



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



DECEMBER 2011

Grand Master's Address – 1st October 2011



Brethren all, I was not as active this summer as heretofore. July started with a Grand Masters' Conference in Brussels at which a range of items was discussed with predominance accorded to the problems in the National Grand Lodge of France. The French Grand Master presented a lengthy defence of his recent actions which have caused turmoil within French Masonry. The general opinion of the representatives present was to recommend temporary de-recognition of this Grand Lodge until such time that they sort things out.

Our Annual Tripartite Meeting was held in Edinburgh, at which the Home Constitutions confirmed their actions in relation to the French problem and the Grand Lodge of Ireland agreed to recognise the Grand Lodge of Cyprus which has been confirmed today.

My Cabinet met during the summer months to discuss issues raised at the Tripartite meeting and to make relative arrangements for today's Communication.

On 14th September I visited the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Connaught in Boyle and was most impressed by the Brethren, who showed much enjoyment in their working and a keen interest in their Province. R.W.Bro. Norman Reid was most generous in arranging my overnight stay in the Sligo Park Hotel. On 15th September, I was present at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal where I was well received by the R.W.Bro. Robert Quigley and his Brethren.

I was interviewed about Freemasonry by Ivan Little, which appeared as a three page cover in the 16th September edition of the 'Telegraph', which pleased me significantly, in view of the many congratulations which I received from the Brethren and also from those outside the Order. I was further interviewed by the BBC and saw a short snippet on the 7.30 a.m. morning news but missed the fuller event which was shown in the evening a few days later.

The trigger for these requests was due to a large number of Brethren from Ireland and abroad accepting invitations from the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Richard Gray to attend the Bi-Centenary Communication and Festive Board of Bangor Union Lodge No. 746 on Saturday 17th September and a Service of Thanksgiving in Bangor Abbey on the following Sunday.

Much credit must go to the Provincial Grand Master of Down and to our new P.R. Officer, W.Bro. Michael Holden.

The 26th August was a sad day for us all when we learned of the death of my Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston and I was very impressed with the excellent turnout of Brethren from near and far at his funeral service. I placed an Obituary in our Grand Lodge web site as follows:

R.Wor.Bro. Leslie Victor Johnston
R.W. Assistant Grand Master
Died 26th August 2011

R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston was a man and a Mason who embraced the highest ideals of our Order and exemplified the ideal characteristics of a truly committed member. He was a wonderful and pleasant Brother, who executed his duties as R.W. Assistant Grand Master with dedication and always gave of his best. He was born in Dublin and was adopted by an ideal family, who cared for him as a blood relative and afforded him valuable guidance in his educational path, expertly given by his adopted mother who was a qualified school teacher.

After Dublin, the family moved to Co. Cavan where Leslie continued his education at Royal School, Cavan, from which he ultimately attended Queens University. Having gained a degree and various diplomas in Social Welfare, with a strong emphasis on needy children, he followed this path during his working life and reached the apex of his ambitions in this regard. He was appointed as County High Sheriff of Armagh by H.M. Queen Elizabeth for the year 2005, an honour which he justly deserved for his work and dedication to Social Services.

Leslie's prime responsibility as Assistant Grand Master was the oversight of our Masonic Charities, a task which he performed with tremendous knowledge and vigour. This fitted in well with his previous knowledge of Social Welfare to which he gave his all. Our Masonic Order in Ireland owes so much to Leslie and many of us will surely treasure the friendly relationship we had with him, which greatly strengthened the personal attachment and admiration in which he was held.

Leslie applied himself with professional skill and ability, always striving to reach the highest standard of perfection and willing to take on any task to which he was delegated. He will be missed in many ways and I have no doubt that he is now in the presence of the God whom he loved and adored and through Him will find the comfort and joy which he undoubtedly deserves.

To his wife Florence and family, we tender our deepest sympathy, trusting that time and faith will soften the severe loss which they have sustained.

Grand Master

Lastly, I would remind you that next Thursday sees the start of our second 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year'.

I take great satisfaction from the publicity on radio and in newspapers which has already been generated this year; all of it very positive to our Order. This Competition is not only becoming an important part of our own annual calendar but becoming a major date within the musical world of Ireland. It is most satisfying to see participation in it being recognised as a prestigious step in someone's career.

The Semi-Finals are being held next Thursday, October 6th in Freemasons' Hall at 1.30 and 7.00 p.m. The Final is on Saturday October 8th at 7.30 p.m., which will be broadcast by RTÉ lyric fm the following Monday at 8.00 p.m.

Tickets for all sessions are available from Freemasons' Hall priced at €5 and €10. The Final is almost sold out, as it was last year, so book soon.

Finally, I would express my sincere thanks to M.W.Bro. Eric Waller, Chairman, R.W.Bro. John Keeley, Director and the distinguished members of E.G.L.I. for their skill and commitment.

Brethren, I thank you all.

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning!

Sunday 9th October 2011. It's 4.45 in the early morning. The shouts of a few stragglers from their Saturday night revels carries over the silent streets from Grafton Street, but Molesworth Street is almost deserted, a light rain causing the two solitary remaining pedestrians to draw their coats around them and scurry along towards shelter. All the buildings except two are dark and deserted. The night lights of the foyer of Buswells Hotel barely penetrate the gloom. Only Freemasons' Hall is ablaze with light on the first and ground floors.

The second year of the Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year had ended at midnight on Saturday, and brilliant young pianist Alexander Bernstein sent off into the night, warmly congratulated by The Grand Master and the whole audience, proudly clutching his Certificate and cheque. Everyone else, discussing what was to be described the following week by the Sunday Business Post as 'a superb competition of very high standard', had gone off to their homes well satisfied with a wonderful evening of music.

