

# metro



FEB 2012

ISSUE 31

# m a s o n

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN MASONIC LODGES**

## Lodge Ireland 2000



**Lodge Ireland 2000, Ireland's only Internet Lodge, was Constituted on the 10th June 2000 in Freemasons' Hall, Dublin, following the 275th Anniversary Celebrations of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.**

Lodge Ireland 2000 is under the direct jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and meets under the management umbrella of the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes. The Lodge meets as a normal Masonic Lodge four times each year - on the 1st Saturday in January and on the Saturday after the June meeting of Grand Lodge in Dublin. Meeting dates during the months of March and October vary and the Lodge's meeting places in the months of January, March and October can be anywhere in Ireland and will vary depending on invitations.

As well as meeting "in the flesh" four times a year the Brethren of the Lodge meet "electronically" in their own secure Chat Room on-line to discuss matters of mutual interest, consider new candidates



*The Officers and Brethren attending Lodge Ireland 2000 along with the Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry and Donegal R.W.Bro. Robert Quigley on 7th January 2012 in the W.E. Scott Memorial Masonic Hall, Campsie Co. Londonderry*

and nominate Lodge Officers. All elections of prospective candidates and officers are conducted via our secure web site.

The Lodge currently has a membership of 47 with members residing all over the world including England, France, Spain, Abu Dhabi, USA, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Jamaica, Germany and Poland. Amongst our members we have the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Provincial Grand Masters and the Chairman of the Metropolitan Board.

Whilst being an Internet Lodge, Ireland 2000 is NOT a meeting place for "Computer Anoraks". The only qualifications are a love of our Order, a computer and an e-mail address.

However to be considered for membership of Lodge Ireland 2000 you will need the following:-

- (a) Be a Master Mason of a Grand Lodge in fraternal communication with the Grand Lodge of Ireland and have documentation in support thereof
- (b) Have a computer with access to the Internet
- (c) An e-mail address



One of the main objectives of Lodge Ireland 2000 is to support Masonic Charities and since the Lodge is on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland the charities supported will normally be those associated with the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

However under exceptional circumstances the Management Committee will have the power to direct up to 25% of the Lodge's Charitable Giving to any other cause which it shall deem worthy and which has the approval of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

At each of the venues for the "physical" meetings of the Lodge local Brethren are welcome to join with the members of Lodge Ireland 2000 and experience the Lodge's unique blend of friendly fellowship. They are also invited to attend the social occasion which is held after the meeting and always in the company of our wives and partners.

For more information

please go to:-

<http://www.ireland2000.org>

or scan -



# Dalkey Lodge 261

## OPENING OF UPGRADED PREMISES JANUARY 2012



*The Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey cutting the tape with R.W.Bro. John Hewitson, W.Bro. Daniel Feehan, R.W.Bro. Selwyn Davies and R.W.Bro. Philip Daley*

Tuesday evening 31st January will prove to be an evening well remembered in the annals of Dalkey Lodge 261's history - a happy and joyous occasion when their dedicated labours over the past two and a half years really came to fruition. The Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey, officially opened their upgraded premises.

The work began during the summer of 2009 when central heating was installed using a Combi Gas Fired Boiler which quickly proved a great success. However, this highlighted the need to upgrade the premises which was constructed over three centuries ago for the priest of the adjacent church which is now in ruins. During late 2010 until the early summer of 2011 major upgrading and reconstruction work was undertaken at a total cost of some €80,000 – a cost well in excess of what we had originally planned but the end result has certainly fully justified the action taken and expenditure incurred. It would not be an understatement to say that the premises, internally, had been transformed from the 17th to the 21st Century.

Some 35 Brethren attended the function which was preceded by a short Emergency Meeting of 261 Brethren and their Special Guests

representing Grand Lodge, MBGP, the Provincial Grand Lodges of S. E. Counties and Wicklow & Wexford and 5 Metropolitan Lodges. Many compliments were paid by the visiting Brethren on the high quality of the upgrading work and the Lodge Brethren thanked the Deputy Grand Master for the assistance given by the Grand Lodge Grants and Loans Committee without which the project could not have proceeded. Thanks were also paid to the 261 Logistics Committee which was the motivating force behind the project. A Tenant/Caretaker is in the process of being appointed and is expected to take up residence in the early spring.



