



DECEMBER 2012

## Grand Master's Address to Grand Lodge in October 2012



Following our Grand Lodge Communication in June, my first visit was to Ramelton Lodge No. 407 on the occasion of their 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I enjoyed every minute when I met many old friends and enjoyed the celebrations. I was privileged to receive a copy of their history which I will treasure.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> June I attended the Annual Celebration Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Connaught to which all Provincial Grand Masters in Ireland are invited. It was a nice occasion when we could swap our pleasant experiences and share our difficulties. Every compliment to R.W.Bro. Norman Reid the Provincial Grand Master who, with his senior officers treated us well.

My next visit was with my Grand Secretary to the Grand East of the Netherlands where we were treated exceptionally well by the Grand Master Willem Meijer. I am the Representative of the Grand East and have fully enjoyed his friendship.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June I visited Old Portora Lodge No. 859 in Letterkenny and thoroughly enjoyed the get together of both Lodges. The Master of Lodge 859 very kindly presented me with the history of the 'Royal' Schools in Ulster, which I greatly appreciate.

Our next seven days were spent in Jamaica where I installed the new Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Peter Stuart, who succeeded R.W.Bro. Derek McKoy following his very successful 10 years on the throne. I wish them both every good fortune for their future.

The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July was the Annual Tripartite Meeting with the English and Scottish Constitutions, which is always an enjoyable meeting from which solid decisions emerge.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> July, the Grand Secretary and I set off to South Africa and visited our three Provincial Grand Lodges namely; South Africa Northern, Southern Cape Province and lastly but not least, Natal. I believe that we have sorted out the problems which existed heretofore and may peace now prevail. Our connections with the South African Brethren is very good and I was delighted to install R.W.Bro. Gordon Berg as P.G.M. in the Southern Cape and appoint R.W.Bro. Tom Adlem as the new P.G.M. for South Africa Northern, who was installed after our departure.

From South Africa, we travelled to Mauritius, where we returned the visit made by their group to Ireland, having enjoyed their excellent friendship from the only Irish Lodge in Mauritius, led by W.Bro. Arvand and his colleagues and thank them for their kindness during our visit. Their Lodge is called Trinity No. 925 and I thank you sincerely

Brethren for treating us so well, your generosity was overwhelming.

On 24<sup>th</sup> August we held our Annual Grand Master's Golf Competition and while the numbers were down from the previous year we managed to support our contribution to Masonic Charities in spite of the economic circumstances. My congratulations and thanks go to R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson and his wife Pauline.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September I chaired the Board of General Purposes in Belfast, ably supported by my Assistant Grand Master and the Grand Secretary.

I read the lesson in St. John's Church, Newtownhamilton, at a service held by Silver Jubilee Lodge No. 655. The church was well filled and the service was impressive.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September I visited the P.G. Lodge of Munster where a visitation took place by Brethren from the English Constitution, which had the Grand Lodge Orator in their group, who delivered a short speech. During the communication an actual conferment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree was conducted in a masterful fashion by R.W.Bro. Cyril Foster.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September, I attended a Communication of the P.G. Lodge of Tyrone & Fermanagh in Dungannon to honour R.W.Bro. Harry Weir, Provincial Grand Master, on his 10 years of service as P.G.M.

Our final activity was to visit Hamburg on an invitation from the Allied Grand Lodges of Germany to honour the Grand Master. My Grand Secretary and I thoroughly enjoyed the event.

# THE IRISH FREEMASONS' YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2012



## The Grand Master's Address at the conclusion of the Final

Deputy Lord Mayor,  
Minister, Your Excellency,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies  
& Gentlemen.

It seems astonishing to me that this is already the third year of The Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year, which has become a very important event in our year here at Freemasons Hall. And one where, albeit hesitantly, we are allowing ourselves to become rather proud.

Whilst all of you are very welcome indeed here in our very beautiful hall, I hope you will forgive me if I say that it is particularly pleasant to see The Deputy Lord Mayor and Minister Deenihan, Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the

Gaeltacht joining us here at the Final this year, representing as they do, the City and the Government. I would also like to give a special welcome to His Excellency the Ambassador of Romania.

