

MAJOR CHANGES AT DALKEY MASONIC HALL



Dalkey Masonic Lodge was founded on 7th April 1873 having purchased 9 Castle Street, in 1872 for £309, the property being adjacent to the old Castle, Church and Cemetery. The property was a pre-Reformation priest's house and was probably built some 200+ years earlier. As a building it had 3 rooms, kitchen and toilet on the ground floor and a bedroom, "bathroom" and Lodge Room on the first floor. The only

heating was by means of one small fireplace in the lounge and another in the "bathroom" – probably adequate for those bygone days!

Rowena James and her husband, Mal (who was a member of Lodge 614 and took up residence there in the late 1940's as Tyler) were the caretakers. When Mal passed away it was Rowena who continued as caretaker until, in October 2007, some 6 months after knee replacement surgery she, sadly, passed away. Being conscious of her age the Lodge was reluctant to embark on any refurbishment during her lifetime. However, in late 2007 the Lodge agreed to form a Logistics Committee consisting of the Worshipful Master and 6 experienced Brethren to discuss and determine the "way ahead". It was clear that urgent action had to be taken either to upgrade the building or to move elsewhere.

By the latter part of 2008 the property bubble burst and the banking industry was in serious crisis. This led to a virtual collapse in building employment, costs and property prices/rents. Although such



news brought great sadness to many it also spelt out a ray of hope for Lodge 261; could we, Lodge 261, take advantage of this opportunity to upgrade the building at more reasonable cost and, at the same time, provide some much needed employment to a crippled industry? A long term plan was prepared. We decided to take the plunge and in 2009 we installed central heating throughout the building using a modern gas fired combi system as well as improving wall ventilation to reduce the dampness. The result was a great success and the Committee soon began looking to the next stage – to bring the building into the 21st century so that our successors in Freemasonry in Dalkey would have their future guaranteed!

An Architect drew up plans bearing in mind the need to maintain the external aspect in keeping with the area and the age of the property. The Lodge Room floor required strengthening with additional joists, the ground floor layout needed to be changed

as did the stairs, bathroom and access to the Lodge Room. The building had to be dry lined and a rear exit door created by converting a window. Quotations were sought and by November 2010 a Builder was selected and a contract awarded. The Builder started work the following month, our coldest December for many years, and completed the project in early April – somewhat later than planned due to the many problems experienced with dampness, dry and wet rot and the need to effectively deal with them. The two lofts needed insulating, a larger water storage tank and an attic ladder, etc.

Finally, the Security System had to be upgraded, the Stair Lift lengthened and re-installed, the Fire Alarm & Safety system upgraded and installed and, lastly, the building was carpeted. The total cost of the upgrading work was initially estimated at €55,000 but the additional work has increased this to over €75,000! All this requires financing and whilst we must thank the many Brethren of the Lodge for their generous response and Grand Lodge Loan & Fabric Fund for their support and understanding we still have a mountain to climb between now and end December 2013 when all outstanding debt has to be cleared.

No. 9 Castle Street, Dalkey has been transformed and we hope you, the readers of this article, will come along to see just what can be done to an old property! An immediate result of this project is the creation of tremendous enthusiasm in all our members – and an indication of many new candidates in the immediate future. Is this to be the rebirth of Freemasonry in Dalkey?

John Hewitson
Secretary

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.

The 2011 Freemasons' Masquerade Ball



Over 150 guests arrived looking resplendent at the Thomas Prior Hall, Bewleys Hotel Ballsbridge, for the 2011 Freemasons Masquerade Ball. They were greeted by a stiltwalker juggling firesticks and a delicious Prosecco reception. The ladies were dressed to kill in elegant ball-gowns, some with fabulous corsetry, while the men looked suave and elegant in tuxedos. Masks, of course, were obligatory.

The venue was the main hall of the old Masonic Girls School, magnificently restored, it retains the character of the original building; with Masonic symbols embedded in its very fabric. Those attending were addressed by both the Deputy Grand Master and Jane McKenna from the Laura Lynn House.

At 8.30pm the attendees were transported back to the 19th century as the Irish Midlands Concert Orchestra struck up the first of ten waltzes. Led by Liz and the Morisini Whelan Dancers, gentlemen requested dances of the ladies and duly signed their dance-cards!

