



DECEMBER 2013

Thank you  
very much for  
your support

## TLC, Teddies for Loving Care, A Year of Achievement



*Launch of TLC in Cork with P.G.M. R.W.Bro. Leslie Dean*

TLC, originally started in the Province of Essex some 12 years ago, was introduced to Ireland in 2013.

Like most good ideas, the concept is simple, we purchase small Teddy Bears which are provided to Hospital Emergency Departments so that nursing staff can give a Teddy at their discretion to small children who are admitted in severe distress and the nurse feels that a Teddy to cuddle will help relieve the distress so the child can be more easily treated. Please note that not every Emergency Department will accept small children for treatment so we are involved only with those that do.

A Committee commenced planning the project in January, this involved fund raising and organising supplies of Teddies and distribution to Hospitals all over Ireland.

Deliveries of Teddies commenced in the Dublin area in May to gain experience of dealing with Emergency Departments locally and to identify logistical problems if any. Everything

went smoothly and we had a totally positive reaction from all nursing staff involved. At a time when all hospitals are operating with severe financial constraints and staff work under stressful conditions, the Freemasons arrived supplying Teddies to help relieve stress for children, parents and staff - our timing was perfect. Teddies will be available in all Emergency Departments throughout Ireland by the end of 2013, the following is a list of locations:- This summer a second Committee under the Chairmanship of R.W.Bro. Richard Gray was formed to organise the project in the Northern Provinces.

- [Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Londonderry](#)
- [Antrim Area Hospital \(ED\)](#)
- [Antrim Area Hospital \(Rowan\)](#)
- [Bantry General Hospital](#)
- [Causeway Hospital, Coleraine](#)



## Eamonn Lawlor celebrates the 2013 Competition and its glorious final.

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	Alex Petcu-Colan	CIT Cork School of Music	Percussion
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	Adam McDonagh	DIT Dublin	Piano
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	Tamara Niekłudow	RIAM Dublin	Piano
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize and John Vallery Memorial Prize:	Róisín Walters	RIAM	Violin
The Brennan Prize:	Denise Crowley	CIT Cork School of Music	Piano

It was different this year. On the final evening of the Competition, before a single note had been played, a kind of magic was at work. We could call it Performance Magic: that rare and unpredictable spell that can be cast over an auditorium, so that the evening's enchantment seems almost predetermined.

We can't explain the magic, but we can see in retrospect how the conditions were right for it. We knew we had four excellent finalists, the sequence of whose programmes, and the balance between them, made for an evening of music so absorbing we could almost forget there was a competition going on.

Our audience had its expectations raised by the experience of the previous three years. Even those who hadn't heard the semi-final performances were anticipating wonders, and willing them to happen. As they did: Alex Petcu-Colan, Adam McDonagh, Róisín Walters and Tamara Niekłudow seemed to inspire one another to play beyond themselves; the pleasure of one performance flowed over into the next, until talk of winners and runners-up seemed irrelevant. This was an evening of music – and one to remember.

All magic is a matter of belief, and over the three years the event itself had taught us to believe in it. We had seen it embraced by the music colleges, whose enthusiastic participation is not only vital to the first round selection process but makes itself felt in the final stages as well. The staff and fellow students who come to support the competitors in the Grand Lodge Room are audibly part of the excitement. They, and RTÉ lyric fm (with the final

established as a landmark in its broadcast schedule), remind us that – even more than we had hoped – the ripples of what the Irish Freemasons are doing for music extend far beyond Molesworth Street.

Far beyond Ireland, for that matter. The musical world as travelled by our four winners to date extends (by the last reckoning) from Bucharest and Hanover to Denver, Colorado. As it widens further, the Competition's reputation continues to spread; and the title "*Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year*" grows in value. Since 2010 we have been delighted by the pride that Macdára Ó Seireadáin, Alexander Bernstein and Julian Pusca have taken in their awards and the warmth with which they have maintained their links with us: as we said on the night, they allow us to think of them as our family of Laureates. (In presenting Julian's new wife Anastasia for their guest performance this year we were overcome by something akin to parental pride.) All the prize-winners and other finalists, who act as ambassadors for the Competition every time they play in public, are repaying their debt to the Irish Freemasons with generous interest.

And what a splendid ambassador Alex Petcu-Colan will make! As the range of his musicianship makes audiences think of percussion in a new way and listen to it with fresh ears, people's notions about Irish Freemasonry are bound to get shaken up as well. If that is a reward for the vision and generosity of Grand Lodge in giving to Ireland The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year, it is a reward richly deserved - one in which all your friends will rejoice.



The Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Edie Wynne, The Grand Master, Dr Mary Henry, Pro-Chancellor of Trinity and Mr Henry.



Alexander Bernstein (Winner 2011), with Miss Tara McNeill.



2013 Winner, Alex Petcu-Colan (who represented Cork) congratulated by Dr Geoffrey Spratt, Director of the Cork School of Music.



Eamonn Lawlor, Patron of the Competition, presenting the Final.



M.W.Bro. Eric Waller and The Grand Master discuss the result with the Grand Treasurer!



The Grand Master, Mrs Mary O'Connor and international concert pianist Dr John O'Connor.



Adam McDonagh, runner up, receives his prize from the Grand Master.



Denise Crowley (The Brennan Prize) and Darren Magee Organ Scholar from the DIT School of Music, who gave an excellent Organ recital before the Final.



