

MAY 2022



The Plumblíne

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MUNSTER



Provincial Grand Master of Munster Bro. R.W. Derek Dunne presenting a copy of book *The Lady Freemason* (Elizabeth Aldworth) to the Lord Mayor of Cork Colm Kelleher during his recent visit to the Masonic Hall, Tuckey St. recently. Pic Adrian O Herlihy.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster

Freemason's Hall, 27 Tuckey Street, Cork.



It is early April as I write this (in deference to an Editor's deadline!) and Spring has truly sprung. The image of coiled springs which have suddenly been released comes to mind when I see Lodges across the Province enthusiastically returning to labour. After such a long period of enforced inactivity it is heartening to see again Installation meetings & dinners taking place. Long awaited initiations are scheduled and Brethren awaiting degrees are finally being passed and raised as a normality of sorts is being restored.

Amidst all this activity and bustle I want to introduce the concept of the 3 R's, Recruit - Retain - Retrieve! Not an original thought by any means but one with which the Brethren of Munster will become all too familiar over the coming months. As an Order we are relatively good at recruiting and invest much time and effort into scrutineering, initiating and the giving of degrees. When it comes to retaining members however, the charge of so many of my school reports 'Could do better' is one that could be fairly levelled against us. This is particularly disappointing given, as I say, the amount of effort we put into recruiting and initiating candidates in the first place. Granted, Freemasonry is not for all and sometimes the reality does not live up to the expectations of some but I have yet to be convinced that this is the full story. An honest appraisal of how we can better make our respective Lodges places of welcome, inclusion and significance for new members is much needed. Continuing the schoolboy analogy I feel D minus might be a fair grade when it comes to retrieval. All too often we wring our hands helplessly at the fate of lapsed members – men we happily sat with in Lodge in years gone by. This will be all the more acute as we emerge from over 2 years dormancy following Covid19. Again, in our



respective Lodges we must give serious thought to what each of us, or as a coordinated collective, can do to encourage those we've not seen for some time to consider returning. Focus on the 3 R's will become a very real feature of life in the Province and will receive fresh impetus as Provincial Assistant, **R.W. Bro. Malcolm Tyrrell**, lends his considerable talents and experience to head up this important initiative. Hand in glove with the 3 R's initiative, later in the year, I plan on hosting a welcome dinner for Brethren who have received their 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Degrees since the start of the Pandemic. This I believe will bring together Brethren from around the Province who are taking their first steps in Freemasonry and

will, I hope, engender an esprit de corps amongst these new members. Further inside this publication you will read of various Brethren who have received 50, and, in two cases, 60 year awards. This should be cause for much celebration as, given the current demographic of our Order, such milestones will become all the rarer. In recognition of, and as a thank you for, the tremendous dedication and service of these and other Brethren who have given so much over so many years I shall host a celebratory lunch in Freemasons' Hall, Tuckey Street on Saturday 21st. May. By happy coincidence Lodge 68, Youghal, will, later that afternoon, transfer their Warrant to Tuckey Street as they host the inaugural daylight meeting. The idea of a daylight meeting (Lux Diei in other parts of the Irish Constitution) is something of a novelty here in Munster but as age, health and work commitments restrict some Brethren from attending night time meetings it is a concept I am keen to develop. I wish to thank Lodge 68 for taking me up on my invitation to host the meeting and hope that other Lodges might emulate the idea thereby making greater use of the Tuckey Street building or their own Lodge Rooms. It is very much hoped that some of the invitees to the lunch might make a day of it and remain for the meeting after. Again, further inside The Plumblin you will read of the visit by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Colm Kelleher, to Freemasons' Hall, Tuckey Street, on Monday April 11th. The visit was a great success and is a further sign of the warm relations between City Hall and 27, Tuckey Street. The Grand Master's Festival, Vision2020, is beginning its final countdown and finishes at the end of June. I wish to commend all who have contributed in so many unique, diverse and imaginative ways to this fundraiser - I am advised by the Provincial Coordinator **W. Bro. Kevin Ryan** that, to date, we in Munster are boxing well above our weight in giving per capita thus continuing a proud tradition from previous Grand Master's Festivals. On a per-

