

metro



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m a s o n

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN MASONIC LODGES

I am delighted to welcome back to the Metropolitan Board for 2013 Geoff Lovegrove, Randal Robertson, Tom Fitzpatrick, Ken Broughall, Joseph Byrne, Kevin Creagh and Jim Smith and joining the Board this year we welcome; Lionel Fifield, Andrew Lyall, Peadar O'Braoin, Norman O'Galligan, Reginald Richards, Denis Whelan and Terry Woods.

We are fortunate to have many talented Brethren on the Board and I thank them for their continued support, encouragement and commitment and in particular those who have taken on additional responsibilities.

Geoff Lovegrove	Deputy Chairman
Andrew Lyall	Treasurer
Randal Roberston	Secretary
Lionel Fifield	Metropolitan Steward of Charities
Tom Fitzpatrick	Metropolitan Almoner
Ken Broughall & Jim Smith	Communications
Joe Byrne	Metropolitan Ritual Class
Morgan McCreadie	New Members Committee
Gareth Walsh	The Green Committee
Chairman, Deputy Chairman & Secretary	Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes
Geoff Lovegrove & Terry Woods	Hon. Auditors

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those members who did not seek election for their support and input during their

time on the Board. We say thank you to Peter Fellows-McCully, John Heery, Martin Lenihan, Greg Lyons, Ken Roe and Seamus Shields.

Missing Members

The Metropolitan Board is keen that every Lodge in the Dublin Metropolitan Area makes a concerted effort to make contact with all their members who are not attending their Lodge meetings at all, or even on an occasional basis, and encourage them to attend their Lodge. Although this should be a continual process throughout the year, we would encourage all Lodges to make a particular effort during the month of November, a month that will be known as Missing Members month.

We appreciate that for some Lodges this exercise may prove tiresome but in the main we do not know why so many of the membership lose interest in attending their Lodge meetings. All members of your Lodge should be involved in this exercise to help spread the work and if every Lodge can succeed in bringing one or two lapsed Brethren back into the fold the exercise will be deemed to have been a great success.

New Members

Since its foundation the New Members' Committee has recommended well in excess of 150 gentlemen to Lodges. Of these over half are now members of Lodges in Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford and Counties Down and Antrim. Some of the others are awaiting Ballot and to be passed



*R.W.Bro. Philip Daley
Chairman - Metropolitan
Board of General Purposes*

at the appropriate Committees of Inspection. Those who are passed to the Provinces are parties who have emailed the Committee through the Grand Lodge website. So far there has been excellent feedback from all the Lodges which have initiated candidates and that feedback is one of the most important parts of the process. The New Members' Committee relies on Lodges to tell it how a candidate is progressing.

Those applicants who have been initiated or are currently going through the scrutineering process are from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, ages and occupations. Military historians, archaeologists, salesmen, students and musicians from Ireland and indeed from a range of Countries in and outside of Europe.

The Committee takes great care in suggesting gentlemen to Lodges and is particularly concerned that these men suit the requirements of Freemasonry and that they will suit that particular Lodge they are referred to. If your Lodge is interested in providing a home for these candidates, please contact the New Members' Committee to register your interest.

Catering & Bar Survey

The Metropolitan Board has now completed the analysis of the survey undertaken and the results are included with this issue of MetroMason. Views were sought from the members on the services currently provided and their suggestions for the future.

The consultation process included Aramark (formerly Campbell Catering), the members from the Metropolitan Area and the wider membership throughout the Country in all branches of the Order who use the facilities at Freemasons' Hall in Molesworth Street.

The Metropolitan Board thanks all who participated in the survey which has also been submitted to Grand Lodge together with various recommendations.

Summer Lodge

Summer Lodge will take place on Wednesday, 17th July 2013 at 2.30 p.m. in the Grand Lodge Room, Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin when it is hoped that we will have a capacity audience. TLC (Teddies for Loving Care) will be launched during the meeting and it is expected that a special guest will be arriving

late !!!!

Lunch will be available prior to Summer Lodge and details will be announced in due course. The Metropolitan Board looks forward to welcoming many Brethren from far and near to Summer Lodge.

Board Members	Representing Lodges
Ken Broughall	Fidelity 125, Geraldine 171 & Skillet & Trowel 981
Joseph Byrne	GML, Victoria 4, Trinity College 357 & Metropolitan Ritual Class
Kevin Creagh	Ruby 339 & Orpheus 426
Philip Daley	Unity 238, St Cecilia 494, Lodge Ireland 2000 & Lux Diei
Lionel Fifield	University 33 & Corinthian Commercial 245
Tom Fitzpatrick	Curragh Emerald 397 & Dublin 500
Andrew Lyall	Duke of York 25
Geoff Lovegrove	Leinster 141, Dalkey 261 & Military 728
Peadar O'Braoin	Acacia 225, Caxton 511 & Garrison 730
Norman O'Galligan	Clontarf 249, Chetwode Crawley 395 & Victory 478
Randal Robertson	Kingstown 510 & The First Volunteer 620
Reginald Richards	Fitzgibbon 331
Jim Smith	Lodge No 2 & Emerald Isle 19
Denis Whelan	Molesworth 611 & Oracle 1003
Terry Woods	Temple 6 & Israel 126

Vision for the future

The Metropolitan Area has many achievements to celebrate since its inception during the 1990s. However, it is important to look to and plan for the future. The Metropolitan Board is focusing its energies and resources into a "Vision for the Future". The drive is towards improving the quality of governance within the Metropolitan Area, our programme, our efficiency, our communications and most importantly of all, the experience of Brethren who actively participate in Freemasonry in the Metropolitan Area.

