

metro



MAY 2010

ISSUE 26

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN MASONIC LODGES



Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Bro Douglas Grey together with the officers and members of Lodge 500

Lodge 500 met in Freemason's Hall, Dublin on Saturday 20th Feb 2010 for the Emergency Tenth & Final Meeting of its Bi-Centenary Year. The Officers were resplendent in Regency Dress including Rt Worshipful Douglas Grey, Deputy Grand Master. The costumes were kindly provided by the Abbey Theatre.

The Deputy Grand Master being the special Grand Lodge Guest was saluted according to ancient custom and then offered the Mall by the Worshipful Master. He accepted and took the Chair saying he would do so only for a short time. The Deputy Grand Master congratulated Rt Worshipful Brother Bob Hackett on being appointed Grand Junior Warden and this was acclaimed by all the Brethren.

Five Brethren from Harp & Crown Lodge,

Ballymena were in attendance and their Worshipful Master on behalf of his Lodge presented a Mall to The Worshipful Master to celebrate this re-enactment meeting and Bi-centenary. Fraternal greetings and good wishes were brought by many visitors from their respective Lodges. The regular business meeting was then closed and the Inner Guard opened the door to admit the Non-Masonic Guests and Ladies to witness the Re-enactment of the Constitution, Consecration and Dedication of Lodge 500. They were warmly welcomed and guided to their seats. The Opening Prayer was narrated by W.Bro Paul Kenny and this was followed by the Organist, W.Bro Fred Johnston playing "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" and joined in voice by the assembled Brethren and guests.

The Deputy Grand Master acting as Grand Master instructed all to be seated and read the notice convening the Communication.

This was followed by the Acting Grand Secretary, W.Bro Brian Hamilton-Rodgers reading the Warrant at the request of the Deputy Grand Master.

The acting Grand Secretary then submitted for inspection to the acting Grand Master the Roll of Officers of Lodge 500 and copies of the Laws and Constitutions and Bye-Laws of the Lodge. The acting Grand Master then instructed the brethren to rise and Bro Chris Aduba, Chaplain read the prayer

The acting Grand Director of Ceremonies, Rt. Worshipful Bro Michael Ward formed the procession of himself, the acting Grand Deacons, Bros Ken Hartnett & David Levins, the acting Grand Treasurer, W.Bro Denis Whelan carrying the Vessel containing Corn, the acting Grand Junior Warden, W.Bro Pierre Jolivet carrying the Vessel containing Wine and the acting Grand Senior Warden, W.Bro Paul Hearn carrying the Vessel containing oil which were then presented to the acting Grand Master according to ancient custom in due rotation and in due ceremony and

ritual the contents scattered and sprinkled.

This was followed by the ceremony of the presentation of the Three Great Lights to the acting Grand Master who placed them in the proper position who then invoked the blessing of the all merciful and gracious Creator and dedicating Lodge 500 to Virtue, Truth and Universal Benevolence.

Rt. Worshipful Bro Douglas Grey, Deputy Grand Master, acting as Grand Master then called upon the members of Lodge 500 to come forward:

The acting Grand Secretary then read their names and the acting Grand Master then addressed them constituting them and forming them into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and empowering them to act henceforth as a regular Lodge.

Thus the Re-enactment came to a close to the fascination of the non-masonic guests. The Rt Worshipful Deputy Grand Master thanked them for coming. He also thanked the Brethren of Lodge 500 for all their work in bringing the ceremony together in such fine manner.

Photographs were taken and all adjourned to the Celebration Dinner.

“The Haven”

Carrickmanor Haven in Monkstown opened it's doors to residents in 1985 and was called the “Jewel in the Masonic Crown”. Now all these years later it is still the “Jewel in the Masonic Crown”, having provided comfortable and pleasant accommodation for active retired Masons, Widows or relations for 25 years. Last year some of the apartments were refurbished to provide suitable accommodation for couples, but due the economic downturn these were not immediately taken up. Now there is only one of the superbly fitted out units unoccupied and one of the smaller Bedsit units, so it is very nearly full.

The day to day running is managed by the “Management Committee” under the Chairmanship of Henry Irvine and the overall

financial control is covered by the Board of Masonic Havens Ltd. (Chaired by David Young), which also runs St. Joseph's Nursing Home and St. John's Close Sheltered Housing units in Virginia, Co. Cavan.