sonal note I wish to thank most sincerely those Brethren who gave so generously to my 'Splash for Cash' during February. I am happy to report that I was able to donate considerable sums to both Vision2020 and a local charity – Cork Street Angels. I wish to congratulate **W. Bro. Charlie Daly** on winning 1st. Prize of Dinner for 2 in Hayfield Manor. I am conscious that there may be a goodly number of collection boxes full of spare coins languishing in Brethren's homes and ask that Lodges arrange to collect same and remit to **W. Bro. Kevin** as the Festival winds down. Lodge 884, France-d'Irlande, is a Francophone Lodge warranted under the Irish Constitution whose members live in France and who travel to Dublin regularly to hold their meetings. 'Following the visit of a number of Munster Brethren to Lodge 884 in April I have extended an invitation to the Lodge to travel to Cork to hold their June Communication in Tuckey Street. I look forward to the prospect of hosting Lodge 844 and hope it will prove a night of interest particularly to the growing number of French speaking Brethren in the Province. As this edition of 'The Plumblin' goes to print I unreservedly renew the thanks of the Province to **W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan** for the trojan work he puts into its publication. The quality is first class and all that we have come to expect in Munster. We are indeed most fortunate and are the envy of many Provinces in the Constitution. Despite it being April as I pen these notes by the time you read them many Lodges' thoughts will have turned to the Summer recess and I take the opportunity to wish you and your families a pleasant and refreshing break.



PGM Munster

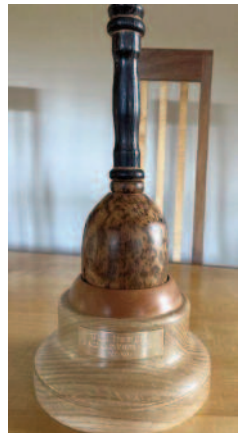
R. W. Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster Meeting, March 2020



Presentation to R.W.Bro. Leslie Deane

This meeting was a milestone meeting at several levels. It was the first time in more than two years that we were meeting physically in The Provincial Grand Lodge's headquarters at Tuckey St, Cork. A lot of business which had been informally dealt with in the past two years needed formal ratification. Some recently raised Master Masons who had never been eligible to attend Provincial Grand Lodge before were embarking on their "maiden voyage". Some Brethren were being newly installed, and others being invested, in their new offices. Our newly installed Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Derek Dunne, was opening the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster for his first time. Our Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Leslie Deane was attending in his new status for the first time. Even though the meeting is impeccably recorded in the Secretary's minutes, I feel that one "moment" needs to be shared with a greater readership.

That the Province's gratitude for R.W.Bro. Leslie's unstinting service for ten years as Provincial Grand Master needed to be acknowledged was unquestionable! The dilemma lay in deciding how this could be expressed, never adequately, but as close as was humanly possible. It needed to encompass facets of Leslie that we've all come to know and love through the years. His commitment to family, his love of history, his appreciation of form and beauty in art, and in the world around him needed to be obvious. He had somehow managed to harness these attributes, and many more. Remarkably, he succeeded in expressing them as an authoritative, yet gentle, Provincial Grand Master. The Maul, the symbol of the Masonic Master's authority, provided the obvious inspiration for the solution to this dilemma. Combined, the creative imagination of R.W.Bro. Dunne and the collaboration of R.W.Bro. Leslie's brother Clive, produced an astounding outcome in the form of an heirloom that's both beautiful and symbolic – a truly



“inspired” piece of craftsmanship. As the photograph shows, it is a magnificently crafted maul and base, with an appropriately engraved sterling silver plate affixed to the base. While the end-product is itself “a thing of beauty”, the story of its journey from conception to realization is equally so. Its impact on all present on the night was palpable.



The uniqueness of the piece, and the level of sincerity on the part of all involved needs no elaboration when one directly quotes Leslie’s brother Clive’s account of its provenance: *“The wood came as firewood to Burnfort from Ballyvinitier, Mallow when our mother moved here in the Autumn of 2006. Soon afterwards she got sick and, sadly, passed away in April 2007. When clearing out her shed I decided to keep this piece of wood as a sentimental keepsake, and always had a plan to have something made from it. I was delighted to be asked to have an input ... and immediately thought that using the piece of firewood would be appropriate.”* The maul was crafted by Hugh Garret *“... the head is from our mother’s firewood and the handle and base were provided by Hugh from his stock*

of wood, which is all sourced from the locality of Ballyvinitier”. The Masonic measurements of *three, five* and *seven* were used where possible throughout the crafting of the piece. The engraving was done by Pat Buckley. The presentation photograph of R.W.Bro. Dunne and R.W.Bro Deane includes W. Bro. Tom Brennan’s (Hibernian Lodge 95) portrait of the I.P.P.G M. in oils on canvas, which now hangs in Freemasons’ Hall, Tuckey Street for posterity.