During the waltzes, apparently two military

officers had a dispute about a lady – which resulted in a spectacular sword duel in the middle of the dance floor. This was truly the 19th century! Even the lady herself got involved! Fight Director and Stuntman Paul Burke put on a brilliant show with his team Shannon and James.

At 9.30pm, the tempo changed and the formal Orchestra swapped places with the 20 piece Swing Kings big band.

Photographer Stephen Wall Morris was on hand to capture the elegance of the attendees with formal portraits available. See pages 8 and 9. Raffles were held, and prizes distributed.

Finally, we finished the night with the brilliant Press Gang who left us breathless until 1am!

The survivors retired to the residents bar! We had achieved our goals: Good fun, good entertainment with our brethren and friends, good publicity, and a good cause, the Laura Lynn House.

Proceeds of the night (in excess of €5,500) to be handed over. Job done!



21st European Grand Secretaries' C



Many Dublin Masons are unaware of the work which is done by Grand Lodge of Ireland on the international front, in its role as the second most senior of the Home Grand Lodges. Freemasonry worldwide looks to the three Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland as the touchstone for Masonic Regularity, and regular communication takes place, not alone between “these three, who shall agree”, but with Regular Grand Lodges worldwide. In Europe, Freemasonry is at an important stage of development, especially following the disappearance of the Soviet Union, and the reshaping of society in its former republics and satellite states. Freemasonry was in darkness in these states, much as occurred in countries which fell under the influence of the Axis powers during Word War II. In the recent past, many Grand Lodges have been founded or reconstituted, in many cases where a proud Masonic History already exists, such as the areas formerly forming the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and in Poland. The Baltic States of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania have also enthusiastically embraced modern Freemasonry, and while young, have much to bring to the European Masonic Table.

Among the long established Grand Lodges with continuous working, there is always much to be discussed, I attempt here to give the Dublin Brethren some flavour of the diplomatic work performed by the administration of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The Grand Secretary, D. Barry Lyons, was pleased to host the 21st European Grand

Secretaries' Conference at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin. The Conference is held annually in rotation among the European Constitutions, every second session being hosted by England, Ireland or Scotland.

Ireland welcomed 44 Delegates from 32 Masonic jurisdictions, including representatives from the Grande Oriente d'Italia and from Cyprus. Although these bodies are not recognised by Ireland, they may nevertheless be regarded as bodies within the greater orthodox Masonic family.

On the night of the 9th October 2010 the Delegates and their partners gathered for a welcoming dinner, which was held in Trinity College. The Deputy Grand Master attended to convey the good wishes of Grand Lodge for a successful conference, and the Grand Secretary offered a Cead Mile Failte as host. Following dinner, those attending had an opportunity of meeting informally, many of those attending being already professionally acquainted. The atmosphere was friendly and businesslike, and it was a delight to meet such a range of Grand Secretaries, in many cases accompanied by their Assistants. We found much in common to chat about, and I found it refreshing to hear my counterparts sharing the common routines and problems they encounter in their administrative role. I should mention that many – indeed, most – of those attending perform their duties on a voluntary basis, and dedicate enormous time and energy to the Order. We all learn from one another when the rare opportunity arises to

Conference, Dublin *by Morgan McCreadie*

share notes, and such meetings are fertile ground for developing a fruitful relationship with those with whom we are in communication by post and email, and occasionally by phone.

Arrangements in Freemasons' Hall for the Conference were impressive. Room One downstairs was laid out with a very large square table, each delegate having a microphone, with a national flag before each, indicating the area of jurisdiction of his Grand Lodge. My duties included minuting the meeting, which was quite a daunting exercise, although proceedings were carried on largely in English.

On opening, the Grand Secretary of Ireland welcomed the delegates with a *Cead Mile Failte*, agus *cupla focal as Gaeilge*. It was clear from the delegates that they were pleased to be present, and anticipated a useful and vibrant meeting. We rapidly moved into a solid agenda, with the Grand Secretary ensuring that we adhered to our tight schedule.

Each Grand Secretary gave a short report on the state of Freemasonry within his jurisdiction, following which the points raised were discussed by the meeting. A wide range of topics was covered, ranging from relations with the Civil Authorities, Media and Churches, to the matter of Masonic Identification for Brethren, and relations between Masonic Constitutions.