*W.Bro. Ken Power, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey, W.Bro. Daniel Feehan and W.Bro. Brendan O'Gorman*

The meeting was followed by a buffet reception, courtesy of R.W.Bro. Selwyn Davies, in the Lodge Dining Room during which the Official Opening Ceremony was performed by the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey. Some of the photos taken during the evening have been published with appropriate captions.

I am sure that many Metropolitan Lodges will be interested in visiting Dalkey – either as visitors to one of our meetings (held on the 4th Monday of months 1,2,3,4,5,9,10 & 11 at 8 p.m.) or in order to hold their own meeting there. If so they should contact the Secretary at [johnhew@tinet.ie](mailto:johnhew@tinet.ie) or on 2807988.

*John Hewitson  
Secretary, Lodge 261 Dalkey*

# *New Metropolitan Board*

As the Metropolitan Board plan the programme of events for 2012 and beyond, networking, building relationships, sharing knowledge and developing our combined skills is the common theme within the Board. We place great emphases on providing events and activities for everyone such as the renowned Summer Barbeque, Summer Lodge, Concerts, Seminars, Movie Nights, Airsoft, Bikers Outings, Harry Potter Day, Murder Mystery Evening and a Georgian House Party to name but a few.

We know that all the events will not appeal to everyone, but we are confident that every member will find a selection of these events and activities that they will enjoy and encourage other members of their Lodge and friends to attend. These events will be advertised and promoted on the website, by email, on the lobby information screen, with handouts, correspondence to Lodge Secretaries and through the Lodge Representatives.

No committee runs by itself and we are fortunate on the Board to have many talented people and I take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support, encouragement and commitment. In addition, I am deeply indebted to the following Brethren for undertaking additional responsibilities.

Geoff Lovegrove	Deputy Chairman
Randall Robertson	Secretary
Tom Fitzpatrick	Metropolitan Almoner
Ken Broughall	Editor, MetroMason
Ken Roe	Webmaster
Jim Smith	Lobby Information Screen
Peter Fellowes-McCully	New Members Committee
Gareth Walsh	The Green Committee

I would like to take this opportunity 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.

The Metropolitan Board continues to place priority importance on improving communications with Lodges and Brethren. This is a vital part of the continued growth and success of Freemasonry and we encourage everyone to play their part in building a strong team in Lodges, the Metropolitan Area and throughout Freemasonry in general.

The overall plan includes the continued development of MetroMason, Lodge Visitation, the Metropolitan Website, the Metropolitan email database and the Lobby Information Screen.

## **Metropolitan Website**

[www.mbgp.org](http://www.mbgp.org)

The Metropolitan website is an ideal way of helping to get information to every Lodge and every Brother in the Metropolitan Area.

The website gives the facility for individual Lodges to publicise their own events and is a resource for you and your Lodge. Please submit suggestions or items for inclusion to [metromason@eircom.net](mailto:metromason@eircom.net) or [ken@bishopsvale.com](mailto:ken@bishopsvale.com)

## **MetroMason**

We are always delighted to receive articles of interest for MetroMason and we welcome your contributions. Please submit articles to [metromason@eircom.net](mailto:metromason@eircom.net) or [ken@staybro.com](mailto:ken@staybro.com)

## **Lobby Information Screen**

The Lobby Information screen is available to all Lodges to advertise events and details should be

sent to metromason@eircom.net or Jim Smith at ei4cp@ireland.com or call 087 254 7991.

The Metropolitan Board is here to support you, the Lodges and the Brethren in the Metropolitan Area and we are in a continual learning process with a vision for strong successful Lodges growing and sharing together. We welcome your

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

*Philip Daley,  
Chairman – Metropolitan Board*

## Metropolitan Board Members 2012

Board Members	Representing Lodges
Ken Broughall	Geraldine 171 & Skillet & Trowel 981
Joseph Byrne	GML, Duke of York 25 & Trinity College 357
Kevin Creagh	Orpheus 426
Philip Daley	Unity 238, St Cecilia 494, Lodge Ireland 2000 & Lux Diei
Peter Fellowes-McCully	Temple 6, University 33, Fidelity 125 & Oracle 1003
Tom Fitzpatrick	Curragh Emerald 397 & Dublin 500
John Heery	Israel 126 & Corinthian Commercial 245
Martin Lenihan	Acacia 225, Garrison 730
Geoff Lovegrove	Leinster 141, Dalkey 261 & Military 728
Greg Lyons	Clontarf 249 & Chetwode Crawley 395
Randall Robertson	Kingstown 510 & The First Volunteer 620
Ken Roe	Lodge No 2, Ruby 339 & Caxton 511
Seamus Shields	Fitzgibbon 331, Victory 478 & Molesworth 611
Jim Smith	Victoria 4, Emerald Isle 19