Leslie, le míle buíochas as do thiomantas do Ard-Lóiste Cúige na Mumhan, agus go mbeannaí Dia thú i gcónaí!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Ryan".

W. Bro Kevin Ryan



Brethren, in Munster our fundraising to date for the “Grand Master’s Festival has been spectacular!

Please keep up the momentum for the last lap, being mindful that humanitarian efforts worldwide are beneficiaries!

Monies may also be lodged directly to “The Grand Master’s Festival” account, remembering to reference with your LODGE NUMBER.

IBAN: IE24AIBK93122501272058

BIC: AIBKIE2D

(GRAND MASTER’S FESTIVAL A/C DETAILS)

Any Lodge or Lodge Member who still has COIN to contribute, please contact me to arrange collection / conversion.

kevin.mason.munster@gmail.com / 087 2265625

Antient Bandon Lodge 84 3 members Celebrates 170 years' service to Irish Masonry



W Brother Bill Perrott, W Brother Eric Patterson, W Brother Tom Wyper Worshipful Master Antient Lodge Bandon 84, Provincial Grand Junior Warden VW. Bro. David Walls, VW Brother Alwyn Williams, PGM. R.W.Bro., Derek Dunne. and

Report by **W. Bro. Tom Wyper**

Three W.Bros of Antient Bandon Lodge 84 have a combined mileage of over 170 years' service to Irish Free Masonry, W.Bro. Bill Perrott & V.W.Bro. Alwyn Williams collected their 60-year Jewels and Certificates along with W.Bro Eric Patterson who received his 50-Year Jewel and Certificate. They were presented their Jewels & certificates respectively by the PGM of Munster, R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne & Master of the Lodge W.Bro. Tom Wyper at Ancient Bandon Lodge 84 on 9th March 2022.

W.Bro Bill Perrott entered Freemasonry on the 10th May 1961, he completed his F.C. Degree a month later on the 14th June 1961 only six months later Bill attained his Master Mason Degree on 13th December 1961. Bill took the Chair as Worshipful Master of Bandon Lodge in

1966.

In the same year V.W.Bro Alwyn Williams entered Freemasonry within Spectamur Agendo Lodge 614, Dublin, he also went through the craft swiftly as an E.A on the 10th May 1961, F.C. the following month of June and then as a M.M on the 13th December 1961. Alwyn took the chair in Spectamur Agendo Lodge 614, Dublin in 1973. He then joined Lodge 84 14th March 1973 and took up the chair again in 1977. (The Year the Current Master of the Lodge was born).

W.Bro Eric Patterson joined Bandon Lodge 84 and entered Freemasonry on the 13th December 1972, he went through his fellow craft degree on the 14th March 1973, where shortly after became a Master Mason on 9th May 1973, he took the Chair as Worshipful Master within Bandon in 1978.

On Philanthropy and Bequests

Writes **W. Bro. David J. Butler**

Defined as ‘the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes’, philanthropy is a central tenet of Freemasonry, being practised from the earliest times in the selfless donation of time, energy, materials, and resources of all kinds to fundraising initiatives, whether at local, provincial, district or national level.

Philanthropists come from all aspects of Masonic life, and this is never better exemplified than by the two most recent bequests to Masonic bodies in the Province of Munster, namely, those of Bro. Magahy of the Third Lodge of Ireland, Cork and V.W. Bro. Frank W. (Larry) Harley of Neptune Lodge No. 190, Cobh.

Bro. Magahy descended from an Ulster professional family of engineers and architects, one of whom, Thomas Walter Magahy, came to Cork in 1875 to establish the renowned organ building firm of T.W. Magahy and Son at Merchant (Fish) Street, which ran parallel to Merchant’s Quay. Later generations of the family continued as engineers and architects, while the donor was a medical doctor. Bro. Magahy never passed through the chair of a lodge, yet valued his Masonic connection, and the welfare of future generations of masons, such by remembering them in his last will and testament, in such a way as to benefit the wider Province.

