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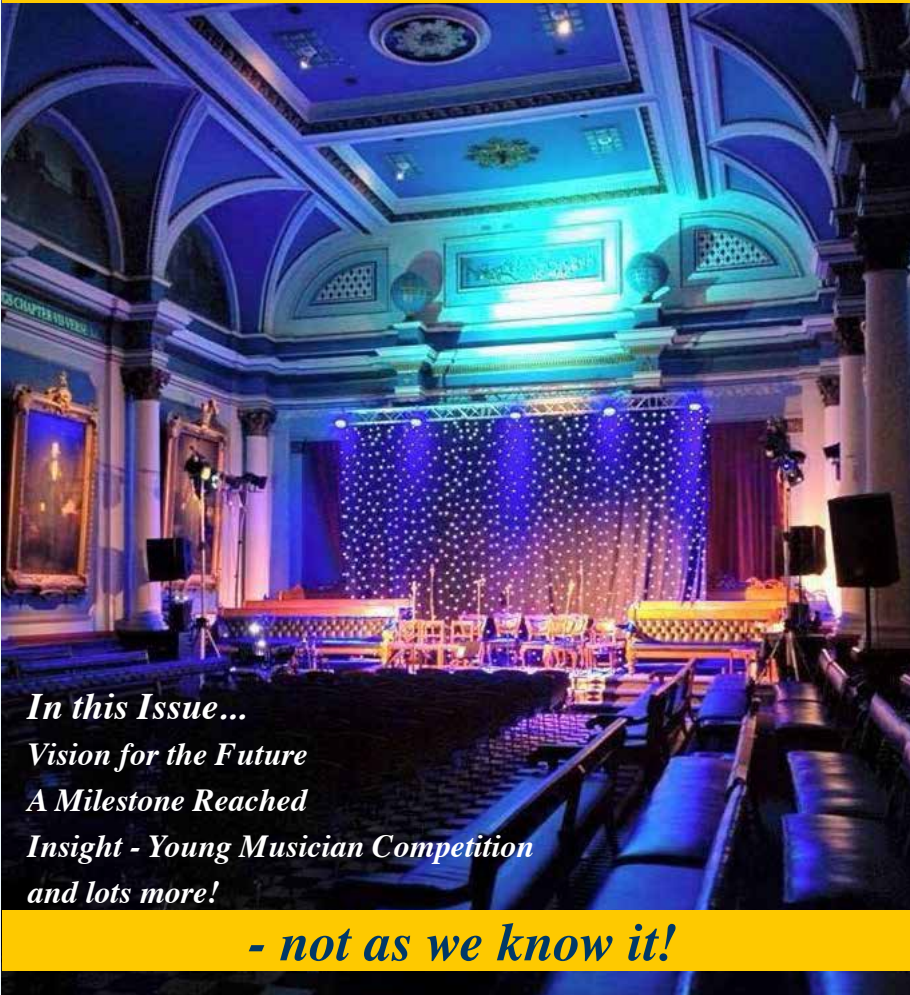
SEPTEMBER 2015

ISSUE 40

m a s o n

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN MASONIC LODGES

Grand Lodge Room



In this Issue...

Vision for the Future

A Milestone Reached

*Insight - Young Musician Competition
and lots more!*

- not as we know it!

First Volunteer Lodge of Ireland No. 620 Concert in aid of Masonic Charities

Grand Lodge Room in Molesworth Street was the venue for Lodge No. 620's fund raising concert on Saturday, 18th April when the Dundalk Musical Society performed "Songs from the Musicals". Members of the audience were greeted on arrival with a glass of Prosecco kindly and generously provided by R. W. Bro. John Hewitson. Upon reaching the beautifully transformed Grand Lodge Room, which had a magnificent backdrop of stars behind where the throne would normally be, they were entertained by an organ recital performed by R. W. Bro. John Rowden the Grand Organist.

The Dundalk Musical Society, under the direction of its Chorus Mistress, Ms Geraldine Casey, came to the stage at 19.30 and kicked off proceedings with a rousing medley of show tunes to get the night started. What followed was an exceptional night of entertainment as the audience was treated to a great variety of songs from Musical Classics such as Top Hat, Phantom of the Opera, Oklahoma and Chicago, to name but a few.

Lodge 620 is greatly indebted to the Musical Society's Chairperson Mrs Maria Waring and Secretary Mrs Phyllis Woods for their time and talents in staging this excellent event. Thanks



Members of the Dundalk Musical Society photographed in Grand Lodge Room

are also due to Brother Niall McCooley for the Lighting, Enda McCusker and Sons for the Sound and all the Stage Crew for the wonderful set.

Many thanks must go to Grand Lodge staff Keith, Paddy and Luke as well as Catherine and John from Campbell Catering whose support was integral to the success of the event.

Finally, this event was masterminded by Lodge 620's very own Terry Woods. Without his unwavering dedication and endeavour this event would not have been possible.