Any Brother who has not yet visited Carrickbrennan Road and see for himself the beautiful gardens and idyllic setting that is known as “The Haven”. Those wishing to do so should contact one of the following Committee Members who will be delighted to meet them and show them around:-

Henry Irvine 086-3762247

David Homan 087-2407484

Geoff Lovegrove 087-2545090

Alan Gill 2856354.

Getting the work done

Last year Oracle Lodge (1003) introduced a system of committees as a way of introducing a culture of full participation and engaging more members in the activities of the Lodge. They formed 3 committees, each with a particular remit.

Social Committee

This body consists of two members whose task it is to liaise with the caterers and produce the best possible supper for the given budget. The committee is also responsible for organising the annual Installation Dinner. Frequently, this means arranging for certain items, such as wine and cheese to be sourced from outside and agreeing with the caterers on the presentation. From time to time, the committee may arrange lodge visits.

Ritual Committee

This group currently has a single member who takes responsibility for ensuring that all officers are competent to perform their office. In practice, this means running rehearsals prior to Lodge meetings to ensure everyone knows his part in the ritual and providing assistance to those who need it. The role is significantly different from that of the Director of Ceremonies as it involves work between the Lodge meetings. Having this committee is particularly important around the time of the Installation of Officers as there are very likely to be members who are taking office for the first time.

Committee of Enquiry

Currently two members whose task it is to set

the schedule of events for the year. Oracle Lodge always has a "Masonic Enquiry" item on its agenda. This can take the form of a paper presented by a member or visitor on a Masonic topic, an open discussion on a topic of Masonic interest, or more recently, an introductory piece followed by questions and discussion. The committee co-ordinates the ideas of the Brethren and schedules events for particular communications in conjunction with the Worshipful Master.

This structure removed a significant load from the Secretary who can now concentrate on the administrative details of running the Lodge such as compiling the minutes, sending the notices and making returns to Grand Lodge. The system has been in place for about nine months and is proving very beneficial to all. In addition to spreading the workload, it provides an opportunity for all members to get involved in the workings and running of the Lodge. Many of the committee members have not yet been through the chair but are constantly gaining experience which will be useful to them when they reach that honour.

Oracle Lodge always welcomes visitors and it is their intention to make the calendar of events available on their website www.oraclelodge1003.net and on the hall screen in Freemasons' Hall. Membership is by affiliation only and if you would like to affiliate to Oracle, just email the Secretary at info@oraclelodge1003.net

Peter Fellows-McCully
Secretary, Oracle Lodge 1003.



THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

Barbeque & Raffle

*in Freemasons' Hall,
Molesworth Street, Dublin
on Saturday, 19th June 2010
at 7.00p.m.*

Proceeds in aid of Masonic Charities

ADULTS €20 (STEAK & WINE)	CHILDREN €5 (BURGER & SOFT DRINKS)
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Tickets available from Hall Porters Desk or any member of the Metropolitan Board

Diary Dates at Freemasons' Hall

Grand Lodge Meeting <i>Thurs 3/6/10 at 2.30pm</i> followed by the Annual Grand Lodge Buffet	Art Exhibition <i>Tues-Thurs 20-22/7/10 at 2-8pm each day</i> Summer Lodge <i>Wed 21/7/10 at 3pm</i>	Irish Freemasons Young Musician Of The Year 2010 <i>Semi Final Thurs 14/10/10 at 2pm and 7:30pm</i> <i>Final Sat 16/10/10 at 7:30pm</i>
Metropolitan Board BBQ <i>Sat 19/6/10 at 7pm</i>	Metropolitan Ritual Class <i>Mon 4/10/10 at 7.30pm</i>	Metropolitan Concert <i>Saturday 30/10/10 at 8pm</i>

Summer Lodge

It will soon be that time of year again.

This will be the 12th Summer Lodge and each year it gets bigger and better. The Metropolitan Board of General Purposes is again sponsoring this event and again complimentary refreshments will be provided by our "Chef" Bro. Murphy.

