

metro



FEBRUARY 2011

ISSUE 28

m a s o n

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN MASONIC LODGES

Barbeque, Summer Lodge, Art Exhibition, Concert, Masters and Wardens Seminar, Metropolitan Stewards of Charities and Metropolitan Almoners Meeting are some of the events that are currently being organised to take place during 2011 and we look forward to the continued support of the Brethren and their friends at these events.



As reported last year a subcommittee was established to look at suitable functions both fundraising and social for younger Brethren and I am delighted to announce "The 2011 Freemasons' Masquerade Ball". We look forward to your support for this spectacular event to be held on Saturday 7th May in the Thomas Prior Hall at Bewley's Hotel in Ballsbridge. (See our article elsewhere in this issue.)

The Metropolitan Board has over the last couple of years provided a coach for those wishing to attend Grand Lodge meetings outside Dublin and we would encourage Brethren to avail of this opportunity. The next meeting of Grand Lodge will take place on Saturday, 5th March in Carlow and again we will have a coach departing Dublin. Details of times and car parking facilities (see back page).

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Brethren of the Lodges in the Metropolitan Area for their encouragement and support. It would be impossible to record individual thanks to the many who have given of their time and talents, but the Board wishes to place on record its appreciation and thanks to the many who have assisted during the year.

No committee runs by itself and we are fortunate on the Board to have many talented people and I would take this opportunity to say thank you to them for their support and commitment. In addition, I am grateful to the following Brethren for taking on additional responsibilities.

Geoff Lovegrove	Deputy Chairman
Kevin Spring	Treasurer
Randall Roberston	Secretary
Kevin Spring	Metropolitan Steward of Charities
Les Sibbald	Metropolitan Almoner
Ken Broughall	Editor, MetroMason
Ken Roe & Jim Smith	Webmaster and Hall Screen

A priority of the Metropolitan Board is the continued improvement of communications with Lodges and Brethren, we see this as a vital part of the continued growth and success of Freemasonry and encourage everyone to play their part in building a strong team effort both in Lodges and throughout the Metropolitan area. As part of this overall plan we have launched the Metropolitan website at www.mbgp.org. Please have a look and provide us with information on your Lodge and events that you may have planned for inclusion.

We welcome your views and please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board at any time.

Philip Daley,
Chairman – Metropolitan Board

Geraldine Lodge No. 171

The Warrant of Lodge No. 171 dates in an unbroken line back to 1747. Originally Lodge No. 171 was named “Duke of Clarence”. When Lodge 227 amalgamated with 171 in 1983 it became known as “Geraldine Lodge 171”. In 1984 Phoenix Lodge 460 joined to further strengthen the Lodge. There were at that time some 110 members on the roll. The original Warrant of 171 dated 7th October 1747 and printed on parchment was signed by Edward Spratt the Grand Secretary, and issued to Brothers John Bell, William Hughes and Edward Hannah to be Master and Wardens. Unfortunately at some time in the past it was cut into three pieces to enable it to be mounted on a standard folding board for travelling purposes. Subsequent to age, damp storage and paper mites it was in very bad shape and disintegrating. The Lodge considered requesting Grand Lodge to issue a new Warrant and at the same time sought advice about restoring what we had from experts in the field, and of course estimated costs. A regular attendee at Lodge meetings W. Bro. Victor McCaughan (*artist and sculptor*) and with experience in this field took on the task. Finally we agreed to restore as much of the Warrant as possible and produce a facsimile of the way the Warrant would have looked in 1747 when first issued by Grand Lodge. W. Bro Victor took on this task with enthusiasm, and W. Bro David Evans offered to cover the costs.

W. Bro Victor retrieved as much of the parchment as possible and removed all traces of the glue. He mounted same on a board 23”x18”. He then produced a facsimile of the original Warrant. It shows the Master of a Lodge dressed in Masonic costume of yellow and blue. This theme is carried through to the ribbons affixed with a reproduction of the Grand Lodge Seal. He mounted this on the back of the board carrying the restored piece and placed them between two pieces of glass and hermetically sealed same. The result is the Warrant we have today. The Lodge is very grateful to W. Bro Victor for his

labour of love and to W. Bro David for covering the costs.