Report from the Metropolitan Board Vision for the Future



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

The Metropolitan Board has now completed its Development Plan “Vision for the Future” a little ahead of schedule. The Board is currently working on its next Strategic Development Plan “Building for the Future” that will

run from 2015 through to 2020. It is planned to launch the plan at the Metropolitan Board AGM in October. The plan will cover many topics that fall under the five main headings as follows:

- Governance
- Benevolence
- Membership
- Facilities
- Social Events

The Metropolitan Board provides many resources for the Brethren and part of that resource is providing interesting and topical events that are of benefit to Brethren and their families. During the year the Board have hosted the following.

- Men’s Health Evening
- Defibrillator Training and Certification Programme
- Security Awareness & Crime Prevention Evening and later this year we will be hosting a
- Suicide and Bereavement Counselling Service Awareness Evening

Publications

The Metropolitan Board produced two booklets during the year, Guidelines for Scrutineering and Mentoring and Guidelines for Lodge Officers.

The Guidelines for Scrutineering and Mentoring is designed to assist Lodges approach scrutineering and mentoring in a detailed and systematic way so that the experience of new members is as comprehensive and congenial as possible, producing committed members who will contribute to the wellbeing and life of their Lodge.

The Guidelines for Lodge Officers has been produced to assist Officers in the Lodge understand their role and provide a reference point that will contribute to the wellbeing and life of their Lodge. The booklet deals with the main functions for Lodge Officers and is designed as a general guide. There are differences from one Lodge to another and many Lodges observe different customs that may slightly alter these duties.

Additional copies are available from Randal Robertson at secretary@metromason.ie

Travelling Maul

The Travelling Maul is designed to encourage and develop inter Lodge visiting within the Metropolitan Area and to develop and extend the fellowship of Freemasonry.

The Travelling Maul commenced its journey in Dalkey Lodge No. 261 in January 2014 and is now in the possession of Caxton Lodge No. 511, awaiting capture. Sadly it’s not travelling very well and the Metropolitan Board will relaunch in the early part of the new Masonic season.

The Green Committee

The Green Committee continues to engage with our younger Brethren with various events arranged that encourage the younger members and prospective members together with their families hopefully becoming involved. Recently the Committee launched the Masonic Shooting Association and to date have approximately 70 Brethren expressing an interest in joining. The Green Committee under the direction of Gareth Walsh, is to be congratulated on its achievements to date.

Website

The Metropolitan Board website www.metromason.ie has continued to be developed and during the early part of 2016 every Lodge will have the ability to upload events that they will be promoting. Items uploaded will be approved by a Moderator whose function will be to ensure that the information does not contravene Masonic Rules and Principles.

The website is an ideal way of getting information to every Lodge and every Brother in the Metropolitan area and as the website develops facilities will be available to host Lodge websites.

MetroMason

MetroMason continues to be published and is resident on the Metropolitan website and those that have email are sent the link so it may be accessed. It is also sent by snail mail to those that do not have an email facility and copies are available at Freemasons' Hall. The Editorial Team is grateful for the items received for inclusion and look forward to the continued supply of items of suitable material that may be included in future issues.

Lux Diei Lodge

Lux Diei Lodge was constituted on 3rd March 1988 to cater for Brethren who find it difficult to

attend evening meetings for a variety of reasons such as shift work, working unsociable hours or Brethren who prefer not to travel in the evening. Any subscribing Master Mason may attend. The Metropolitan Board is actively promoting Lux Diei and we would encourage you to come along on the 4th Friday at 2.15 p.m. each month except, June, July, August and December. The meetings are reasonably short and would normally have a short presentation on an interesting topic followed by afternoon tea.

Lodge Ireland 2000

Lodge Ireland 2000. - Ireland's only Internet Lodge now in its 15th year would be delighted to hear from any Brother interesting in joining.

The Lodge has a "roving Warrant" which allows it to meet anywhere on the island of Ireland. It has members all over the world. The Lodge holds four physical meetings a year but Lodge Members also meet electronically each month in a secure chat room on the Lodge's website. Non-members can access the public side of the Lodge website at www.ireland2000.org. I would encourage you to have a look and consider joining.

The next physical meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 17th October in Galway and I know that the Lodge would be only too happy to welcome you.

Grand Lodge Meetings

The next meeting of Grand Lodge, hosted by the Province of Down, will take place at Rosemary Street, Belfast on Saturday, 3rd October 2015 and on Monday, 28th December 2015, at High Noon Grand Lodge will meet here in the Grand Lodge Room, Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street to Salute and proclaim the Grand Lodge Officers for 2016.

M.W. Walker - Past Grand Secretary

An auspicious occasion is approaching. The tenth anniversary of the retirement of the irreplaceable, Michael William Walker, B.Sc. Agric., Past Grand Secretary.

