



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



MARCH 2004



Back Row, (L to R) – W.Bro. N Magowan, Mrs S McCreddie, W.Bro. R Kelly, W.Bro. G McCullough, V.W.Bro. D Simms, W.Bro. D Sneddon, W.Bro. A McClimmond and W.Bro. E Coulter. Front Row (L to R) - R.W.Bro. R Armstrong, R.W.Bro. G Dunlop, Mrs G Stevenson, W.Bro. D Stevenson and R.W.Bro. W Mawhinney.

TRACTOR CHEQUE PRESENTATION

Newry Masons were honoured by the presence of the Deputy Grand Master and the Assistant Grand Master at the Cheque Presentation to Southern Area Hospice. The highest Officers of the Provinces of Wicklow/Wexford; Munster; South Connaught; North Connaught; Antrim and Down, joined the Mayor of Newry and Mourne and representatives of the Hospice at the function.

Sister Teresa, founder of the Newry Hospice, travelled from Kilkenny to receive the cheque and renew friendships with the Newry Brethren and the Province of Down.

The Final total of £38,000 was mainly due to the generosity of Lodges throughout Ireland. We, the Organising Committee, hope our venture has helped to raise the profile of our beloved Order.

W.Bro. R Kelly, Secretary

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

by R.W.Bro. Michael W Walker,
Grand Secretary

Have you ever stopped and given thought to exactly what Freemasonry is and what it stands for? If you do, don't expect to find an easy answer and don't accept some glib definition of the kind we so often hear produced when this topic comes up for discussion. Many, I believe, never really ponder deeply about it, but are nevertheless content and satisfied with their membership, comfortable in the fact that it is meeting and providing some unarticulated contribution to their lives which brings enjoyment and contentment. For many years I found it hard to articulate exactly what it meant to me and to analyse its elements. Then, some years ago, I had a period of enforced inactivity and found I had the time and opportunity to do so.

I would like to contemplate for a moment the essence and ethos of our Order. On his initiation, the Brethren are assured that the candidate is "living in good repute amongst his friends and neighbours". He is therefore, or should be, a peaceable and law-abiding citizen who gets on well with others. A little later on, the candidate affirms that he comes "with a preconceived notion of the excellence of the Order, a desire for

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Grand Lodge of Ireland
Freemasons of Ireland
Golfing Society

Millennium Cup 2004

Final day will take place at the

Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown

on

Friday 10th September 2004

£1,000 in Prizes

Three Prize categories:-

1. Masonic Brethren
2. Non-Masons
3. Ladies

Qualifying between now & 24th August 2004
(return as many cards as you like from any golf course)

Best 200 will qualify for the final day
No Green Fees for Qualifiers
Registration Fee: - £15

Registration Forms & Competition rules available from:
Noel Simpson
13 Carneybaun Drive
Portrush
BT56 8JA
Tclc: 028 7082 3332
Mobile: 07866 554 505
email: par70mm589@aol.com




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knowledge and wishing to make himself more extensively useful amongst his fellow men". Later again, on being charged, he is told that the foundation of Freemasonry is "the practice of every social and moral virtue". He is exhorted to learn how to discharge his duty to his God, to his neighbour and to himself; to be an exemplary citizen and that, as an individual, he should practise every domestic as well as public virtue and maintain those truly Masonic characteristics, benevolence and brotherly love.

Following his second degree, he is told that he should "not only assent to the principles of the Craft, but steadily persevere in their practice". Finally, following his third degree, he is told that his "own behaviour should afford the best example for the conduct of others".

Later still, at the peak of his Craft career, on being installed in the Chair of his Lodge, he consents to a comprehensive list of instructions as to his attitude and behaviour. All in all, the entire underlying principle is that by entering Freemasonry and by his acceptance and practice of its tenets and precepts he should become a credit to himself and an example to, and benefactor of, others.

It is expected and hoped that Freemasonry will bring about this state of affairs but that, in his daily life, a Freemason will interact with others as an individual and not in his capacity as a Freemason. Freemasonry is therefore an intellectual, spiritual and philosophic exercise designed and intended to make an individual's contribution to society, and extension of himself, greater than they might otherwise have been had he not had the opportunity of developing his capacities and capabilities through membership of the Order.