Just after midnight, two people, immaculately attired in Dinner Jackets, take the opportunity to sit down for a few minutes in the now empty Grand Lodge Room, and look around at the beautiful Theatre into which it had been transformed for the previous three days. The columns and ceiling and pictures still glistened in the lighting specially designed and installed by International Lighting Designer, Nicholas Malbon, The dais was banked in flowers and plants and in the centre, the huge Steinway Grand Piano, its brilliant black lacquered lid reflecting the rainbow of colours around it.

Daniel Stanford and Keith Stent well deserved to sit down for a few minutes rest that night. Having volunteered to help with the Competition they had been their posts for hours, showing people to their seats, checking tickets, helping with Receptions. But now, at midnight, the work they had to do would escalate. The Evening Dress would be exchanged for a tee-shirt and jeans, and the lights of 17 Molesworth Street would shine out into the night as they moved chairs, tables, benches from where they had been stored during the competition, and reinstalled them. They would continue to shine whilst they stored away all the chairs and other equipment that had been brought up for the competition. They would continue to shine whilst all the furniture and ornaments of The Grand Lodge of Ireland were properly restored to their rightful place, and the Theatre was no more, but the elegant Grand Lodge Room which we know so well was back exactly as it had been. Then Daniel and Keith allowed themselves a high-five, turned off the lights and went home. It was then 6.00 a.m. on Sunday.

Daniel and Keith are just one example. The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year is a huge undertaking for Grand Lodge, and particularly Grand Lodge Staff. Almost fifty people, including nearly everyone in Freemasons Hall, (every one of them volunteers), are involved in the preparation, some for nearly a year. The united aim of everyone is to produce over the Semi-Finals and Finals of the competition, what we call **"one hundred minutes of magic"** in surroundings, and with a welcome, which reflects well on Freemasonry. All the feedback shows that we are achieving this and it is building year on year.

As often happens, what you see on the surface is minor to the organisation which has been going on underneath to produce the final result. So what goes on 'underwater' to take all this time, and all these people?

The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year (IFYM) is, of course, a direct promotion of Grand Lodge itself, inspired by the Grand Master after his visit to the Grand Lodge of Scotland when

he saw its potential for positive outreach (they run a vaguely similar Competition). Each year so far, the Grand Secretary has asked Events GLI to draw on their professional expertise to produce the IFYM for Grand Lodge. The budget is tightly controlled by the Finance Committee of Grand Lodge, and R.W.Bro. Robert Winters the Treasurer of Events GLI, working with Janet Smith in the Accounts Department of Freemasons Hall. Janet's involvement starts very much before the competition date because various advance bills have to be paid and cheques organised, often in foreign currencies. She also becomes very busy on the Competitions behalf in the three days it is actually going on, and settling invoices after it has finished. R.W.Bro. Winters then submits an analysis of actuals against budget to W.Bro. Andrew Lyall. The budget has not been exceeded.

The whole process starts almost as soon as the previous year has ended with a review meeting where the EGLI Operations Management under the Chairmanship of M.W.Bro. Eric Waller, meet and go through their notes of the immediate past IFYM and reassess and correct anything that needs amending for the following year. Then the Chairman of the Jury, one of our Patrons, Mrs Jane Carty, writes to the Music Colleges to confirm that they wish to enter semi-finalists for the following year. So far every Music College in Ireland awarding third level degrees in Music Performance has nominated entrants except Queens University Belfast, whom, although asked, have so far declined our invitation to participate. The Colleges are then sent entry forms by the Jury Chairman, and copies of the rules of the competition. (If you want to see the rules they can be found, with a wealth of other information, on the IFYM website which is www.freemasonsmusic.ie) The Colleges have until the closing date June 30th to audition and nominate their semi-finalists, and return the entry forms to Grand Lodge. From this point, Heather Gyles starts work on the Competition, doing a superb job of acting as volunteer secretary to the competition at Grand Lodge, ably assisted by Maureen Mitchell. Heather date stamps the entry forms and copies them to the Jury Chairman and the Competition General Administrator, who check the music, timings, and whether their proposed programme complies with the rules. She also sends any copies of photographs or CV's which the competitor has sent in, to EGLI Operations Management member R.W.Bro. William Clarke, who will already have started work on the souvenir programme.

Next, the General Administrator, working very closely with Jane Carty, comes up with suggestions for five members of the Jury of which she will be Chairman. This is vital. The standard of a competition is to a great extent judged by the outside world not only by the standard of the Competitors, but by the reputation and expertise of the Jury. People of the calibre we must have are internationally known musicians and are very often booked up years in advance. Hence a great deal of persuasion and negotiation takes place to secure their services at the specific time we need to achieve. So far our two Jurys have been excellent and greatly respected. This having been agreed, booking of flights for the Jury is the next, exceptionally complex item on the Agenda. Flights are booked as early as possible to obtain the lowest possible price. All transport is coordinated by EGLI Operations Management member R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson who had the unenviable job of coordinating 160 separate transport requirements over the full period of the Competition this year. So far the General Management of the Ashling Hotel, Parkgate Street, has provided us with an extremely generous package for the accommodation of the Jury in their excellent Hotel, for which, naturally, IFYM are very appreciative. From this time EGLI Operations Management member R.W.Bro. Robert Winters, (as well as being Treasurer!) becomes responsible for all matters to do with the Jury and is on constant attendance on them during



