Finland; 3. 9th Prize Winner (Masons) – Richard Campbell; 4. Emma Gibson receiving cheque for £3,000 from R.W.Bro. Richard H Gray (P.G.M. Down) Chairman of the Northern Provinces Committee 2010.; 5. Sponsor of Ladies Prizes – Vivian McKeown (VMK Limousines – Mullingar); 6. 2nd Prize Winner (Masons) – John Richardson & the Grand Master; 7. 1st & 2nd Prize Winners (Ladies) – May Baxter & Ann Teggarty; 8. Grand Master presenting the Millennium Cup to R.W.Bro. John Dickson (P.G.M. Antrim); 9. 1st Prize Winner & Winner of Team Cup – Trevor Bownes – with the Grand Master

## Bro. Peter Finlay Malpas POW Freemason and Survivor

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the Worshipful Master and members of Shamrock Lodge No. 712 celebrated Bro. Peter's ninety-first birthday at Delaney's Irish Restaurant, Wanchai Hong Kong, a favourite navy personnel watering hole when ashore.

Peter's father, James Malpas OBE RNR was a Lt. Commander during WW II and served during the black days when British merchant ships were under repeated attack by German submarine wolf flocks. Bro. Peter entered the war in 1941 and was an engineer aboard a tanker 'The Athelking' when his ship was attacked by the famous German raider 'The Atlantis'. The raider sank the 'Athelking' killing the Captain and some crew members. After being fished out of the drink by the Atlantis crew, he was transferred to a captured cargo prize ship and offloaded to a POW camp in Mogadishu and then to Merca Italian Somaliland. He just survived this incarceration until the camp was liberated by South African forces, from the cruiser 'HMS Ceres' and was sent to Aden suffering from malaria and dengue fever and eight months in hospital where he nearly died of typhoid. (See more of Peter's exploits and run in with the famous German raider "The Atlantis" <http://web.me.com/briancoak> "The Fox & the Rabbit").

The old war horse was far from being finished and soon went back to sea and into the thick of it again. In 1949 the frigate, 'HMS Amethyst', steamed up the Yangtze River to relieve the guard ship 'HMS Consort' at Nanking, prepared to evacuate British and Commonwealth citizens caught up in the advance of the Chinese Communist Forces.

The Amethyst came under fire from Communist shore batteries yet the ship steamed on and was attacked again by batteries around Xou An Reach and Rose Island where she took three direct hits. Amethyst was hit again by two shells that struck the bridge wounding the Amethyst's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Bernard Skinner. Skinner died from his injuries a day later. In the confusion that followed, the ship ran aground off Rose Island. The ship received over 50 hits and holes below the waterline plugged with hammocks.

Peter was an engineer on board another tanker the 'Green Ranger' at the time and was ordered to bunker the 'HMS Amethyst' during the Yangtze Incident, as the Amethyst had insufficient fuel. The

'Green Ranger' laden with fuel was fired upon and ordered by the navy to "get the hell out of it"! Peter's tanker then sailed down the Yangtze to wait for the frigate at the mouth of the river.