The Prizewinners, L-R : Roísín Walters (Fourth, and The John Vallery Memorial Prize), Adam McDonagh (Second), Denise Crowley (The Brennan Prize), The Grand Master, Alex Petcu-Colan (Competition Winner), Tamara Niekłudów (Third).



The Grand Master and his Deputy swap jokes with concert pianist Alexander Bernstein.



The International Jury L-R : Mr Séamus Crimmins, Maestro Andrew Mogrelia, Mrs Jane Carty (Chairman of the Jury), Professor Maighread McCrann, Mr Robert Kulek, Mr Werner Krenn.

# Grand Master's Address

## **Stated Communication of Grand Lodge - October 2013, Cork.**

M.W.Bro. George Dunlop apprised Grand Lodge of his many visitations throughout the Constitution, since the last Stated Communication of Grand Lodge, in June.

### **8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July**

The Grand Secretary and I travelled to London to attend the Annual Tripartite Meeting, chaired this year by the Grand Lodge of England, which proved to be most enlightening and informative experience.

### **From 30<sup>th</sup> July**

Flew to Florida with daughter and son-in-law and family, where I met my sisters and brothers.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> September**

Visit from P.G. Lodge of South East Asia which we enjoyed thoroughly and were impressed by their keenness and enthusiasm. Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Brendan Bong headed the group and treated us very well. All attended and enjoyed Emerald Isle Lodge No. 19 meeting in the Grand Lodge Room.

### **8<sup>th</sup> September**

Attended Moville Masonic Lodge No. 297 (Province of Londonderry and Donegal)

### **14<sup>th</sup> September**

Attended the Open Day at the Masonic Temple in Bishop Street, Londonderry, which was extremely well attended by the public.

### **21<sup>st</sup> September**

A Party from Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 27, headed by W.Bro. Bishop Paul Coulton (W.M.), with thirteen members, including a number of Senior Provincial Officers from Munster, visited Culmore Masonic Lodge 320, in the Province of Londonderry & Donegal.

This visit to Culmore Lodge 320 was made to thank the members for presenting a Special Maul which is being passed around various other Lodges and continues to do so. Lodge 27 in turn made a presentation to Lodge 320 which pleased the recipients and secured the bond of friendship.

Many thanks are due to the members of 320 especially W.Bro. Herbert Guthrie and W.Bro. David Parkhill whose decision it was to keep the Maul on the move. Thanks must also go to W.Bro. Stewart McCarter, Secretary of the Lodge, for making all the necessary arrangements for such a wonderful occasion.

### **27<sup>th</sup> September**

I had the greatest of pleasure in accepting an invitation to a Banquet Dinner held in the Royal Court Hotel, Portrush on behalf of Lodges 1008 Portrush - 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Lodge 57 Ballymoney - 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Lodge 38 Ballintoy - 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which were attended by many of their Ladies. It was a night to remember, which I thoroughly enjoyed and I would thank the Brethren for their kindness.



- *Cavan General Hospital*
- *Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin*
- *Cork University Hospital, Wilton, Cork*
- *Craigavon Area Hospital, Portadown*
- *Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry*
- *Downe Hospital, Downpatrick*
- *Galway University Hospital*
- *Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn*
- *Letterkenny Hospital, Donegal*
- *Kerry General Hospital, Tralee*
- *Mallow General Hospital*
- *Mater Infirmorum, Belfast (Infirmorum)*
- *Mercy University Hospital, Grenville Place, Cork*
- *Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise*
- *Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar*
- *Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh*
- *Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda*
- *Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, Dublin*
- *Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Belfast*
- *Sligo Regional Hospital, The Mall, Sligo*
- *South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen*
- *The National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin*
- *Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, Belfast*
- *Waterford Regional Hospital*
- *Wexford General Hospital*

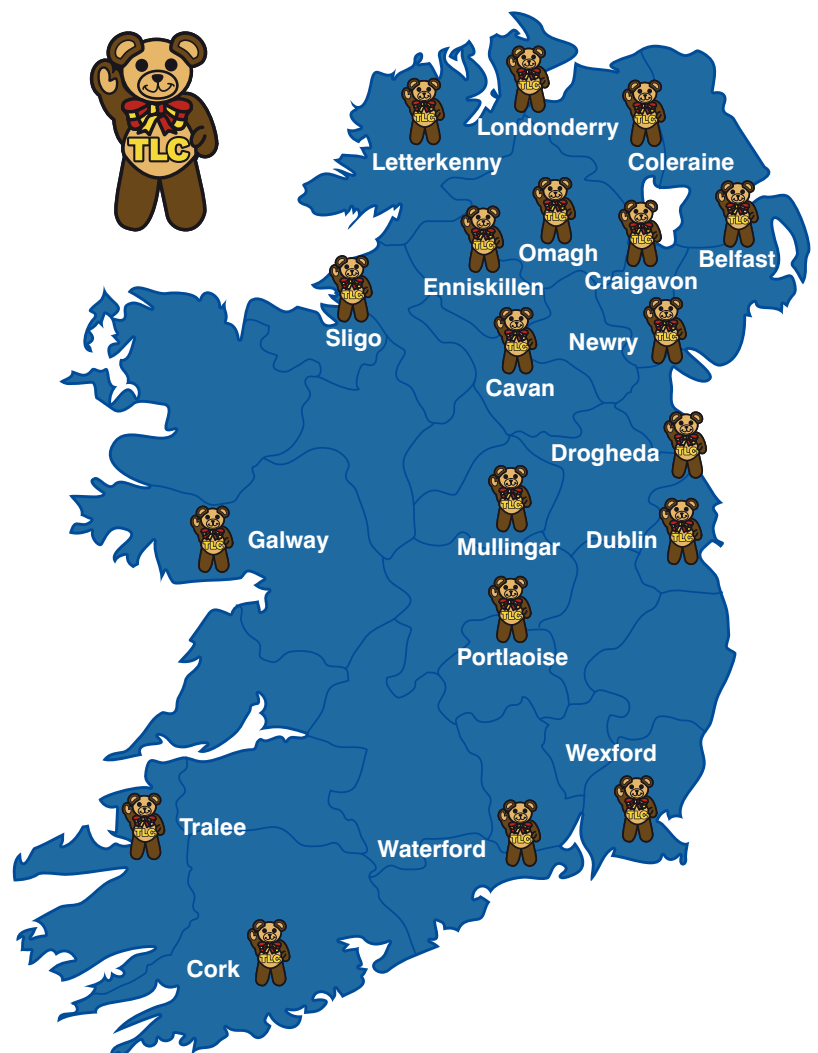
We estimate that in a full year we will require 35,000 Teddies costing approximately £56,000 or €70,000 which is very affordable when you consider the benefits which will accrue to so many people in our communities. Response to fund-raising has been very positive but great care must be taken to ensure that extra funds are raised for this project and funds are not diverted from our Masonic Charities. It should also be remembered that this is an on-going and open ended project which will need our continued support.