Bro. Jonathan Doe fondly recalls the great man's Masonic career.



M.W., as he is affectionately known, appeared, as he meant to go on, in a geographic swirl, emerging from the womb in Guernsey, being reared in Redcross - look it up - educated in Dublin, topped out in Leeds, and finally dropping anchor, for a period at least, in his first professional post in Bandon, God help us, Co. Cork. From there he entered Gouldings, a famous and substantial, at that time, fertiliser company which had its headquarters in Dublin (from where he would occasionally fly to Cork on business, much to the chagrin of his more eh, grounded colleagues).

Subsequently he branched out and became an Agricultural Consultant to the farming community before receiving the noble call, in 1981, to succeed the legendary J.O. (Chick) Harte, of immortal memory, as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland (*being at that time an active member and Past Master of GML, and former member of Lodge 595, Cork*).

On his accession to the post he walked into a long established staff pattern of quaint social (i.e. very, very heavy) drinking, on and off the premises, and immediately set about establishing a more sober working environment - a difficult task in Ireland, thirty years ago.

Needless to say, he encountered a good deal of opposition in the early years, both internal and external, and for much of the 1980s the staff of Freemasons' Hall were not in amity with each other, never mind in harmony with the Brethren at large. M.W. undaunted and assisted by his striking appearance as a tall, lugubrious version of Samuel Beckett and the Rev. Martyn Smith combined, persevered and with the redoubtable Joyce Foote and the fledgling Heather Gyles at his side, saw off all opposition and restored harmonious relations in the Hall, and without.

Thereafter, his Grand Secretarial regime was a great success and he became enormously respected by the Brethren throughout Ireland, and our jurisdictions abroad (which he never tired of visiting). Following a serious illness

in the early 1990s, which confined him to an Adelaide Hospital bed for a considerable period, M.W. underwent something of an intellectual transformation and began to produce ruminative Masonic pieces on the philosophy and ethos of our Order. This culminated in his core paper: Freemasonry in Society - Today and Tomorrow (*and the next day, as his Assistant once unkindly added*) and which had a number of outings in various guises to, among others, The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the Philosophical Society of University College Galway, U.G.L.E. London, The Grand Lodge of Scotland, and of course, the Nurses' Station in the Adelaide. M.W. represented, in other words, the first of the third level educated, new breed of professional administrator and as such became a colossus in the Grand Secretarial world in Europe and elsewhere.

In Ireland itself, he effortlessly scaled the Masonic heights and many years ago reached the august level of Lieutenant Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33rd Degree, of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for Ireland. Although Maurethe and he have curtailed their travelling, he still diligently attends the numerous bodies of which he is a member and it is always a pleasure to see him hereabouts.

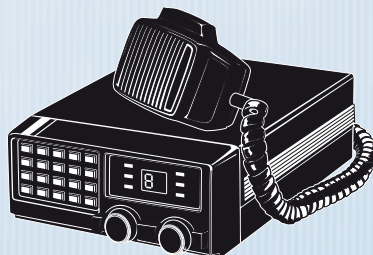
The photo we have included here is of him and his successor, Barry Lyons, taken in 2010 at the unveiling of portraits of he and the then Grand Master, by the late, lamented Cathy Henderson, also in the photo. He is extremely fond of this work and as the fella says, "why wouldn't he be: isn't it just as life-like as the great man himself?"

Amateur Radio and Freemasonry

In 1965 the Radio Fraternity Lodge was formed in London by some of the leading radio amateurs of the day who were also Freemasons. Radio Fraternity Lodge still meets four times a year in London and has always been principally composed of radio amateurs. The Lodge has raised thousands of pounds both for radio-related and other charities.

In its 50th anniversary year it is interested in establishing links with other amateur radio Freemasons or groups. To this end, a number of Irish Freemasons who are also radio amateurs are interested in establishing if there is enough interest in forming such a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Ireland with the intention of growing amateur radio activity on air among Freemasons.

W.Bro. Jim Smith of Lodges 2 and 981 is interested in hearing from any Freemason who is involved in amateur radio, or aspiring to a licence. His email address is jimsmith.irl@gmail.com. For those interested his amateur radio callsign is EI4CP and he is also licenced in the UK as GM4DOI.



A Milestone Reached



Skillet and Trowel Lodge 981, one of the newer Lodges in the Metropolitan area, which was only consecrated in 2009 has achieved a major milestone!

From its conception it was of course made up of affiliating Master Masons. One of its original recruits has now worked his way through the ranks and taken the chair of King Solomon and so our congratulations go out to Worshipful Brother Pat Fox on staying the course and achieving this honour.

It became a tradition in this Lodge for the newest member to toast the Founders at the Festive Board. For many a meeting he was the only person to rise for this toast, accompanied by the occasional visitor. When called upon to make a speech nowadays, he finds it difficult to avoid lapsing into his “Founder Members” oration. Now he is able to listen to Brethren following in his footsteps but notes that the number of such members of the Lodge are swelling in numbers, a testament to the Lodge’s activity and ambition.