It has taken a lot of work by a lot of people to get us to this point. From the very inception we have relied very heavily on our Patrons Jane Carty, Dearbhla Collins, Eamonn Lawlor and John Rowden, who have throughout happily undertaken duties and responsibilities far beyond that usually expected of Patrons. This applies especially to Jane Carty who in addition to being a Patron, and Chairman of the Jury, kindly agreed, earlier this year, to accept the title and responsibilities of Artistic Director of the Competition. I am grateful to the Heads of the Music Academies who, each year, have supported us by putting forward semi-finalists for the Competition. Their support is vital, and it is good to see you here this evening.

I must also mention RTÉ lyric fm, who have also been there for us from the start, and indeed the orchestras of RTÉ who have featured our finalists in their concerts. We are also grateful to Lighting Designer, Nicholas Malbon, who, each year designs and installs such splendid lighting to enhance the Hall. Finally I must mention our own people here at Freemasons' Hall, and in Events GLL, our 'concert-producing arm'. Their volunteer work for this Competition goes on all year, and I would like them to be very certain that I appreciate it greatly.

There are two other essential groups of people without whom we would have no 'Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year Competition'. Firstly the very eminent members

of the Jury who have given up their time, in what I am well aware is a very busy schedule, to be with us over the last few days, and adjudication (even with such an experienced Chairman as Jane) must have been a very difficult task. So to Professor Reinhart, Professor Coates, Professor Tate, Maestro Camatte and Mr Seamus Crimmins, I say a very big thank you, and hope you have enjoyed your time here in Ireland.

The second essential group is of course, our Competitors. I say 'Competitors' rather than Semi-Finalists because if nobody offered themselves to their College for audition to compete, we would have no competition. The fourteen who were so recommended have had a very intensive few days, and I hope they have also had the opportunity to find enjoyment in taking part in our Competition

It is inspiring to see the incredible dedication of these young musicians, and they have my absolute admiration and congratulation. Not just for their own superb performances but the way that they compete in a spirit of friendship and respect for each other which could well serve as a model in the wider world. So to all our competitors, our semi-finalists, and the four finalists (who are waiting impatiently for me to finish!!), a warm and heartfelt thank you from everyone here.

Thanks must certainly go to organist, Charles Marshall, studying at the RIAM, who enlivened your waiting time for you before the competition started, and I am delighted to also thank Alexander Bernstein, the Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year 2011, for such a charming and entertaining cameo performance whilst we were waiting for the results. Alexander, it was good to see, and hear you, playing here again - you have had a very busy and successful time, I think, since last October!

I said at the beginning that we were, hesitantly, allowing ourselves to feel real pride in our sponsorship of this Competition. Throughout all the centuries that Freemasonry has existed in Ireland, (and we are the second oldest Grand Lodge in the world, second only to England) one of the basic desires of Freemasonry is to be part of, and support to the best of our ability, the local communities in which we live, work and carry on our lives. It is part of our basic teaching of integrity and charity.

It is, however, unusual for us to support something which puts us so firmly in the spotlight.

Our charity donations, often of hundreds of thousands of Euro, tend to be given quietly, but this competition seems to have become, to my great satisfaction, something of importance to be reckoned with in the society outside Freemasonry.

So perhaps on this occasion I should put aside our hesitancy and say how proud we are to sponsor it, and how proud we are (and always will be as they progress in their careers), of those people who are chosen as 'The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year'.



*The Four Finalists*

*Dr Mary Henry  
Pro-Chancellor  
Trinity College*

*Deputy Lord Mayor &  
Minister for Arts,  
Culture & Gaeltacht*

*H.E. Ambassador Buga &  
Minister James Deenihan*

*Eamonn Lawlor, M.W.Bro.  
Eric Waller & Julian Pusca*

*GM, Mrs Taylor, Mr Simon  
Taylor CEO of National  
Concert Hall*

*Julian Pusca Winner 2012  
with the Grand Master  
& H.E. Ambassador Buga*

*Dr & Mrs John O'Connor*

*Alexander Bernstein  
2011 Winner*

*The Jury*

*Macdara O'Seireadain  
2010 Winner, talking to  
Dr Gordon Munro, Director  
of DIT Dublin*

We now move into the busy season.