We live in a changing world, not always for the better; however in 2013 our aspirations will be, and are different from bygone years. We have many younger men joining Freemasonry and we must provide an interesting programme, never losing sight of our Masonic principles and ensuring that the Order thrives well into the future.

The Metropolitan Boards Development Plan “Vision for the Future” will assist with implementing and managing change effectively. We cannot achieve all that we want today, but with the support of the Metropolitan Board, Grand Lodge and the Brethren in the Metropolitan Area over the lifetime of the Plan we can prioritise and focus on the future to achieve our objective.

The success of an effective development plan must involve all stakeholders, however we must never lose sight that we are a volunteer led organisation with many people giving of their valuable time and talents for the benefits of the Order and its members. We must find a balance as we engage with all the stakeholders throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

The aims of our “Vision for the Future” are many and varied and have been accommodated under five headings:

- Communication/Public Relations • Governance
- Membership • Ritual • Social

The Metropolitan Board looks forward to working with the Brethren and Lodges in the Metropolitan Area as we work together in providing a sustainable organisation for the future. We would welcome your comments and your thoughts on our “Vision for the Future”, so please feel free to contact the Chairman or any member of the Metropolitan Board.

TLC (Teddies for Loving Care)

Teddies for Loving Care is a Charity for the benefit of sick children. Funds will be raised within the Masonic Order to purchase Teddy Bears. These will be provided to Hospital Emergency Departments, so that medical/nursing staff can give these, at their discretion, to children who are admitted in severe distress and where the staff feel that a Teddy to cuddle will help alleviate stress and assist them in their important work. The project will be funded by Lodge and individual donations, and the sale of

lapel / tie pins and teddies, (not the same size or style as the teddies donated to the Hospitals).

Following the launch of TLC in July 2013 it is hoped that within a very short time every hospital on the island of Ireland will have teddies donated by local Freemasons.

We are delighted that M.W.Bro. Eric Waller, Past Grand Master will chair the TLC Management Committee. M.W.Bro. Waller brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team as we embark on this exciting project.

The committee is as follows:

Chairman	M.W.Bro. Eric Waller
Treasurer	W.Bro. Jim Smith
Secretary	W.Bro. Ken Broughall
Committee	R.W.Bro. Philip Daley, R.W.Bro. Mel Goodchild, R.W.Bro. Richard Gray and W.Bro. Ian Simpson

Parachute Jump

At 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, 9th February 2013 my daughter Megan and I arrived at Clonbullogue Airfield, Edenderry, Co. Offaly. It was a dark overcast cold morning with cloud cover at a mere 3,000 feet. Having spent the previous days getting oneself into a state of mind to leave a perfectly good aeroplane at 13,000 feet we were somewhat hopeful that the sun would shine and the cloud lift to give us the required 13,000 feet clear visibility. As the hours ticked away it seemed less likely that we would experience the adrenaline rush that was predicted. Early afternoon as the aircraft was returned to its hanger it became clear that we would not be jumping today. The parachute jump has been rescheduled for Saturday, 23 March 2013 and we are hopeful of good clear weather.

All the proceeds are for TLC and Megan and I extend a big thank you to all who have supported us and for those who have not had the opportunity we would be delighted for your support. Contributions may be left at the Porters' Lodge in Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street.

Philip Daley, Chairman, Metropolitan Board

Takeover of Orpheus Lodge No. 426 by the 'K' (Kaye) Club

In January 2011 the Brethren of Orpheus Lodge No. 426 faced a takeover by the 'K' (Kaye) Club.

At a meeting of Lodge No. 426 held on 10th January 2011, W.Bro. Archie Kaye was installed in the Chair as Worshipful Master, with W.Bro. Reg Richards as Installing Officer and the late W.Bro. John Meneely as Director of Ceremonies. Throughout his year in the Chair, W.Bro. Archie encouraged the attendance of lapsed members and took a special interest in raising funds for Masonic Charities.

The following year, 2012, his son Bro. Gordon Kaye was installed in the Chair as Worshipful Master of Orpheus Lodge No. 426. The Installing Officer was W.Bro. Anthony Ferrie and the Director of Ceremonies was W.Bro. Peter Davis (acting). He then installed his Officers in an exemplary manner. He continued to encourage improved attendance at the Lodge meetings and initiated and supported fundraising events for the Masonic Charities. He also encouraged improvement in Masonic ritual by personal example, and organised a visit to Dalkey Lodge No. 261 to witness a 3rd or Sublime Degree of Master Mason being conferred on its candidate.