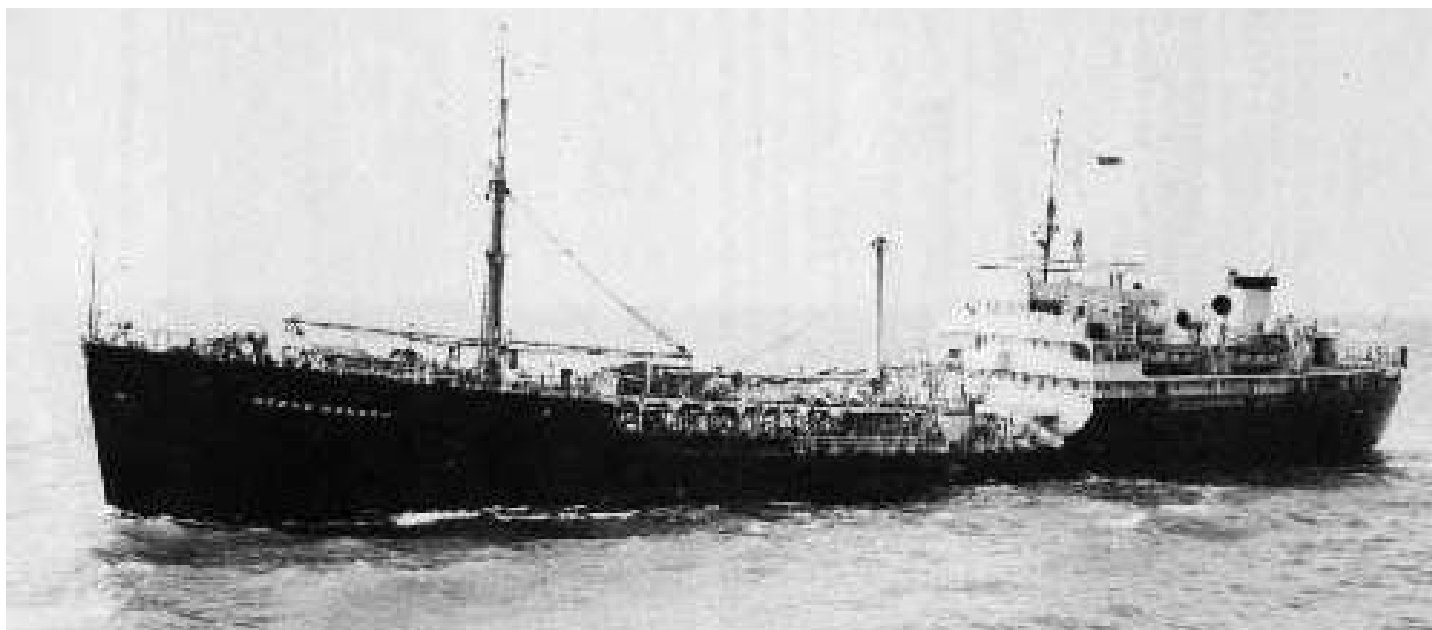


*Peter Malpas*

Finally Lt. Cdr. Kerans made a break for open waters on July 31st under cover of darkness, the Amethyst slipped her cable and proceeded down stream to begin the 104-mile dash for freedom running the gauntlet of Communist guns on both banks of the river.

After the 'Amethyst' arrived at the mouth of the Yangtze river she was given sufficient fuel by the 'Green Ranger' to sail for Hong Kong. The frigate then entered Hong Kong harbour where the ship was received with rapturous acclaim. The Commodore extended his congratulations to the Green Ranger too. The tanker also received Battle Honours for its support to the frigate.

*Brian Coak Hon.PGD; PAPGM; PM712*



*HMS Amethyst*



## Macmillan Cancer supported by Crumlin Lodge 140

The year 2010 saw the 200th Anniversary of Crumlin Royal Blue Masonic Lodge 140 with 3 events in the months of June and July. An Open Day was held at the Masonic Hall with the display of Vintage tractors/cars / model cars/lorries and a display of photographs of Crumlin and surrounding areas. A large crowd visited the displays with many visiting the Lodge Room.

A Church Service was held in Killead Presbyterian Church on Sunday 4th July 2010. This service was well attended with the collection amounting to £1000.00. The Service was conducted by W.Bro. Rev.W D Weir and W.Bro. J H McClurg Provincial Grand Chaplain, both members of Lodge 140.

The Lodge held a 200th Anniversary Emergency Communication in Crumlin Masonic Hall on Saturday 3rd July 2010, the date of the issue of the warrant in 1810. On the evening of 3rd July a banquet was held in the Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim with a total of 139 members/non members and ladies in attendance. Those present included the R.W. Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston and R.W.Bro. John Dickson, Provincial Grand Master of Antrim.

At the Banquet a ballot/auction was held. A total of £5000.00 was raised from the Open Day, Auction/Ballot and generous donations from the members of the Lodge. A cheque was presented to the Macmillan Cancer/Palliative Care Unit.



W.Bro. Dennis Minford (left) Worshipful Master of Crumlin Royal Blue Masonic Lodge 140, accompanied by W.Bro. Rodney Mairs, Director of Ceremonies and W.Bro. David McFetridge, Secretary, is pictured presenting a cheque for £5,000 to Jill Stubbs and Pat McHenry, members of the Macmillan Cancer Care Antrim Support Group and Maria McGleenon Fundraising Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The money, which was raised during the celebrations to mark the 200th Anniversary of Crumlin Royal Blue Masonic Lodge 140, will go towards the Palliative Care Unit at Antrim Area Hospital. Lodge members would like to express their sincere thanks to the members of the public for their generous support.