V.W. Bro. Harley, a master craftsman, maintained a workshop in the town centre of Cobh, while residing at nearby Bellevue

Schoolhouse; he served many years as secretary of Neptune Lodge 190, his stalwart support of all aspects of Freemasonry, particularly in East Cork (both Cobh and Youghal, lodge and chapter) saw him recognised as Provincial Junior Grand Warden. He was an ordinary, decent, and gentle man – a good man and a mason. His legacy to the Province of Munster was both timely and informed as to best placement.

Philanthropy does not have to comprise vast sums; neither does it have to await a last will and testament. Many will identify with the well-known biblical verse, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive’ and it is also important to record our thanks to these men, who through forward planning are assisting with the development of our Province long after their passing to The Grand Lodge Above. In both cases, they discussed their intentions in advance with a lodge member, to expedite matters. Equally, there have been brethren who have given, and continue to give, generously in their own lifetime.

In closing, let us dwell on the words of Etienne de Grellet which sums up the thoughtfulness of these two brothers of Munster lodges, coming from diverse backgrounds, yet with the common goal of fraternal assistance after their demise:

“I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now.

Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again”.

That The World May Know

Writes R.W. Bro. Alan Campbell

On Thursday, 13th. January, 2022, my Lodge, Shamrock Lodge no.27, was to hold its last zoom meeting, much to the delight of all the members.

In preparation, the Worshipful Master, W.Bro.Fraser Sim, asked for contributions to try to make the meeting interesting. Well now, as we all know, the Worshipful Master shall be obeyed so I went searching to see what I could contribute. I re-read a really excellent paper written in 1996 by V.W.Bro Richard Tydeman of the English Constitution and given by him at the quarterly communication of the United Grand Lodge of England on 11th. December, 1996.

This was so well received that I was asked to supply all our members with a copy. I decided to go one step further and enter it in the next edition of the Plumline for all the Province to read. So here is the paper and I will tell you a little more about Bro Tydeman at the end.

That The World May Know

Such is the nature of our constitution that there are still far too many people in the world who have entirely the wrong ideas about Freemasonry, and not nearly enough Masons who are willing or able to put them right.

So, what is it about Masonry that makes it “special” and how can we express this in simple language for the non-Mason to understand?

Let us go back to the basic question: What is Freemasonry?

Answer: a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Yes, Masonry is indeed a system of morality – not a system of belief or a system of faith, but a system of morality. So, the next question

must be: What are morals? And put into Masonic language, the answer is that morals are the building blocks of which all human life is built up.

Let me explain.

Historically, Freemasonry came into prominence in these countries in the early eighteenth century at a time of great moral laxity, dishonesty and vice. Into that unfortunate climate came Lodges of men who had promised under solemn oath that they would obey the moral law, trust and assist each other, and render themselves more extensively serviceable to the outside world, Religion didn't come into it beyond the acknowledgement of a belief in God and a respect for the Holy Bible, and naturally they began and ended their meetings with a brief prayer – as indeed did Parliament, Town Councils, Universities and Schools everywhere.

Those early Brethren did not recruit or proselytise, they just lived according to their principles and trusted that a favourable opinion pre-conceived of their institution would prompt other like-minded men to seek membership. It may have been just coincidence that operative masons had been using the language of building for so many centuries, but this appealed strongly to our 18th century predecessors, and they began to talk in what might be called “architectural” language.

In other words they said: Man is a craftsman; he is sent here by a Great Architect who has supplied him with working plans in the Volume of the Sacred Law, and whether he builds his life in the shape of a church, or a mosque, a synagogue or a temple, the basic moral rules are the same – it has to be made of materials as near perfection as we can achieve. Just as each stone in a building must be square, level and upright, so each part of our life must have the same qualities. One

stone that is not square could ruin the whole building.

In this simple language Masons are still reminded, in a series of symbols and allegories, of the basic principles of morality. This does not make Masonry a religion, as some have suggested. Candidates are men of religion before they come in – indeed it is only men of religion who are permitted to come in, for a belief in God is an essential qualification. The nature of the candidate's religion is not our concern; the shape of his building may be very different from ours, but it has to be built of the same materials and conform to the same rules – and this is what Masonry constantly declares.