The Lodge has a very interesting history to tell. The lesser lights on the Altar in the Grand Lodge Room (this is where we have met since the opening of the building) were presented to Grand Lodge in 1820 by a Brother Thomas Kirk a member of the Lodge, and a member of the committee appointed by Grand Lodge to provide suitable furniture for the Grand Lodge of Ireland. He is also famous for the building of Nelson’s Pillar in Dublin, the Metal Man at Tramore, County Waterford and also the Metal Man in Sligo Harbour.

George Washington first President of America was initiated into Lodge 227 in 1752 in Virginia. He was 20 years of age. The Lodge travelling cask containing the Warrant, Working Tools



Worship Brother Alan Gray presenting Worshipful Brother Allen (Fred) Gardner, recently, with a Bible on behalf of the members of Geraldine Lodge No. 171. Worshipful Brother Fred joined the Lodge while still a student. He never actually left high school taking up a position on the staff, becoming Science Master and retiring from the School as Assistant Headmaster.

etc., were captured by the French, but were later returned to them, to be captured again a second time, but again eventually returned. A quote by Washington after his initiation said, "Being persuaded that the Principles on which the Masonic fraternity is founded must be to promote the private virtues and public prosperity. I shall be happy to advance the interests of the Society and to be considered by them a deserving brother." Another quote in later years said, "A Mason is not necessarily a member of a Lodge. In a broad sense, he is any person who daily tries to live a Masonic life, and to serve intelligently the needs of the Great Architect". The Lodge was formed long before 1725 and had a Number 10 Dublin affixed to it. Somewhere along the way we heard it came to Ireland with a Regiment from England. The delay in registering with the Grand Lodge of Ireland was because the Regiment was in the Americas and did not return to Ireland until about 1747. It took the name Duke of Clarence and the Number 171.

Another interesting note from Lodge records :- three brothers in the same year served as WM. SW. and JW. They were :- John Earls WM, WB Earls SW and Thos. Earls JW.

On the Roll of Honour five Brethren served in the First World War. They were :- James Weir Capt. R.E. Edward Weir Major. C.R. Thomas Plowman Pte. R.D.F. David Jenkins Lieut. R.I.Regt. William Bermingham Lieut. R.I.Regt. all paid the ultimate sacrifice

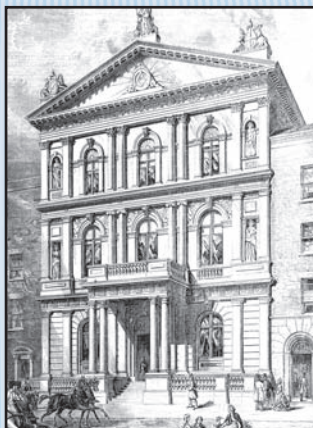
Referring back to our worthy Bro. Fred, who up to very recently was a regular and active member at Lodge and supporter of our charities. There are many stories that can be told. Some years ago an item on our agenda was :- life experiences. The idea was a Brother would reminisce on aspects of his working life. Fred always responded with enthusiasm and told many good yarns on the goings on at a leading secondary school in Harcourt St. where he eventually became Assistant Headmaster. Many boys in many Lodges with many stories of their own often wanted to know what he said. We always believed Fred and the goings on at Harcourt St. We wish Fred well and many more happy years. We know he has the Lodge at heart and keeps himself informed and updated by regular Summons. Interestingly he always makes contact with the Secretary to apologise for his non attendance at the next meeting. One of the old school, will be missed. Brethren take note.

You will know that the Masonic Girls' and Masonic Boys' Benevolent Funds continue to provide support for the education of children of our deceased and deserving Brethren at schools throughout Ireland. These Funds were established following the closure of the Masonic Girls' and Boys' Schools in 1972 and 1980, respectively. The history of the Boys' School, up to its centenary in 1967, is set out in J.F. Burns's book 'Shop Window to the World'. This year, the Masonic Old Boys' Association commissioned a further book on the Boys' School, covering the period 1967 - 1980, and this deals comprehensively with life at the School during those final years and particularly, with events surrounding the decision to close the School and how the

Order managed that difficult situation. It is intended that the book will be available in March 2011. The two Masonic Schools, which were highly regarded throughout Ireland, were an outward and visible sign of the Order's fraternal benevolence for well over a century and represented a very significant part of the charitable aspect of Irish Freemasonry. You may, therefore, find this book interesting reading. If you would be interested in acquiring a copy (the price has not yet been determined, but it is likely to be inexpensive) perhaps you would let me know, so that I can advise the Masonic Old Boys' Association.