To confirm the benefits of the Project, Dr Gerry McCarthy, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at the recent launch at Cork University Hospital said:-

*"Teddies really help the medical teams during what can be an enormously stressful time for a child in an Emergency Department. Sometimes when they arrive here, they are not with their main carer. They don't have their comforter or cuddly toy with them, their whole day has fallen apart, so the idea of being able to take a fresh, clean wrapped cuddly Teddy and give it to the child, is really helpful to us. This helps us win the child's confidence and get on with treatment"*

The response from all Provinces has been excellent and everyone involved must be congratulated on their commitment to this exciting project which will be of immense benefit in raising our profile in communities throughout Ireland and demonstrating that Freemasonry is a very caring organisation.

*Eric Waller, Chairman TLC*



## “Cervical Cancer” and “Foyle Hospice” Benefits from Masonic Golf Competition

The 14<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 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

Once again, this popular competition continues to attract growing numbers of Masons, Non-Masons and Ladies from all over Ireland, Scotland and England.

The weather was excellent for golf, and with the magnificent array of prizes to the value of £1500, 184 competitors took advantage of the ideal conditions and returned some excellent scores.

The Chairman of the Golf Committee, V.W.Bro. Leslie



Noel & Pauline Simpson presenting a cheque for £1,500 to Michael McCafferty, Chairman of Board of Trustees of Foyle Hospice.

Graham welcomed everyone to Killymoon and thanked them for their attendance. Special welcome to the Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master, and Provincial Grand Masters and Officers from the Northern Provinces together with their Partners.

There were sixteen (16) main golf prizes of Cavan Crystal valued in excess of £1,500.

**The overall winner** was Rab Wilson, of Lodge No. 128 (Masonic Province of Antrim), with 42 Stableford points.

**The team prize** was won by Ross Duncan and James Moore representing Lodge No. 220 in the Province of Tyrone & Fermanagh with a combined score of 79.

**Ladies prizes** were won by Diana McClelland, May Baxter and Heather Henning.

**Non-Mason’s prizes** were won by Eugene Conway, John McVittie, and Jonathan Drain.

The prizes were presented by the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey.

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.

The Provincial Grand Master for the Masonic Province of Antrim, R.W.Bro. John Dickson, Chairman of the Northern Provinces Committee presented a cheque for £1,500 to Sharon Montgomery, Founder of *Cervical Cancer N.I.* R.W.Bro John Dickson also presented a cheque for £1,500 to Pauline Simpson who received it on behalf of “*The Foyle Hospice*”.



John Dickson - PGM Antrim Sharon Montgomery - Cervical Cancer N.I.  
Pauline Simpson on behalf of Foyle Hospice Londonderry

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.

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 Father & Son of The Mitchell Family.



John Dickson - PGM Antrim, Sharon Montgomery - Cervical Cancer N.I.



John McVittee — 2nd Prize Non Mason



Eugene Conway — 1st Prize Non Mason



Jonathan Drain — 3rd Prize Non Mason



L to R  
May Baxter - 2nd Prize Ladies  
Diana McClelland - 1st Prize Ladies  
Heather Henning - 3rd Prize Ladies