Having expressed his belief in God, the candidate is then instructed how to build on that foundation by obedience to the moral rules and patterns he finds in his working plans – and those moral rules are the same for all men and all religions.

Oh yes, Masonry has a social side too – that is where Brotherly Love comes in, and it is a charitable organisation of some magnitude – that's the Relief aspect, but perhaps we don't say enough about the Truth, for I think that is one of the things that makes Masonry "special". You see, there is brotherly love in a sports club, and charitable relief abounds in such organisations as Rotary; but Masonry goes further by upholding the eternal truth of the moral law as symbolised in the eternal rules of good building. It is this side of Freemasonry that I always try to emphasise, and I find it is something that most people can appreciate and understand.

But, yes says the critic, if it is as simple as that, why the secrecy? Why not let everyone in on the act?

This brings us to another aspect which makes Masonry "special": I call it the "shared experience".

Comedians can always get a laugh out of "those Masons with their rolled up trouser legs", but that is only a small part of the

story. The truth is that to become a Mason one has to approach in a state of self – humiliation, blind, lame, half dressed and penniless, with a hangman's noose at the ready. In this way, and in this way only, can a man accept the privileges of Masonry: he has to come properly prepared and humbly soliciting.

However, the candidate has this consolation and encouragement, he knows that every man in that room has gone through exactly the same experience. There are no short cuts, One can be given a university degree without actually working for it, one can become a commissioned officer in the forces without going through the ranks, but there is no other way of becoming a Mason than by sharing in that experience of humility and helpless indigence.

It would be manifestly unfair and inequitable to admit to our ceremonies anyone who has not shared that experience – hence the secrecy. The old operative mason guarded the secrets of his craft by sharing passwords and signs. We do the same, but words and signs are not the secrets themselves, they are the guards to that shared experience which is the real secret of Freemasonry.

Now I can see no good reason why the public should not be told all this so they can judge for themselves. I am not saying that we should open our meetings to non – masons – that would defeat the concept of the "shared experience", but it must surely be a good thing for the world to know what it is we stand for – and what we have solemnly promised to do.

Of course this puts a tremendous burden on ourselves and it is right that it should. Just, upright and free men of mature age, sound judgement and strict morals should be prepared to stand up and be counted. If the world knew just how serious are the promises we make, there would be even more criticism of those who are found guilty of "un-Masonic conduct". Promises do not cease to operate

as soon as the Lodge is closed, for we are charged to practice out of the Lodge those duties we have been taught in it, and thus prove to the world the happy and beneficial effects of our ancient institution.

A good building not only has to protect and provide for those within its walls, it also has to look good to those outside, and to stand up to the slings and arrows of the invidious and all the changes of the climate.

Freemasonry has succeeded in doing this for several centuries already, and I have no doubt that, with our fidelity, and our obedience to the moral law, it will continue to grow in strength and significance throughout the centuries that lie ahead.

Well now, reader, before telling you a little about the author of this excellent piece let me just say that I think it gives us a wonderful armoury against the nasty and incorrect comments we have to listen to concerning Freemasonry, from time to time. It amazes me that in these times when one has to be so very careful, and completely rightly so, not to insult a person on grounds of their race, colour, religion, gender etc. It is considered in order to call out Freemasons and say the most outlandish things about them. We have been blamed for all the bad things to befall humankind from the Big Wind of 1839 when it was said that the Freemasons called the devil out of hell and failed to return him properly, to Covid 19. I saw a video of a man addressing a crowd in Dublin city telling them the covid vaccine was a Masonic plot to take over their lives! As a result of this type of misinformation a misguided person broke into our Grand Lodge premises and set it on fire on New Year's Eve last.

Well now, you have the correct information, clearly and honestly written above by Bro. Richard Tydeman so don't be afraid to correct anybody who tries to tell you something incorrect about Freemasonry.

About The Author



Bro. Richard Tydeman

Richard Tydeman, described as a man of quiet dignity and impish sense of humour was a Canon of the Church of England. He joined Freemasonry in 1937, just 1 month after his 21st birthday. He remained a committed Mason all his life having served as Grand Chaplain to the United Grand Lodge of England in 1966 & 1967 & was honoured by being made Past Senior Grand Warden (Honorary) in 2004.