## A Lost Warrant

High on the cliffs at the west end of Tramore Bay, Co. Waterford is a sad, grey granite monument erected to the memory of 292 men of the 2nd Battalion of the 59th Regiment of Foot, later known as The East Lancashire Regiment.

They were lost when the transport ship, The Sea Horse, carrying them home from the Napoleonic Wars in Spain was driven into the bay by a large storm and wrecked in January 1816.

The Regimental Lodge No. 219 held a Travelling Warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ireland and a duplicate was issued in 1818 to replace the one lost in the shipwreck.

*R.W. Bro William Shortland*

# The Green Committee

## What is Airsoft?

Airsoft is a sport in which participants shoot 6mm pellets via replica firearms in a series of different scenarios and games such as capture the flag and VIP escort. It is simple and great craic. ‘Does it hurt?’ I hear you ask. Not really..... well, maybe sometimes. The pellets move at around 300ft per second though distance will significantly reduce the force with which it hits. But remember, that’s half the fun!

With aspirations of creating a Masonic Airsoft Team (MAT); we are looking for couch potatoes and active goers who want to run around a forest while getting up to all kinds of shenanigans with replica weapons. If you’ve never played Airsoft before, do come along and have the craic. Everyone is welcome, and this is a great way to meet your brethren in a very different environment (*and to shoot them for joining the wrong Lodge!*). You may even find yourself having a drink with them afterwards.

Our first Masonic excursion will take place on the last Saturday in March 31st, location to be decided. The day runs from around 10am to 5pm. The cost approximately consists of a €25 entrance fee, €25 for gun rental if you don’t already have one, and approximately €10 euro for pellets. So €60 will more than cover everything. Bring your own gear if you have it and a packed lunch. Like most women Mother Nature is a fickle creature so dress appropriately in case it rains. If you are interested in coming along; drop me an email at [luc.breathnach@gmail.com](mailto:luc.breathnach@gmail.com) or call on 087 7756940. We need to confirm numbers to book gun rentals a.s.a.p.

March is indeed a busy month for “The Green Committee” we are screening our first of a series of movies in the Hall. Metropolis we hope will be a successful introduction to this and tickets are available as outlined below.

I look forward to seeing you there!

*Bro. Luke Walsh*

## METROPOLIS

“SHE IS THE MOST PERFECT AND OBEDIENT TOOL THAT MAN HAS EVER POSSESSED...”

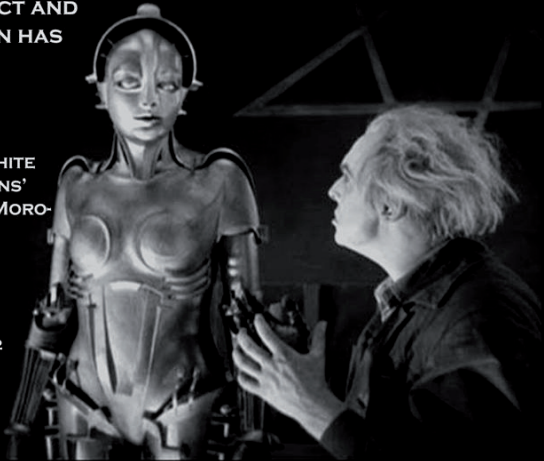
THE 1927 SILENT, BLACK & WHITE CLASSIC COMES TO FREEMASONS’ HALL, SCREENED TO GIORGIO MORODER’S 80’S SOUND TRACK.

VENUE:  
FREEMASONS’ HALL, MOLESWOTH STREET

DATE AND TIME:  
7PM, SATURDAY THE 10TH OF MARCH 2012

COST: €10  
(INCLUDING FINGER FOOD)

FOR TICKETS CONTACT: GARETH WALSH  
0879215462 - GARWALSH@HOTMAIL.COM



# The Haven is Happy

Happy Halloween, Happy Christmas, Happy New Year. Yes the happy residents of Carrickmanor Haven in Monkstown really know how to enjoy themselves. Aided and abetted by the wonderful Kitti Tynan and her staff, who organise the catering and decorations for each event, they can be sure that no festive occasion passes without suitable jollification, including of course, at Christmas, a suitable visit from Santa and entertainment provide by their resident musician, the one and only Jonnie Rowden and his good friend Bryan Hoey.