Eddie McComb — 4th Prize Masons



Ricky Campbell — 9th Prize Masons

## 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
W.Bro. David McCausland	70	Clotworthy Masonic Lodge No. 593	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert H. Dripps	60	Maghera Masonic Lodge No. 42	Londonderry & Donegal
Bro. George E. Walker	60	Dungannon Masonic Lodge No. 185	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Raymond R. Richardson	60	Scott Masonic Lodge No. 300	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Donald C. Reid	60	Drogheda Masonic Lodge No. 411	Armagh
W.Bro. Stanley Chase	60	Drogheda Masonic Lodge No. 411	Armagh
W.Bro. Percy C. Cundell	60	Green Masonic Lodge No. 470	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Stanley J.A. McKinney	60	Curran Masonic Lodge No. 532	Londonderry & Donegal
W.Bro. William C. Colhoun	60	Edenderry Masonic Lodge No. 544	Antrim
W.Bro. James Glenn	60	Sure & Steadfast Masonic Lodge No. 619	Antrim
W.Bro. Robert J. C. Boyd	60	Strathearn Masonic Lodge No. 680	Antrim
V.W.Bro. William B. Nevin	60	Armagh Home Guard Masonic Lodge No. 747	Armagh
W.Bro. Joseph Boyd	60	Kilwaughter Masonic Lodge No. 762	Antrim
Bro. James Neill	60	Kilwaughter Masonic Lodge No. 762	Antrim
Bro. Robert W. Moorhead	50	Union Masonic Lodge No. 23	Down
W.Bro. Charles W. Olden	50	Shamrock Masonic Lodge No. 27	Munster
W.Bro. Leslie Gilmore	50	Union Band Lodge Masonic Lodge No. 35	Down
W.Bro. Ernest Beck	50	Star of the East Masonic Lodge No. 37	Down
W.Bro. Samuel A. Mackenzie	50	Harp & Crown Masonic Lodge No. 60	Antrim
W.Bro. Joseph H. McCormick	50	Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge No. 147	Down
W.Bro. James McAuley	50	Rising Sun Masonic Lodge No. 170	Down
W.Bro. Alfred L.J. Reed	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 238	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Keith Kennedy	50	Abercorn Masonic Lodge No. 251	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Robert E. Lorimer	50	J. Creed Meredith Masonic Lodge No. 253	Antrim
W.Bro. William E. Lown	50	Wheatfield Ashley Masonic Lodge No. 279	Antrim
W.Bro. Thomas H. Reddick	50	Abercorn Masonic Lodge No. 299	Armagh
W.Bro. William A. Crawford	50	Shaftesbury Masonic Lodge No. 327	Antrim
W.Bro. Arthur McP. Campbell	50	Shaftesbury Masonic Lodge No. 327	Antrim
W.Bro. Lawrence R. Fowke	50	Shaftesbury Masonic Lodge No. 327	Antrim
W.Bro. James J. L. Parkes	50	Suidhe Masonic Lodge No. 355	Down
R.W.Bro. Kenneth Abernethy	50	Mount Masonic Lodge No. 358	Down
W.Bro. William Thompson	50	Mount Masonic Lodge No. 358	Down
Bro. William Ball	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 396	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. William Black	50	Unity Masonic Lodge No. 396	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Mervyn Foster	50	Ballyconnell Masonic Lodge No. 405	Meath
W.Bro. Thomas J. Canning	50	Armagh Masonic Lodge No. 409	Armagh
W.Bro. Matthew Gibson	50	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 459	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Edward D. McCartney	50	Green Masonic Lodge No. 470	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Gordon A. Thompson	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 555	Munster
W.Bro. Richard H. Elliot	50	Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 586	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Frederick A. Leeson	50	Molesworth Masonic Lodge No. 611	Metropolitan
W.Bro. Ronald C.A. Milne	50	Molesworth Masonic Lodge No. 611	Metropolitan
W.Bro. James G. Ring	50	Molesworth Masonic Lodge No. 611	Metropolitan
W.Bro. John K. Bailey	50	The First Volunteer Masonic Lodge No. 620	Metropolitan
V.W.Bro. Thomas E. Kenny	50	St. Patrick's Senior Masonic Lodge No. 623	Armagh
W.Bro. Leland G. H. Birch	50	Downshire Masonic Lodge No. 662	Midlands
W.Bro. Peter R. Walker	50	Downshire Masonic Lodge No. 662	Midlands
W.Bro. George A. McBride	50	Peace, Love & Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 684	Down
W.Bro. James A. Davison	50	City Masonic Lodge No. 686	Down
W.Bro. Thomas J. Mailey	50	Roselands Masonic Lodge No. 693	Antrim
W.Bro. James McCalla	50	Spa Masonic Lodge No. 703	Down
Bro. David E. Robb	50	Scrabo Masonic Lodge No. 714	Down
W.Bro. Hugh Ritchie	50	Scrabo Masonic Lodge No. 714	Down
Bro. John Ogle	50	Cambridge Masonic Lodge No. 727	Down
Bro. Charles A. Kidd	50	Cambridge Masonic Lodge No. 727	Down
W.Bro. Edwin A. Vance	50	Inniskilling Masonic Lodge No. 744	Tyrone & Fermanagh
W.Bro. Daniel Nelson	50	Liscoole Masonic Lodge No. 763	Antrim
W.Bro. Andrew J. McAleer	50	Phoenix Masonic Lodge No. 836	Tyrone & Fermanagh
Bro. Francis Nixon	50	Seaforde Masonic Lodge No. 1009	Down



# Grand Lodge coming to Athlone

## 275 Years Of Freemasonry In Athlone

### - 'Springtime On The Banks Of The Shannon' -

To mark the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shamrock Lodge 101 Athlone, the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Connaught has invited the Grand Lodge of Ireland to hold its March Stated Communication in Athlone on the banks of the River Shannon.

Shamrock Lodge was originally constituted on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1739 and re-warranted in 1810. The Freemasons' Hall in Northgate Street, Athlone was dedicated on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1915 and renovated in 1992. Currently, in addition to Lodge 101, two further Craft Lodges, Sussex Lodge 137 Ballinasloe and Lodge 248 Roscommon use the premises. The majority of regular Communications of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Connaught are hosted in Athlone.