Election to membership of a Lodge and initiation into that Lodge are an overt indication and confirmation of a person's moral worth or value; and recognition of such, by the Brethren. In itself, this should increase his self-esteem and hopefully generate a conscious or sub-conscious desire to prove worthy of others' confidence and trust. Subsequent promotions through the second and third degrees are symbolic of the Brethren demonstrating their satisfaction that their original choice and decision was

correct and that the candidate is worthy, both innately and by virtue of his zeal, interest and proficiency in the symbolic Craft, for such promotions. These additional and consequent marks of esteem should engender in the candidate further personal satisfaction and self-confidence.

The Lodge teaches many skills often untaught, or not experienced, elsewhere. A Brother must speak in public, think on his feet, make decisions, vote on issues and finally chair meetings. These are invaluable assets in all other aspects of his life and for many this may well be the only opportunity of learning, practising and perfecting these skills and techniques.

Indeed, Freemasonry fulfils many of the psychological needs of the average man. Further the Lodge provides outlets for the indulgence of personal interests which may be denied both at work and even in the home -administration, responsibility, dramatic talents, ceremonial, fund raising, caring - but above all the Lodge provides peace and tranquillity, a haven where the expected is unflinching; and the increasing turmoil of outside life can, with certainty, be avoided and forgotten for a time. Batteries can be re-charged and the Lodge's calming influence will help to fit one for the fray once more.

Those who have gone through, or may be going through, some serious mental trauma such as redundancy, or perhaps depression brought on by the stresses imposed by modern living, will know how true this is and can testify to the soothing and calming effect of this unique and invaluable supportive atmosphere, as found within the Lodge.

Some Brethren view Freemasonry simply as a charitable institution. I have never come across a better reference to our charitable endeavours than a quotation by H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of England, who in an address to his Grand Lodge in April 2001, said:- "On the subject of the charities, let me remind you first of all that Freemasonry itself is not a charity. Nor indeed does it have charity as its main purpose. Charity is but one expression of the true spirit of Freemasonry, a demonstration to our Brethren and their dependants and to the community that our hearts are indeed 'expanded by benevolence'."

Whenever you reach your personal definition, I hope that for you, like for me, your attitude to membership of the Order will parallel a remark by the poet William Butler Yeats, that "this house has enriched my soul out of measure, because here life moves, without restraint, through gracious forms".

LODGE 70 DROMORE

Friday 7th November 2003 saw the unveiling of a Past Masters Board for Lodge 70 in Dromore Masonic Hall.

Lodge 70 was warranted in 1761 and the board records the Past Masters from 1811 which is the oldest of the records held by the Lodge. The board was unveiled by the Right Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Down, Right Worshipful Brother Cecil D. Burns.

After the unveiling the P.D.G.M. joined the brethren of the Lodge and guests at a Celebration Dinner after which W.Bro. P. Butler gave an interesting talk on the history of Lodge.

At the close of the evening a comprehensive vote of thanks was proposed by W.Bro. W.J. Mawhinney seconded by W.Bro. W.T. McNeill, to all who had helped in fund raising to help purchase the board and W.Bro. T. Yarr who had made such a dignified and delightful board.

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



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

KGALÉ LODGE CLAIMS A FIRST!

Can any other Lodge beat this one? Kgalé Lodge, No 918, had three members (or rather two members and one to be) selected to represent their country at International level lawn bowls at the same Tournament. The 2003 African States Bowls Tournament was this year played in Nairobi, Kenya. The current WM, Tim Morton, was selected to skip the trips and fours, and won Gold with the trips. Mr Chris Kgalé played the pairs and singles, and became Kgalé Lodge's newest initiate five days after returning from the Tournament!!! VW Bro Tony Allen had the onerous task of being team manager.

In Nairobi, the team manager for the host Kenya team was V.W.Bro. Seamus Burns, a Past Master of Lodge Hibernia, No 794. Unfortunately, the dates of the Tournament prevented a visit to 794.

One little piece of Masonic history may also be recorded. A past member of 794, from Nairobi, was a Founder Member of 1368 SC, when that was formed in Gaborone in 1967. A former Past Master of 3084 EC, also from Nairobi, was the Founding Master of 8781 EC in Gaborone. V.W.Bro. Tony Allen was initiated into 3084 EC in Nairobi, and was determined that the Nairobi link would not be broken when 918 was constituted in 1994!!!