May Worshipful Brother Pat enjoy his year in the Chair with his usual dry sense of humour. It is obvious that the Lodge will go forward under his watchful eye, his renowned attention to detail and that he will not be the last initiate to reach this honour. Thank you Pat from all the Founders.



Insight - R.W. Bro Richard Ensor speaks about the IFYM Competition



I was very pleased – and flattered – to be asked by M.W.Bro. Eric Waller to succeed him, on his retirement, as Chairman of the Operations Management Team which produces the Irish Freemasons’ Young Musician of the Year Competition for Grand Lodge.

In the many, many, years that M.W.Bro. Eric held this post, this Competition has increased in prestige in Ireland, the UK, Europe and the United States to the point where the Sunday Business Post described winning it as *“the highest accolade available to young musicians in Ireland today”*. This view is shared by the music colleges, the National Concert Hall, and RTÉ amongst many others.

This year will be no different. The Semi-finals will be held here, in Freemasons Hall, on Thursday October 8th in the afternoon and evening, and the Gala Final on Saturday October 10th.

The six Music Colleges on the island of Ireland who award degrees in music performance (as distinct from music theory) are invited to put forward Semi-finalists whom they choose themselves from the cream of their own students in the particular academic year. All of these invited Colleges have put forward entrants, with, unfortunately, the exception of Queen’s University, Belfast, who have decided not to enter a competitor.

And the 13 Semi-finalists we have this year are certainly of the hugely high standard we have come to expect. In nationality they hail from Ireland, France, Brazil, England, Poland and the United States, although they are all studying at Irish Colleges.

There’s plenty of choice of different instruments too, with various Semi-Finalists playing Cello, Piano, Saxophone, Flute, Classical Guitar, Violin, and this year, for the first time, Organ.

The five International Jury members, under the Chairmanship of Jane Carty, who will have the difficult task of eventually deciding on who will be the *“Irish Freemasons’ Young Musician of the Year 2015”* are all internationally known professional musicians, in various disciplines, from Ireland, Austria, Georgia, and Italy.

Tickets will be on sale soon and as we say every year, please be quick if you want to come to the Final as it is always sold out and sold out quickly. It’s well worth coming to the Semi-finals by the way. That way you hear all 13 entrants, when at the final you only hear four!

Once again, the Final will be recorded for national broadcast by RTÉ lyric fm, and also streamed on the RTÉ website. Additionally, this year, we shall be streaming the Semi-finals ourselves on the Internet. On 25th August our winner from 2014, Pianist Gary Beecher, will

make his first appearance at the National Concert Hall to play the Schumann Piano Concerto with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, conducted by its principal Conductor, John Wilson. This concerto appearance is part of his prize, generously given each year by Anthony Long, the General Manager of the Concert Orchestra. The Grand Master is always invited by the NCH as the Guest of Honour and the concert is broadcast live by RTÉ lyric fm.

There has been no negative publicity at all. Since its inception the Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year has generated over 130 newspaper articles and interviews and 86 broadcast interviews. There has been no negative publicity, it has all been positive to our Order.

Brethren we can be, and should be, proud of this outreach effort which has become a landmark in the music world in Ireland. The TV & Radio journalist and presenter Eamonn Lawlor, who kindly Compères the Competition every year for us, wrote in an article,

“All the prize-winners and other finalists act as ambassadors for the Competition every time they play in public and people’s notions about Irish Freemasonry are bound to get shaken up as well..... If that is a reward for the vision and generosity of Grand Lodge in giving to Ireland ‘The Irish Freemasons’ Young Musician of the Year’ it is a reward richly deserved – and one in which all your friends outside Freemasonry will rejoice”

..... And Brethren every single one of us can rejoice as well. This is the Irish Freemasons' Competition, NOT the Dublin Freemasons' Competition, or the Republic of Ireland Freemasons' Competition. It is Freemasonry as a whole, wherever situated in this island of ours, which is benefiting from the praise and plaudits we receive. This outreach benefits every one of us and we can take great pride in this.

One last quote – an e-mail from Simon Taylor, the Chief Executive of the National Concert Hall – *“ The competition is a resounding success and the Freemasons deserve great credit for supporting our young musicians in such a tangible and productive way”*

So there you are and you must be wondering if this is the first time a Grand Treasurer has spoken without mentioning money. So I'll mention it.

Isn't all this very expensive for us you ask. Isn't it costing me a fortune?

Well, Brethren, no it isn't. The net total cost of the Irish Freemason's Young Musician of the Year to each Freemason is 46 cents a year , or to put it another way, it costs you personally, less every year than you would spend on half of one daily newspaper.

I think it's well worth it – I hope you do too.