In most cases Grand Secretaries reported a mature relationship with State, Church and Media. However, in some reconstituted Grand Lodges in areas of former Soviet influence, varying degrees of antipathy have been experienced, largely due to adverse propaganda under the former regime. Such difficulties are not unique to those areas, however, with Austria reporting considerable opposition from the predominant Church.

Those Grand Lodges which have enjoyed uninterrupted working through the 20th century are now reporting stable membership numbers, having seen a drop in membership through the 1980s and '90s. Grand Lodges which experienced a period of darkness due to external events are active and growing in numbers, while

remaining relatively discreet in their dealings with the State, Church and Media. In some cases, such as Poland, difficulties are caused by quasi-Masonic bodies whose blatant disregard for Landmarks serves to bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

In contrast, the Grand Lodge of Spain, which was outlawed under the regime of General Franco, has enjoyed a resurgence, with many young men joining. While relations with the Government and with the Catholic Church are mutually respectful, there remains an attitude of suspicion in many areas of the public.

As the Conference drew to a close, the Grande Oriente d'Italia surprised Delegates by issuing an invitation to the Conference to meet in 2013 at their headquarters in Rome. The Conference was considered by all to be a great success and a banquet was held afterwards at which the Grand Master presided.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland and its Officers have an important international role to play globally, Masonically speaking, and I am happy to say that feedback from this conference was excellent; I was happy to have made some friends among those who share the administrative functions of the Masonic Order. It is good to feel that we do not work alone, although in our own countries and jurisdictions our jobs are somewhat unique. While the attendance of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master at Sister Grand Lodges is of paramount importance in displaying the position and prestige of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, it is also useful for our various administrations to enjoy a friendly professional relationship.

The Masonic Order is a worldwide organisation – although, of course, administered nationally by Grand Lodges – and it is important for the several European administrations to have a forum for consultation, and to debate matters of common interest. This work enables the Grand Lodges to demonstrate unity, and an adherence to the Antient Landmarks of the Craft.

Centurions Golfing Society

The Society was founded in 1932, by eleven members of Lodge 412. There is no evidence to explain why the name “Centurions” was chosen.

In the early years the Society travelled far and wide to play the six qualifying competitions for the “Magwood Trophy”, and judging by the winners’ scores, there were some expert golfers in matches played on such courses as Baltray and Ballybunnion. More recently competitions have taken place in Ballymascanlon and Bunclody along with a number of well known Dublin Clubs.

Down the years, the Society has been favoured by the membership of some well known and senior Brethren, but it would be invidious to name only some of them here. The current office of President is graced by W.Bro. Alfie Reed and this years Captain is R.W.Bro. Dougie Grey.

The majority of current members are high handicappers, who play for the love of golf, enjoy the company of fellow members, and no doubt encouraged by the knowledge that the Society is currently contributing Masonic Charity each year.

Our next outing is to Rathfarnham Golf Club on Friday, 24th June at 1.30 p.m. and if you would like to join us for a friendly game of golf and dinner, we would be delighted to welcome you.

Please contact R.W.Bro. Philip Daley at philipdaley@eircom.net or 087 2057320 to book your place.



The President and Captain relaxing, having just completed 18 holes at Bunclody.

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

The Haven is just Heaven

I am sure that the residents of the “*Carrickmanor Haven*” in Monkstown would agree with me, as the residence is surrounded by beautiful gardens maintained by professional gardeners and indeed by the residents themselves. Added to this there are the comfortable apartments, superb lunches and of course the wonderful company and companionship of their fellow members.

Carrickmanor offers a range of accommodation from studio apartments, recently converted double apartments and the bungalows. This



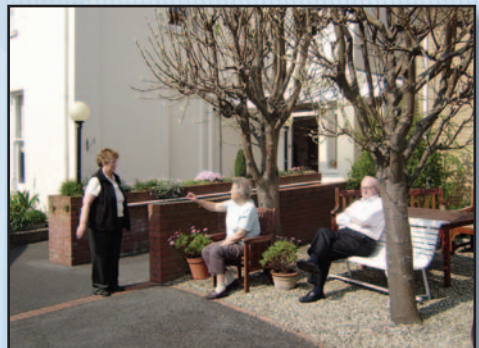
means that residents have the option of complete privacy and only meeting each other at lunchtime or they can of course socialise with their neighbours. There is a comfortable communal lounge where various functions are organised from time to time, but can be used at all times for relaxing in peace and quiet.