R.W.Bro. Chris Caine, 'Chairman of Trustees' Royal Masonic Benevolent Institutions will address the meeting and the proceedings will be under the direction of the Chairman of the Metropolitan Board, R.W.Bro. Philip Daley. Lunch will be available prior to the meeting at a cost of €20 and tickets are available from the Hall Porters office or any member of the Metropolitan Board.

This year we are delighted to welcome R.W.Bro. Chris Caine, PSGD 'Chairman of Trustees' Royal Masonic Benevolent Institutions as our guest speaker.

Although the position of Chairman is an honorary one and bears no burden of salary, Chris is officially the employer of the RMBI Chief Executive and has the responsibility of running the Charity. The Chairman is elected

by the RMBI Trustees, whereas the President is appointed by the Grand Master.

Chris is a Director of all RMBI Companies (including RMBI Trading Ltd) and is Chairman of Compass Housing (a scheme of leasehold properties at Robert Eliot Court, St. Austell, Cornwall)

Chris travels widely speaking on the important work of the RMBI and helping Brethren with enquiries. Having retired at 48, some 9 years ago, having sold all his companies, he is free to organise his diary commitments as he sees fit. We want YOU to attend and would ask that YOU bring a friend. Every year people say "Was it last week? I meant to go, but forgot"

The Claret Jug will be presented at Summer Lodge on Wednesday 21st July 2010 to a Lodge in the Metropolitan area that in the opinion of the Board have worked together as a team to enhance all aspects of the Lodge. The criteria covers areas such as membership, new candidates, ritual and degree work, charity giving and the social aspect including festive boards and visiting other Lodges. The Board encourages all Lodges to consider these criteria when planning their annual programme.

10th ANNIVERSARY

Stated Communication of Lodge Ireland 2000, Ireland's only Internet Lodge

Sat 5th June 2010 at 2.30 pm in The Grand Lodge Room, Molesworth St., Dublin.

ALL Brethren, especially those visiting Dublin, are welcome to attend this Very Special Occasion.

Just turn up "on the day" - dark lounge suit.

<http://ireland2000.org>

Metropolitan Craft Ritual Class

Each year from October through to March, Monday Night is set aside by many Brethren for the purpose of learning “the Ritual”. The Metropolitan Craft Ritual Class meets each Monday at 7.30pm. The Class is open to Brethren from all Metropolitan Lodges. This year proved very successful in that 16 Lodges were represented throughout the year. It is open to members of all ranks and instruction is given in a very exact, but also an informal, manner. The complete Craft Ritual is demonstrated and explained and any Brother who attends will come away each night with a great deal more knowledge and confidence in performing the various offices than they had before attending. It is also an excellent forum for members to meet Brethren from other Lodges and friendships are made that often last a very long time.

The Class is fully supported by the Metropolitan

Board and by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Very Worshipful Bro. Leslie Sibbald, a member of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, is in charge and he has, at this stage, a regular core of attendees who help in giving practical instruction each week. All members are encouraged to attend so that they become involved in raising the standard of Ritual in their own Lodge. It is impossible to say that any Lodge could not benefit from having some members attend.

This year a trophy will be presented to one of the Lodges who have attended the Class during the year. This presentation will take place during Summer Lodge on Wednesday, 21st July. It is planned to award this trophy each year to whatever Lodge has the best attendance at the Class during the previous year.

Enquiries to Les Sibbald +353 1 837 3412 or email metromason@eircom.net.

Metropolitan Art Exhibition

The Metropolitan Board are holding an Art Exhibition at Freemasons’ Hall, from the 20th to the 22nd July next to coincide with this years Summer Lodge meeting.

Many Masons, in retirement, take up art as a leisurely pastime, we are also aware that many of our Lodge widows are competent artists. We would like to give all of them an opportunity to share their talents with us so that we may all enjoy seeing their work.

The Exhibition will be open to the public and we are hoping that the “official” opening will be performed by the Lord Mayor of Dublin on Tuesday 20th July.

For those who wish to sell their work we are asking for a 15% commission. All proceeds will go to the Masonic Benevolent Institutions.

We urge all Lodge Secretaries, Almoners and Stewards of Charity to contact their members and Lodge widows and encourage those who are artists among them or their families to participate in this event. Booking forms are available in the

Hall or from any of the Organising Committee. There will be a “hanging” fee of €5.00 per painting except for those emanating from any of our Lodge widows which will be hung free of charge. This small charge is to defray some of the expenses in mounting the exhibition. We request all participants to complete their space booking form by 31st May and submit them to us.