In January 2013, he and his family emigrated to Scotland to take up an employment opportunity and was therefore unavailable to install his brother, Bro. Richard Kaye, as Worshipful Master for the year 2013. We wish him and his family good fortune for their new venture.

In January 2013 Bro. Richard Kaye was installed in the Chair as Worshipful Master. The Installing Officer was W.Bro. Anthony Ferrie and W.Bro. Peter Davis as Director of Ceremonies. He (W. Bro. Richard) then installed his Officers in a dignified manner. He has continued in the same high standard of ritual as his predecessors.

We look forward to a busy year with Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees in the forthcoming months.

The takeover of Orpheus Lodge No. 426 by the 'K' Kaye Club has proved advantageous to the Lodge with improved attendance and more vibrant meetings.



M.W.Bro. Eric N. Waller, Past Grand Master, W.Bro. Richard Kaye, Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Archie Kaye, Past Master.

Bikes in the Hall

Extract from the minutes of Lodge 397

09 March 1943 - 003/184

Bro. Price pointed out the inconvenience caused to the members by the order issued by the House Committee prohibiting bicycles from being bought into the Hall.

W.Bro. Lamb proposed that the Secretary be instructed to see W. Blood Smyth our representative on the M.B.G.P. with the view of having the matter brought before the Board, seconded by W.Bro. Thompson and passed.



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.

The Metropolitan Board of General Purposes presents

The 2013 Freemasons' Guys and Dolls Ball



Venue:	Thomas Prior's Hall, Bewleys Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Date:	Friday, 17th of May 2013
Dress Code:	Formal (Gangster Style)
Cost:	€50 per ticket

Gentlemen don your fedora hats, ladies don your fascinators, and gangsters check your tommy guns because on this night it'll be the music that makes the decade roar. Held in the atmospheric surroundings of the former Masonic Girls School, this year's Freemasons' Ball will be held in aid of Our Lady's Hospice, Harolds Cross and our new Masonic charity; TLC.

Entertainment includes heavenly music from the Bugle Babes, a supremely talented 1940's style close-harmony trio, a casino experience with proceeds going to the charities, and so much more to make even Bugsy Malone raise an eyebrow.

For tickets or further information contact

Bro. Gareth Walsh - 087 9215462 – Gareth@GarethWalsh.ie

Diary Dates at Freemasons' Hall

Friday, 17th May 2013
Guys and Dolls Themed Night
Bewley's Hotel Ballsbridge

Saturday 15th June 2013
Metropolitan BBQ

Wednesday 17th July 2013
Summer Lodge at 2:30pm

Friday 27th September 2013
Metropolitan Golf Outing

Headmaster's Report

On Sunday 2nd December 2012, the usual still and tranquil air at Molesworth Street was broken by the noise of children tiptoeing through the corridors of the building. The "green committee" had optimistically arranged a school based theme party for the younger relatives of our Brethren. Due to some long hours of hard work by this group and other volunteers, the building was transformed into a mystical school.

The sons and daughters, nephews and nieces, and in some cases grandchildren arrived at 19 Molesworth Street a little apprehensive of what was about to happen, to be whisked through a wall and into the main building. Here they were met by a frightening looking sentry and taken to Olivander's store. Due to some clever work and use of his theatrical contacts, Ken Hartnett had transformed the passageway leading to the Museum into an emporium. Inside they received the necessary equipment for the tasks ahead assisted by the elderly "Olivander" superbly portrayed by Dara Carolan.

It was then time to assemble in the main hall. The buzz of excitement and anticipation increased until a knock at the door and the headmaster, yours truly, made his grand entrance. They were welcomed and with the aid of a talking hat were divided into four classes. Each class was then sent on its way accompanied by their respective prefects; Keith Doran, Gareth Walsh, Darren Fahy, Isabella Walsh and Gerry Kinsella performing this task, encouraging their charges to support their class with much cheering and shouting.

Upstairs our witches, Sinead and Valerie Halhed-Moran gave a class on Divination,

where the students learnt some of the mystic arts and prophecy skills. Here they delved into crystal balls and mumbled incantations to clear the clouds away to discover what lay ahead.

Eoin Meehan and his sons, Mark, Darragh and Evan, taught the pupils how to duel with their magic wands, it required speed of thought and supple wrists. Many of the duels were fiercely fought but all survived to move on to other classes.

There were instructions in the skills of making potions, which involved dragon's blood, toads' livers and other assorted delicacies. This was given by Jason Palmer assisted

by Gary Bergin and Ruairi Gaynor. I am not too sure where they learnt these concoctions and was not willing to taste them, but the students survived.

Finally there was "Defence against the dark arts" where Luc Breathnac and Philip King taught the young how to deal with a creature coming out of a box in the dark. I was unable to see much of what happened in here, but it was accompanied by a lot of screaming and battering of the poor unfortunate Alan Kershaw. On eight occasions during the day he was unmercifully killed by the participants. I hope he recovers soon!