In 1986 the General Synod of the Church of England announced it was to investigate the compatibility of Freemasonry and Christianity. This led Bro. Tydeman to write to the Church Times asking what right the Synod had to speak for Christianity!

He passed to the Grand Lodge Above in 2011 aged 94 having been a Freemason 74 years and a priest 70.

District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster

Dear Companions

As we prepare to meet for our District Grand Chapter meeting for the first time in over two years it is inevitable that we look back and reflect of how Covid-19 has impacted all our lives.

In March 2020 all Masonic meetings were suspended, and since then we have all been affected in one way or another by the pandemic. Many have suffered the loss of family and friends, and we extend to them our heartfelt sympathy.

Within our Masonic family we have had losses too and the roll call of those who are no longer with us makes, at times, harrowing reading, made even more real by not being able to be present to say our final farewell.

Fortunately, the world of science stepped up to the mark and in a remarkably short time vaccines were produced and we now find ourselves, for the most part, protected from the more acute and disabling effects of the virus.

We all got used to mask wearing and hand sanitising and slowly but surely restrictions were lifted to the extent that 'normal' Masonic activity is now fully restored, albeit while we all exercise caution and take responsibility for our own conduct and actions. No one should feel pressurised to be where they do not feel safe.

When you read this issue of the Plumline, District Grand Chapter will have met and Chapters will be meeting again and getting on with, we hope, normal activity. Consideration will be given to electing officers for the forthcoming year, conferring degrees, and hopefully bringing in new candidates for what is a most rewarding step in progressing of their Masonic journey. In reading this I hope that those considering furthering their Masonic knowledge will look towards Royal Arch Masonry as that next step. Ask members of your Lodge for details.

We congratulate **R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne**, his Deputy **R.W. Bro. Stuart Brownlow**, and his Assistant **R.W. Malcolm Tyrrell** as they bring new life and vigour to the province and wish **R.W.**



Robin E.W. Newenham

Leslie Deane well in his 'retirement' as our Past Provincial Grand Master, a role which he filled with distinction. There will be some changes at District level as the year progresses, so watch this space.

At national level we have not been idle. Regular Zoom meetings have happened between the District Grand Kings and at the Grand Kings Council.

Our own **M.E. Companion Charles. W. Olden** has been promoted from Assistant Grand King to the position of Deputy Grand King. We wish him well

in his new and responsible position.

Our own District Grand Registrar **M.E. Companion Guy St. Leger** continues to serve as M.E. Grand High Priest and will continue to fill that position, with distinction, until the next election of officers of Grand Chapter.

Our own **M.E. Companion Edwin Hunter** is continuing as Grand Chaplain to Supreme Grand Chapter. We here in Munster are well served by these most able Grand Officers.

My heartfelt thanks go our **District Deputy Grand King Uwe Schiller** for his unwavering support, and to our **District Grand Registrar Guy St. Leger** for all his hard work during lockdown. He has been very ably supported by **V.E. Companion David O'Leary** who has acted as District Grand 'primary contact' with Grand Chapter.

To all the staff in Molesworth Street, under the watchful eye of the Grand Registrar **M.E.**

Companion Philip A.J. Daley our thanks for their unflinching support during difficult times, not least the steering through of a new revised and updated copy of our Rules and Regulations.

To you all, if you have persevered thus far, thank you for reading and I wish you and all those you care for a warm and pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you all when we resume our activities in the autumn.

Kind regards

Robin E.W. Newenham

District Grand King - Munster



The Supreme Grand Royal Chapter Of Ireland



Charles W Olden after his installation as ME Deputy GK of the SGRAC of Ireland at Molesworth St Dublin. Supporting the occasion ME DGK Robin EW Newenham, Malcom Tyrrell, Noel Bishop, Barry Jenkins, and Edwin Hunter.

The Supreme Grand Royal Chapter of Ireland (S.G.C.) held its first in person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic began on the 3rd of November 2021, at Freemasons' Hall, 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin. In excess of ten companions from the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster travelled by rail and road to attend. The Grand Lodge Room was as full as could be with current Covid-19 measures, all wearing the latest addition to the regalia, a facemask!