The 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the year 2012' will be in full swing at Freemasons' Hall a week from today, when the Semi-Finals are adjudged in the afternoon and evening of Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October and the Final on Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>. This year is the third year of the Competition and it is gaining status year by year. There are fourteen semi-finalists this year playing 12 different instruments, from piano to pan-flute.

A very prestigious Jury has been appointed from Ireland, Scotland, England, Austria and France and I am pleased to tell you that apart from me and the Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters, the Final will be attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Minister for the Arts, the Pro-Chancellor of Trinity College, various Ambassadors, and many other distinguished guests. Our aim to raise our social standing and level of respect in the community, I am pleased to see, is being achieved.

I will remind you that tickets, which are available from Freemasons' Hall, sell out quickly. Also, I would point out that if you go to the Semi-finals you will have the opportunity to hear all 14 competitors, whereas, if you go to the Final, you only hear the four finalists.

I am confident that most of you will give the Competition your full support and repeat the successful outcomes of the past.

Lastly I refer to: Harmony

Harmony, my Brethren is only a simple word of seven letters; but it implies so much, for if we do not have this noble quality or try our utmost to practise it, dissension, discord, and turmoil invade our homes, our institutions, our governments and the nations of the world.

In olden times, people were ruled and governed by the dictates of those who were self-ambitious, tyrannical and domineering, who used force and cruelty to attain their own ends. As time went on, people rebelled against this type of man and gave vent to the principles of democracy which we know today.

Let us all uphold the fight for these democratic principles for which our fore-fathers have fought and died, and by our doctrines spread harmony not only to the Brethren in our institution, but also to the rest of the world. Through pleasantness and happiness, let us join the people of this world in bringing about peace, brotherly love, liberty, equality and brotherhood. Certainly, we can accomplish these common objectives through the practise of Harmony.

Brethren all, I wish you well.

M.W.Bro. George Dunlop  
Grand Master

## A CONCERTED INVASION

Freemasonry invaded the National Concert Hall again when Alexander Bernstein - the 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2011' - gave a performance to a sell-out House of the Shostakovich 2<sup>nd</sup> Piano Concerto, accompanied by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra conducted by Robert Houlihan.

The concert was also broadcast live on RTÉ lyric fm, and was part of his prize as winner of our Competition. The Grand Master was represented at the concert by M.W.Bro. Eric Waller, who is seen backstage in Alex's dressing room after the concert with (L-R) Alexander Bernstein, Jane Carty (Artistic Director of our Competition), Dr John O'Connor, and Macdára Ó Seireadáin (Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2010).