The photo is taken at the Muthaiga Club in Nairobi at the opening of the African States International Bowls Tournament on 1st July 2003. On 15th July 2003, Mr Kgalé became the newest Initiate into 918 Gaborone. (L to R): Mr Christopher Kgalé (now Bro.); W.Bro. Tim Morton – WM (918-Gaborone); V.W.Bro. Seamus Burns – Hon. PD (794-Nairobi) and V.W.Bro. Tony Allen, Gd. Inspector Botswana.

26 Reasons to Be Proud of Freemasonry

Summer came early at St Joseph's Nursing Home near Virginia on the 4th April 2002, as Grand Master Eric Waller and R.W. Brother Cecil Tilson of Cavan County Council laid the first brick of a new Sheltered Housing complex in brilliant sunshine. A proud and historic day for the Masonic Order in Ireland and a milestone in the care of the elderly here, the occasion was attended by over 50 people. These included R.W. Brother Arthur Pollock, Chairman of Masonic Havens Ltd, members of the Board, representatives of Metropolitan and local Lodges, clergy of all denominations and a number of politicians and officials.

The development, by Masonic Havens Ltd, is costing over €5 million and consists of 26 single storey terraced apartments and communal buildings. The complex provides sheltered housing for the active elderly on an integrated basis with a well-established specialist nursing facility. The Department of the Environment, through Cavan County Council, provided the bulk of the funding.

The development reflects the most modern thinking in relation to the care of the elderly and will be a major boost to facilities available both nationally and in the Cavan area. It may also provide a model for future developments in the care of the elderly on this island.

Speaking at the function the Grand Master, who was interviewed for 20 minutes on local radio prior to the opening, stressed the importance of the Order being, and being seen to be, part of the community in which it operates. In fully supporting the development of Sheltered Housing at St. John's Close he said he was proud to publicly state his membership and involvement with Freemasonry and hoped that this more open approach to what we are and what we stand for would be embraced by all. It is planned that the development will be formally dedicated by the middle of next year.



Some of the 26 high-tech / energy efficient Bungalows in St. John's Close.



The Community Centre (left) and the patio and garden area of St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Virginia, Co. Cavan. Please visit our website, www.masonichavens.ie

ARTICLES WANTED

The success or otherwise of this type of publication depends upon the quality and variety of articles it contains. "Grand Lodge News" is not solely for the promotion of Grand Lodge matters, rather it is there to serve Provincial Grand Lodges and Subordinate Lodges alike. The editorial team will be glad to receive interesting articles regarding functions / special anniversaries / letters etc. We would ask that the "kiss" principle is recognised - "keep it simple and short" - and forward your articles (supported by a photograph or image) to:

The Editorial Team, Grand Lodge News, c/o 115 The Mount, Belfast BT5 4ND or by e-mail to: w.clarke@5hoots15.freemasonry.co.uk

Donoughmore Lodge No. 44, Clonmel



Donoughmore Lodge 44, Clonmel has for a long time been known as the smallest Lodge in the South Eastern Province, but yet has possibly had more Grand Masters from its Lodge than any other in the country. Our numbers once small are now steadily increasing and the small lodge with the big heart is gradually making its presence felt in the community again.

We recently made a substantial donation to an appeal by St Joseph's Hospital in Clonmel for funds to purchase a new Heart Monitor for their Special Care Children's Unit. In order to raise funds for this really worthwhile appeal the Lodge organised a special Masonic Service of Thanksgiving and Praise, which was held at the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist & St Patrick's

Rock, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, the collection from which was given to this fund. Along with personal donations from the Brethren and friends a considerable amount was raised and given to the Hospital on behalf of the Lodge.

This was the second donation given by the Lodge in the past year the other being to the Tipperary Hospice Fund.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in Clonmel and would heartily welcome any visiting Brethren to our meeting.

Included in the photo above are, from left to right, (back) W.Bro. Brendan Walsh, (front) (presenting Cheque), R.W.Bro. V.Rev. P. Knowles, and W.Bro. Robert Savage.