The classes being over, it was back to the main hall. Here the headmaster thanked all who attended and pronounced the apprentices had all passed. They were presented with a certificate and left the building tired but full of knowledge and enthusiasm, clutching their wands and munching on chocolate frogs. Our clever carpenter Keith had spent the previous day





making these goodies and I can vouch for their excellence.

All that was left was for the staff to recover with a quick snack and tea, then to do it all again in the afternoon. In

total 86 of our young participants went through the classes, all of them and the volunteers who played the parts of the teachers, prefects and stooges so well, survived. Thanks must also go to those who I have not specifically mentioned,

but played a role behind the scenes.

The comments I have received from the parents have been overwhelming. Thanks must go to Gareth and his crew who thought up the idea and nurtured it to fruition. If anyone knows who the young lady who took the “staff” photo at the end was, could they please get a copy of the photo to me.



All that is left is to decide what to do next year.

Remembrance Day in Gorey

At 11 o'clock on Sunday, 11th November last, Christ Church in Gorey Co. Wexford, was filled to capacity, with those of all Religious beliefs, who had come to pay their respects to the fallen. This was the occasion of the Tenth Annual Remembrance Ceremony to take place at Christ Church. Rev. Canon Mark Hayden, himself a member of the Organisation of National Ex Servicemen and Women, ONE, led the assembled congregation in Prayer. The Masonic Order, both at Branch and Provincial Level were represented and were called upon to lay wreaths at the altar to commemorate those brave members of the armed forces who had

fallen in all conflicts since the First World War.



Worshipful Master Sam Horan Lodge No. 22, Worshipful Brother Ken Broughall, Right Worshipful Brother John Hobson (Provincial Grand Master Wicklow & Wexford), and Very Worshipful Brother Sydney Stephens Secretary Lodge No. 22

R.W.Bro. Reginald D. Neill

Presentation of '50 Year Jewel'

R.W.Bro. Reginald D. Neill was initiated into Orpheus Lodge No. 426 on 26th January 1963 and received his Master Mason Degree on 27th April 1963. He was installed as Worshipful Master in January 1971.

In November 1976 he was elected and subsequently installed as Secretary of the Lodge in January 1977. He continued in that Office for the next 13 years and laboured with great distinction. He remains the longest serving Secretary of the Lodge after the late W.Bro. W.J. Burns, (founder member), who served as Secretary for 23 years. R.W.Bro. Reg guided the Lodge through some difficult times, and it is due to his dedication and efforts that the Lodge emerged in a vibrant state. He is a great ritualist and has given many Masonic Degrees to our members over the last 50 years. He brought great distinction to the Lodge by being appointed Foreign Grand Lodge Representative for Queensland, Australia.

On the social side, he organised Ladies' nights and resurrected the annual Golf outings, playing for the 'McConnell' cup.

R.W.Bro. Reg holds the distinction of being only

the third Brother of Orpheus Lodge No. 426 to be presented with a '50 year' Jewel, the others being W.Bro. Sam Pullen in April 1993 (now deceased) and V.W.Bro. Thomas Rafferty in May 2007.

It is a tribute to their dedication that they are still regular attendees at our Lodge meetings.



R.W.Bro. Reginald D. Neill Rep. Grand Lodge of Queensland, W.Bro. Richard Kaye, Worshipful Master Orpheus Lodge No. 426, M.W.Bro. Eric N. Waller Past Grand Master

Visit to Freemasons' Hall, Dublin.

On Saturday 20th April 2013, Freemasons' Hall will be visited by Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 from Belfast together with Lodge Greenock St John's 175 (SC) and Brethren from Star of Bethlehem Lodge No. 665, also from Belfast. The plan is for Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 to hold a short Communication and after the Lodge is closed for Lodge Greenock St John's 175 (SC) to carry out a demonstration of the Sublime or Master Mason Degree under Scottish ritual. Following the demonstration the visiting Brethren will return to Belfast.

Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 has been holding bi-annual meetings with Lodge Greenock St

John's 175 (SC) for many years and on this the 30th anniversary it was thought appropriate to hold a Communication in the Grand Lodge Room at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin. Invitations have been issued to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Masters of Down and Antrim as well as the Substitute Grand Master of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West.

Master Masons are welcome to attend what should be a very interesting Communication.

Irish Constitution Hong Kong



W.Bro. Peter Burkhardt, standing second row right, W.Bro. Lionel Fifield, seated front row left, together with the Worshipful Master and Officers of Baden Powell Lodge No. 929

On January 16th 2013 I travelled to Hong Kong with W.Bro. Peter Burkhardt. On touchdown, - only two hours late, - we boarded the wonderful express train, and within less than an hour we had arrived in the centre of the bustling city.

Our prearranged visit to a Masonic Temple in Kowloon appeared to be in jeopardy, due to our arrival delay, but after a phone call from the airport baggage hall, we were assured that we could make the meeting. W.Bro. Ian Toh was waiting to greet us at our hotel, as well as to act as guide, and after a hasty wash and brush up, changing into our suits, and with a frantic journey involving three metro lines, we arrived at the Scout Hut.