Gerald Hill
g.hill@nireland.com

History of Freemasons' Hall



At the St. John's Day Meeting 1863 the Deputy Grand Master, at the end of his address on the state of the Order, called the attention of the Brethren to the necessity of renewing their efforts towards the procurement of a new Hall.

The matter had been raised in 1856 but the efforts of two subsequent Committees in 1857 and 1862 had proved abortive. Prior to this Grand Lodge had met in various locations in Dublin, amongst them were;

Kings Inn	<i>Present site of the Four Courts</i>
Eagle Tavern	<i>Cork Hill</i>
Yellow Lion Inn	<i>Marlborough St.</i>
Bulls Head Inn	<i>Fishamble St.</i>
Smock Alley	
The Hall of the Corporation of Smiths	<i>now Essex St.</i>
Rose Tavern	<i>Castle St.</i>
Ligoniers Head	<i>Now Exchange St.</i>
Tailors Hall	<i>in Brick Lane</i>

A Building Committee, approved by Grand Lodge, was appointed in April 1865 consisting of 9 Members. The Chairman was Sir Edward Borough and the Secretary E.R.D. La Touche. It was proposed to form a limited liability Company (The Masonic Hall Building Company) with a capital of £8,000 to be raised by the issue of 1600 mortgage debentures of £5 each, bearing an interest of 5% payable half-yearly. (These shares were to be allotted to members of the Order only.)

Amongst the sites and buildings considered by the Committee were:

The Gresham Hotel (£11,000)
36 Westmoreland St.
103 Middle Abbey St.
136/138 Stephens Green, West
120 Stephens Green, West
Charlemont House (£10,000)
Ancient Concert Hall
34 Molesworth St.
17/18 Molesworth St.
Premises between Fredrick St. and Frederick Lane, fronting towards Nassau St.

The Committee finally decided on the premises of 17/18 Molesworth St. and it was purchased through the Landed Estates Court for the sum of £2,850. By a sheer coincidence these houses stood almost on the site of the townhouse of the 1st Earl of Rosse, the earliest known Grand Master. The Earl of Leinster presented the Order with a cheque for £200 to purchase the third house in Molesworth St. to enlarge the site.

The Committee recommended that advertisements be placed in various newspapers, Architects to be members of the Order, and prizes of £50 and £30 to be given for the second and third best designs. A design by Mr. Edward Holmes of London and Birmingham was accepted by the Committee.

Buildings quotations were sought and a total of 9 builders submitted their estimates (3 from Birmingham and 6 from Dublin). These ranged from £11,620 from Wilson and Son, Birmingham to £7,600 from M. Meade in Dublin. At the Committee Meeting of 31st May 1886 the contract was awarded to Mr. Meade.

The front elevation (of Italian design) is divided into 3 stages, the lower is of Doric Order, the centre of Ionic and the upper of Corinthian. It is executed of Anacaster stone. The whole is surmounted by a pediment, which runs the entire width of the front, in the centre of which is the Masonic symbols of Square and Compasses. The sketch above is one of a number of such drawings submitted by the Architects. There are many differences between it and what stands today. The height of the building is approx. 73 ft.

The Metropolitan Board of General Purposes presents

The 2011 Freemasons' Masquerade Ball

A plan was cooking, minds fiendishly at work to conceive an event unlike any presented before. "Let's run an event", they said, and then with a glint of devilment in their eyes, "and give it to the newer members of our Order to organise." You have to give them credit; they know how to play a practical joke.

And so it was that four unsuspecting souls met with the representatives of the Metropolitan Board; with no concept of the magnanimous journey that lay before them. A task of epic proportions no doubt, but you know they might just pull it off.

The brief; to organise an event that would appeal to the younger brethren, yet be inclusive of our respected elders. This event should be open to the friends of the Order and be a social night to be remembered for many a year to come.