The fact that the complex is situated adjacent to Monkstown village means that those who wish can walk to the seafront and even along the piers and have both the Dart and bus services within easy reach. In addition there are the churches,

pub, post office and local shops all on the same road.

At the moment there are a couple of the Studio Apartments and one of the Doubles vacant so this is a great opportunity for someone who is looking for sheltered accommodation to take advantage of this situation. These are open to anyone with Masonic connections (however tenuous), the only criteria being that applicants must be reasonably mobile, pass a medical examination and be accepted by the members of the Management Committee.

Applicants can apply direct to Carrickmanor (phone 01-2841686), any member of the Committee or to the Hall in Molesworth St.



The 2011 Freemason



rs' Masquerade Ball



Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year



The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Ireland



Message from the Grand Master

'When addressing Grand Lodge in June 2009, I said how very impressed I was with the support given by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the 'Young Musician of the Year Competition' which they sponsor in Scotland. As a result of this, I was encouraged by many Freemasons to promote and sponsor a similar competition on an All-Ireland basis. The inaugural Competition was held in October 2010, which was won by Macdára Ó Seireadáin, a Clarinettist from the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

This year, the Competition will again be held in the Grand Lodge Room. Please give your support to these young musicians, whose professional development will be significantly enhanced. I trust that we all have an uplifting and satisfying experience as a result of this venture'.

*M.W. Bro. George Dunlop
Grand Master*

**Semi-Finals: Thursday 6th October 2011 14:00 & 19:00 - €5
(each performance)**

Final: Saturday 8th October 2011 19:30 - €10

**Tickets available:
1st Sept. from Porter's Lodge**

Patrons: Jane Carty; Dearbhla Collins; Eamonn Lawlor; John Rowden.

Supported by

RTE lyric fm

Long Service Awards – Dalkey Lodge 261

During the past 3 months no fewer than four long service jewels have been presented to Lodge Brethren. W.B. John Course, who has given almost 61 years service to the Order was presented with his jewel + Golden & Diamond Jubilee Certificates by the Deputy Grand Master, RWB Douglas Grey on the occasion of the Installation Dinner in February. W.B. John Finkel, currently the Lodge Treasurer, also received his jewel and Golden Jubilee Certificate from RWB Douglas Grey on the same occasion.



WB John Finkel, WB Larry Wilmott & WB John Course.



WB Ken Hunt.

W.B. Larry Wilmott, now in his 90th year and still very active, was presented with his Golden Jubilee Certificate & Jewel at the April Communication in the Dalkey refurbished premises. Larry, who retired as the longest serving King of Dalkey just

a few years ago, has some 56 years service in the Order and is already looking forward to his Diamond Jubilee Certificate in 2015.

W.B. Kenneth Hunt is our fourth long service member who will receive his jewel & Golden Jubilee Certificate later this month. Ken, a retired Architect, gave us much good advice and support during the past few years which led us to upgrade and transform our premises at 9 Castle Street, Dalkey.

John Hewitson
Secretary

LODGE TWO

FAMILY FUNDAY, SHOOTING AND BBQ

Clay Pigeon Shooting • Target Rifle Shooting • Archery • Laser Shooting • BBQ

**PRIZES
TO BE WON
ON THE DAY**

**NO STRENGTH
OR EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED**

**ONLY €30
Including Lunch**

**Non-Shooters
FREE
Lunch €5**

**Saturday 23rd July Hilltop Shooting Ranges
Tithewer, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow
Opens 10:00am Start 10:30am**

All Brethren, Friends and Family Welcome

- Strictly only persons 14 years or older can shoot ammunition.
- Free Archery for under 14's
- Laser Shooting available for kids of all ages
- Inspection and Safety Equipment Provided for All

For Tickets or Further Information Contact:

Ken Roe - 0872340007
ken@bishopsvale.com or
Kevin McParland - 0863536519
kevin@mason.ie

Kindly Supported by: DMA Country Sports Ltd. Ashford, Co. Wicklow Hilltop Shooting Club Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow

ISANDLWANA AND MASONIC



The Zulu War began in early January 1879 as a simple campaign of expansion. British Colonial Officials and the C-in-C in South Africa, Lord Chelmsford, considered the independent

Z u l u Kingdom, ruled by Cetshwayo, a threat to the British Colony of Natal with which it shared a long border along the Tugala River. An excuse for the invasion was organised by the British Authorities who delivered an ultimatum to Cetshwayo requiring him to give up a group of Zulus accused of murdering a party of British subjects. Such a demand was bound to be rejected by the Zulu king and so Lord Chelmsford attacked Zululand on the 11th January 1879.