There is a lot of talent out there and we would love to give all of our “artists” an opportunity to share the pleasure of their talents with us and hopefully the opportunity to benefit financially from sales. The Exhibition will also give our Lodge widows a platform to participate in the activities of our efforts to raise funds for our Benevolent Institutions and for us to make them feel more inclusive with us in Molesworth Street. Contact:

W. Bro. Geoff Lovegrove: geofflove@gofree.indigo.ie

W. Bro. Paul Stewart: stewalua@eircom.net

W. Bro. John Haynes: haynesjool@gmail.com

W. Bro. Des Finnegan: finnegad@indigo.ie

A Famous Masonic Gunmaker



In the south transept of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, is a Masonic memorial to one John Rigby. It is wall-mounted, in marble with bas relief and surmounted by a representation of Faith, Hope and Charity.

The inscription reads,

To the memory of
John Rigby
late Sovereign of the Order of
Prince Grand Rose Croix
and Deputy Grand Commander of the
college of Philosophical masons of
Ireland;
whose great masonic zeal,
manly honourable and independent mind,
and kind and generous disposition,
placed him in those high ranks of
Freemasonry
and gained him the esteem and respect of
Society.
this tribute to his worth is erected,
by his brethren of the
original Chapter of Prince Masons,
and the First Volunteer Lodge No. 620.
AD MDCCCXIX

Who was this Brother, held in such high esteem by his fellow Masonic Brethren?

John Rigby (1758-1818) was by profession, Ireland's most distinguished and highly respected Gunmaker, with an international reputation. Rigby sporting firearms were the prized possessions of the aristocracy and gentry of his day, used by them on their country estates, on safari and big game hunts in Africa, India and other far away places. He also made very accurate and reliable pistols, his duelling pistols restored the honour of many a gentleman at dawn in secluded glades. Guards on stagecoaches were armed with Rigby bell-mouthed blunderbusses, loaded with buckshot, to deter the activities of highwaymen and indeed a few highwaywomen.

He was a Grenadier Captain in the Independent Dublin Volunteers whose Colonel was Henry Grattan. John Rigby was a noted marksman, winning many shooting competitions at home and abroad. The Rigby family have an engraved medal which was presented to him bearing the following inscription "Independent Dublin Volunteers, Reward of Merit. Presented to John Rigby March 25th 1781 being the best shot in the Grenadier Company of Independent Dublin Volunteers"

He was an active Freemason and one of the earliest members of the "First Volunteer Masonic Lodge of Ireland No. 620" which was founded in 1783 by officers from the First Regiment of the Independent Dublin Volunteers. This Lodge is still active today.

The Brethren of Lodge No. 620 no longer parade with bayonets fixed having decommissioned their weapons long ago, but their standard of Lodge ritual today would satisfy the exacting standards of any Sergeant Major.

*Edwin S. Handcock
Fidelity Lodge No. 125*



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Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year



When addressing Grand Lodge in June, 2009, the Grand Master stated that he had been extremely impressed by the support that had been given by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the 'Young Musician of the

Year Competition' which they had supported in Scotland. Arising from these comments and the support of many Freemasons to promote a similar competition here in Ireland, it was announced that the Grand Lodge of Ireland would indeed sponsor such an event.

The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year Competition as it is to be known will be sponsored annually for the next five years. The competition is open to instrumentalists in the following categories: Keyboard, Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion. The following Colleges have been invited to participate: The Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama, Dublin, CIT Cork School of Music, The Irish World School of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, The School of Music and Sonic Arts, Queen's University, Belfast. From these colleges 12 competitors will perform in the Semi-finals on the afternoon and evening of Thursday 14th October in The Grand Lodge Room, Freemasons' Hall, Dublin. Four Finalists will be chosen by an International Jury and the Final will be held at the same location on Saturday, 16th October.

Top Prize will be €5,000
2nd Prize €3,000, 3rd Prize €1,000 and 4th Prize 500.
The winner will also be invited to perform with the RTE Symphony Orchestra at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, during 2011.



In addition the Competition will be Broadcast on RTE Lyric FM during October. The participants will be given exposure to a distinguished panel of Patrons and the Jury of the Competition, anyone of whom could make an offer of employment.