In recognition of the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the March Communication of Grand Lodge will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 2.30 p.m. in the Sheraton Hotel, Gleeson Street, Athlone. The day commences with tea & coffee in the Lodge Room, followed by lunch in La Provence Restaurant at the hotel at 12.30 p.m. Following the Communication, tea and coffee will be served. The hotel is offering an attractive package for a two night stay in Athlone, with an "early bird" discount for bookings made before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014. An accompanying persons programme includes spa demonstration, wine tasting and bakery demonstration, as well as discount vouchers in the adjacent shopping centre. There is extensive underground car parking, while for those wishing to avail of public transport, the hotel is conveniently situated within 250m of the bus and railway station. As well as local attractions, such as Athlone Castle and riverside walks, nearby is the historic monastic settlement of Clonmacnoise and award winning restaurants in Glasson.

Further details and booking form for lunch are available in the publicity brochure which is available at Molesworth Street and other venues and will be with all Lodge Secretaries shortly. Early booking direct with the Hotel mentioning "Freemasons" is advised.

We look forward to giving you a warm welcome in Athlone.

Nigel Foley-Fisher  
P.D.G.M. South Connaught



# “Tweddie’s Maul” on-the-move!

“As part of the Launch for the TLC appeal, a ‘Tweddie’s Friendship Maul’ (see [www.irish-freemasons.org](http://www.irish-freemasons.org)) was commissioned by way of a fundraising device.

Up until last week-end this Maul resided in the Province of Down in the care of St. Patrick’s Masonic Lodge No. 77, Newry, and then the Farmers’ Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 978, Ballylesson.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, a group of Strathearn Masonic Lodge 680 marauders, got out their passports and travelled to Co. Down to attend the meeting of 978 in the shadow of the Giants Ring at Edenderry, with a view of capturing the aforementioned maul.

By all accounts our Worshipful Master, who was accompanied by V.W.Bro. Ivan Gillespie, W.Bro. John Fyfe and W.Bro. David Girvin, were well received and peace, love and harmony prevailed.

However having paid over some ‘golden’ pound coins as bullion in exchange for the TLC maul, we are pleased to advise all comers that we are now the first ‘Host’ Lodge in the Province of Antrim (north of the Lagan) and we will now have to prepare to receive friendly advances from other Lodges!!

What about a Lodge from the Province of Armagh or



W.Bro. David Robinson, W. Master of Lodge 680, receiving the Maul from the W. Master of Farmer’s Friendship Lodge No. 978.

Tyrone & Fermanagh or Londonderry & Donegal coming to Lisburn on the Third Thursday of December to assist in the raising of funds for Teddies for Loving Care??”

Contact:

Bruce Kirk, Secretary, Strathearn 680  
[strathearn.lodge@yahoo.com](mailto:strathearn.lodge@yahoo.com)



## Tweddie’s Friendship Maul

The latest known location of the ‘Tweddie’s Maul’ is as follows:

Host Lodge	Province	Date
St. Patrick’s Lodge No. 77, Newry	Down	14/09/2013
Farmer’s Friendship No. 978	Down	7/10/2013
Strathearn Masonic Lodge No. 680	Antrim	9/11/2013

## Council to hand over The Maltings to the Freemasons

Kilkenny Borough Council has agreed to hand over a property at The Maltings, off James's Street, to the local Lodge of Freemasons.

The decision was officially made at last week's meeting of Kilkenny Borough Council. The Freemasons have previously held court in St. Mary's Church since the 1960's, but have relinquished the building, which the local authorities are currently restoring and transforming into a city museum.

At last week's meeting of the Borough Council, the members agreed to dispose of part of The Maltings property. The motion was proposed by Councillor Sean O' hArgain (Labour), who said one of the highlights of his previous year as mayor had been a tour of St. Mary's Church and the Lodge.

*"The Freemasons couldn't have been more welcoming and more friendly,"* he said.

*"If not for their cooperation, and if not for the efforts of George Sherwood, the transfer of St. Mary's would not have been possible. I propose that in handing over this property to them,*

*we are repaying some of that good faith to facilitate their future development"*.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor John Coonan (FF).

County manager Joe Crockett said the Freemasons had shown great public-spiritedness in making the difficult decision to move from the building. He said it was important also to acknowledge the Church of Ireland's role and the work of the Dean of St. Canice's Cathedral, her predecessor, and that of the select Vestry.

The plans for St. Mary's Church are at Part 8 at the moment. Cllr. Malcolm Noonan (Green Party) also asked whether comments made at the series of public meetings on the church could be used to inform the statutory Part 8 process. The County manager told him that if the minutes were taken at the meeting, they could be included in the process.

*(By kind permission of Kilkenny People newspaper)*

## W.Bro. Clifford Boyd celebrated 60 years of Masonic Service

At our September Communication, Strathearn Masonic Lodge 680 met in Belsize Road to celebrate their most senior member's achievement of 60 years of service to the Masonic Order. Our Emeritus Member W.Bro. Clifford Boyd joined the Order in May 1953 and has been an active & dedicated member ever since his initiation.

Joining us that night was the P.G.M. R.W.Bro. John Dickson, who along with our W. Master W.Bro. David Robinson presented W.Bro. Clifford with his 60 year bar & framed Diamond Jubilee Certificate.