## Moneymore Masonic Lodge 531 Makes a Further Donation to Charity

As a result of the 2009 Lodge Barbeque, Moneymore Masonic Lodge No. 531 raised a considerable amount for charity. The Lodge organised a barbeque at Springhill House, the Lenox-Conyngham 17th-century 'Plantation' home and as a result was able to donate £1,500 to the Crohns and Colitis Charity.

The photograph shows Roberta Wish, Geraldine Eastwood and Jean Farr receiving the cheque from the Lodge. There is no known pharmaceutical or surgical cure for Crohn's disease.

Treatment options are restricted to controlling symptoms, maintaining remission and preventing relapse. Moneymore Lodge have a history of charity donations which help the community and this is yet another example.



## The Province of Armagh honours loyal service

On the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> April a celebratory dinner was hosted by The Province of Armagh in honour of R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins, (Provincial Grand Master June 2001 – March 2009) and R.W.Bro. Dermot B. Hill, Provincial Deputy Grand Master (October 2001 – Jan 2010).

Presentations were made to both Brethren in recognition of their loyal service to the Province.

The toast to R.W.Bro. George Miskimmins was proposed by The P.G.M. of Armagh R.W.Bro. R.Wilson Mark and seconded by The P.G.M. of Wicklow & Wexford R.W.Bro. Harvey F.J. Heavener. This was followed by the toast to R.W.Bro. Dermot B. Hill proposed by P.D.G.M. of Armagh R.W.Bro. M.O. Steenson and seconded by The P.G.M. of Meath R.W.Bro. Cecil Tilsen.

The dinner was attended by the Most Worshipful Brother George Dunlop, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; along with Douglas Grey, Deputy Grand Master; Leslie Johnston, Assistant Grand Master and many of the Provinces throughout Ireland were also represented.



*R.W.Bro. Miskimmins & Hill in the company of The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master & Assistant Grand Master and other distinguished Brethren.*

## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT in Co. Down

Bangor Union Masonic Lodge No. 746 held its annual International Event this year on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in the Masonic Hall, Hamilton Road, Bangor, Co. Down. The event was, as usual, very well represented by a large number of International Brethren from Europe, as well as our “regular” visitors from England, Scotland and Ireland.

R.W.Bro. John Clarke, Provincial Assistant Grand Master in Down occupied the Chair for a short time, and took great delight in welcoming all the visitors to the Province of Down.

There were a number of short presentations, including “The History of the Master Mason’s Certificate” by W. Bro. Keith Bates. A visiting Lodge from Greece led by the R.W. Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Scarlatos and the Brethren of St John’s Lodge No. 88, Athens, Greece demonstrated an Opening of their Lodge. This was followed by a short presentation on “The Beginning of Freemasonry”.

Next year sees the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the granting of the warrant to Bangor Union Masonic Lodge No. 746, and already the International Event is promising to be another one to remember.



Photo W.Bro. M W Boyd L.524

*W.M. Jack Lindsay with R.W.Bro. John C. Clarke, Provincial Assistant Grand Master of Down with R.W.Bro. George Scarlatos, Assistant Grand Master of Greece and the Brethren of St John’s Lodge No. 88, Athens together with R.W.Bro. Iain McPhee, Substitute Provincial Grand Master, Province of Renfrewshire East*

## Grand Lodge at Cabra Castle, Kingscourt, Province of Meath, March 2010

Front row: R.W.Bro. L Johnston Assistant Grand Master; R.W.Bro. D Grey Deputy Grand Master; W.Bro. W Bennet Chairman of Cavan County Council; R.W.Bro. C Tilson P.G.M. Meath; V.W.Bro. D Poyntz P.G.Sec. Meath.



Back row: R.W.Bro. R Waller D.P.G.M. Meath; J Keys, Manager Cavan County Council; R.W.Bro. B Lyons Gd. Secretary

## A FIRST FOR LODGE NO. 41 LARNE

At their October meeting Larne Lodge No. 41 held a ceremony possibly unique in Irish Freemasonry. After the Lodge had closed, the Almoner W.Bro. Inglis McIlwrath escorted six



Lodge widows into the Lodge Room where he introduced them to the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Nelson Brennan.