To date the Competition is gaining considerable momentum and is being granted major importance status amongst the Colleges, who have shown great support and admiration for what is being done here in an economic climate where no one can get sponsorship.

We are convinced that this Competition will be received with great enthusiasm by the participants, students all over the Country and indeed the general public, raising the profile of Irish Freemasonry and achieving and even exceeding all our expectations.

Tickets can be purchased by means of pre-booking using the advance application form which is enclosed with this issue of MetroMason. Information relating to the Competition itself, the Rules of the Competition, it's Patrons and Jury Members can be accessed by looking up the web site: www.freemasonsmusic.ie.

RTE lyric fm

HELP NEEDED !!!

The Operations Team for the Competition need six volunteers to help with the set-up and stewarding on the afternoon and evening of Thursday October 14th, and during the day and evening on Saturday October 16th, for the Final. If you feel you would like to help please contact Bill Clarke at (NI) 048 926 77403 or

by e-mail at admin@freemasonsmusic.ie. If you can only manage part of the time this can probably be arranged.

It is fair to say straight away that it is not promised that the volunteers will be able to be in the Grand Lodge Room to see the performances as they may have other duties at this time.

Victoria Lodge IV Uniform

In Molesworth St., on the 4th Tuesday of every January, Brethren appear in tailcoats with lapel facings in the blue of St. Patrick, or as was the original case the Vice Regal blue. The Victoria Lodge IV, constituted in 1823, is meeting for its Annual Installation Dinner wearing its unique full dress coat.

No other Lodge in the Irish constitution can claim to have such a distinctive appearance!

Some thirteen years after its formation the Secretary of the Lodge, acting in pursuance of instructions from the Brethren, submitted the following Memorial in July 1836 requesting that the Lodge be called The Victoria Lodge:

To Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria.

May it please Your Royal Highness,

We, the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Freemasons' Lodge No. IV, with all becoming respect, and due deference, do approach Your Royal Highness, to solicit as a mark of special favour that you would be graciously pleased to permit Lodge IV to be styled and entitled, either The Victoria or The Princess Victoria Lodge, in compliment to Your Royal Highness, as Heiress Presumptive to the Throne of these three Realms and as an Heiress of the integrity and worth of our late Brother of the Craft, Your Royal Highness's noble and much lamented father, and of the many virtues which adorn Your Royal Highness's benevolent and amiable mother.

On the 5th August 1836 the following reply was received by The Grand Master.

Kensington Palace.

My Dear Lord Duke,

Her Royal Highness requests Your Grace, as Grand Master of Ireland, signify to this Lodge her ready acquiescence in their request, that it be called The Victoria Lodge, after the Princess; and the Duchess of Kent wishes the Lodge to be assured that it is most gratifying to her, and the Princess Victoria to receive the expressions conveyed to them of the attachment to this Lodge to the memory of their late Brother, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

In 1837, the year of Victoria's accession, the Lodge received permission to adopt the blue facings of the Vice-Regal uniform Coat as its full dress and to have the Royal Crown as its badge. The Brethren were very jealous of the privilege of being called "The Victoria Lodge", and on occasions appealed to Grand Lodge to prevent other Lodges assuming the same title.

Grand Lodge of Ireland, Dublin 1st September 1836. Read the application of Lodge IV Dublin to be permitted to take the title of The Victoria Lodge.

Ordered – That said application be agreed to and granted accordingly.

For 187 years the Brethren of Lodge IV have continued this tradition and in recent years have worn the uniform not only when attending other Lodges' Installations in Ireland but also overseas Constitutions in amity with Ireland. One change that has been made in this long period is that the logo of the Lodge now incorporates the words "Vivat Victoria" instead of "Vivat Regina", this change was made under the guidance of the late V.W. Bro. Ron Grimston.

In Lodge 36 Glamorgan both the Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, and the Provincial Grand Master of South Wales, who were both in attendance, were very complimentary of the uniforms and the history of Victoria IV.



W.Bro. Ken Johnston receiving his 50 Year Jewel and Certificate from V.W.Bro. David Young and W.Bro. George Jenkinson W.M. of Unity Lodge No. 238 at their recent Installation Dinner.