## LONG & DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

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

Name	Years	Lodge No.	Province
Bro. Archibald G. Hart	70	Ballymoney Masonic Lodge No. 330	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert D. Mawhinney	65	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 754	Londonderry & Donegal
R.W.Bro. R. Clayton Stevenson	64	St. George's Masonic Lodge No. 267	Antrim
R.W.Bro. Charles R. Knipe	60	Gordon Masonic Lodge No. 780	Tyrone & Fermanagh
R.W.Bro. Andrew McFetridge	60	Garvagh Masonic Lodge No. 779	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William J. Eames	60	Langford Masonic Lodge No. 616	Antrim
V.W.Bro. John W. Hill	60	Terence Masonic Lodge No. 575	Down
W.Bro. John G. Baker	60	Third Lodge Cork	Munster
W.Bro. Thomas Bell	60	Cairncastle Masonic Lodge No. 788	Antrim
W.Bro. Douglas C. Spence	50	Bangor Union Masonic Lodge No. 746	Down
W.Bro. James T. McKenty	50	Harmonie Masonic Lodge No. 282	Antrim
Bro. Robert G. Woods	50	Harmonie Masonic Lodge No. 282	Antrim
W.Bro. William J.J. Brolly	50	Harmonie Masonic Lodge No. 282	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert J. Smyth	50	Andrew Henderson Masonic Lodge No. 512	Antrim
Bro. Stanley J. McCarter	50	Maghera Masonic Lodge No. 42	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. Robert Logan	50	Clough Masonic Lodge No. 574	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas J. Sanderson	50	Breda Masonic Lodge No. 821	Down
W.Bro. George D.G. Cheatley	50	Sincerity Masonic Lodge No. 661	Down
W.Bro. William H. King	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 941	Londonderry & Donegal
R.W.Bro. Reginald K. Price	50	Civitas Masonic Lodge No. 483	Down
W.Bro. David J. Killen	50	Clontarf Masonic Lodge No. 249	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Thomas R. Gibson	50	True Blues Masonic Lodge No. 30	Down
W.Bro. Robert J. Boyce	50	Ballymoney Masonic Lodge No. 330	Antrim
W.Bro. John Rankin	50	Ballymoney Masonic Lodge No. 330	Antrim
Bro. Robert J. McConnell	50	Anahilt True Blues Masonic Lodge No. 683	Down
Bro. Kenneth H. Cheevers	50	Green Masonic Lodge No. 470	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Ronald E. Andrews	50	St. Helen's Masonic Lodge No. 641	Down
Bro. John Purdy	50	Dungannon Masonic Lodge No. 185	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. James I.A. Davison	50	Sion Masonic Lodge No. 144	Down
W.Bro. Thomas Todd	50	Sion Masonic Lodge No. 144	Down
Bro. Robert Main	50	Olderfleet Masonic Lodge No. 501	Antrim
W.Bro. David Fullerton	50	Olderfleet Masonic Lodge No. 501	Antrim
W.Bro. Samuel A. White	50	Olderfleet Masonic Lodge No. 501	Antrim
W.Bro. Noel Ryan	50	Emerald Masonic Lodge No. 139	Midland Counties
W.Bro. Alexander M. McCurdy	50	Francis Crossle Masonic Lodge No. 83	Down
W.Bro. Desmond F. Corban-Lucas	50	First Lodge Cork	Munster
W.Bro. Duncan T. Burns	50	QUB Masonic Lodge No. 533	Antrim
W.Bro. Ernest Preece	50	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 754	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Winston Wallace	50	Royal Blue Masonic Lodge No. 754	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. James McLarnon	50	Bryantmore Masonic Lodge No. 735	Down
W.Bro. Robert English	50	St. Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 142	Down
W.Bro. Walter G. Smyth	50	Star of Kilwarlin Masonic Lodge No. 66	Down
W.Bro. William M. Boyd	50	Queen Victoria Masonic Lodge No. 294	Antrim
Bro. Arthur O.P. Norris	50	Lisburn Masonic Lodge No. 178	Antrim
W.Bro. Leslie G. Evans	50	Huntingdon Masonic Lodge No. 307	Midland Counties
W. Bro. William A. Chambers	50	Donemana Masonic Lodge No. 256	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. Robert Scott	50	Donemana Masonic Lodge No. 256	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William G. S. Coulter	50	Temple Masonic Lodge No. 138	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William J. Kirk	50	Abbots Cross Masonic Lodge No. 814	Antrim
W.Bro. James L. Kirk	50	Abbots Cross Masonic Lodge No. 814	Antrim
W.Bro. Norman Allen	50	Renown Masonic Lodge No. 421	Antrim
W.Bro. David McCullough	50	Renown Masonic Lodge No. 421	Antrim
Bro. Robert P. Steen	50	Culrathain Masonic Lodge No. 940	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. William S. Rea	50	Union Masonic Lodge No. 148	Antrim
W.Bro. Norman D. Fairley	50	Mount Lebanon Masonic Lodge No. 503	Down

## A P.G.M. SAYS THANK YOU

Being aware of the increasing circulation of the Grand Lodge News I thought this would be the ideal medium to reach as many Brethren as possible.

I was quite overwhelmed by all the phone calls and e-mail enquiries and I received numerous get well letters and cards not only from my close Masonic friends but also from Lodges and Provinces in Ireland north and south and even as far away as England and the U.S.A.

It goes without saying that all these good wishes, no matter how they were conveyed, were a very welcome source of much needed support and encouragement. Three weeks in the same hospital ward

fighting a serious illness is not to be recommended even if you are receiving the very best of care and attention as I did in Ward 8 North of the Belfast City Hospital.

However I am pleased to report to all my many friends and fellow Masons that I have made a full recovery and I am now back to my usual level of fitness – looking forward to a quiet Christmas and a busy 2013.

Once again my sincere thanks to all those Brethren and Lodges that sent wishes for a speedy recovery – each and every one was really appreciated.