This was to be a bit of a revelation; the building was over 30 storeys high, owned and built by the Scouts in the 1960s. The then Chief Scout, who was also Provincial Grand Master of the Far East, decided to include a Lodge Room in the building. Thus on the 18th floor of this skyscraper, (of which there are over 1300 in Hong Kong), is the Administrative Offices, shop and "hut" of the Scouts. The top floors are a

budget hotel, the provision of which helped to pay for the building within a few years. Inside the Scouts' Meeting Hall, all the signs and symbols of a Lodge Room are to be found, and when needed, the furniture is either rolled or turned around, and hey presto!

Baden Powell Lodge 929 in the Irish Constitution, is the only Lodge which meets outside the Masonic Hall on Hong Kong Island. Despite only one of the members present that evening being a natural English speaker, (and he was Australian), the meeting which included a Third Degree for Bro. Stephane Michel, proceeded flawlessly; the workings were of an extremely high standard, and a credit to all involved.

Following the Closing we were taken to the Refreshment Board in a restaurant in the basement of the building. Here, with a wedding reception in full swing behind the screens, we were treated to a sumptuous dinner, brought by a waiter who served from a lazy Susan to each of the 12 Brothers around the table. A point to note, do not eat too quickly for as soon as your plate is cleared the waiter will top it up again till the

serving dish is empty. This was followed by a second course and the same procedure followed.

When the third course arrived, and these courses were by no means ‘nibbles’, both Peter and myself were beginning to feel somewhat bloated; it was then that our hosts informed us that there were 6 more to come, the final one being the rice. I suspect this little surprise is kept for all their visitors.

The Brethren then retired to a more private room, where the usual speeches followed, Peter doing what Peter does best, regaling the assembly with some of his stories. The praise for their workings appeared to be well received. They do not get many visitors from the Irish Constitution, and certainly not many from HQ !!

The evening drew to a close with an exchange of toasts and gifts with the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Sandy Tang. It was then that Past Master, W.Bro. TK Lai, decided that we should see a little of the night life. We only managed a few hours of enjoying the local entertainment, drinking and sight-seeing, before quitting their excellent

company at 2 a.m. We had been up and travelling for over 36 hours, but I like to think that we did not disillusion their conception of a Dublin Mason’s stamina.

The next evening was a visit to Zetland Hall in Kennedy Road, headquarters of Hong Kong Masonry, the three home Constitutions are all well represented here, where we were invited to Victoria Lodge, 1026, E.C., this having a special significance, W.Bro. Peter being a P.M. of Victoria Lodge IV.



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Lodge 2 Sing Out for a Christmas Event



It is the early days of December and evenings start to cast shadows across the land from mid afternoon until five o’clock, beyond that, it is good to get indoors for warmth and comfort. People are standing around awaiting the arrival of the ‘Billis National School Bus’ with it’s cargo of ‘Little Singers’. Each year the ‘Staff of Billis School’ and the children put a lot of effort into the visit to St. Joseph’s Hospital otherwise

known as Virginia Masonic Haven.

Lots of the patients have gathered in the ‘Day Room’ and with the ‘keyboard’ set up ‘Off we go with Silent Night’. Many more carols followed over the next fifty minutes, the patients were enthralled with the children’s singing and recorder playing.

Too soon it is time to go as the biscuits, lemonade and crisps are handed out to these children and then, it’s jump on the bus and back to school. I talk briefly to the Teachers and thank them, for the time spent with the children in rehearsals’ and practice.

It has all ended and we in Lodge Two, do the easiest part of the whole day, provide a small amount for the cost of the ‘Bus Hire’.

Let’s do it again next year.

Dalkey Lodge 261 News

It is with great regret that I report the passing, to the Grand Lodge above, of two of our long serving Brethren both of whom have given invaluable and selfless service to the Lodge.

W.B. John L. Lambert passed away peacefully on 15th December 2012 (his 83rd birthday) in the loving care of the staff of St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire. The funeral service took place in St. Brigid's Church, Stillorgan, and was well supported by many friends. To his wife, Vilma, and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

W.B. John affiliated to Dalkey 261 in January 1975 and was Worshipful Master in 1982 and again in 2000. He was Secretary from 1988 to 1998 and, together with the late W.B. Cecil Fallon as Treasurer, they kept the ship afloat as Permanent Officers. W. B. John was a most capable and efficient officer of the Lodge. More recently he was a member of the sub-committee appointed to oversee the recent upgrading of the Lodge Premises.



W.B. John Lambert
as D.C. in 2010



W.B. George Oliver
as W.M. in 1987

W. B. George Oliver died peacefully in the Beacon Hospital, Sandyford, on 22nd January 2013 after a long illness which he bore with great fortitude. His funeral service was held in Monkstown Parish Church and was well supported by his many friends. To his wife, Olwen, we extend our deep sympathy.

W.B. George joined Dalkey 261 on 16th January 1978 and worked through "the ranks" to become Worshipful Master in 1987. He was a very dedicated Mason and, like John Lambert, was deeply attached to Dalkey Lodge. He served as Treasurer for 5 years and in 2008 he reached the Chair a second time. He also served as a member of the sub-committee for the upgrading of the Lodge Premises.