(Address delivered by the Grand Treasurer at Summer Lodge on 15th July 2015)



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.

News from Dalkey

We concluded 2014 with a joint auction held with Alexander Lodge XI (Bray) yielding €1300 for each Lodge. This was held in Carrick Manor and we are indebted to Geraldine Mulligan and her excellent staff for their truly wonderful cooperation and providing excellent fare on the night.

Dalkey continues to enjoy the presence of many visitors from as far away as Australia, Brazil and Finland; also UK and members from the Province of Wicklow & Wexford and not least Brethren from Molesworth Street. We are always pleased to welcome Brethren either on their own or in group visits.

We discovered, only recently, that in days gone by we were known as the “pirates”! Have no fear - if you come to Dalkey, apart from a contribution to our costs, we will leave your worldly possession intact!

W.Bro. Alan Robinson has now been installed W.M. and has already presided over the conferring of two Fellow Craft Degrees - as a result we can look forward to a busy autumn schedule.

We are starting our own inaugural “*class of instruction*” in May under the guidance of R.W. Bro. Selwyn Davies. The aim is to improve the Masonic education of our newer members both in Masonic ritual and Masonic principles in general. The response is most encouraging.

For October we have planned our Ladies Dinner Night - 16th October in the Royal St. George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire, tickets available from our Secretary, John Hewitson. This has always been an enjoyable evening and we are

usually joined by Brethren & partners from First Volunteer Lodge 620.

The recent sudden passing of R.W.Bro. Sydney Graham is recorded with great sadness. Sydney was a very frequent visitor to Dalkey and was always there to assist whenever the need arose. We cherish his memory and will dearly miss him.

One of the oldest members of our Lodge, W. Bro. William Martin, aged 92, passed to the Grand Lodge above on Wednesday 31st December 2014 after several weeks’ illness and hospitalisation. William had a very distinguished career in the Second World War; he served with Field Marshal Montgomery’s forces against Rommel in North Africa and also took part in the invasion of Italy in late 1943/early 1944. That is not all; William was then transferred to northern France to serve once more with “Monty” and his army on the northern front through Belgium, Holland and eventually along the northern coast of Germany as far as Hamburg. Dalkey Lodge would have been proud to have the details from William whilst in the Lodge but, like many who have had such experiences, he did not talk of them. The foregoing we have been able to glean from some of his neighbours in Aravon Court, Bray. Well done thou good and faithful servant. You will always be remembered by your colleagues in Dalkey Lodge.

*John Hewitson & Selwyn Davies
Dalkey Lodge 261.*

MetroMason

We are always delighted to receive articles of interest for MetroMason and we welcome your contributions. Please submit articles to print@metromason.ie

The Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year 2015



Presented by:
EAMONN LAWLOR

Patrons:

Jane Carty
Dearbhla Collins
Eamonn Lawlor
John Rowden

Supported by:

RTÉ lyric fm

Freemasons' Hall
17 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2

Semi-Finals

Thursday October 8th

Final & Prize-giving by The Grand Master

Saturday, October 10th

Sunday Business Post - October 2014

The reputation of the Competition now is second to none - - *"it is the highest accolade available to young musicians in Ireland today"*

The Semi-Finalists, selected by Music Colleges from the cream of their students throughout Ireland, compete before an International Jury to win the title of 'Irish Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year 2015'. Come and support the Irish Musicians of the future!

Tickets on Sale September 1st.

Tickets: Semi-Finals €10 (All Day Admission)
Final €20 available from the Porter's Lodge at Freemasons' Hall. Tickets *may* also be available at the door on the night but this is not guaranteed as accommodation is limited.

[Please Note: It is with much regret, this function is NOT suitable for children under 12 years of age]

Friends at our Festive Board! - A New Model.

On the 16th of April 2015, Clontarf Lodge No. 249 held a unique and perhaps a 'first' when we hosted our wives, partners and friends at our Festive Board after our Stated Communication. It wasn't a "Ladies' Night" or an "Open Night" for prospective candidates or an 'Ordinary Festive Board'. So what was it? Well, as it turned out it fulfilled all three functions.

Firstly we invited our Ladies and Partners to dine with us after our meeting so in that sense it was a "Ladies' Night". We invited our friends, two of whom were prospective candidates for Freemasonry along so in that sense it was an Open Night. However we also dined very much as a Lodge, giving the Place of Honour to our Brother Fellow Craft who had been passed at our Stated Communication that very evening. The Toasts remained the same as the ones given at any Festive Board the only aspect missing was the absence of the 'fire' which accompanies the proposing of the toasts, which is forbidden when non Masons are present.