Richard H. Gray  
P.G.M. Down



## V.W.BRO. DAVID BRAMWELL McCUTCHEON

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012 Irish Freemasonry lost one of its giants with the passing of V.W.Bro. David Bramwell McCutcheon.

David McCutcheon was born in 1929 in South Armagh. He was the eldest of a family of ten and was christened David Bramwell McCutcheon. His parents were devout members of the Salvation Army and they gave him the middle name of Bramwell after the eldest child of William Booth, the organisation's founder.

When he was 15 he went to sea as a cabin boy and after two years he left it and came home to start work on the railway as a fireman on steam engines. He worked on the railway and progressed to other positions until, at the age of 32, he joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Over the following years he served in all the six counties of Northern Ireland until 1962 when he came to Larne as Station Sergeant, a post which he held until his retirement from the RUC.

His Masonic career began in Lodge No. 819 in Ederney, Co. Fermanagh in 1953. As a consequence of moving to different postings he received his Master Mason Degree in Jocelyn Lodge No. 734, sitting in The Mount in Belfast. When he came to Larne he affiliated to Carnlough Lodge No. 216 and he became Worshipful Master in 1980. We in Carnlough were singularly fortunate that he chose to affiliate to us for he brought with him a great store of knowledge and infectious enthusiasm. He became Director of Ceremonies for the next ten years and represented Carnlough Lodge No. 216 at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim's Board of General Purposes.

In 1995 he was elected to the post of Grand Senior Warden in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim and he was nominated on two different occasions for Grand Lodge honours. For many years he was a prominent member of the Committee of Inspection.

He was one of the founders of the Larne Craft Class of Instruction and served several Offices including those of Secretary and Chairman for many years. He brought teams together to exemplify the First, Second and Third Degrees before the Grand Lodge of Instruction. His knowledge of ritual was impeccable and his guidance was always given in such a gentlemanly manner. He was at all times a very enthusiastic recruiter for the Larne Craft Class and as the present chairman, it is to him that I owe so much due to his encouragement. In 2008 we celebrated our bicentenary in Carnlough Masonic Lodge No. 216 and I put together a short history of the

Lodge to mark the occasion. V.W.Bro. McCutcheon was most helpful to me throughout the preparation and production of it.

He was a big man in every sense of the word: physically big and his knowledge of the Laws and Constitutions and the finer points of ritual were second to none.

In other branches of our Order he was a Past King of Glenarm Royal Arch Chapter No. 45 and he was a Past Chief of Glencloy Council of Knight Masons No. 47.

Aside from Freemasonry he was a "Radio Ham" in his younger days, holding a Amateur Radio Operator's Licence. He was a committee member of the Larne branch of the British Legion and other welfare associations. A few years ago he went, in his own words, "back to school," to the University of Ulster at Jordanstown to do a Law Diploma which he duly passed with flying colours – no mean feat for a man of his years.

We all have many good memories of him from the mischievous twinkle in his eye when he was exchanging a bit of good natured banter or the hearty chuckle as he enjoyed a good joke at our Festive Board. His latter years were not easy ones due the slow but steady decline in his health which was stoically borne. We extend our sympathy to his wife Muriel and the family circle.

Although we shall miss him, our loss is the gain of the Grand Lodge above.

Alistair  
Montgomery



## "NORTH WEST HOSPICE" BENEFITS FROM MASONIC GOLF COMPETITION

The 13<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 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Once again, this popular Competition continues to attract growing numbers of Masons, Non-Masons and Ladies from all over Ireland, Scotland, England, and the Isle of Man, this year we had a Masonic Brother: Steve Wright and his wife Carolyn, from Idaho, in the Rocky Mountains region of the USA, having seen the Competition on the Grand Lodge Web-Site.

Steve and Carolyn enjoyed the competition and the 'craic' so much they hoped to come back in 2013.

The weather was not the best for golf, but with a magnificent array of prizes to the value of £1,500, 160 competitors braved the inclement conditions and returned some excellent scores.

The overall winner was Eddie McComb, of Lodge No. 679 (Masonic Province of Antrim), with 45 Stableford points.

The team prize was won by Alan Weir and John Porter representing Lodge No.461 in the Province of Antrim, with a combined score of 78.