And so the cogs began to turn, and from the very bowels of the intellectual machine rose an idea. As with the truly great Masonry, the shape was not hewn by the Craftsman; it was released from the stone, having existed all along. So it was with the Masquerade Ball as the concept became clear.

This would not be a Dinner Dance, no, this would be a Ball in the true sense of the word. And so the orchestra was booked, and the dance cards produced. Dance cards, you say? That's right; if you wish to dance with a lady you must mark her card. Though perhaps you should book a set with one of our dancers first to see how it is done. As the night progresses so will the tempo when the orchestra will be replaced by a jazz band and then they in turn by a contemporary band. Of course no night

as magical as this would be complete without a magician!

And the magic does not stop there. Our Masquerade Ball shall be held in Bewley's Hotel, Ballsbridge; the site of the former Masonic Girls School. The Thomas Prior Hall is a Victorian venue with Masonic symbolism embedded in the very fabric of the building. The Square and Compasses can be seen throughout the architecture. Where better to hold a Masonic event?

While craic agus rí rá are of utmost importance, it is of course the charity that remains our main focus. Laura Lynn House is due to open later this year, providing hospice care to sick children. They strive to 'Put life into a child's day, not days into a child's life'. A noble cause, close to many of our hearts, and we hope that you will help us to support them.

This 2011 Freemasons' Masquerade Ball is open to members of the Order and their friends. Tickets will be available from early February at a cost of €75 each. This is a formal black tie event with masks required (we will have some available for sale on the night with the proceeds going to the charity). We promise an event like no other you have attended, packed with surprise entertainment to make it a night to truly remember.

And those four unsuspecting souls thought; "Not only might we pull this off, we may manage it with a little flair..."



in aid of Laura Lynn House

Saturday May 7th 2011

Thomas Prior Hall, Bewley's Hotel, Ballsbridge



Charity on the up!

The Masonic Charities commenced 2010 with trepidation, fearing the worst for what would be a very difficult year economically. And so it was, 2010 was tough.

However, within the Metropolitan Area, the Stewards of Charity did a magnificent job. I attended many fundraising events organised by Lodges during 2010. I was impressed by the enthusiasm of the Stewards of Charity as they eked out every possible Euro at Festive Boards, Raffles and Installation Dinners.

What a success! Despite all the “doom and gloom”, despite reports from non-Masonic charities of their fundraising being down almost 50%, the Metropolitan area actually increased its total donations to the Victoria Jubilee, Welfare Fund and Masonic Havens during 2010 by 2%.

You will recall that we raised a magnificent €101,334 in 2009. Well, for 2010 we raised €103,287!

So, sincerest thanks to all for your continued support. Be assured that your generosity will be put to very good use within the respective charities.

Summary of Metropolitan Donations:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Victoria Jubilee</i>	<i>Welfare Fund</i>	<i>Masonic Havens</i>	<i>Total</i>
2009	€43,263	€32,425	€25,646	€101,334
2010	€40,116	€45,746	€17,416	€103,278

Board Members and their Lodges

Board Member	Representing Lodges
Ken Broughall	Geraldine 171, Skillet & Trowel 981
Philip Daley	Unity 238, St Cecilia 494, Lodge Ireland 2000
Peter Fellowes-McCully	Temple 6, Duke of York 25, Fidelity 125, Oracle 1003
Tom Fitzpatrick	Curragh Emerald 397, Dublin 500
John Heery	Israel 126, Minerva 214, Corinthian Commercial 245
Martin Lenihan	Acacia 225, Garrison 730
Geoff Lovegrove	GML, Leinster 141, Military 728
Norman O’Galligan	Chetwode Crawley 395, Victory 478
Randall Robertson	Kingstown 510, The First Volunteer 620
Ken Roe	Lodge No 2, Ruby 339
Reginald Richards	Fitzgibbon 331, Orpheus 426
Leslie Sibbald	Lux Diei, University 33
Jim Smith	Victoria IV, Emerald Isle 19,
Kevin Spring	Clontarf 249
Paul Stewart	Dalkey 261, Molesworth 611
Neville Thompson	Trinity 357, Caxton 511

Kevin J. Spring
Metropolitan Steward of Charity

Joe Close retires from Board

Joe Close has served on the Metropolitan Board for a great number of years and more recently filled the role of Metropolitan Treasurer. Due to pressures of business, Joe was not in a position to seek re-election to the Board for 2011.