The idea for such an event emanated from the fertile and ever active brain of our Worshipful Brother Treasurer, R.W. Bro. Spring as a way of allowing our friends and family to see what we, as Masons actually did at our Festive Board. This was perceived as an excellent opportunity to 'see how we do things in there', in other words what culture exists and prospers in Masonry when we sit down to dine. As this concept took hold it was decided by the Lodge under the direction of the Worshipful Master Liam Mc Dermott that every effort should be made to make this a memorable occasion for all concerned. Most Lodges outside the Metropolitan Area are fortunate in that, very often, wives and partners are more engaged in the planning and hosting of their social events. Our Festive Board was the beginning of our Lodges' efforts towards achieving this end.

It was decided that the work of the Lodge should not be disrupted or overshadowed by the

social event; accordingly the work which fell to be carried out that evening, the passing of a Brother to the Fellow Craft should proceed. The Brethren were also urged to make contact with their Lodge Brothers, who had ceased attending, encouraging them to come along.

We then set to work gathering the names and numbers for our forthcoming supper. The Brethren were most enthusiastic to support this Lodge event and soon the prospective numbers of attendees rose to fifty six. Not an inconsiderable number.

On the night of our meeting, we met at seven o'clock and conducted a full stated communication including a second Degree, where our Brother Gareth Wooster was passed to the Fellow Craft Degree and a ballot. We were delighted to see some of our more senior members who had made a special effort to be with us. We were also honoured to have R.W. Bro. Philip Daly, Chairman of the MBGP visit with us. As one of the main architects of the Teddies for Loving Care Charity he was doubly welcome as part of the proceeds of our charity giving that evening would go to TLC. We were also pleased to welcome our other visitors, W.Bro. Jean Claude Dorian the Worshipful Master of France D'Irlande 884, R.W. Bro. Selwyn Davis PGSW and V.W. Bro. Leslie Sibbald of the Grand Lodge of Instruction.

Whilst we were at labour, visitors who arrived early were hosted by our Lodge Almoner Worshipful Brother Eamon O'Leary, W. Bro. Eamon selflessly sacrificed a blemish free attendance record to perform this most important task. The Lodge, with great acclaim, awarded him an attendance!

At 8.50pm we closed our meeting in Peace Love and Harmony and proceeded to join our guests for Supper.

The menu on the evening was simplicity itself

as we stayed within the choices that are on offer to all Lodges for their Festive Board and within that price range. The main course chosen on our night was roast chicken or salmon with crepes of cheese board to follow, tea or coffee. Attendees chose their meal beforehand to ensure that every body received what they had ordered. The food was expertly prepared and professionally presented by our caterers and John and Catherine of Aramark, with their team, deserve full credit for a job well done.

The proceedings mirrored those of any other Festive Board and the etiquette with regard to addresses etc. was followed. There was no 'fire' after toasts as stated, but we did add a little something extra and interesting for our guests. Our Steward of Charities and Almoner gave a brief outline of the duties of their respective Offices. This was received in a positive manner as another insight into how we, as Masons, look to care for those less fortunate than us, both inside and outside the Order. The reply to the Toast to our Guests was given by Mrs. Sandra Brockman, wife of our Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Paul Brockman (perhaps a first for Masonry) and was met with acclamation. We were also delighted to present a surprise birthday cake to Mrs. Valerie Sheridan, mother of our Brother W. Bro. Wayne Sheridan, on attaining her ninetieth birthday.

A very special raffle was held with a hamper as the first prize closely followed by two Super

Cuddly Teddies as prizes two and three. A very competitive auction was also held for a rare and much sought after bottle of Clontarf Millennium Whisky. This very generously supported raffle raised over six hundred euro for distribution to the Charities.

As the Head Tyler sounded the second bell heralding the end of our unique night we were indeed 'Happy to meet, Sad to part, Happy to meet again'.

In the immediate aftermath of our Special Supper, the collective feeling expressed was that everybody had enjoyed themselves and our guests had learned a little more about what we do, when we as Masons, meet at our Fraternal Festive Board. Old friendships were rekindled and our candidate's Masonic Journey was suitably recognised and marked.

Our prospective candidates for Freemasonry were given a taste of what to expect in our Order and a substantial amount of money was raised. I would therefore suggest that this event was a success on all fronts. We think that it is a model that might suit other Lodges and enhance their Masonic experience and that of their Partners and friends with regard to their interaction with our Order. We believed that it worked so well for our Lodge that we are now in the process of planning for our next such Festive Board!