1. Aine Carmody-Smith, PR for the Competition, happily accepts congratulations from R.W.Bro. Philip Daley, and M.W.Bro. Eric Waller 2. The Winners! (L-R) Evin Kelly (2nd), Alexander Bernstein (1st), Leonie Bluett (4th), David Keating (3rd) 3. The Grand Master M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, Alexander Bernstein, Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas T Grey. 4. (L-R) Eamonn Lawlor, David Keating, Evin Kelly, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Master, Leonie Bluett, Alex Bernstein 5. The Deputy Grand Master discusses the finer points of the Jury decision with Professor Paolo Grazzi and Professor Ranko Markovic 6. The International Jury. (L-R) Professor Maighr e d McCrann, Professor Ranko Markovic, The Grand Master, Chairman of the Jury, Mrs Jane Carty, Mr S eamus Crimmins, Professor Paolo Grazzi, and Maestro Robin Stapleton 7. Official Accompanist, Dearbhla Brosnan, and Ciara O'Dwyer of the Sunday Independent. 8. The 2010 and 211 First Prize Winners. Macdar a   Seiread ain and Alexander Bernstein 9. All from RT e Lyric fm, Eamonn Lawlor, Julie Knight and Alan Ryan 10. Alan Moody, Managing Director and Sponsor, The Ashling Hotel, Mrs Jackie Moody, and R.W.Bro. Robert Winters, Treasurer Events GLI 11. The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2011, Alexander Bernstein

the Competition. He is however sworn to silence regarding what he hears until the results are announced at the Final!

By July, R.W.Bro. John Frazer, EGLI Operations Management member responsible for all seating layouts and reservations will be hard at work with R.W.Bro. William Clarke preparing a VIP Invitation List for submission to the Grand Secretary to obtain The Grand Masters approval. These invitations, addressed to State and Government guests, as well as the Heads of Music Colleges and the 'great and good' are of vital importance to the social outreach aspect of the Competition. Also by July the General Administrator will have secured the services of the Lighting Designer, and carefully discussed the requirements, which not only have to meet the aesthetic criteria of Grand Lodge, but also the requirements of the Competitors. An attempt is made to make the lighting design different every year.

September and the arrangements schedule moves into high gear. Tickets go on sale from the Porters Lodge, a sometimes difficult job which Paddy Fennell, helped by Cristina Eremia, coordinates excellently and will hopefully continue to do! The General Administrator prepares a Production Script. This is a highly detailed document covering the whole period of the competition and brings together, in sequence, and with individual times, sometimes to the minute, every job which has to be carried out by anybody for the whole period. Everyone who has any role to fulfil gets a copy of it. It is a complex document to prepare (the 2011 Production Script ran to 15 pages and had 272 separate items), but it is invaluable to ensure smooth running of the Competition. This month too, the programmes are printed, after compilation has all been arranged with the printers by R.W.Bro. William Clarke. This Souvenir Programme, containing as it does, full details of every Patron, every member of the Jury and every Competitor, is intended, as part of our outreach programme, to be a handsome 'coffee-table' item well after the Competition, and is very elegantly designed. In addition to containing a letter from the Grand Master, each year Rebecca Hayes, Archivist at Freemasons Hall, writes an article for the programme. In 2010 it gave very interesting details of some of the paintings and beautiful silverware owned by Grand Lodge, which were on display in the Hall and the Museum, so that the audience could wander round during the interval. In 2011 it was a fascinating history of the first building of the Hall, illustrated with a facsimile of the original Architects Instructions.

October and now everyone becomes involved. IFYM take over the Grand Lodge Room from Tuesday, the lighting is delivered and the hired Steinway Grand Piano put in place, tuned, and checked by our Patron, Dearbhla Collins. The Grand Lodge Staff commence the very complex job of rearranging all the seating to turn the Grand Lodge Room into a Theatre following the plan in the Production Script which is detailed down to precise measurements in inches.

The Jury arrive in Ireland from all over Europe on the Wednesday of Competition week. The Jury is absolutely and completely independent of the Competition Organisers and Grand Lodge and once the Competition commences, has no contact with them except through R.W.Bro. Robert Winters.

Thursday and the two final members of EGLI Operations Management arrive on site. W.Bro. Mark White from Lodge 165, Sligo, takes on all arrangements for the Competitors, and acts as their guide, counsellor and friend, looking after them in the dressing room, and accompanying them up to the Grand Lodge Room when they are about to perform. He also coordinates all the copies of the music scores which are required for the various accompanists (including our own official accompanist – Dearbhla Brosnan). Bro. Dariusz Ziola, of Lodge 141 looks after all function and catering arrangements on the EGLI Operations Manage-

ment team. Holding a B.Sc. in Hotel and Catering management makes him a useful member of the team and he works very closely with Catherine Ward and John Tutty of Campbell Catering who each year, have produced an exceptional buffet for the Grand Master's Reception.

The whole year of work is now running fast to fruition. The Semi-Finals on Thursday afternoon and evening eventually result in the Jury announcing the four Competitors who will perform on the Saturday. On Friday R.W.Bro. William Clarke has one day to produce a special programme insert giving details of the finalists, and the finalists are given the opportunity to rehearse in the Grand Lodge Room. Everybody holds their breath for the final, which finally arrives on Saturday. A culmination of hundreds of hours of everyone's work, with everyone centred on our goal of **"one hundred minutes of magic"**.

As a part of our outreach programme, great store and importance is placed on the first impression which the audience receive on arriving at Freemasons' Hall. A large number of them will never have been there before. Front-of-House welcoming is therefore in the very capable hands of R.W.Bro. Geoffrey Lovegrove and W.Bro. Morgan McCreddie, who make an invaluable effort to make sure everyone is spoken to on arrival, given a friendly welcome, and directed to the Grand Lodge Room and given any information they want. This approach is continued during the interval, and particularly important, a friendly farewell as they leave.