The Metropolitan Board of General Purposes is grateful to Joe for his significant contribution and dedication to the work of the Board. There is no doubt he will be missed at Board meetings and on the organising end of the many events hosted by the Board.

We wish Joe well in his retirement and know that he will not be too far away, when we need some support and assistance!

Oracle Event Guide For 2011

14 March 2011

Paper: Freemasonry & Buddhism

WBro Pierre Jolivet

11 April 2011

Paper: Freemasonry on the Battlefield

Bro David Levins

9 May 2011

Paper: Making Darkness Visible - Part 2

WBro Tony Ennis

12 September 2011

Open Enquiry: What Freemasonry means to me, as a means to inform others

10 October 2011

Paper: Irish Masonic Halls

WBro Paul Kenny

14 November 2011

A possible significance of the Deacons' Wand

WBro Paul Hearn

Topics subject to change – check website for updates.

All visitors who are Master Masons are welcome.

Meetings start at 7:00, Prince Masons' Room, Molesworth St.

Oracle Lodge 1003

Email: info@oraclelodge1003.net

Web: www.oraclelodge1003.net

Lodge 141 Installation Dinner



W.Bro. Henry Robinson receives his 50 year jewel.

R.W.Bro. Richard Ensor, Grand Treasurer – R.W.Bro. Harvey Heavener, PGM Wicklow & Wexford – W.Bro. Henry Robinson – R.W.Bro. Philip Daley, Chairman, Metropolitan Board – M.W.Bro. Eric Waller, Past Grand Master – W.Bro. Geoff Lovegrove, WM Lodge 141

The views expressed in *MetroMason* are those of the contributor and are not necessarily those of the Editor, Metropolitan Board or Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Meeting of Grand Lodge

Grand Lodge will be held in The Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow hosted by The Provincial Grand Lodge of the South Eastern Counties

Saturday 5th March 2011

A coach will be travelling from Dublin to Carlow for the Grand Lodge Meeting and Luncheon

(For those wishing to avoid the high cost of parking in the city centre, free parking will be available in the grounds of Rathfarnham Parish Church, by kind permission)

The cost of the return journey by coach will be €15 and the cost of lunch €35 including the pre luncheon reception, four course meal and wine.

Following the meeting of Grand Lodge light

refreshments will be provided by Lodge 116 in the Lodge premises next door to the Hotel.

Itinerary

Depart Molesworth St, Dublin	9.15 a.m.
Collect Rathfarnham	9.30 a.m.
Pre-Luncheon Reception	11.30 a.m.
Grand Lodge Festive Board	12.30 p.m.
Grand Lodge Meeting	3.00 p.m.
Depart for Dublin (Approx)	5.30 p.m.

To book your place on the coach and lunch please contact Philip Daley at (01) 296 4622 or 087 205 7320 Email: metromason@eircom.net Please make your booking for the Coach and Lunch no later than Thursday 24th February 2011.

Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year



The Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year Competition 2011 will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Dublin on Thursday 6th and Saturday

8th October. The Semi-Finals will be held on Thursday afternoon & evening and the Final on Saturday evening commencing around 7:30 p.m.

As with the 2010 Competition, there will be the opportunity of **Advanced Ticket Purchase** for Metropolitan Masons and this facility will be available from 1st July. The number of Tickets

allocated (*for advanced purchase*) will be limited and shall be allocated on a first come basis. Application forms will be made available to the Metropolitan Board in due course.



As further details emerge, these will be posted on the Competition's website which can be viewed at: www.freemasonsmusic.ie

RTE lyric fm

Diary Dates at Freemasons' Hall

Saturday, 18th June 2011 at 7.00 p.m.
Metropolitan Board BBQ
Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street

Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th
& Thursday 21st July 2011
Metropolitan Art Exhibition
Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street

Wednesday, 20th July 2011 at 3.00 p.m.
Summer Lodge
Grand Lodge Room, Freemasons' Hall,
Molesworth Street

Saturday, 29th October 2011 at 8.00 p.m.
Metropolitan Concert
Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street