The W. Master then presented each widow with a "Broken Column Brooch" and proceeded to explain the origins of the brooch which dates back to the American Civil War. It was first used for the ladies of Masons who were at war. As so many men did not return, the ladies continued to wear the brooch and it became accepted as a Masonic Widows Brooch throughout North America and Canada. It was first introduced into England by a member of the Earl of Chester Lodge No. 1565.

He went on to explain that this brooch was created to symbolise the Order's continued concern for and honour the Widows of Brother Masons whose names added lustre to the Craft and hoped they would wear it with great pride.

In reply, one of the widows Olivia Nash, also known as "Ma" from the BBC Television series "Give my head peace", paid a warm tribute to the Order in general and Lodge 41 in particular in relation to the assistance she had received following the death of her late husband. Her daughter, Mrs. Patricia Curran who was present, also spoke of the high esteem in which she held the Order and how three generations of her family had been assisted in various ways, pointing out that she might not have enjoyed the education she had received without the help of the Lodge.

The Brethren and their guests then retired to a function room where a light supper was provided and a convivial evening was enjoyed by all.

The Photograph shows the group at Larne Masonic Centre.

## Past Grand Master's Standard

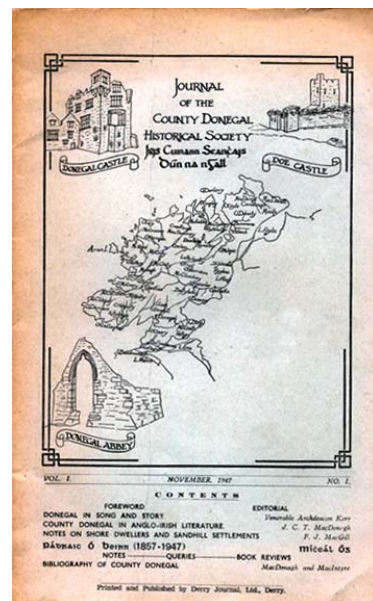
The Brethren of Wicklow Militia Lodge No. 877, Arklow felt deeply honoured when at a recent communication, the Immediate Past Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Eric N. Waller presented his personal Standard to the Lodge. This was in recognition of the time R.W. Bro. Brian Kearon (a member of the Lodge) had borne it on his behalf during the year 2005.



The Standard was originally hand made by Mrs. Marithe Walker, wife of the Past Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Michael Walker.

## Freemasonry in Donegal 1757 – 1953

For the historians amongst us, Sean Beattie has completed an article titled 'Freemasonry in Donegal 1757 – 1953', which was published in the Donegal Annual, journal of the Donegal Historical Society Issue No. 62, in November 2010.



For those wishing to avail of a copy, the Annual is available from Una McGarrigle, Parkhill, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

## Culture in the Capital

The sun was still shining vigorously, and there remained a bit of warmth in the air, when the first of the National Museum staff trundled up the steps at 4.30 p.m. "Can you not read?" says I; "We don't open till 5". "But sure we're open ourselves then", says she; "Can we not have a look round now?" Magnanimously, we threw open the doors on the spot; and we did not manage to lock bar and bolt those self same doors until 10.45 that night.

Yes, Culture Night had arrived in the Capital once again, and with coloured balloons tied to the polished rails on the steps, we signalled Freemasons' Hall participation in this annual event. This involved a large number of institutions, over 130 in all, - museums, libraries, galleries etc. - opening their portals on Friday evening, 24th. September to the denizens of Dublin and beyond.

We had expected a fair few visitors over the evening, attracted, as usual, by simple curiosity, but we had no idea just how many. We soon did however as there formed, quite literally, a queue of people from the very outset until our forced closing at 9.30, when the building was completely full and it would have been unwise to allow more in.

Our in-house guides, one to a room, were on their feet and describing, discussing and detailing their areas for five and a half hours, without a break - take a bow Morgan McCreadie (who managed two rooms, actually), Daniel Stanford and Keith Stent - your collective dedication in the circumstances could not have been bettered.

The front of House was patrolled in enthusiastic fashion by Paddy Fennell and Cristina Eremia, who greeted the visitors and handed to each a one-page description of the Hall and rooms; and the treasures in the Museum were manfully guarded, and explained, by no less a personage than our own Chairman of the Metropolitan Board. The whole thing was masterminded and organised by the Curator and Archivist Rebecca Hayes, and to say that she did a superb job would be a complete understatement. The Grand Secretary was also in attendance and ate most of the sandwiches. Philip Daley ate the rest.