Saturday is the culmination. The RTÉ sound engineers arrive and set up their equipment to record the Final for broadcasting by RTÉ Lyric fm two days later as 'The Lyric Concert'. Following the Production Script, everyone assembles in their evening dress. The four finalists, very nervous, await their call. Patron, Eamonn Lawlor, as the presenter for the evening goes to the microphone and welcomes the audience, and introduces the Jury, and then the first finalist. The final has started. Downstairs the work carries on – but very quietly – preparing the main dining rooms for the Grand Master's Reception. The other finalists pace up and down silently in their dressing room awaiting their call, or nervously tune and retune their instrument.

Everything is quiet except for the finalist performing and everybody waits. The volunteer Stewards, Ken Broughall, Peter Carberry, Norman O'Galligan, Randal Robertson and Jim Smith, sit calmly listening to the performance through the closed doors of the Grand Lodge Room waiting for the final to end. The last finalist performs; the Jury retire to their room to make some very difficult decisions. The audience have a few minutes to relax and are then treated to a special performance by last year's Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2010, Macdará Ó Seiread-áin. The pace increases. The Jury return. But before the results Eamonn Lawlor introduces the Grand Master who makes a short speech. A lot of it must be thanks to various organisations, but it is also the only chance our Grand Master has to speak, on Nationwide radio, and over the internet, and give an, albeit brief, summary of the aims of our Order. It is a priceless opportunity. The years work is moving to an end. Jane Carty, as Chairman of the Jury announces the results, and the winners are congratulated by the Grand Master and the Jury. A thunderous peal on the organ from Grand Organist and Patron, R.W.Bro. John Rowden, is the signal for the retiring procession.

The Grand Master hosts a Post-Competition reception, and this again provides a valuable opportunity to promote Freemasonry to people with influence in Ireland. Conversation is easy as the subject is of course the results of the competition. Did you get it right? Did you have the same order? I thought "xxxx" was going to win!

Aine Carmody-Smith, PR for the Competition, ensures that her photographer gets all the pictures she needs for submission to the newspapers and magazines in the coming days to get further publicity for the competition.

The time drifts towards midnight, and guests start to wander from the building. Slowly the room empties, and the fatigue on some of the faces of the people who have been there all day is beginning to show. Farewell is said to the last guests as they go to their cars. Daniel and Keith wander up the stairs to the Grand Lodge Room.

Some of you may remember the days when cinema programmes were continuous, and the phrase "this is where we came in" was often heard in the land.

Well.....this is where we came innext year..... "Sunday 14th October 2012. Just after midnight, two people, immaculately attired in Dinner Jackets, take the opportunity to sit down for a few minutes in the now empty Grand Lodge Room....."

For the 2012 competition, R.W.Bro. Philip Daley will take over the post of General Administrator on the Operations Management team, from R.W.Bro. John Keeley

The Grand Master's Speech at the Final of the Young Musician Competition 2011

Deputy Lord Mayor, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, The Philosopher, Plato, said that 'Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness and gaiety and life to everything'.

It is with this in mind that it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Freemasons' Hall this evening, to witness and enjoy the Final of the 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2011'.

We have all come together tonight to celebrate the joy which music can bring and the skills of those who can bring it so superbly to us.

I know that I speak for all Irish Freemasons when I say how pleased we are to be able to contribute, by this Competition, to the recognition of those skills.

I can't help but repeat what I said last year, these young people, who have played for us at the Semi-Finals on Thursday and the Final here tonight, are already winners.

They were selected, as the cream of their students, by the music colleges themselves, to represent them in the Competition here. I want therefore, to congratulate **all** the semi-finalists and finalists, and hope that they have enjoyed participating. The standard this year, as last year, has been tremendously high, and I am glad that I don't have the difficult task of deciding the final results!

This task falls to our Jury which is again under the professional chairmanship of Jane Carty, who is also a Patron of the Competition, who has guided our hand with her tremendous expertise since the very inception of this Competition. Irish Freemasonry is enormously grateful to her, particularly in the difficult task of chairing the Jury. She brings a wealth of experience and skill which we are very lucky indeed to be able to call on.

The members of the Jury are themselves highly sought after in their busy careers, and I would like to thank Professor Mairead McCrann, Professor Paolo Grazzi, Professor Ranko Markewicz, and our two returning members from last year — Maestro Robin Stapleton and Mr Seamus Crimmins.

Your presence here, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury adds great stature to our Competition and we all acknowledge the difficult job you have had to do.

I have already mentioned that Jane Carty, as well as being Chairman of the Jury is also a Patron of the Competition. As a Patron she is joined by Dearbhla Collins, Eamonn Lawlor and John Rowden.

These people will be well known to you as being stalwarts of the music scene in Ireland, and beyond. The fact that they came 'on board' when we started the Competition has contributed vastly to its success.

We could not have contemplated the competition without them. Thank you all so much

Our Patron, Eamonn Lawlor, has also again kindly presented our Semi-Finals and Final for us, in his own inimitable style, which everybody recognises and by doing so has added erudition and sophistication to the performances.

I also wish to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to two people who have donated very special prizes to this Competition in addition to the Grand Lodge Prizes.

The Chairman of the Jury will announce the winners of these additional prizes and the specific criteria on which they are awarded. I am referring to Mr Joseph Brennan, for 'The Brennan Prize' which he has donated in memory of his parents, Charles and Ursula Brennan and also to Mrs Mary Beattie for 'The John Vallery Memorial Prize', donated in memory of her husband, the brilliant viola player, John Vallery.

Thank you both so much for your generosity and kindness. We are very honoured by your thought.

We are also privileged to have the wholehearted co-operation of:

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

All of these Colleges, awarding as they do, degrees in Classical Music Performance, agreed to participate in our competition last year, and have continued this year, by selecting the entrants for the Semi-Finals from amongst their students.

I am delighted that all of the Heads of these Colleges are with us tonight, which enables me to thank you personally for your generous involvement.