W.Bro. Brendan Walsh, Secretary.

Father and two sons - Now three brothers!

Lodge 431, Ballymena, was the venue for a relatively rare but very happy occasion. During the absence of the W.M., W.Bro. Norman Cahoon, the Immediate Past Master, W.Bro. Harry Clarke was in the Chair when his two sons, Allan and Phillip, received their first degrees.

These were conferred by Bro. Jim McGookin assisted by R.W.Bro. John Johnston with the obligation being given from the Chair by W.Bro. Clarke.

The last time the "double" was done in Lodge 431 was in April 1955 when Bro. Matt Lowry and Bro. John Lowry were initiated. Let's hope they don't have to wait another 48 years for a repeat!



(L to R) Bro. Jim McGookin; Bro. Phillip Clarke; W.Bro. Harry Clarke; Bro. Allan Clarke & R.W.Bro. John Johnston.

GOREY FREEMASONS HONOURED

The occasion of 175 years of Freemasonry in Gorey was celebrated by Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 228 on Tuesday 7th October 2003. Prior to the meeting the Grand Master was honoured at a civic reception held by Gorey Town Council. This was also attended by a number of Gorey Brethren as well as the P.G.M. and his Deputy.



Pictured is the Grand Master making a presentation, on behalf of the Brethren of Harmony Lodge, to the Chairman of the Gorey Town Council, Mr Bernard Crosbie. Front Row (L to R): Martin Whelan, Bernard Crosbie (Chairman), The Grand Master, Harvey Heavener (PGM), Matt Travers. Back Row (L to R): Lorcan Allen, Colin Webb, Malcolm Byrne, Robert Stotesbury (WM 228). Ms Kay O'Gorman, Joe Funge.

CRICHTON 204 VISITS GRAND LODGE

Our W.M. W.Bro. Noel Kells felt that as we had now the capacity to exemplify degrees, having given a demonstration recently at the Enniskillen Class of Instruction, we should try out our ritual in Dublin. On Saturday 15th November 2003, 24 members of the Lodge took a coach from Lisnaskea to Dublin where our installation team performed 2 Entered Apprentice Degrees. The Candidates were originally from the Lisnaskea area and to make this occasion especially noteworthy, the Installing Officer, W.Bro. Gordon Robinson, initiated his son Mark as an Entered Apprentice. The second Candidate was a young accountant from Lisnaskea, Andrew McClintock.



(Front) Bro. Robert Richmond; Bro. Mark Robinson (EA); V.W.Bro. Gordon Robinson; Bro. Andrew McClintock (EA) and W.Bro. Jim Nixon. (Back) W.Bro. Niall Jardine; W.Bro. Noel Kells; W.Bro. Geo. Latimer & W.Bro. N R Johnston.



Bro. Adam Robinson (FC), V.W.Bro. Gordon Robinson and Bro. Mark Robinson (EA).

Keep It In The Family



In the village of Hillsborough, both Craft Lodges have a strong tradition of family membership. In 2003 and 2004 this has been even more noticeable. Lodge 66 had a W.M., W.Bro. Verus Reaney, whose son Jeff, was Senior Deacon.

The incoming W.M. of Lodge 683 works even better – W.Bro. Jim Bradford's first act as W.M. was to install his son Ivan as Senior Warden. Our pictures show Lodge 66 (above) and 683 (below) family connections.



Donation to Motor Neuron Research

Over the years Ardmore Masonic Lodge No. 835, Saintfield, has gained recognition for its charity giving.

Recently, following the deaths of two local people from Motor Neuron, the Brethren decided to support research into the disease.

A table quiz was arranged and as our picture shows, several of the Brethren of 835 with W.Bro. Graham gathered to present a cheque for £650 to Mr Steven Thompson, vice chairman, Motor Neuron Society.



496 meets 496



On Saturday 25th September 2003, Brethren from Desertmartin Masonic Lodge No. 496 hosted Lodge St. Munn No 496 (Argyll & the Isles), who demonstrated a Master Mason Degree – Scottish Rite. A most enjoyable evening was had by all the Brethren.

W.Bro. R L Cummings, Secretary.