He divided his force into 3 columns. Col. Evelyn Wood, VC, (won in the India Mutiny) of the 90th Light Infantry commanded the column that crossed the Tugala into the north of Zululand. Col. Pearson of the 3rd Foot (the Buffs) commanded in the South by the Indian Ocean coast, while Col. Glynn of the 24th Foot commanded the centre column, comprising 2 Bns. of the 24th Foot, units of the Natal Native Infantry, Natal irregular horse and the Royal Arty.

Lord Chelmsford accompanied the centre column which advanced into Zululand on the 11th January 1879. The column was to make for Ulundi, Cetshwayo's principal krall joining Col Pearson's column for the final assault.

The centre column reached Isandlwana on the 20th January 1879 and encamped on its lower slopes. That night Lord Chelmsford received intelligence as to the location of the main Zulu force and resolved to advance against them with sufficient forces to bring them to battle and defeat them. The 2nd Bn. 24th Foot, the mounted infantry and 4 guns were to march out at dawn.

Col Pulleine was to remain in Camp with the 1st Bn. 24th Foot and orders were sent to Col Dumford to bring his irregular South African troops to reinforce the Camp.

Chelmsford and his troops departed the Camp early on the 22nd January but failed to locate the Zulu forces. He commenced a search for them.

The Zulus had bypassed Chelmsford and were

heading for Isandlwana.

The first warning the Camp received was when Zulus were seen in the hills to the North-east and then the East.

Col. Pulleine ordered his command to form to the East and sent a message to Chelmsford that the Zulus were threatening the Camp. At about 10.00 p.m. Col. Dumford arrived at the Camp with his party of mounted men and a rocket troop. He promptly left the Camp to search for the Zulu groups. The troops in the Camp were stood down.

On the heights Dumford troops spread out to search for the enemy. One troop of mounted Volunteers pursued a group of Zulus as they retired until suddenly out of fold in the ground the whole of the Zulu army appeared. The Zulus were forced to act by the sudden appearance of the mounted Volunteers, shaking out as best they could into their traditional form of assault, the left horn, the central chest and the right horn. One of Dumford's officers rode back to the Camp to warn of an imminent attack.

The troops in the Camp were hastily formed up in line. However, the spaces left between the Companies were too wide and, in addition, they were placed too far forward of the Camp in which the main supply of ammunition and other supplies were kept. It was clearly stated in SOPs (standard operating procedures) that when at rest the ox-drawn wagons should form a circle so as to provide all round defence. However, on the orders of Lord Chelmsford, the wagons were placed in a straight line in order to save time.

The chest or main centre of attack of the Zulus was repulsed by the British but it was the Zulu 'horns' that presented the greatest danger as they raced to find the ends of the British flank and envelope them. In addition, some Zulus in the chest of the attack managed to infiltrate between the Companies. A Zulu regt. rushed between the Camp and the soldiers who were attempting to withdraw to it and the horns broke in on each flank and the British line quickly collapsed.

Groups formed and fought the Zulus until their ammo gave out and they were overwhelmed.

As the horns of the Zulu did not quite close around the Camp some soldiers fled through the gap towards Rorkes Draft. However, the Zulus quickly closed the road forcing the stragglers to take to



the hills where they were quickly hunted down and killed. The last survivor of the main battle, a soldier of the 24th, escaped to a cave on the hillside where he continued to fight until his ammunition ran out and he was shot down. Only those lucky enough to have been mounted, managed to escape.