It is very enjoyable to see the 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2010', Macdará Ó Seireadáin here tonight!

Since winning the 2010 Competition last October Macdará has been very busy with a number of public concerts, which included an appearance with John O'Connor and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra at the National Concert Hall, where he gave a stunning performance of the Stanford Clarinet Concerto. (Incidentally this latter concert was conducted by pianist Conor Palliser, who was also a finalist in our Competition last year).

Given the pressure of your engagements, Macdará, it was exceptionally good of you to give up your time to come here tonight and give us such an outstanding cameo performance. Thank you so much.

I want to thank the Head of Lyric, and everyone at RTÉ lyric fm, for again being with us this year.

It is good both for us and our Competitors that our national broadcaster is so helpful in supporting events like this, and, through their broadcasts, bringing the best of our young musicians to the public knowledge.

The General Manager of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, by offering an appearance to our winner with the Orchestra, helps further this aim. For this I must thank Anthony Long.

I cannot end without thanking my own people, who started working on this year's competition as soon as last year's had ended.

The Operations team of our own Events GLLI, and the staff here at Freemasons' Hall, have volunteered a great deal of time, skill and energy.

I, and Grand Lodge owe all of them a debt of gratitude and I am very happy indeed to acknowledge that here. Before I hand over to the Chairman of the Jury, let me say one further thing. We, in the Ancient Craft of Freemasonry, of which I have the honour to be Grand Master in Ireland, see ourselves very much **a part of** Society and in no way **apart from** it. The 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year' is one of the ways in which we evidence our intentions in this regard, and it is my hope that it will continue for many years to come.

Thank you for joining us tonight, I hope we shall see you here again in this Hall on October 11th and 13th 2012!
Thank you all.

Results 2011	
1 st Prize	Alexander Bernstein - Piano
2 nd Prize	Evin Kelly - Classical accordion
3 rd Prize	David Keating - Classical Guitar
4 th Prize	Leonie Bluett - Clarinet
The Brennan Prize	Evin Kelly
The John Vallery memorial Prize	David Keating

Long & Distinguished Service

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

Name	Years	Lodge	Province
W.Bro. George E. Clarke	65	Huntingdon Masonic Lodge No. 307	Midland Counties
W.Bro. Robert A. Bertram	65	Loughcrew Masonic Lodge No. 252	Meath
W.Bro. James H. Girvin	65	Victoria Temp. Masonic Lodge No. 208	Down
W.Bro. Thomas G. Anderson	65	Dublin Masonic Lodge No. 500	Metropolitan
R.W.Bro. Charles R Knipe	60	Gordon Masonic Lodge No. 780	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Nathaniel Drennan	60	Shane's Castle Masonic Lodge No. 539	Antrim
W.Bro. Albert J. Styles	60	Clontarf Masonic Lodge No. 249	Metropolitan
W.Bro. James A. Henshall	60	Ark Masonic Lodge No. 10	Antrim
W.Bro. Ernest Loughlin	60	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 173	Down
R.W.Bro. William G. Giboney	58	Lyons Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 778	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William R. Heron	50	Wright Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 448	Down
V.W.Bro. Arnold B. Walton	50	Duke of Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 363	South Australia
Bro. Gilbert M. Verner	50	Duke of Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 363	South Australia
W.Bro. James T. Erwin	50	Ancient Blue Masonic Lodge No. 704	Antrim
W.Bro. Gordon E. Purdy	50	Mourne Masonic Lodge No. 696	Down
W.Bro. William J. McAvoy	50	Cottown Masonic Lodge No. 430	Down
W.Bro. William H. Moore	50	Belturbet Masonic Lodge No. 99	Meath
W.Bro. Edwin A. Mahood	50	Belturbet Masonic Lodge No. 99	Meath
W.Bro. William J. Barnes	50	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Francis W. Montgomery	50	Richview Masonic Lodge No. 711	Antrim
W.Bro. John J. Dunbar	50	Newtownstewart Masonic Lodge No. 547	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Norman McCartney	50	Union True Blues Masonic Lodge No. 659	Antrim
W.Bro. John A. Connor	50	St Columba Temperance No. 637	Antrim
W.Bro. Samuel Gardiner	50	Brownlow Masonic Lodge No. 781	Armagh
W.Bro. Gerald Cordner	50	Brownlow Masonic Lodge No. 781	Armagh
W.Bro. Gerald Milligan	50	St Johnston Masonic Lodge No. 281	Londonderry & Donegal
R.W.Bro. Kenneth J. Adams	50	Roscommon Masonic Lodge No. 248	South Connaught
W.Bro. Albert Martin	50	Loyal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 119	Down
Bro. George H. Martin	50	Loyal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 119	Down
Bro. Edmund C. Leeper	50	Ballymoney Lodge No. 57	Antrim
W.Bro. William T. Crossey	50	Anahilt Masonic Lodge No. 683	Down
W.Bro. James B. Bennett	50	Duncairn Lodge No. 545	Antrim
W.Bro. John W. May	50	Coronation Masonic Lodge No. 305	Down
W.Bro. John Kielty	50	Coronation Masonic Lodge No. 305	Down
Bro. Henry McClenaghan	50	Parkgate Masonic Lodge No. 776	Antrim
W.Bro. Arthur D. Lusty	50	Cathedral View Masonic Lodge No. 917	Down
W.Bro. Denzil O. Tipping	50	Corinthian Commercial Lodge No. 245	Metropolitan
R.W.Bro. Robert J. Armstrong	50	Malcolm McDonald Memorial Lodge No. 657	Down
V.W.Bro. Matthew S. Cunningham	50	Malcolm McDonald Memorial Lodge No. 657	Down
Bro. William J. Graham	50	Malcolm McDonald Memorial Lodge No. 657	Down
W.Bro. Robert H. Webster	50	Wicklow Masonic Lodge No. 748	Wicklow & Wexford
R.W.Bro. Geoffrey A. Lovegrove	50	Leinster Masonic Lodge No. 141	Metropolitan
W.Bro. George Scott	50	Sholom Masonic Lodge No. 636	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert Gaston	50	Divis Masonic Lodge No. 679	Antrim
W.Bro. Henry G. D. McIntyre	50	Stormont Lodge No. 560	Down
W.Bro. Alfred G. Burch	50	Coronation Temperance Lodge No. 340	Antrim
W.Bro. George F. Carroll	50	Coronation Temperance Lodge No. 340	Antrim
W.Bro. Albert N. Falkingham	50	Aberfoyle Masonic Lodge No. 784	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Andrew T. Hamilton	50	Aberfoyle Masonic Lodge No. 784	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Ernest B. Walmsley	50	Concord Masonic Lodge No. 40	Antrim
W.Bro. Bertram S. Spence	50	Cottown Masonic Lodge No. 430	Down
W.Bro. Thomas I. L. Black	50	Cavan Masonic Lodge No. 90	Meath
W.Bro. Norman J. Gallagher	50	Ramelton Old Masonic Lodge No. 407	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Robert J. Campbell	50	Ramelton Old Masonic Lodge No. 407	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Derek A. Cony	50	Ramelton Old Masonic Lodge No. 407	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Samuel R. W. Elliott	50	Irvine Masonic Lodge No. 277	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. William Clements	50	St Patrick's Sir Knt. Union Lodge No. 175	Antrim
W.Bro. Herbert J. McVeigh	50	True Blues Masonic Lodge No. 30	Down
R.W.Bro. Michael J. Ward	50	Dublin Masonic Lodge No. 500	Metropolitan
W.Bro. William McFarland	50	Ballintoy Masonic Lodge No. 38	Antrim
W.Bro. Reginald Dale	50	Magherally Masonic Lodge No. 203	Down
V.W.Bro. Marshall Scott	50	Clotworthy Masonic Lodge No. 593	Antrim