The agenda was fully loaded with several items to cover the past several months, remembering Companions now passed to the S.G.C. above, honorary appointments, reports from the B.G.P. and the reappointment of officers, including M.E. Guy St Leger from the D.G.R.A.C. of Munster as Grand High Priest, and M.E.Comp. Edwin Hunter as Grand Chaplin. As well as R.E.Comp. Barry Jenkins in attendance who is a Foreign Supreme Grand Chapter Representative from our District.

Along with the promotion of the A.G.K., M.E.Comp. Charles Olden, who was processed

with his sponsors, the D.G.K. of Munster M.E. Comp. Robin E.W. Newenham, D.G.D.C. R.E. Comp. Malcom Tyrrell (Chain Bearer), and R.E.Comp. Noel Bishop (Sceptre Bearer, & Foreign Representative), where the S.G.K. installed M.E.Comp. Olden as the M.E. Deputy Grand King of the S.G.C. of Ireland. Following the installation, the Deputy Grand King spoke his thanks to the Companions, his sponsors, and a special thanks to those who travelled to be present on the day. As well as a personal commitment to attend as many Convocations throughout the Order as possible during his tenure.

The Companions retired after the Supreme Grand Chapter to dine at the Festive Board, enjoying fraternity and re-connecting with the many Companions gathered for the first time in over 20 months.

We most heartily wish M.E.Comp. Olden, and all the Officers well during their terms of office and to supporting them in the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry in the years to come.

The Seven Peaks Challenge



Bro. Jim O'Donnell, Mweelrea, Co. Mayo.

Writes **Bro. Jim O'Donnell**
Ancient Bandon Lodge 84

Masonic ritual has two types of lessons: (i) simple, elementary lessons, e.g. the working tools and (ii) symbols and re-enactment, with much deeper, veiled meanings, which direct the aspirant towards more personal inner-work. Almost certainly, the latter is only ever found after completing the former and, in the first degree, the most significant of these is the lecture in the North East corner.

The north east corner is named after where the Corner Stone is laid, the first stone of every important structure. The Corner Stone actually owes its North East cardinal direction to our ancients and their structures, including standing stones and stone circles, which were used to monitor the Sun and its diurnal journey, throughout the course of the year.

Our ancients believed that the position of the heavenly bodies influenced the destiny of individuals and nations. Their structures, their rites, their rituals and their festivals were dedicated to

following the annual course of the Sun for agricultural purposes but also spiritual reasons because ultimately, the Sun depicted the benevolence of a supreme force or being - the bringer of light and life!

In the western world, at the Summer Solstice (aka the feast of St John the Baptist), the Sun rises from the coldest, darkest corner of the earth (the North East) to its highest declination above – its greatest splendour of the year. Allegorically to ancient man this symbolised abundance and well-being; rebirth and reincarnation.

After my first degree and after later contemplating the lessons of the North East Corner, I came to the conclusion that the lesson of being divest of all metals, transcended way beyond the obvious charitable donations, and actually instructs us to live a daily life of brotherly love and giving, but not just of one's wealth but also one's time and skills, for the good of all mankind - regardless of colour or creed - and indeed all of nature too, just as the sun indiscriminately provides for us annually.

The Seven Peaks... In Seven Days!

When I lived in the UK, I always fancied doing the “The Three Peak Challenge”- climbing the UK’s three highest peaks; Snowdon in Wales; Scarfell Pike in England; and Ben Nevis in Scotland, within 24 hours. With the busyness of family and work life, I never got around to attempting it. Not long after moving to Ireland in 2013 I learned of the “Four Peak Challenge” – to climb the highest peak in each of the four Provinces in Ireland; Munster; Leinster; Ulster; and Connaught. I added the Four Peaks to my bucket list to gather dust along with the Three Peak Challenge! However, during the first lockdown in 2020, I started to reflect on life. I thought of all the things I could have done, wanted to do, and should have done, and it wasn’t long before I was thinking about my charitable commitments (or rather lack of them due to Covid 19) and what I could do after lockdown, when the idea came to me to attempt all seven peaks (the UK’s Three Peaks plus the Irish four Peaks) in aid of local charities, which rely entirely on volunteers – including West Cork Rapid Response; West Cork Animal Welfare Group; and Courtmacsherry RNLi (who I also volunteer for). I would get to climb the seven highest mountains in the UK and Ireland, crossing them off my bucket list, with the added bonus that I would raise some serious money for important local causes. The ‘Seven Peaks Challenge’ was born!