The most memorable episode of this stage of the battle concerns Lts. Melville and Coghill. When it became obvious that the Camp was about to be overrun, Col. Pulleine, commanding the 24th Foot, removed the Queens Colour from the Guard Tent and handed it over to his Adj., Lt. Melville, instructing him to take it to a place of safety. His friend, Lt. Coghill, had injured his knee the previous day, chasing a chicken, of all things. He was confined to the Camp, able to ride but not walk. In consequence, escorting the Colours was one task he could carry out and as Melville rode off with the cased Colours across his saddle he was joined by Coghill and they were pursued by the Zulu warriors. The aim was to reach the Buffalo River, the border between Zululand and Natal. It was about 3 miles away across boulder strewn and bushed terrain.

Coghill's horsemanship enabled him to reach the river bank, his horse had sustained an assegai wound to his hindquarters and he dared not dismount because of his knee injury when he caught up with Melville who was having trouble in controlling the cumbersome Colour.

The way lay down a steep gorge and then across the rushing waters of a river in spate. Both riders were exhausted from their grim journey and although Melville urged his horse forward, it refused and he was thrown into the raging river, losing the Colours. Coghill returned to help the stricken Melville and the Zulus opened fire from about 25 yds. away, killing Coghill's horse with almost the first shot. Worn out and faint from their exertions the two were unable to climb the last few yards out of the high-sided gorge to reach safety. They both used their revolvers until the ammunition ran out and they were finally killed. The bodies were found lying close together and were buried on the 4th February 1879. A month later the bodies were exhumed and reburied a few yards from the spot where they died.

The river was searched for the missing Queens Colour, it was found battered but intact, as the

river had dropped by about 3 ft. since the battle. When the Bn. Returned to England in 1880 the Queen commanded that a silver wreath should be borne on the staff of the Colours.

At first it was believed that the 2 Officers were killed by the Zulus but new evidence has indicated that they were killed by Natal natives who gathered on the bank of the river and had been threatened with death by the Zulus and this explains why the bodies were not disembowelled as was the Zulu custom.

Both men received the Victoria Cross for their efforts to save the Colours but not until 1907 when the warrant was changed to allow the award to be made posthumously.

Both Melville and Coghill were Freemasons under the Irish Grand Lodge Constitution.

Coghill became a member of Leinster Lodge 387 in Valetta, Malta, while Melville was initiated in the Glittering Star Lodge No. 322 on 10th January 1867, passed 13th February 1867 and raised 19th April 1867. The "Freemason" for 10th April 1880 report that a monument had been placed over the both graves.

Casualties: 52 British Officers, 806 NCOs and men perished. Around 60 Europeans survived the battle. 471 Africans died fighting for the British. Zulu casualties can only be estimated at approx 2000. They captured more than 1000 rifles and all of the columns ammunition.

The battle of Isandlwana stunned the world. It was unthinkable that a "native" army armed substantially with stabbing weapons could defeat the troops of a Western Power armed with modern rifles and artillery, let alone wipe it out.

Until news of the disaster reached Britain, the Zulu War was just another colonial bushfire of the sort that simmered constantly in many parts of the Worldwide British Empire. The loss of a Bn. Of troops, news of which was sent by telegraph to Britain, transformed that nation's attitude to the war.

Summer Lodge



The 13th Annual Summer Lodge will take place on Wednesday 20th July 2011 at 3.00 p.m., we look forward to meeting many old friends and many new ones. All Masons are welcome and the Metropolitan

Board would encourage you to attend this unique meeting. The Metropolitan Board of General Purposes is again sponsoring this event and complimentary refreshments will be provided by W.Bro. Tim Murphy and his team of willing helpers.

The meeting and the proceedings will be under the direction of the Chairman of the Metropolitan

Board, R.W.Bro. Philip Daley and the Board are delighted that immediately following the meeting W.Bro. Connie Carter representing The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Masonry will address the meeting on Women's Freemasonry.

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.

The Claret Jug will be presented at Summer Lodge Meeting 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.

Feedback

My Dear Brother,

Would you be so kind as to forward this communication to the editor of "*Metro Mason*."

May I call your attention to an article about Geraldine Lodge No. 171 on page 2 in the attached file. It states that George Washington was Initiated in Lodge No. 277.

If I may be so bold as to offer a correction: Ill. Bro. George Washington was Initiated an Entered Apprentice in "*The Lodge at Fredericksburgh*" in Virginia on November 2, 1752. He was Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft March 3, 1753 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on August

4, 1753. All three Degrees were conferred by the Fredericksburg Lodge.