The visitors generally, expressed awe at the scale and style of the building, most having no conception whatever of the size of the place before entering. The feedback was very encouraging and positive, and the usual challenging questions got a good airing - can women join?; why not?; why do men join? what do you do in a meeting? how many politicians are members? etc. etc. The more bizarre queries that we occasionally encounter surfaced also - are you part of the world-wide Jewish conspiracy? do you control the Bank of Ireland?, is it all witchcraft and mumbo-jumbo?

According to the following day's Irish Times, the Hall proved to be one of the most popular venues of the evening (We believe we had over three thousand people in) and for the successful handling of that we must applaud the Curator and her extraordinarily hard-working crew - perfectly well done gang, and don't worry - next year we will have replacements to hand, and you can all have a sandwich!

**W. Bro. Jonathan Doe**

## Crumlin Royal Blue Masonic Lodge 140 - Bicentenary



W.Bro. Dennis Minford (right) Worshipful Master of Crumlin Royal Blue Masonic Lodge 140 looks on as R.W.Bro Leslie Johnston, Assistant Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ireland and R.W.Bro. John Dickson, Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim, presents a '50 Year Jewel' and certificate to W.Bro. George Brown (second from left) in Crumlin Masonic Hall, during their bicentenary meeting.



W.Bro. Dennis Minford (right) Worshipful Master of Crumlin Royal Blue Masonic Lodge 140 with R.W.Bro Leslie Johnston, Assistant Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ireland and R.W.Bro. John Dickson, Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim, cutting the cake to mark the 200th anniversary of the Lodge, during the bicentenary dinner in the Dunsilly Hotel.



Members of Crumlin Royal Blue Masonic Lodge 140 who this year marked their 200th anniversary are pictured at their bicentenary meeting with special guests R.W. Bro Leslie Johnston, Assistant Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ireland and R.W. Bro. John Dickson, Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim.

*"... A spectacular event to be held in the stunning location which was the Masonic Girls School."*

The Metropolitan Board of General Purposes presents

*The 2011 Freemasons' Masquerade Ball*



in aid of Laura Lynn House

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

Thomas Prior Hall, Bewley's Hotel, Ballsbridge



## Lodge 2000 Celebrates “The First Ten Years”

Lodge Ireland 2000, the only “Internet” Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, was constituted in the year 2000 and we are proud to have Warrant 2000. Our aim is to bring together under a single Irish Warrant Freemasons everywhere who have access to the Internet. The Lodge is one of a number based in the Dublin Metropolitan District but with our “roving” Warrant our meetings can take place anywhere on the island of Ireland. Whilst we are an “Internet” Lodge we hold 4 physical meetings a year and we can, of course, meet “virtually” every day and we hold monthly “chats” in our secure chat room on the site at <http://ireland2000.org>

The year 2010 is very special for Lodge Ireland 2000 as it marks the 10th Anniversary of our Constitution and we are very proud

that our Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Dunlop (one of our Founder Members) is currently our Junior Warden.

The fourth “physical” meeting of the Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Northgate Street, Athlone in the Province of South Connaught on Saturday 9th October when, as usual, we had a good attendance of Brethren including the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Basil Fenton, his Deputy R.W.Bro. Nigel Foley-Fisher and other Brethren from the Province. In the evening the Brethren entertained our visitors and our ladies to a superb buffet in the nearby Radisson Hotel – all in all a visit to the Province of South Connaught that we will long remember.

**R.W.Bro. Richard H Gray – Worshipful Master.**



*The Members of Lodge Ireland 2000 together with R.W.Bro. Fenton, R.W.Bro. Foley-Fisher, R.W.Bro. Daley – Chairman of the Metropolitan Board – and other visiting Brethren.*

## Strathearn Masonic Lodge 680 – Spring Outing

Strathearn Masonic Lodge No. 680 annually has a Spring outing to somewhere of local interest usually within the Province of Antrim. For 2010 our Worshipful Master, W.Bro. William McKinley, suggested that a trip to Dublin to hold a meeting in Molesworth Street would be his choice, as he, and several of the members, had never had occasion to visit the centre of Irish Freemasonry.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May, nine members and two visitors set off from Belsize Road to Dublin. On arrival we prepared the Grand Lodge Room for our meeting and adjourned to the Buswell’s Hotel opposite for a very enjoyable Festive Board Carvery Luncheon.