Freemasons of County Antrim help Northern Ireland Childrens Hospice

A group of County Antrim Freemasons have been spending the summer months raising funds to aid the Children's Hospice. This the 21st year the group have been actively raising money, have made a big push to be able to provide support towards a technology package for the Hospice as well as a new intercom system for the premises.

Started by a Freemason of the Whiteabbey Masonic Centre following the death of his mother to cancer, the group were asked if they could help the Children's Hospice this year.

Organising social evenings and dances the Freemasons raised £3000, a celebrity football game at Seaview took place on Friday 16th September, between CRUSADER LEGENDS -V- IRISH LEAGUE LEGENDS.

The finale was a gala ball at the Templepatrick Hotel, on 30th September, when the Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, Right Worshipful Brother John Dickson was present and a cheque of £5000 was given over to the hospice.

The CEO of the hospice, Judith Hill said, "We are very pleased to be associated with the masonic order. Eighty percent of our budget comes from charity and the Freemasons in Northern Ireland make a significant contribution towards that sum."

NOTE: In the attached photo is the organising committee along with Judith Hill, CEO Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.



Judith Hill CEO accepting the cheque on behalf of the N. I. Children's Hospice.

Bangor Union 746 Bicentenary

During September Bangor Union Masonic Lodge No. 746 had a celebration communication with an international flavour. Brethren from eleven different constitutions from across the globe came to County Down to be with the Lodge in its celebration. A highlight of the communication was an abridged demonstration of the Entered Apprentice Degree as it would be performed in Sweden. The demonstration lasted for 40 minutes and which was reduced from the usual two and a half hours it takes to perform the actual degree. Along with the many distinguished brethren was our own Grand Master. The BBC were also on hand to film the procession into the communication and this was broadcast a couple of days later.

The foundation of the Lodge was started by Masters of Masonic Lodges 130 Comber, 180 Killeagh, 375 Ballygowan, 376 Ballywillan, 425 Saintfield, 746 Bangor, 792 Killyleagh, and 985 Greenhill, who met in the Lodge Room of 133 Comber, when they resolved "to declare their strict loyalty, warm attachment and proper allegiance to the ancient establishment, the Grand Lodge of Ireland".



The front page of the first Account Book is notated "Warrant 746 was issued to Moses Jameson, John Whitty and George Lunn to hold a Lodge in Bangor, County Down on 9th November 1811, in lieu of Seton warrant".

A church service was attended by all of the Brethren in Bangor Abbey the following day to conclude the festivities on a more solemn note.

W.M. of Bangor Union M.L. No. 746, W.Bro. Tony Stephenson along with the Grand Master, P.G.M. of Down and representatives of Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, England, France, Jamaica, Norway, Scotland, Sweden & Turkey.

P.G.L. LONDONDERRY & DONEGAL - ANNUAL WIDOW'S EVENINGS AND CHURCH SERVICE 2011.



R.W.Bro. D Selwoode Graham M.B.E.

These Annual Widows Evenings were first held in the year 2000 for a special Millennium event, and being so successful they are now in their 11th year. They have one night in Londonderry, one in Donegal and one in Coleraine covering the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry and Donegal. All the Masonic Widows are contacted by the individual Lodges and are transported to one of the three venues, where they all enjoy a very nice meal and an evening of entertainment. These have proved very valuable as it keeps Provincial Grand Lodge in close contact not only with the Widows but all the Brethren in the Province.