The Happy atmosphere in the Haven is all too obvious to everyone visiting the facility in Monkstown, from the beautiful gardens, lovingly tended by the residents, (ably assisted by the professional gardener who maintains the lawns, hedges and shubs and does any heavy work required), to the comfortable and tasteful communal areas in the main house.

The only sad part about the place is the fact there are still a couple of unoccupied apartments waiting for some lucky people to come and enjoy the happy atmosphere. The residents would love to see these places filled and would make any newcomer very welcome.



**If any member of the Order knows of anyone who they think would like to take up this great offer, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the committee, the office in Molesworth Street or Kitti Tynan at 2841686.**

# Masters & Wardens Seminar

*“Everyone here has the sense that right now is one of those moments when we are influencing the future.” Steve Jobs*

The Metropolitan Board were delighted to welcome 84 outgoing Worshipful Masters, incoming Worshipful Masters and the Senior & Junior Wardens to the Masters and Wardens Seminar on Monday, 30th January 2012. It was most encouraging to see the support from all the Lodges in the Metropolitan Area with the exception of only one who sadly was not represented.

We were particularly pleased to welcome the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey and take the opportunity to thank him for his support and encouragement to the Metropolitan Board and the Lodges in the Metropolitan Area.

The seminar was designed as a networking opportunity for the senior Brethren in each Lodge and to provide information on what is expected of them as they advance through the offices in their Lodge.

The evening got underway with a welcome address by R.W.Bro. Philip Daley, Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes where he reminded the Brethren that “the Metropolitan Board is here to support you, the Lodges and the Brethren in the Metropolitan Area and we are in a continual learning process with a vision for strong successful Lodges growing and sharing together.”

The evening continued with presentations from Geoff Lovegrove on the duties of the Master & Wardens. Randal Robertson covering Communications. Gareth Walsh explaining the vision of The Green Committee. Ken Broughall

promoting MetroMason. Ken Roe with a live demonstration of the Metropolitan Website and Jim Smith with details on the Lobby Information Screen.

Following the presentations the Brethren retired to the Festive Board during which the Deputy Grand Master addressed the gathering encouraging the Brethren in the development of their Lodges and chairing a lively Question & Answer session.

The Metropolitan Board thank all the Lodges and Brethren for their support and encouragement and we look forward to similar seminars in the future.

The Brethren were provided with a handout listing contact details for the various forms of communication tools available and they are listed here again for your convenience.

## Metropolitan Website

[www.mbgp.org](http://www.mbgp.org)

Please submit items for inclusion to Ken Roe at [ken@bishopsvale.com](mailto:ken@bishopsvale.com) or [metromason@eircom.net](mailto:metromason@eircom.net)

## MetroMason

Please submit articles to Ken Broughall to [ken@staybro.com](mailto:ken@staybro.com) or [metromason@eircom.net](mailto:metromason@eircom.net)

## Lobby Information Screen

Events and details should be sent to Jim Smith at 087 254 7991 or email Jim at [ei4cp@ireland.com](mailto:ei4cp@ireland.com) or [metromason@eircom.net](mailto:metromason@eircom.net)

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



# New Metropolitan Membership Forms

At the meeting for Metropolitan Masters and Wardens held on Monday, 30th January 2012 in Freemasons' Hall, the Board introduced a new form that is designed to provide a faster and more accurate record of the Metropolitan membership and the widows it supports. Up to now, the membership database was corrected annually when the return of officers was made at the end of October each year and additions to, or subtractions from, Lodge lists of widows was made when the Almoner got around to notifying the office.