On returning to labour in Molesworth Street, a regular Stated Communication followed under the magnificent ceiling and within the amazing historical ambience that is to be enjoyed in this Room. Following our meeting, and before departing for our return trip to Belfast, the Grand Lodge Tyler gave us a most interesting and informative résumé of the history of the hall which included viewing several other very decorative and symbolic meeting rooms and the Masonic Museum within the Hall. A great day was had by all and we would highly commend such a trip to all Lodges within the Constitution.

## CELTIC PROVINCIAL ALLIANCE ACROSS THE SEAS

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October the Province of Brittany celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. It was also the occasion of the formalisation of a twinning alliance between the Province of Brittany and the Province of South Connaught with permission of respective Grand Lodges.

The ceremony took place during the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Brittany meeting which this year was held in La Foret Pouesnant. Some 250 Brethren were in attendance. The meeting which started at 2:30 pm continued till 5:30 pm being preceded by a luncheon for Brethren at 12:30.

During the meeting the Charter was signed in Open Lodge by P.G.M. Brittany Christian Degny and P.G.M. South Connaught Basil Fenton. As was explained during the speeches by the P.G.M.'s this alliance is a further evolution of the links between the two Provinces developed over the last 14 years with alternate biannual exchanges between Lodge 14 Galway and Armor Lodge 197 of L'Orient when Brethren and partners visit. The fraternal friendships that have developed over this time have strengthened the Masonic understanding and cultural relationships of those of us fortunate enough to be able to take part. The first contact between the Lodges was initiated by Armor Lodge 197 and developed the wider community relationship within the fact that two cities L'Orient and Galway are twinned.

The minutes of the occasion show the attending dignitaries present were:-

### IRLANDE

R.W.Bro. Basil FENTON South Connaught Provincial Grand Master (Grand Maître Provincial du South Connaught)

V.W.Bro. Bob CHAPPLE South Connaught Provincial Senior Warden (Premier Grand Surveillant Provincial du South Connaught)

Bro. Kevin SHERIDAN, Member of "Premier Lodge of Connaught"

No. 14 (Orient de Galway, Province du South Connaught, République d'Irlande), Faisant Office de Traducteur.

### FRANCE

Province de Maine Atlantique

TRF Jacques BUCHET GMP

Province de Picardie Plaine de France

TVF Bernard ETIENNE GSP

### ESPAGNE

TRF Josèphe ALBOUY GMP de Catalogne

### GRANDE BRETAGNE

RF Georges PROCTOR GLUA Province de Warwickshire

TVF Daniel DELAHAYE GLUA Province de Jersey

### PORTUGAL

RF Elder da PALMA VEGA AGM GL du Portugal

Following the meeting (and some essential post meeting thirst quenching refreshment at a local hostelry) a most enjoyable banquet with the Ladies in attendance was enjoyed by all. The enjoyment of the banquet was enhanced by the fact that there were no speeches in any language but much cultural and fraternal exchanges across the borders.

The Charter is currently working its way through the respective Grand Lodges.

Those of us who were fortunate to take part thank our hosts for a memorable few days and look forward to when a delegation from the Province of Brittany will join with the Province of South Connaught at our May meeting.



# "Advanced Notice"



## Freemasons' of Ireland Golfing Society Millennium Charity Cup 2011

At

**KILLYMOON GOLF CLUB – COOKSTOWN**

ON

**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011**

**2011 CHARITIES:**

**A NON-MASONIC CHARITY**

(yet to be confirmed)

**& 'MASONIC CHARITIES'**

**£1,000 IN PRIZES**

**THREE PRIZE CATEGORIES:-**

- 1. MASONIC BRETHERN**
- 2. NON-MASONS**
- 3. LADIES**

**PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE**

**"EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT"**

**THE FIRST 200 ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.**

**NO GREENFEES REQUIRED ON THE DAY**

**ENTRY FEE £25 INCLUDING ENTRY TO THE 'GRAND DRAW'**

**REGISTRATION FORMS AND COMPETITION RULES AVAILABLE FROM:**

**NOEL SIMPSON**

**TELEPHONE No. (028) 70823129**

**13 CARNEYBAUN DRIVE**

**MOBILE No. 075 408 62236**

**PORTRUSH BT56 8JA**

**EMAIL: [noelsimpson589@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:noelsimpson589@yahoo.co.uk)**