The Province of Londonderry & Donegal have also just had their Annual Church Service organised by the North Londonderry Masonic Charity Committee, held in Terrace Row Presbyterian Church, Coleraine, the service was conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. David Clark L.L.B., B.D. who was assisted in the pulpit by the Senior Grand Chaplain R.W.Bro. D Selwoode Graham M.B.E.

They had upwards of 400 in attendance including Masonic Brethren, family, friends and a number of Masonic Widows. A very good collection was taken up for Masonic Charities, afterwards everyone was invited to refreshments in the Church Hall. This is the first Masonic Service for many years to be held in one of the town churches in Coleraine and everyone involved was delighted with the proceedings.

In attendance was the P.G.M. of Londonderry & Donegal R.W.Bro. R.G. Quigley, his Deputy R.W.Bro. Noel Drain and the three Provincial Assistant Grand Masters R.W.Bros. J Graham, B. Kershaw and D. Blair.

Waterford Masons support local Hospice

V.W.Bro. Ivan Ward presenting the proceeds of a very successful Coffee Morning held on September 15th in The Masonic Hall, Waterford, to Mrs Lillian O'Connor of The Hospice movement in Waterford and wife of W.Bro James O'Connor the W.M. of Lodge 32 Waterford.

Re-Dedication of Masonic Hall

On Wednesday 12th October, Brethren and visitors, together with Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry & Donegal gathered at Curran Masonic Hall to re-dedicate the hall for Masonic Purposes. Constituted in 1776, Curran Masonic Lodge had been using the hall for more than 235 years. When the hall came into a state of needing many repairs, a steering committee formed with the remit of financing the project. With help from the International Fund for Ireland administered by the Rural Development Council; who gave over £49,000 and further assistance from their own P.G.L., sufficient funds were raised for the much needed refurbishment to take place.

The P.G.M. R.W.Bro. Robert Quigley, congratulated the Lodge and added, "It's a magnificent achievement by the oldest Lodge in the Province." Tongue in cheek, he humorously followed that by saying, "Don't tell the boys from Money more I granted you the status as oldest Lodge in the province!" There is obviously a little friendly rivalry over that accolade.

The ceremony was carried out flawlessly by all of those who took part, which is all thanks to the practise and direction of the Directors of Ceremony. This is interesting ritual that ought to be witnessed by all Masons at some stage during their Masonic career. Following the ceremony the Worshipful Master went on to thank P.G.L. for its support and guidance, the steering committee for doing such a great job and the visitors for sharing in their re-dedication service. Everyone went on to enjoy a light supper in the hall immediately following the closure of the Lodge.



R.W.Bro. Robert Quigley (centre) and Brethren of Curran Lodge No. 532



10th Anniversary of "Star of the County Down" Lodge of Installed Masters



Distinguished guests and Officers of the Star of the County Down Lodge of Installed Masters Lodge No. 124, including the W. Master Lowry Wylie MBE and the R.W. Provincial Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. Rodney L. McCurley

In October, Lodge 124, the "Star of the County Down" Lodge of Installed Masters celebrated the 10th Anniversary of their Constitution. To share in the event they invited the members of Provincial Grand Lodge of Down who had assisted them in their Constitution.

Guests included the V.W. Grand Steward V.W.Bro. Alan Stewart; R.W. Provincial Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. Rodney L. McCurley; R.W. Provincial Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro. John C. Clarke; R.W. Provincial Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro. W. Ivan Boreland & R.W. Past Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Robert J. Armstrong.

The Lodge was constituted in 2001 as a result of the foresight and industry of R.W. Past Provincial Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro.

Ian Ritchie and the late W. Bro. Jim Dawson.

In the intervening ten years the Lodge has raised many thousands of pounds for Masonic Charities and also a large proportion for outside charities such as the Newry Hospice and the Children's Hospice.

R.W.Bro. Ian Ritchie reflected on the events of ten years ago and the various personalities involved. R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, who had been P.G. Secretary at the time, spoke warmly of his memories of the occasion and wished the Lodge best wishes for the next ten years.

The event was marked by the presentation of a bible by the present Honorary Secretary W.Bro. Robert Cupples and a cake, beautifully baked by Mrs Lowry Wylie, was cut in celebration by the Inaugural Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Ritchie and the present Master V.W.Bro. Lowry Wylie M.B.E.



Inaugural Master and Present Master R.W.Bro. Ian Ritchie and V.W.Bro. Lowry Wylie M.B.E. with the R.W. Provincial Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. Rodney L. McCurley enjoying the occasion.

Gortin Masonic Lodge 994 Supports Horizon West Children's Hospice, Co. Fermanagh



Presenting the cheque for £750.00 the proceeds of a Lodge B.B.Q. to Mrs Gladys O'Callaghan Chairperson of the Fermanagh Friends of the Children's Hospice.

Front Row:

W.M. W.Bro. Rufus McFarland, Gladys O'Callaghan, W.Bro. D. McCrudden Ass. Secretary and W.Bro. H. McFarland S.W.

Back Row:

W.Bro. I. Hamilton Secretary, Bro. N. Donnell J.W., W.Bro. R. Feather Steward of Charities and W.Bro. M. Fleming Chaplin.

W.Bro. Derek D. McCrudden
Assistant Secretary

Mayo visits Crumlin

At Septembers communication, Langford Masonic Lodge 616, Crumlin, Antrim Province, received a visitation from brethren of Tyrawley Masonic Lodge 217, Mayo, North Connacht Province. The Worshipful Master of Tyrawley, W.Bro Keith Bain was born and raised in Crumlin, living on the Main Street, prior to relocating to Mayo. The Worshipful Master of Langford, W.Bro Brian Wells said, "were especially delighted to welcome our visitors as this is the first time a Lodge from the Southern Provinces had been to Crumlin. The fact that the P.G.M. of North Connaught R.W.Bro. Norman Reid came with them was an added bonus." The P.G.M. of Antrim R.W.Bro. John Dixon and the G.L. Standard Bearer were also present for the evening's festivities.