Both of these Brethren gave great service towards the creation of the vibrant Dalkey 261 which we have today.

John Hewitson

Caxton 511 Sounds of Christmas Evening

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Great Priory of Ireland Brian Bradshaw, together with Very Worshipful Brother John Rowden, Grand Organist and Right Worshipful Brother Philip Daley, Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes, waiting anxiously before the entertainment began. A successful and very entertaining evening ensued.



Masonic Havens Ltd.



Masonic Havens Ltd. was formed in 1975 to operate “The Haven” a small residential home located in Dublin on the North Circular Road. This was replaced by Carrick Manor, Monkstown during the 1980s, in addition to the main house nine one bedroomed bungalows and several studio apartments were added. Accommodation is now available for over 20 retired Masons and widows of former Masons living in independent secure accommodation under the care and supervision of a 24 hour “warden” service who also provide a full mid day meal 7 days per week. Many well known retired but active Masons are resident at Carrick Manor, there are currently studio apartments available which have separate bathrooms and kitchens. The present weekly rental for these is €250.00 per week and this includes the daily meal, heating and lighting, refuse disposal, car parking and warden services. Bungalows, when available, command a refundable deposit and higher rental fees. Applications are handled by the Operations Committee, currently chaired by W.Bro. Henry Irvine who would be delighted to hear from any Mason or Masonic widow who is thinking of seeking the comfort and security of becoming a resident. We encourage any Mason who has not visited Carrick Manor to make an appointment to come and see what a wonderful place we have on our doorstep in the Metropolitan Area.

In the 1990s Masonic Havens Ltd. decided to expand and purchased St. Joseph’s Nursing Home with a lakeside site of over 14 acres just outside Virginia, County Cavan. Today this is not only a thriving modernised 52 bedded nursing home, fully HIQA approved, but on part

of the site is located St. John’s Sheltered Housing complex comprising 26 modern two bedroomed bungalows each with bathroom, livingroom and kitchen and small garden. Again, these are designed for independent living retired people in a secure gated community which has a full time warden service, however, no meals are provided. It also has a Community Hall where social activities take place and is used for Masonic functions by the local Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodge. Several of the bungalows are un-occupied and these are available at a cost of €121.00 per week rental including service fee to cover warden and other services. W.Bro. Nigel Byers is Chairman of the Operations Committee and he will be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in viewing St. John’s with the intent of future residency there.

St. Joseph’s Nursing Home – www.stjosephsvirginia.ie – underwent a huge up-grading, completed in 2011 and since then has been successful in attaining over 95% occupancy thanks to the devotion and professionalism of the Director of Care, Dawn McLean and her staff. If any Masons are seeking a Nursing Home bed for a relative, be it for temporary care or full time care, we strongly recommend that you might consider St. Joseph’s which now has easy access from Dublin by the M3 motorway, less than an hour’s drive from Blanchardstown off the M50. Rates for residents range from €770 per week depending on the type of room. The “Fairdeal” Nursing Home scheme is available for qualifying residents.

The Governors of Masonic Havens Ltd. are V.W.Bro. David Young, V.W.Bro. Arthur Moran, W.Bro. Henry Irvine, W.Bro. Nigel Byers, W.Bro. Kevin Spring, W.Bro. Michael Costello and myself as Chairman. We also have Bro. Richard Graves as our Board Secretary.

Having given an overview of what Masonic Havens is and does, I would like to explain how we operate from a financial position. Then it is very evident in the Metropolitan area, most Masons are of the opinion that we are totally independent and don’t seek financial support. In 2010 Masonic Havens became one of Grand

Lodge's charities and we now operate with full charitable status. Yes, we are a commercial activity and strive to keep our daily costs within the budgets of our income level from residents. However, it is not as simple as that as we are constantly under pressure from HIQA in the case of St. Joseph's to keep our standards of service up to scratch or loose our approval status. Another branch of "government" tells us that the "Fairdeal" contract and rates entered into in 2009 will not be reviewed before the end of this year, so, for 90% of our residents on the Fairdeal scheme we have to provide the standards of service and care with no possible income increases from the 2009 rates. The "upgrading" costs for St. Joseph's alone in 2009/10 in order to maintain our HIQA approval were in excess of €750,000 A further €70,000 is needed to bring the sewage treatment plant at St. Joseph's up to standard. We are constantly up-grading the bungalows and facility at Carrick Manor. This all costs money. Many residents who have been at Carrick Manor since it's opening are needing more care and many have had their bathrooms updated to modern "shower rooms" for ease of use. There are ongoing expenses in this direction with expenditure on heating systems, window replacements etc., needed. We manage to keep our bank borrowings and overdraft in control thanks to generous benefactors and the charity donations received. We are grateful for all income received from Masons through their benevolent institution donations and indeed from bequests, as this helps balance our books and continue to offer the standards of care which our residents deserve and ensure our staff have a safe and modern workplace to provide the care

to all of our residents.