The Metropolitan Board seeks your cooperation and assistance by requesting that the new

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES  
Please complete at each of your Lodge meetings

Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members on the Roll \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number Present \_\_\_\_\_ Members \_\_\_\_\_ Widows \_\_\_\_\_

Business of the meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Dispersed  Bailed  Concludes Proposed

Has the Lodge a Programme for the year? If yes, please give dates \_\_\_\_\_

If there are any changes to your Lodge membership, please check the appropriate box and complete the form

Lodge Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Please leave with the Tyler or post to: 47 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES  
Please amend the Membership or Widows Database as follows:

Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE TICK ALL THE RELEVANT BOXES:

Member  Widow

Male  Deceased  Reinstated  Struck Off  Change of Address

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Landline \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please leave with the Tyler or post to The Metropolitan Board, Freemasons' Hall, 47 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 or email to: [general@metboard.org](mailto:general@metboard.org)

form which has been circulated to Secretaries is completed in respect of attendance at Stated Communications, at each meeting, and the section overleaf completed in the event of changes to the Lodge membership or the widows that it supports.

The Tylers office will issue the forms for each of your meetings and they can then be returned to the Tyler when your Lodge finishes its business.

The Board hopes that it can count on your support to implement this new report and thereby save time and expense to the Benevolent Institutions as well as the office administration.

## Diary Dates at Freemasons' Hall

Tuesday, 1st March, 2012 at 2.00 p.m.  
**Grand Lodge Meeting followed by Light Refreshments**

*Grand Lodge Room, Freemasons' Hall,  
Molesworth Street*

Saturday, 10th March 2012 at 7.00 p.m.  
**Screening of the 1927 film Metropolis**  
*Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street*

Saturday, 31st March, 2012  
**Airsoft Outing**  
*Venue to be Confirmed*

Saturday, 16th June, 2012 at 7.00 p.m.  
**Metropolitan Board BBQ**  
*Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street*

Wednesday, 18th July, 2012 at 3.00 p.m.  
**Summer Lodge**  
*Grand Lodge Room, Freemasons' Hall,  
Molesworth Street*

Thursday, 11th & Saturday, 13th October  
2012 at 3.00 p.m.  
**The Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2012**  
*Grand Lodge Room, Freemasons' Hall,  
Molesworth Street*

## Skillet and Trowel No. 981 Visit Southend-On-Sea

Early on a cold wet Friday morning in January 6 members of Skillet and Trowel Lodge No. 981 along with 2 members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction and the Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes and his partner, Imelda, departed these shores for what was to be an unforgettable weekend of Masonic friendship at Saxon Hall Masonic Centre in Southend-On-Sea in the Province of Essex.



*The group included W.Bro. Michael Curran, W.Bro. Ken Broughall, Bro. Gerry Kinsella, W.Bro. Paul Gerety, W.Bro. Lionel Fifield, Bro. Jim Harris, W.Bro. Peter Burkhardt and W.Bro. Mel Goodchild, W.Bro. Ian Simpson and W.Bro. Emlyn Carter members of Lodge 981 along with R.W.Bro. Geoff Lovegrove and R.W.Bro. Paul Stewart representing the Grand Lodge of Instruction and R.W.Bro. Philip Daley, Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes.*



That afternoon the group attended the Old Southendian Lodge No. 5403 meeting where we received a very warm welcome by the 80 Brethren in attendance. Shortly after the meeting 140 Brethren and their wives sat down to the Lodges renowned Burns Supper.

Some of the travelling group had not had the experience of Haggis and approached dinner with some trepidation, but with the addition of the customary accompanying glass of scotch the first experience of Haggis was a success and definitely one to be repeated! Following dinner, entertainment had a distinct Scottish flavour, but not to be outdone Imelda represented Ireland by leading the singing of Molly Malone and some other Irish favourites. The hand of Masonic friendship continued well

into the early hours!

With most of the group up for an early breakfast and with some time to relax, explore the delights of Southend-On-Sea and prepare for the demonstration that was scheduled for the mid afternoon meeting.

Albert Lucking Lodge No. 2717, consecrated in October 1898 was celebrating its 600th meeting and had extended an invitation to Skillet & Trowel Lodge No. 981 to demonstrate an Irish Constitution Opening and Closing of the Lodge and the Entered Apprentice Degree, an invitation that was readily accepted. Following the Albert Lucking Lodge meeting there was a short interval while the Lodge room was rearranged to allow for the demonstration.



With a capacity attendance W.Bro. Michael Curran took the chair and presided over an exemplary demonstration by W.Bro. Paul Gerety and assisted by Bro. Gerry Kinsella. The demonstration was a credit to Skillet & Trowel Lodge No. 981 and to Irish Freemasonry in general.