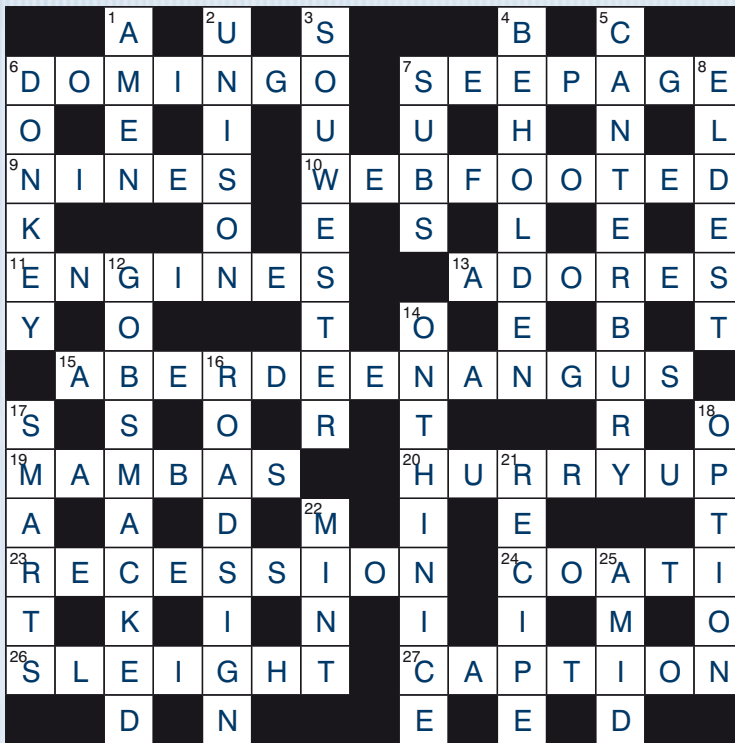
Welcome New Arrival

We are delighted to announce an additional member of the TLC Teddies Pin Collection. "Miss Ted" as she is known, is available, together with the other 5 Teddy Pins from the Porter's Desk in Freemasons' Hall or from members of the TLC Committee. The credit for the latest member of this family must go to Ms. Heather Gyles and the other Ladies who work at Freemasons' Hall in Dublin. The idea was raised by Heather at a meeting of the TLC Management Committee some months ago and was adopted

and went into production soon after. The Pins were launched earlier this year at Summer Lodge. The cost of each Pin is €5 and all of this money goes to support the TLC Project throughout the island of Ireland and indeed this Pin is also for sale on the other island to our East.



Crossword No. 4 - Answers by "Beehive"



Across

- 6 (Placido) Domingo - tenor, Domingo - Spanish for Sunday (7)
- 7 Call on - page, witness - see (7)
- 9 Square(s) - 3 x 3, dressed to the nines (5)
- 10 Internet - (the) web, paid for - footed, Aylesbury Duck (3- 6)
- 11 Gin seen anagram (7)
- 13 (Hybrid) anagram so dear(6)
- 15 Argue ban needs anagram (8,5)
- 19 Belque(m Amba)sador - (deadly) snakes (6)
- 20 Dispatch - hurry, up (at) university (5,2)
- 23 Resistance - r, drug - e (ecstasy), yielding - cession (9)
- 24 Layer of paint - coat, (put on) I (5)
- 26 Initially (s)how (l)eniency, crew - eight (rowers) (7)
- 27 Officer - Capt(ain), backing - backwards first assistant - No 1 - ion (7)

Down

- 1 Last word after prayer (4)
- 2 Third level education - uni, boy - son (6)
- 3 Sweet sour anagram? (9)
- 4 To live - be, Nelson - hold (wrestling), in - en (French) (8)
- 5 See - bishopric, soldier - ant, (in) church - C (of) E, before resistance - r, football club - Bury(10)
- 6 Answer - key, lecturer - don, cross - monrel/hybrid (6)
- 7 Public transport - bus, back - sub, south - s (4)
- 8 Self-explanatory (6)
- 12 Kisser - gob (slang), fishing boat - smack, newsroom manager - ed(itor)(10)
- 14 Ducking - getting wet (2,4,3)
- 16 Dragons I anagram (4,4)
- 17 Cattle auction - mart, on board - in S (team) S(hip) (6)
- 18 No - o, training - P.T., upswings big hit - No 1 (backwards), pick - option (6)
- 21 Crepe I anagram (6)
- 22 Self-explanatory synonyms (4)
- 25 In the morning - a.m., papers - i d (entity) (4)

Crossword Number 5 by "Beehive"