Masonic Havens is not only about finance and balancing books. As a Charitable institution we have a duty of care to ensure the wellbeing of our residents. Many Lodges have been kind in providing all sorts of support and help and for these acts of kindness we are very grateful. If I may mention just one which came to my attention when recently visiting a Lodge. A Brother rose, under "any other business" and asked the W. Master if he could proceed, as in past years, to arrange the bus transportation for a primary school in the Virginia area to bring the pupils to St. Joseph's to sing Christmas Carols for the residents. He had no idea that I, a visitor, was Chairman of Masonic Havens and unless I had been present we would still be none the wiser that this generous and kind act was being quietly funded. I was so happy to be able to rise and thank the Brethren of Lodge 2 for their support.

To all of the Lodges in the Metropolitan Area and to the Metropolitan Board on behalf of Masonic Havens Ltd. I thank you for your continued support. I hope that this article may have enlightened some who may have been in darkness in relation to the activities of Masonic Havens Ltd. and what we do and try to achieve as an outreach of Irish Freemasonry. I would also like to thank all of the Brethren on the operations side of our business for giving so generously of their time and talents in furthering our aims.

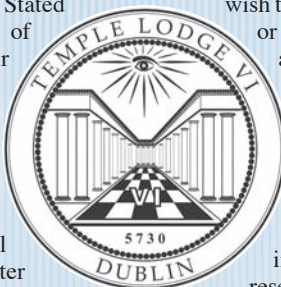
*R.W.Bro. John Haynes
Chairman – Board of Governors,
Masonic Havens Ltd.*

Now in Stock Available from the Hall Porters' Desk

		
<i>Bow Tie</i>	<i>Neck Tie</i>	<i>Pin Badge</i>
€15	€15	€5

The Temple Lodge VI

The Temple Lodge VI would like to announce that, as part of its April Stated Communication on the evening of Tuesday, April 30th. 2013, our Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Ronald Charles, will welcome RWM Bro. Angus Herron PM, of Lodge Livingstone, Stonefield No. 599, (Blantyre, Scotland) to Freemasons' Hall, 17, Molesworth Street, Dublin. Our Worshipful Master would like to invite Master Masons to attend, with the Brethren of Lodge VI, to be part of this most interesting masonic evening.



RWM Bro. Herron, together with several of the Brethren of Lodge Livingstone will exemplify the Master Mason Degree as worked in the Scottish Constitution. The Lodge will commence labour at the hour of 18:00 precisely.

As this will be a rare and exclusive opportunity to observe this ritual in Ireland it is expected that there will be a significant level of interest on the part of many Brethren across the country. In order to facilitate a pleasant experience for all concerned it is important that there is advance

notice of attendance at the event. So, should you wish to attend, please inform the Secretary or Treasurer of your intentions as soon as possible; email will be perfectly adequate. Please be sure to follow-up in the absence of reasonably prompt acknowledgement.

A supper will be held after the Communication, but due to the catering arrangements obtaining in the Hall it will be necessary to reserve a place before 12:00 on Friday, April 26th. All requests for reservations must be sent to the Treasurer, W.Bro. Michael O'Callaghan, together with the fee in respect of each individual wishing to avail of the facility. The charge is €20.00, per individual, and notification of special dietary requirements must be signalled early to assist the caterers in accommodating these needs.

Eddie Nolan, Secretary;
monnae1@gmail.com

Michael O'Callaghan, Treasurer
mocballymore@eircom.net

Catherine Ward

It is apt, at this time, to acknowledge the lengthy service of one who has become the face of Catering at Molesworth Street. Affectionately known to us all as 'Catherine', this lady from the Bluebell area of Inchicore has been at the forefront of our catering service for all of 32 years – much longer, indeed, than many have served as members of our Order.

Ably supported by chef John Tutty and her kitchen colleague of twenty and more years, Irene Flanagan, Catherine has taken the menus, prepared the table settings and supervised the service that has made so many evenings so enjoyable for all of us.

Asked what her job meant to her, Catherine said

“I always look forward to coming in and looking after everybody. I work five nights a week and, over the years, it has become part of my life.”

Have the Brethren's tastes changed over her three decades in the kitchen? “Not really” she replied, adding that she and chef John Tutty always relish the challenge to come up with new and different menus when asked to do so.

In terms of our punctuality in arriving down for supper or dinner, Catherine did concede that we sometimes cut things tight. “However” she quickly observed “I can say without fear of contradiction that Brethren have always shown respect towards the catering staff, which is something we deeply appreciate.”

The Sons of the Desert

Is this another branch of the Masonic order?

Well not quite...

The Sons of the Desert are not Masonic but they are indirectly inspired by Masonry.

In 1933 Oliver “Babe” Hardy and Stan Laurel made a film called “The Sons of the Desert” where they played two hapless Brethren of the fraternity of the same name. As Babe Hardy was an active Mason and Stan Laurel the son of a Mason it was an easy step for them to produce a film which satirised the Masonic Order or more specifically the Shriners. The Shriners with their distinctive red fezzes and using desert and Arabic imagery were the perfect inspiration for the film.