Also present at the celebration were fraternal members of other sections of the Order to which Clifford had dedicated time and energy over the years, including his Mother Lodge Andrew Henderson No. 512, his newly affiliated 'home' Lodge Groomsport No. 337, Finaghy RAC No. 651, Rosemary & Lisnagarvey Preceptories along with Kilwarlin Prince Masons. In addition, were fraternal friends from Clifford's Scouting background & from Harmony Hill Church.

At the Festive Board following the meeting a charity collection raised £300 which was divided evenly between the newly launched appeal 'Teddies for Loving Care' & the 'Mark Pollock Trust'.



*R.W.Bro. John Dickson (P.G.M. Antrim); W.Bro. Clifford Boyd & W.Bro. David Robinson W.M.*

## Presentation of Cheque to Renal Unit by the Brethren of Blaris Hall



Blaris Hall is home to 3 Craft Lodges, Lord Arthur Hill No. 147, Largymore Star of Down No. 753 and Sirron No. 874 as well as Lord Arthur Hill Royal Arch Chapter No. 147 and Council of Knight Masons No. 50. Each year the Brethren hold a family barbeque in aid of hall maintenance funds but this year it was decided that the proceeds should go to the Renal Unit Fund at Belfast City Hospital in memory of W. Bro. Gary Briggs, Master of Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge No. 147, who died in office in December last year.

The Renal Unit Fund is a registered medical charity managed by the Belfast Trust. Donations are used to enhance the care of persons suffering from kidney disease in Northern Ireland such as improving the facilities where patients receive

treatment, provision of items of equipment not normally available through the N.H.S. and supporting training and education of nursing, technical and medical staff. The Fund also supports a dedicated kidney research lab investigating causes and treatments for renal diseases.

Receiving a cheque for £840 on behalf of the Renal Unit Fund are Judith Moore and Flo Rea with Bro. Billy Briggs, W. Bro. Tommy Gardner, P.P.J.G.D., Sirron Masonic Lodge, and W. Bro. Joe McCormick, W.M., Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge.

*W. Bro. Graham Walker, P.G.S., Secretary, Lord Arthur Hill Masonic Lodge*

## Ormonde Lodge 201 Solstice Meeting



Ormonde Lodge No. 201 held their first, in fact the very first, Solstice Meeting on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013 in the North Munster Masonic Centre, Limerick.

It was a very well attended meeting where the Brethren heard a fascinating talk by Worshipful Brother Chris McClintock on the links between the Summer Solstice and Freemasonry.

W. Bro. Chris is the well-known Masonic author of "The Craft

and the Cross" and was delighted to be asked to make his presentation to the very first Solstice Meeting.

The meeting was followed by an excellent Festive Board prepared and served by some of the Brethren and their wives.

For a detailed report on, and photographs of, the evening please visit [www.irishfreemasonry.com](http://www.irishfreemasonry.com)

*Photograph courtesy of W. Bro. Chris McClintock.*

## Rising Sun Lodge No. 170, Crawfordsburn Bicentennial

The Lodge warrant was issued on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1813 and the Lodge was constituted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1813.

The Bicentennial Anniversary was celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2013 and was attended by the Provincial Assistant Grand Master of The Masonic Province of Down, R.W.Bro. David Selby, who presented bicentennial pins to the Members of the Lodge.

Following the Festive Board the Worshipful Master gave a talk on the history and symbolism of the Lodge Banners, which are still used on ceremonial occasions. The first 150 years of the Lodge's history are available in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and on the CD disc "Irish Masonic Records, Third CD Edition".

At a subsequent Communication the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Herbie Graham, was presented with a Golden Jubilee Certificate and Fifty Year Jewel by V.W.Bro. Phillip Hobson, Provincial Grand Inspector for Down.



In thanking V.W.Bro. Phillip Hobson, W.Bro. Graham remarked that this was the third significant communication of his year in Office - starting with his Installation, then the Bicentenary Anniversary and now his Presentation, in this his third time as Worshipful Master.



The Worshipful Master of 170, W.Bro. Herbie Graham, flanked by the Provincial Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro. David Selby and the Lodge Secretary W.Bro. John Cooke together with the Officers and Members of the Lodge and Visiting Brethren.

### Articles Wanted

The success or otherwise of this type of publication depends upon the quality and variety of articles it contains. "Grand Lodge News" is not solely for the promotion of Grand Lodge matters, rather it is there to serve Provincial Grand Lodges and Subordinate Lodges alike. The editorial team will be glad to receive interesting articles regarding functions / special anniversaries / letters etc.

We would ask that the "kiss" principle is recognised - "keep it short and simple" and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

The Editor  
Grand Lodge News  
c/o 115 The Mount  
BELFAST BT5 4ND

or by e-mail to: [williamclarke746@btinternet.com](mailto:williamclarke746@btinternet.com)

## Gibson Lodge No. 87 celebrates 30 years of fraternal communication with Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 (Scottish Constitution).

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013, to celebrate 30 years of friendship, Gibson Lodge No. 87 (Down) along with Star of Bethlehem Lodge No. 665 (Antrim) travelled to the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Molesworth Street, Dublin along with Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 Scottish Constitution.

The Communication was to celebrate 30 years of friendship between Gibson Lodge and Lodge Greenock St. John's and was dedicated to the late Bro. Cochrane Moore Taylor R.W. Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's in 1983 on the occasion of the first visit in Belfast.