Felicitations for Felicitas No. 760



(L to R) R.W.Bro. Robert Armstrong (PGM) with W.Bro. Alan Hopkins and W.M., W.Bro. Tom Saunders

Felicitas Masonic Lodge No. 760 celebrated their 50th anniversary in December 2002 an event sadly marked by the death of our esteemed member the late R.W. Bro. John F. Kerr, Provincial Grand Master on the 3rd of December that year.

But on a happier note the Lodge were pleased to see our Almoner W. Bro. Alan Hopkins receive his 50 year jewel from R.W. Bro. Robert J. Armstrong the then Provincial Deputy Grand Master, an event well attended by his Brethren in the Lodge and several Provincial Grand Lodge Officers from Down & Antrim, and other guests of the Lodge.

Alan also celebrated 50 years of happy marriage to Betty in August 2003 at a reception in Ormeau Golf Club attended by a large number of friends and family. He and Betty thought that they were going to Belfast Castle for a quiet celebratory meal. How the real venue was kept secret for two months prior I don't know.



The members of Felicitas also congratulated Alan on his being elected as Provincial Grand Sword Bearer for the year 2004 and our Secretary, W. Bro. Roger Matthews who was Invested as Grand Lodge Steward of Charities at the December Communication of Grand Lodge. Space does not allow mention of all Roger's work, past and current, in the field of Masonic Charities, but he was on the Management Committee of the Girls' Masonic Benevolent Fund for 13 years and it's Chairman in the years 2000/1.

On a final positive note we hope to welcome our first new Candidate, in several years, at our December 2003 Communication.

W. Bro. Brian P. Thomas, Director of Ceremonies, Lodge 760

Leslie J Thompson Lodge No. 61

A recent highlight of the Lodge was the attendance of the Deputy Grand Master at its 2003 Installation Meeting, when he said, "Freemasonry has gone through many trials in recent years and I believe that we are now embarking on a new era of consolidation and growth."

Father and son, Bros. Ken and Chris Moore, members of the Lodge, epitomise this new strength and commitment in Freemasonry, represented by the dedication of a new Past Masters' Board, designed, built and presented to the Lodge by them, highlighting their excellent skill and beneficence.

The distinguished mahogany Board, carefully crafted to incorporate the symbolism of Freemasonry, now occupies a prominent place on the West Wall of the Ionic Lodge Room in the Ballymacarrett Hall, Newtownards Road, Belfast.

At the dedication ceremony, the W. M., W.Bro. Cairns pinpointed the many family ties associated with Lodge 61 during its celebrated history of well over 100 years. Apart from the generous gift of the Moore family, father and son V.W. Bro. Thomas Maxwell and Bro. Terry Maxwell, WM Elect, met the cost of having the Past Master's names

Memorable Year for Down Century Masonic Lodge No. 436

The May Communication of Lodge 436 was the start of a memorable year, as we had the presentation of two Fifty Year Jewels. One to W.Bro. David McCullough, the other to Bro. Sam Houston. There should have been a third, but unfortunately W.Bro. Tommy McCullough (brother of David) passed away a few months before.



(L to R) W.Bro. Norman Hume; R.W.Bro. Cecil D Burns (PDGM) & V.W.Bro. Tommy Bingham

The climax came in December when the Provincial Deputy Grand master, R.W.Bro. Cecil D Burns presented V.W.Bro. Tommy Bingham with a Fifty Year Jewel and Certificate and congratulated Tommy on becoming a member of the "Fifty Year Club". R.W.Bro. Burns then presented W.Bro. Norman Hume with a Sixty Year Bar to a Fifty Year Jewel and congratulated Norman on becoming a member of the "Sixty Year Club".

R.W.Bro. Burns thanked the Brethren for the honour of presenting the Jewels and wished the Brethren many more years of active participation.

W.Bro. J Doherty, Secretary

transferred to the new Board, duly organised by W.Bro. Robert Tease. W.Bro. Alan Gregg and I represented the Lodge at a meeting of the Hall Management Committee and successfully presented the case for the Board to go on display. We greatly appreciate their approval.

"Bro. Ken and Chris Moore and the solid team effort at Lodge 61 are just one of the many fine examples of the dedicated endeavours of many brethren helping to make Freemasonry an Order in which we all can be justifiably proud."

W. Bro. Robert Burnett