Thirty years later Prof. John McCabe met Laurel and Hardy and suggested starting a society to study “The Boys” films. McCabe drew up a cod constitution which satirised fraternal organisations, in particular “The Shriners”.

The members adopted the fez and named

themselves the Sons of the Desert. As the Sons started to increase in number new branches known as “Tents” began to spring up. Each new tent was named after a Laurel and Hardy film and given a number.

The number of tents grew and Prof. McCabe became known as the “Exhausted Ruler” of “Sons” throughout the world.

In 1998 Liam Muldowney with the assistance of the International Sons of the Desert set up the current Tent in the Republic – Jitterbugs Tent, Oasis #220.

The Jitterbugs Tent meets a few times a year in the RTE Social Club on a Saturday night under the auspices of our Grand Sheik Liam (a.k.a. Our Exhausted Ruler). Membership is open to men and women of all ages. Further details can be found at <http://www.laurelandhardy.ie> The site has the full history of the Jitterbugs Tent and the date for our next meeting which is open to all.

The format of the meetings usually takes the form of watching a number of films, interspersed with quizzes, raffles and a bit o’ banter. Our Grand Sheik enlightens us with notes on the film we are about to see which add to our depth of knowledge in knowing what was going on in the background and the constraints under which “The Boys” were working. A nominal entrance fee is charged to cover costs and the bar is fully manned/womanned...

There are International conventions and like Masonry inter-tent visiting is encouraged and adds to the sense of fun.

For those inside Masonry the links and cross-references between Masonry, specifically the Shriners, and the “Sons” is quite clear. The proud boast of “The Sons of the Desert” is that it has carried the fraternal spirit to a new audience, one that just happens to love the lives and works of Stan Laurel and Oliver “Babe” Hardy.

This is an extract from a longer article which can be found at <http://www.laurelandhardy.ie>

The Curragh Camp Lodge 1906 – 1922



It all began with an occasional meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Midland Counties which met on the 28th March, 1906 to Constitute and Dedicate the Curragh Camp Lodge. Fortunately all the Minute books and Registers are with the Archivist in Molesworth Street including the minutes of meetings held prior to the formation of the Lodge.

One cannot read the Minutes without being struck by the orderliness of the workings of the Lodge. Little has changed over the intervening years, the Order of Business remains very much the same, correspondence is only taken at Regular meetings, priority is given to 1st Degrees etc.

The Lodge consisted in the main of Non-Commissioned Officers of the rank of Sergeant with a number of Lieutenants and Captains. It was a busy Lodge having a Regular Meeting and an Emergency Meeting in each month for the entire length of its life.

The Lodge met on four hundred and sixty-nine occasions and during that time they conducted a total of one thousand two hundred and forty-nine Degrees. So that the average number of Degrees per meeting was 2.66. The busiest year was 1920 when one hundred and fifty-eight Degrees were given. To conduct this business forty-two meetings were held during the year. The average number of Degrees given in this year was therefore 3.76 per meeting. In the Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th February, 2010 it is stated that “W.Bro. McElveen, Provincial Grand Inspector congratulated the Lodge on its working of the Degrees, four having been given and each by a different Brother.”

So it can be seen from the statistical evidence that the Curragh was an extremely busy Lodge. To add to this during these years, one hundred and twenty-nine Brethren were affiliated.

Many issues arose in the course of the seventeen years. In 1906 the great tragedy that was the earthquake in San Francisco is recalled by a letter from Grand Lodge “Dear Sir and Brother, the widespread devastation in San Francisco has not spared the Fraternity and I am desired by the R.W. the Deputy Grand Master and the R.W. Grand Treasurer, to inform you that Grand Lodge will be asked at the next communication to vote the sum of (100 guineas)” ... and so on.

The first reference to the Great War was in the meeting held on 22nd August, 1914 when it was proposed and seconded that it be recorded in the minutes “that our deepest regret and sympathy is felt on the departure of our Brethren to the front and that the Great Overseer will favour them with health and strength to face the foe and a safe return to their Mother Country.”

In January, 1915 a letter arrived from Bros Peacock, Crack and Gedge informing the Brethren of the Lodge they are prisoners of war in Germany and asking for a little tobacco to be sent to them. Interestingly, by the 13th of the following month the following letter had been received “From Bros Peacock and Gedge Prisoners of War in Germany acknowledging gift of tobacco from the Lodge.”

There were many other references to the war and on the meeting held on the 11th June a letter had been received from a Bro. W.G. White stating he had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in General Allenby’s Jerusalem Despatch.

Grand Lodge published a listing of all those Freemasons who served in the Great War. Two hundred and forty-nine are recorded from Lodge 397 as having served with six listed as having been killed and twenty seven listed as having been gassed or wounded.

The meeting held on the 14th February brought the first mention of closing down the Lodge and the final meeting was held on the 11th April, 1922 and fittingly eighteen years of detailed records end with the words “There being no further business, the Lodge closed in Peace, Love and Harmony.” The Warrant was almost immediately transferred to the Metropolitan area to the Curragh Lodge 397 ... but then again, that is another story.