Following the meeting and demonstration we again experienced the Southend-on-sea hospitality and with 160 Brethren sitting down to dinner, being wined and dined again to an exceptional level. However, we were not expecting to see Haggis again so soon, but having enjoyed it the previous evening we were only too happy to enjoy its delights.

As Chairman of the Metropolitan Board it was an honour to be present and experience such a wonderful display of Masonic Ritual by a very talented group and extend my congratulations to Skillet & Trowel Lodge No. 981 and our grateful thanks to our hosts at Old Southendian Lodge No. 5403 and Albert Lucking Lodge No. 2717 for their outstanding hospitality and friendship.

# Council of Knight Masons

The October edition of MetroMason had an excellent article concerning Royal Arch Masonry in Ireland. This article is to take you a step further along the Masonic road by introducing those members of the Craft who do not know much about this area, to Chivalric Masonry, by giving an introduction into Knight Masonry. Whereas Craft Masonry brings one through the building of King Solomon's Temple and Royal Arch Masonry through the repair of the Temple by King Josiah, Knight Masonry focuses on the building of the second Temple.

Who can join Knight Masonry? Well the answer to that is quite simple – anyone who has been an Irish Royal Arch Mason for one year from the date of their receiving the Mark Master Mason degree. One doesn't have to be through the Chair in either the Craft or Royal Arch Masonry. Can they ask to join or do they have to be invited? The answer to that is also simple, they can ask to join.

There are three degrees in Knight Masonry, the first being called the Knight of the Sword, the second is the Knight of the East and the third is the Knight of the East and West. These degrees originated in Ireland and were historically given in Craft Lodges. In time the giving of these degrees was discouraged and they were taken up by Scottish Masonry. Ultimately they came back to Ireland and the degrees were given in Knight Templar Preceptories. The explanations given in the Knight of the Sword puts clearly in perspective the relationship of all of the degrees in Craft, Royal Arch Masonry and in Knight Masonry. It is an excellent medium for a full understanding of Freemasonry.

1923 was an important date in Irish Freemasonry because it was in this year that the Grand



Council of Knight Masons was formed by the then principals of the Order, to take charge of these three degrees.

This was the first such body ever constituted and today it remains The Grand Council of Knight Masons rather than the Grand Council of Knight Masons of Ireland. Councils formed in the United States of America did break away in the 1960s to form the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America. The

Councils then existing in the state of Ohio opted to remain with the Grand Council of Knight Masons and today form a Province within the Grand Council of Knight Masons.

Since 1923 and much more rapidly in recent times we have seen the spread of Knight Masonry throughout the world. We have Councils in Hong Kong, South Africa, Bermuda, Jamaica, Gibraltar, India, New Zealand, England, a Province of seven Councils in Australia and of course our Province of Ohio with its eleven councils..

So much for Knight Masonry world wide – back to the Metropolitan area and here there are six Councils meeting in Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street – Great Chief's, Babylon, Media, Cyrus and Darius Councils. Although Councils now operate in England, Sassena Council of Knight Masons continues to meet in Dublin to support the English Freemasons, members of the Irish Sassena Royal Arch Chapter, who also meet in Dublin. If you want to join and qualify as indicated above make yourself known to one of the many members normally in Molesworth Street or make enquiry at the Grand Scribe's office on the first floor. Don't delay – you can be assured that Knight Masonry is a most friendly branch of the Order. You will enjoy it.

# The Charge of the Light Brigade.

## A Masonic connection

by Bro R Walsh.

Alexander Roberts Dunn was born on the 15th of September 1833 in York Upper Canada.

He was a member of Ionic Lodge No. 18 Toronto, Ontario, as was his father John Henry Dunn.



Brother Dunn was the first Canadian and indeed as far as we know the first Freemason to be awarded the Victoria Cross Medal.

Brother Dunn received his Victoria Cross for deeds preformed in one of the most notorious blunders in military history, namely, "The charge of the Light Brigade" on Balaclava Heights on the 25th of October 1854 during the Crimean War.

The Brigade had charged down a long valley, surrounded on three sides by Russian Cannon, heavily supported by infantry and Cossack Calvary.

It was cut to pieces with losses of 472 officers and men of the 670 who took part.