W.Bro. Evan Corbett (W.M. Gibson 87) presented a Square and Compass set to R.W. Master Alexander Johnston (W.M. Greenock 175), a fitting gift as Bro. Cochrane Taylor presented a Square and Compass set to W.Bro. William Hicks in 1983. This Square and Compass set has been used at every Communication of Gibson from 1983.

Following the Communication of Gibson Lodge 87 we were treated to a superb demonstration of an Entered Apprentice Degree under the Scottish Constitution by Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

We were delighted with the support received for this Communication which included a number of distinguished Brethren.

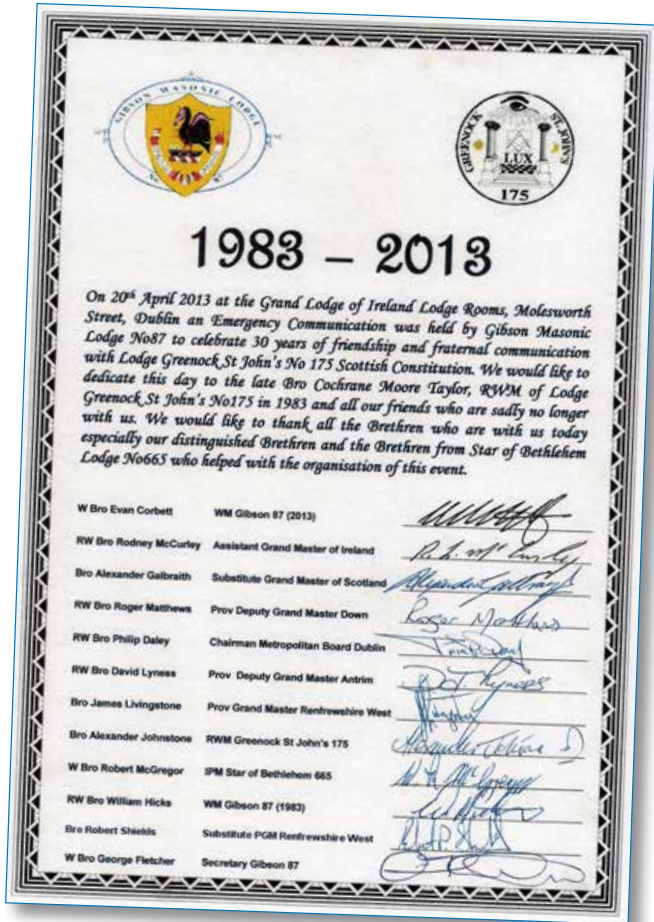


*R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, W.Bro. Evan Corbett, Bro. Alexander Johnston, Bro. Alexander Galbraith*

We all then travelled back to Belfast and enjoyed a Festive Board and entertainment in the Mount Masonic Hall, a fitting way to end a superb day out and 30 years of friendship.



*Over 70 Brethren (25 from Scotland) travelled to Dublin.*



After opening the Lodge R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley, A.G.M. of Ireland accompanied by Bro. Alexander Galbraith, Substitute Grand Master of Scotland was presented to the Worshipful Master.



(L-R) R.W.Bro. David Lyness (P.D.G.M. Antrim), R.W.Bro. Philip Daley (Chairman Metropolitan Board Dublin), Bro. James Livingstone (P.G.M. Renfrewshire West), R.W.Bro. Rodney McCurley (A.G.M. Ireland), W.Bro. Evan Corbett (W.M. Gibson 87), Bro. Alexander Galbraith (Substitute G.M. Scotland), R.W.Bro. Roger Mathews (P.D.G.M. Down), Bro. Robert Shields (Substitute P.G.M. Renfrewshire West).

## Lodge No. 60 Comes Home



Masons & Guests outside Knappogue Castle with the PGM's of Antrim & North Munster holding a copy of the original Warrant of Lodge No. 60

The Harp & Crown Lodge No. 60 of Ballymena in the Province of Antrim recently undertook an excursion to North Munster for their annual installation proceedings.

The question is - what would prompt Lodge 60 to make a round trip of some 500 miles, make two different Provincial Grand Masters, the Deputy Grand Master & Brethren of three different constitutions also attend for an annual installation?

### **Background to Harp & Crown No. 60**

Harp & Crown Lodge No. 60 was constituted in Ballymena in 1982. However, the warrant of Lodge No. 60 originated in North Munster in 1736 - specifically in Ennis, Co. Clare where it was variously known as Ennis Master Masons' Lodge No. 60, Ennis Lodge No. 60, Royal Arch Lodge No. 60 and finally, Dunboyne Lodge No. 60.

As part of their continuing effort to engage with the 277-year old history of the warrant, the Brethren of Ballymena have been visiting the North Munster area for many years, making connections and developing relationships with their Limerick counterparts. In return the Province of North Munster has always attended the Annual Installation meetings in Ballymena.



Knappogue Castle. Limerick Built Circa: 1467

The 2013 installation was the perfect opportunity to take this engagement to a whole new level. Thus, a three day weekend excursion for the Brethren & their wives was the order of the day.

### **The Limerick Excursion**

The weekend commenced on the Friday afternoon with a Lodge Committee Meeting held for members of the Harp & Crown Lodge 60 & their guests at Knappogue Castle, some six miles outside of Limerick.