In 1752, our Lodge was most likely operating as a "*British Military Traveling Lodge*." The first recorded record of a meeting of our Lodge was September 1, 1752. We were granted a Charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland on July 21, 1758. Our Lodge became Lodge No. 4 when we received our Charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia on January 30, 1787.

For more information about our Lodge, please visit our web site: www.masoniclodge4.org

Fraternally,
Dan Thompson
Past Master, Secretary, Fredericksburg
Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, VA.

Second Annual Art Exhibition

The Second Annual Metropolitan Art Exhibition will take place at Freemasons' Hall, from the 19th to the 21st July 2011 to coincide with the 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 for 12.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. each day. For those who wish to sell their work we are asking for a 25% commission. All proceeds will go to the Masonic Benevolent Institutions.

We urge all Lodge Secretaries, Almoners and Stewards of Charity to contact their members, Lodge widows and friends 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 member 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.

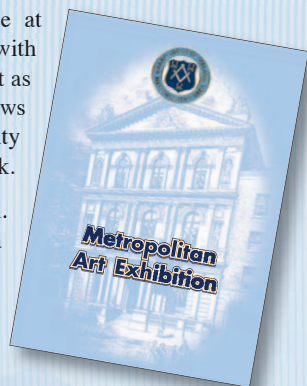
Contact:

W.Bro. Geoff Lovegrove: geoflove@gofree.indigo.ie	W.Bro. Paul Stewart: stewalua@eircom.net
W.Bro. John Haynes: haynesjool@gmail.com	W.Bro. Des Finnegan: finnegad@indigo.ie



Our Roaming Grand Secretary

The Grand Secretary R.W. Bro. D. Barry Lyons and the Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. Douglas Grey recently visited Rome and the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy. During their stay they took time to explore some of the landmarks of this great city.



Freemasonry Down Under

As I now enter the third year of what due to economic exile may be a long term visit I can take a chance to reflect on my Masonic adventures in Sydney. For any Mason who is leaving the auld sod one thing that you can be assured of is a fraternal welcome from your Australian Brethern that is both familiar and different simultaneously.

Before I moved I had located a Lodge on the internet that I wanted to visit, Lodge University of Sydney and within 2 weeks of landing I had attended a meeting and a "South" or Festive Board as we would call it.

How universal is our Brotherhood, I am over 20000 km from my mother lodge Leinster Lodge 141 yet the welcome I got was as friendly as the first night I met M.W. Bro. Dougie Grey a few years ago!! When I had popped into the Sydney Masonic Centre I met a Mason who knew my Mother (platonically!!) and my family so it is truly a small world.

Now the differences, Australian Lodges are extremely formal, Black Tie, no ritual books in sight and a desire for Educational pieces I had not experienced before. I have to admit I had never seen a Tracing Board till I arrived here. Yet the chap who gave the explanation was excellent.

The meetings in fact certainly reflect the historical English influence but with an Aussie

twist. Meetings can go on for 2-3 hours but the Souths certainly make up for it through robust conversation and a love of the grape!

The influence is not only English, I have joined since I arrived a Royal Arch Lodge that reports back to Dublin, Leinster Marine Lodge. A lodge who take there links to home very seriously. There is also a Craft Lodge in Adelaide that reports back to Dublin which has a huge membership.

If asked what are the best things about Freemasonry here, its the mateship and feeling of belonging for all. What do I think may be a problem? The same as the Order everywhere, the ability to attract younger members, however, they are making leaps and bounds to make Freemasonry more accessible and interesting for this demographic.

It is not easy to leave your home and settle in a foreign land but Freemasonry has made it easier. I would encourage all Masons coming out to feel free to drop me a line tjfkelly@gmail.com and I would be delighted to introduce you to a Lodge, and you never know maybe if there are enough of us Grand Lodge would grant us a travelling warrant... St Patricks Lodge Sydney... I can see it now!

*All the best,
Bro. Tom Kelly*

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

Barbeque & Raffle



*in Freemasons' Hall,
Moleworth Street, Dublin
on Saturday, 18th June 2011
at 7.00 pm.*

ADULTS €20
(STEAK & WINE)

CHILDREN €5
(BURGER & SOFT DRINKS)

Proceeds in aid of Masonic Charities