Ladies prizes were won by Susan Davidson, Joan McCrum and Daphne Priestly.

Non-Mason's prizes were won by Richard Mackey, John Savage and Stuart Kennedy.

The day concluded with a great evening of entertainment, with an excellent selection of music by Alan Crawford (Panache), also, a short programme of pipes and drums by the daughter & son of The Mitchell Family. The prize-giving was well attended by approximately 100 people including the 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 Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley.

Tributes were paid to the organisers of the event, R.W.Bro. Noel Simpson and his wife, Pauline, and the organising Golf Committee.

On behalf of the Golf Committee, The Chairman, V.W.Bro Leslie Graham, thanked 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.

Despite the present economic climate and the difficulties of getting sponsorship, the Competition raised in excess of £6,000 in aid of Masonic and non-Masonic charities and a cheque for £2,500 was presented to Mr John Kelly, Co-ordinator for the North West Hospice, by the Chairman of the Northern Provinces Committee, R.W.Bro. Norman Reid, Provincial Grand Master for the Masonic Province of North Connaught.



*Susan Davidson - Winner of the Ladies Competition*



*Joan Mc Crum 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Ladies Competition*



*Daphne Priestly 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Ladies Competition*



*Overall Winner of the Grand Master's Cup - Eddie McComb, Lodge No. 678*



*R.W.Bro. Norman Reid presenting cheque for £2,500 to Mr John Kelly, North West Hospice.*

## TRIUNE 333 ENTERTAINS BELGIAN VISITORS

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September, W.Bro. Anthony O’Gorman, Worshipful Master of Triune Lodge 333, Limerick received a group of 12 visiting Masons from La Fidélité Lodge No. 13 Ghent, led by the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Belgium, Christian Van de Calseyde.

The Lodge was also honoured by the presence of our M.W. Grand Master, George Dunlop, as well as V.W.Bro. John Rowden, Grand Organist, who provided the superb musical accompaniment for the evening.

The evening was further enhanced by the presentation to R.W.Bro. Kenneth G. Brislane of a 60 year certificate as well as a 60 year bar to his 50 year jewel. R.W.Bro. Ken is a Past Provincial Grand Master of North Munster and a Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

To round off the meeting a superb 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree was conferred on Bro. Declan O’Regan by an expert team from the Lodge, with the main part of the degree conferred by R.W.Bro. Cyril R Foster, Past Provincial Deputy Grand Master of North Munster.

A total of 43 Brethren attended the meeting and also enjoyed a suitably amicable Festive Board after the meeting.

R.W.Bro. Hugh Milne, P.G.M. North Munster





## REFLECTIONS OF A MASONRY WIFE

There is a little band of men  
Who have a strong desire  
To meet together now and then  
And wear a strange attire.

They are not jockeys or rugby players  
They're not even the "Klu Klux Clan"  
But a poor girl's life is full of strife  
When she's married to a Masonic man

For if he's not in the red. He's in the black  
Or even the green or blue  
And she can never quite keep track  
Or even have a clue.

The endless telephone calls she takes  
With great efficiency  
And all the suppers and fancy cakes  
She makes so lovingly.

The shed needs mending. The plumbing needs drained.  
The garden has gone to pot  
The wallpaper needs hanging, the carpets are stained  
And the woodwork's starting to rot.

And all these things that need attention  
For time they tell you they've none  
But for the Masonic ones only to mention  
A job and as quick as a flash it's done.

How strange they can never remember to get  
That card for a birthday greeting  
But, tragic it would be should they ever forget  
That very important meeting.

And yet we should not grumble so  
Nor despise this affliction, it's true  
For without it where would our dear ones go  
And whatever would they do!

They'd watch the football on the box  
Get paralytic down the pub  
They'd slouch around in smelly socks  
Demanding all their grub.

They'd drive you crazy about their car  
Go goofy about their golf  
And you would wonder just how far  
They'd go before you'd had enough

Or perhaps they'd love to be beside you so dearly  
To help you with all your plans  
But a woman's idea of helping is clearly  
So different from a man's

And so it seems a touch absurd  
And really quite ironic  
That we should say with heartfelt word  
"God Bless The Dear Masonic".

Mrs. Marina Walker  
(Attributed to Cargyreevy Lodge No. 606)