Knappogue is one of the finest medieval castles in Ireland & dates from as early as 1467. The committee meeting held by Harp & Crown Lodge 60 is believed to be the first Masonic-related meeting to be held in the Castle for some 150 years. The meeting was well attended by over 30 Brethren.

In its comparatively recent history the Castle was home to The Hon. Theobald Fitzwalter Butler, the 24<sup>th</sup> Lord Dunboyne. Lord Dunboyne was, from 1828 to 1842, Grand Treasurer of The Grand Lodge of Ireland & was Provincial Grand Master of North Munster from 1868 until 1881. He was a member of two local Craft Lodges - Triune Lodge No. 333 in Limerick & the original Master Masons Lodge No. 60 in Ennis.

It was during his time at Master Masons Lodge No. 60 that it was renamed Dunboyne Lodge No. 60, in honour of its prestigious member. Crucially, just 140 years ago this year Dunboyne Lodge No. 60 was well represented when the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Munster met for labour in the very same upper room of Knappogue Castle where the committee meeting was being held. Thus, Brethren reading this will start to understand the historic nature of the visit. Lodge 60 had also met several times in the Castle.

### **Visit to Lodge No. 333 Limerick.**

The Friday evening finished with a visit to Triune Lodge No. 333 in the North Munster Masonic Centre in Limerick. The visiting Brethren observed a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree given in a truly





*Brethren of Lodge 60 & Visitors on day of Installation*

exemplary fashion to a very fresh faced looking 25 year-old Mason. Almost as impressive as the Degree work was the Festive Board afterwards - a hot & cold buffet complete with a selection of desserts. The welcome the visitors received brought the day to an outstanding end for all concerned.

#### **Installation in North Munster Masonic Centre.**

Permission having been duly granted to move the Warrant for the Installation of Officers for 2013, Lodge 60 then set the largest attendance record for any Masonic meeting held in the North Munster Masonic Centre.

The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Steven Houston opened the Lodge and formally welcomed all the visiting guests and dignitaries. This included the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas T Grey, the Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, R.W.Bro. John Dickson & the Provincial Grand Master of North Munster, R.W.Bro. G Hugh Milne, together with Brethren from the English, Scottish & of course Irish Constitutions. The installing officer, W.Bro. Jim McGookin proceeded to install R.W.Bro. Hector Mackenzie in the Chair in what was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his original installation into the Chair of the Harp & Crown; thus completing another momentous occasion for the Lodge.

After the installation there were several presentations from and to different visiting Brethren. The Worshipful Master R.W.Bro. Mackenzie can be seen aside with R.W.Bro. G Hugh Milne, Provincial Grand Master of North Munster & R.W.Bro. John Dixon, Provincial Grand Master of Antrim.

The Festive Board & evening's entertainment were held in the Jury's Inn Hotel in Limerick to which Masons, wives, partners & guests were invited and a most enjoyable time was had by all.

The following day being Sunday, the visiting Brethren made their way north once again and the excursion was brought to a very fine end with a three course meal in the Carrickdale Hotel just outside Dundalk.

The Harp & Crown Lodge No. 60, Ballymena would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who made the event such a success and they look forward to visiting Limerick again very soon.

*Bro. Nicholas Dallat.*



## Unity Lodge 396 mourn loss of esteemed Brother

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013, Brethren from Unity Masonic Lodge 396 accompanied by representatives other branches of Freemasonry in the Cookstown area, gathered to be present at the unveiling of a plaque in memory of their esteemed Worshipful Brother, David Black, who was tragically murdered on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012.

*David's wife Yvonne, his son Kyle and daughter Kyra were present when Dean Kenneth Hall, the Provincial Grand Lodge Chaplin of Tyrone and Fermanagh, led the praise and conducted the dedication.*



## Half-Century – not out!!

W.Bro. James McAuley receives his 50 year medal from W.Bro. Basil Lloyd. W.Bro. McAuley was initiated into Rising Sun Masonic Lodge No. 170, Crawfordsburn, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1953 and was Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1981. As well as being a regular attendee he is always willing to assist in Lodge ritual and enliven social occasions with his dry wit.



## Masonic Lodges Donate £7,000 to Horizon West Children's Hospice

Representatives from Masonic Lodges across Fermanagh and Tyrone were delighted to visit the new Horizon West Children's Hospice recently.

Greeted on their arrival by Siofra Healy, Director of Income Generation for the Children's Hospice and Gladys O'Callaghan, Chair of the Fermanagh Support Group they received a tour of the new facility and learned about the services currently being provided for local children with life limiting illness and the plans for future development.

Hazlett Moore, Treasurer of the Provincial Grand Masonic Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh was pleased to be able to hand over a cheque for £7,000 towards the costs of care at Horizon West Children's Hospice.

Gladys O'Callaghan said: "This is a wonderful donation from all the Masonic Lodges across Fermanagh and Tyrone." The Children's Hospice was the recipient of the Freemasons Grand Master's Festival in 2009 and we are very grateful that our local Lodges have continued to support Horizon



*Also pictured is, the late R.W.Bro. Norman Humes J.P. P.G.M. (T&F); Siofra Healy and P.P.G.M. R.W.Bro. Harry Weir.*

West Children's Hospice. "The money raised will go a long way to provide care and support for children, young people and their families living with a terminal illness in the Fermanagh and Tyrone areas".

Further information on the work of Horizon West Children's Hospice is available on 07773 367 286 or by visiting [www.nihospice.org](http://www.nihospice.org)