Brother Dunn was serving as an Officer with the 11th Hussars and while retreating with what was left of the Brigade, he charged, and killed with his sabre, three Russian horsemen threatening a British Sergeant whose horse was lagging behind. He subsequently sabred another Russian who was attacking a British Private.

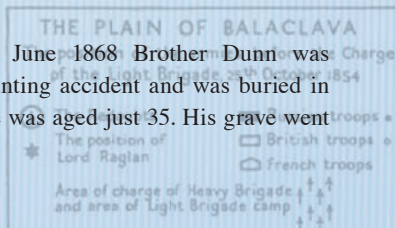
After the war, when the 11th Hussars as a unit was awarded the newly instituted VC, Dunn was selected unanimously by its members to be the recipient.

Brother Dunn's medals, both Military and Masonic, are now on display at the Canadian War Museum.

His medal set consists of the VC, the Crimea Medal with Alma, Inkermann, Balaclava and Sebastopol Bars, the Turkish Crimea Medal and the Abyssinian War Medal. In addition to the VC set, the Upper Canada College has also loaned the Silver Knights Templar Star that belonged to Brother Dunns father John Henry Dunn. This Star designates Brother Dunn's father's membership as a Knight Templar and this jewel dates to 1840.

After the war Brother Dunn helped organize the 100th, Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment of Foot, this was a British unit but it was raised in Canada. He later became its C.O. in Gibraltar.

On the 25th June 1868 Brother Dunn was killed in a hunting accident and was buried in Abyssinia. He was aged just 35. His grave went



unattended until in 2001 a group of Canadian soldiers on duty with the UN found and spent a number of days uncovering and cleaning up the site. Sadly the grave site had been used as a rubbish dump for the local village.

Some discussion has been had concerning the repatriation of Brother Dunn to his native Canada and hopefully this will take place sooner rather than later.

“The Charge”, was immortalised by Lord Alfred Tennyson’s poem *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, but many people saw this work as nothing more than propaganda for one of the greatest blunders made by the British Army of the day.

Another member of the Craft, none other than R. Kipling put pen to paper and produced his work, *The Last of the Light Brigade*, to highlight to the Country the destitution of the survivors of the battle. A Nation wide collection was made with just £23 being raised.

An interesting note, the VC medal is struck from the bronze cannon that where taking at Balaclava. At any one time there are seven blank medals struck and held in the UK. The blanks are almost worthless until a citation has been added to the back, then the medal can be very much sought after by collectors the world over.

To date a little over 1000 VCs have been awarded, and 118 of them are held by members of the order.

I think it is a huge testament to the craft that so many brethren have been awarded the highest honours, in some cases after making the supreme sacrifice..

It also brings to mind and sums up a verse in the *V\_O\_S\_L*, that reads.

***“Greater love hath no Man In that he lay down his life for his friends.”***



#### **The citation on Brother Dunns VC read:**

*During the charge of the Light brigade at Balaclava, Lt Dunn one of the handsomest men of his day and one of the finest swordsmen and horsemen in the Army Won the Victoria Cross.*

*Having emptied his revolver at the Russians he flung it at them and resorted to his sabre, which he used to good effect. Dunn stood 6-foot-3 and used a sword much longer than the regulations permitted.*

*He saved Sgt Bentleys life by cutting down several Russians who where attacking him. He then saved another life cutting down a Russian Hussar who was attacking Pte, Leveet 11th Hussars.*



REFERENCE.

English,  
Russians.

# The Military Lodge of Ireland No. 728

## Lodge Meeting and Masonic Charity Fundraiser at the Historic Tailors Hall Dublin



Front of Tailors Hall

On Saturday 19th May 2012 Freemasonry will revisit Dublin's historic Tailors Hall, the only surviving Guildhall in the city completed in 1706. This is where Grand Lodge regularly met from 1755 until 1818 on the first Thursday of every month. Indeed Freemason connections with the Tailor's Guild or "Fraternity of St John The Baptist of the Merchant Tailors of the City of Dublin" are probably older because in 1725 Grand Lodge retired to the Tailor's Church of St John The Evangelist, Fishamble Street, for a service of thanksgiving following the election of the first known Grand Master.

The Tailors Hall is not only Dublin's only surviving Guildhall, it is a purpose built Queen Anne banqueting hall and as such is Dublin's oldest purpose built place of entertainment. Today it has a special restaurant licence and dance licence and is available for hire from An Taisce, The National Trust for Ireland (whose Headquarters it is), for weddings and similar events. Throughout the building there are inscriptions recording the gift of various features in that year by the Tailor's Master and

Wardens and behind the Master's Chair are inscribed the names of Masters of the Tailor's Guild since 1464.