W.M. Keith J. Bain and Party trip to Langford Masonic Lodge 616 on the 2nd September 2011 (Mayo visits Crumlin – the other half of the story!)

We had a very memorable trip to Crumlin Masonic Lodge something I dearly wanted to do once I became the W.M. of Tyrawley Lodge No. 217.

When we arrived at Crumlin Masonic Lodge I met two old friends Robert Graham and Roy Jackson and his wife Jean whom I have known since I was a child. We were taken upstairs and introduced to the Brethren of the Lodge some faces I also recognised. The meeting started and it was a very auspicious occasion because there were two Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Masters present.

I knew our greeting would be friendly as on all occasions when we have visited other Masonic Lodges we found this to be the norm. I also had wondered how different the ritual of the Lodge would be but it turned out to be word for word the same as our own in Tyrawley 217.

After the meeting we had some group photos taken which the W.M. Ronnie from Lodge 616 sent to me.

We proceeded down stairs for a wonderful supper; all the members of 217 present really enjoyed the occasion.

On Saturday we were blessed with sun shine and made the most of the day with a trip to Bushmills distillery and then on to the Giants Causeway which on such a lovely day was truly awe inspiring.

We took the coast road back to our hotel late on Saturday after a lovely day out. Our meal together on Saturday night was a very enjoyable and happy occasion. I for one really enjoyed my visit back to my birth place.



R.W.Bro. Norman T Reid P.G.M. (N. Connaught); R.W.Bro. John Dixon P.G.M. (Antrim); R.W.Bro. Edward C. Smith, W.Bro. Keith J Bain W.M., V.W.Bro. W Robert Adamson, V.W.Bro. William H Cooke, W.Bro. Ivor Carnegie, W.Bro. Andrew Adamson, Bro. Rick Love, Bro. Paul Kirwan RT.

Star of West Down Masonic Lodge No. 94 supports Action Cancer

The £500 cheque being presented to Action Cancer representative, Lucy McCusker, was money raised at a Table quiz, Star of West Down, Masonic Lodge No. 94, ran at Dromore Rugby Club on 21st April 2011. In the picture presenting the cheque are from left to right: Almoner, W.Bro. Fraser Shannon; Treasurer, W.Bro. Keith McCollum; Worshipful Master, W.Bro. John Harshaw and Steward of Charities, W.Bro. Will Sloan. Thanks to all who so generously supported the night.



100 YEARS OF LABOUR - and not out !

On the 26th March 2011 James Chambers Masonic Lodge No. 318 celebrated 100 years of labour; the Lodge being formed on the 10th March 1911.

The Warrant of the Lodge has travelled around the world, the first record showing it as a duplicate Warrant, issued in Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone before being transferred to New Brunswick in 1830, Mackay, Queensland in 1879 and back to Northern Ireland in 1911, being issued to James Chambers Masonic Lodge No. 318.

The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of James Chambers Lodge No. 318 are pleased that we currently have around 45 members with numbers growing continually, young men keen to join and older members re-joining.

The celebration to mark such an auspicious event was not one that happened overnight, in fact it took several years of detailed planning, continued dedication and some stress to organise. Careful consideration was given to detail by all the members of the Lodge from the simplest of details to the most important of the arrangement. This included the striking of a jewel to mark this occasion and the invitation to the distinguished visitors.

On the weeks running up to the event, numerous meetings took place and rehearsals were arranged to ensure ritual etc., was given minute detailed attention, so that all could go away happy and it would be subject to conversation in the years that lie ahead.

The W.Master, Officers and Brethren of the Lodge were exceptionally pleased to have in attendance the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop and the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, R.W.Bro. John Dickson, accompanied by other distinguished Brethren and Officers from the Provinces of Antrim and Down.

It was great to see 85 brethren sitting in an almost full Lodge room, with black tie being the order of dress for the day for officers and members of the Lodge.

As the Lodge progressed through the business it was a pleasure and indeed a privilege for all the members present to be presented with a 100 year jewel in open Lodge. The Most Worshipful Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master taking the time to do this, assisted by the W.Master James Chambers.

Before the Lodge was closed both the Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Master made reference to the manner in which the business was conducted and said they felt it only right that they also congratulate the Lodge on their ritual, something that put the Director of Ceremonies on a high for the remainder of the evening.

Peace, Love & Harmony – Honoured

W.Bro. Bill McBride, Treasurer of Peace Love & Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 684, was invested as Honorary Past Provincial Grand Deacon in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, with the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Lodge. R.W.Bro. Sam Boyle on the extreme right of the photograph also received his 50 year jewel in 2011.



Officers & members of Lodge with Warrant



Officers and Provincial Officers of Antrim & Down

All the Brethren retiring downstairs took part in a sherry reception before sitting down to a fantastic 4 course meal, served and delivered to a high standard, in a hall that had paid careful attention to detail, right down to the flowers on the table layout, smart place settings and in another part of Crumlin Road Masonic Hall that was befitting of the special occasion.

Sitting at each place setting was a detailed booklet that took hours of preparation by professionals, consultation by Lodge officers and members containing details of founder members, Past Masters and current members. Also included were old photographs adding yet another special touch. This booklet was later signed by each person present to keep a record of the special event.

The night in question finished with some speeches, music and light refreshment all of which added to a fantastic day and night and was the topping on the cake for all the planning that went before.

Lodge 318 would like to put on record their special thanks to those involved in adding the special touches to this day :- Hilltop Caterers, Table Ten (table planning and supplies) and Crumlin Road trustees and hall committee, as well as all the Brethren of the Lodge who put time and effort into a fabulous day.