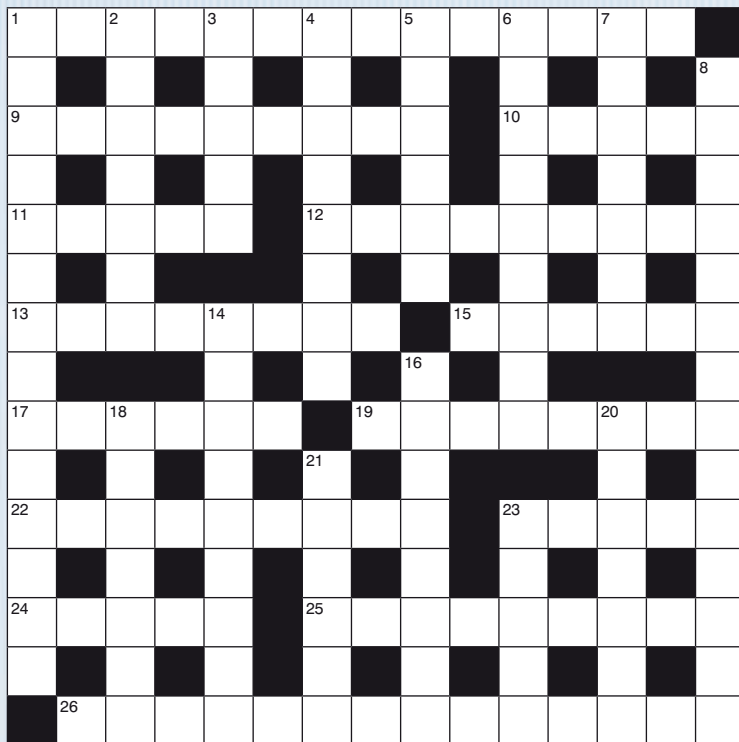
This Crossword has been sent into us by a Member of one of the Lodges in the Metropolitan Area. He wishes to be known as Beehive.

It is hoped to include a crossword in all future issues of MetroMason.

Brethren are invited to send completed puzzles to:

**The Editor,
Metro Mason,
c/o Freemasons' Hall,
17 Molesworth Street.**

Answers for this puzzle will appear in our next issue.



Across

- 1 Worsted soldier adds spice to lovelorn band-leader (8,6)
- 9 Verbally decline when lag scoffed at his nickname? (9)
- 10 One hunted with horn for money (5)
- 11 Acknowledges when pledge is received (5) (8)
- 12 Limited time in store to book space with biography (5,4)
- 13 Ear needs tuning for suitor's vocal performance (8)
- 15 State request in the French manner (6)
- 17 Snake in the grass makes such progress giving cause for alarm (6)
- 19 Mutineer made such a singular spectacle of himself? (8)
- 22 Instant availability created following first order for starter (5-4)
- 23 Acceptable to stand at the rear of Indian (5)
- 24 Relocate trawler to catch fish (5)
- 25 Operatic Italian going back after time following one unknown content to be cheated (9)
- 26 Result of overindulging musicians in bar? Possibly! (6,3,5)

Down

- 1 Cute sailors given icy treatment by welfare department (6,8)
- 2 Resentment picked up by squaddie (7)
- 3 Horseplay? (5)
- 4 See drain unblocked from passenger seat (8)
- 5 Early Constable version of 'The Bellringer', I hear (6)
- 6 Minister's responsibility to provide wine following savoury dish (9)
- 7 Swapping first two makes godlike spiritual benefits (7)
- 8 Playmates following NATO assignments in Quebec and India (5,3,6)
- 14 Vote against covering softly, softly approach to imprudent junior pain in the bum! (5,4)
- 16 PM once privy to identifying target (4,2,2)
- 18 One demanding old ham, perhaps (7)
- 20 Medicinal Compound connected you and me on the radio (7)
- 21 Criticise the German police cars once (6)
- 23 Jacob's wife returns with unknown central to shell company?

Tommy Honoured

At a recently held meeting of Grand Chapter, Ex. Companion Tommy Rafferty was presented with his 50th Anniversary Jewel.

This was a very proud moment for Tommy and his family and also for the members of his chapter (Royal Arch Chapter No. 53).

His fellow Companions are very pleased that Ex. Companion Tommy Rafferty has been honoured with this Jewel and hope that he continues in good health.



Bermuda Visit

This photograph was taken during a recent visit by Michel Ducas of Lodge No. 884 to Bermuda, where he met our Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. St. Clair Brinkworth Tucker, better known to his friends as “Brinky”.

Mr Tucker, now retired, was a police officer. He studied at Bishop Garth Police College, Devon and Cornwall Police College and the Airport Security Police College and then joined the Bermuda Police Force in 1962. He worked his way up the ladder and became an inspector in 1978 and served as officer-in-charge of the Airport Police Station, St George Police Station and Hamilton Police Station. He was the first person of St David’s Island ancestry to be promoted as an officer and the first born Bermudian put in charge of Police prosecutions. He later worked as Aide De Camp (ADC) for Sir John Swan when he was Premier of Bermuda.

Michel’s wife is from Bermuda, where her father was a Magistrate and had constant dealings with his friend, “Brinky”. He’s the gentleman standing on the left of the picture with the silver hair. Michel is the skinny Frenchman in the blue shorts, my friend and co-founder of Lodge No 884, France d’Irlande.



The building they are in with the picture of the Grand Master in the background, is the premises of Hannibal Lodge No. 224 in St. George’s, Bermuda. Lodge No. 884 is planning to visit Bermuda in 2017, bringing a new international dimension to Irish Freemasonry, with our French-Irish Brethren bringing our greetings to the Irish Brethren in the Caribbean.

Lodge 884 is, of course, a Dublin Metropolitan Lodge.