From 6 pm on May 19th Lodge 728 will meet in the Great Hall, which is the oldest surviving regular meeting place of Grand Lodge followed by a Hog Roast in the Lower Hall and Courtyard. While the meeting is taking place a welcoming reception will be held elsewhere in the complex for the ladies and non Masonic guests of members attending the meeting. The evening will then be rounded off by dancing until 1pm.

Admittance to the 728 Lodge Meeting for non Lodge members will be strictly by prior ticket only as numbers are limited due to the historic nature of the room.



Courtyard

*Tickets for the Meeting and for the Hog Roast will be available closer to the event from the Hall Porters Office, Molesworth Street or Chris Burnaby, Lodge Secretary, 22 Mount Drinan Crescent, Swords, Co Dublin Tel 087 7640160*

*Tickets for The Hog Roast will Cost €50 (Welcoming reception €10 extra).*

*Proceeds are in aid of the Masonic Charities*

# Fitzgibbon Lodge 331 Centenary Dinner



*Back row (l to r) W. Bro Ken Richardson, W. Bro Peter Speidel, Bro Dave Garrett, W. Bro Hal McGuckin, W. Bro Colin Hughes, W. Bro Alan Singleton, W. Bro Clive Slattery*

*Front Row (l to r) R.W. Bro Arthur Pollock, W. Bro Eddie Kerr, W. Bro Bill Thompson - Worshipful Master, R.W. Bro Douglas Grey - Deputy Grand Master, W. Bro Fred Spendlove. (missing from photo W. Bro Bruce Evans)*

## Lodge 2 Children's Christmas Carols

Christmas week is upon us and a small but in many ways a vital journey is about to take place; The Children of Billis National School once again are ready to entertain the patients and residents of Saint Josephs Haven and Nursing Home at Virginia County Cavan. Lodge Two were once again pleased to sponsor this event. Each year we are indebted to the Head Mistress, Mrs. Lundie, of the school in preparing the list of carols that are going to be sung and also the transportation of the children to the hospital. When it is completed the children get a small reward of orange juice and sweet biscuits, before being brought back to the school. I'm sure the

children enjoy all aspects of the day; We in Lodge Two have the easy part of only having to give small financial support to this very worthy cause.



*Billis Schoolchildren from Cavan*

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## New Extension to St. Joseph's



Thursday 24th November last, saw the Official Opening of the newly refurbished and extended wing at St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Virginia, Co. Cavan. A large group of Local Dignitaries, Politicians, Staff, Relatives and Friends were present to see the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother, George Dunlop, perform the opening ceremony.

St. Joseph's Nursing Home provides 52 beds for residents with a mix of twin bedded and single rooms, some of which have picturesque views over the surrounding countryside and Lough Ramor, whose gentle waters add an air of tranquility to the location.. At St. Joseph's there is a dedicated team of professionals to look after the various needs of the residents at all times. Helping the residents to integrate fully into the life of the home through a caring, compassionate atmosphere. The nursing Home is fully compliant and registered with HIQA.

Residents are positively encouraged to personalise their rooms by bringing special or sentimental possessions with them when they come to stay. New ways are sought on a constant basis to suit both the needs of residents and staff in empathizing with the life situations of others striving to meet and exceed the standards

of good service and best practice. A friendly home from home atmosphere is on offer to the residents.

A range of care options are available from respite, convalescence and long term residential care up to and including high dependency and dementia care.

The Grand Master said that he was proud to have been asked to carry out the function of launching and opening this fantastic new facility and witness what has been achieved here in Virginia as a service to the Local Community by Masonic Haven's Board of Governors since they took over the running of St. Joseph's just over ten years ago. He went on to thank and congratulate Ms. Dawn McClean, Director of Care and all her staff for the wonderful care and kindness that they show to the residents and their families.

Guided tours of the nursing home took place during the afternoon and everyone was very impressed with the new layout and facilities.

There are some vacancies at the moment in St. Joseph's. For full information and details please contact the Director of Care on 049 8549800 and see [www.stjosephsnursinghome.ie](http://www.stjosephsnursinghome.ie)