To climb the seven highest mountains in England,

Wales, Scotland & Ireland, in seven days, including:

Snowdon (Wales) 1,085m
Scafell Pike (England) 978m
Ben Nevis (Scotland) 1,345m
Slieve Donard (Ulster) 850m
Mweelrea (Connaught) 814m
Lugnaquilla (Leinster) 925m and
Carrauntoohil (Munster) 1,038m
In Aid of West Cork Voluntary Emergency Services! Total Assent 7,035m, (1,140m higher than Mount Kilimanjaro 5,895m!)

The Challenge

With my attempt planned for the first week of September 2021. In October 2020 I gave up alcohol for the coming year and started training! On the 2nd of September 2021, I drove to Wales ready to start and at 3:45am on the 3rd September, I set off to climb Snowdon. Snowdon is a well walked mountain and a simple mountain to navigate although the second highest on my list and, thankfully, uneventful - straight up and straight back down in just over 5 hours. I then drove to the Lake district ready to tackle my next peak – Scarfell Pike - the following morning. In the early hours on the 4th September, I set off to climb Scarfell. I would love to say that this climb was also uneventful but my headlamp failed in poor visibility and I got lost several times before I finally made the summit of England’s highest peak. Upon returning to ground level I



Jason van der Velde, West Cork Rapid Response, receives a fundraising cheque of €1,000 from Bro. Jim O'Donnell, Courtmacsherry, who completed the Seven Peaks Challenge. Also included in photo is W. Bro. Tom Wyper (Bandon Masonic Lodge. Photo: Martin Walsh.

then made the long journey from the English Lakes, to the Scottish Highlands, where I would meet with Brother John Bennie, of Lodge Callender No. 588, in the Province of Sterlingshire.

On the 5th of September, I set out with Bro John and his good friend Paul Wilson (a Nevis Veteran) from Fort William and they accompanied me on my ascent of the UK's highest peak – the mighty Ben Nevis – which took just under eight hours. Before parting company, we traded clan produce (Irish Barry's Tea and Scottish Iron Bru!). Ben Nevis was a huge goal ticked of my own personal wish list!

I then took the overnight ferry from Cairnryan to Belfast and grabbed a few hours' sleep before starting Slieve Donard early on the 6th. Slieve Donard was not the biggest mountain on my challenge but certainly was the most beautiful. The Mourne mountains, with their Mourne Wall, are without doubt some of the prettiest mountains in Ireland.

On 7th September I tackled Mweelrea in Co. Mayo, starting from Silver Strand. Small at 814m but less walked and, in cold conditions and poor visibility, she proved to be one of the hardest mountain walks I have ever climbed, however I was rewarded from the top with a beautiful temperature inversion, once I broke through the thick fog.

On Thursday the 8th September, I conquered Lugnaquilla in Wicklow, accompanied by a good friend, Mick Kilkelly. Lugnaquilla's gradient is more forgiving than the 5 previous peaks, offering some much needed respite before my final ascent.

Mick also joined me for my final mountain – Ireland's highest peak, Carrauntoohil, in Co. Kerry - on September 9th. Until this point the weather had been quite kind to me however in the morning we awoke to flooding, persistent rain, low cloud and zero visibility. To save time, we had decided to ascend and descend via the Devil's Ladder, it being the shortest route.

It rained all the way up and it rained all the way back down however, soaked wet through, exhausted and fatigued, I finally reached the summit of Ireland's highest, and my final moun-



Bro. Jim O'Donnell (left) presents a fundraising cheque of €1,000 to Brian O'Dwyer, Lifeboat Operations Manager, Courtmacsherry RNLi, at the slipway in Courtmacsherry. Also included are (left to right): W. Bro. Tom Wyper (Bandon Masonic Lodge) and Philip White (Community Lifesaving Officer, Courtmacsherry RNLi). Photo: Martin Walsh.

tain at 07:16am on the 09/09/21 completing the Seven Peaks Challenge!

In total I raised €2693.13 of my €3000.00 goal, the remaining €307 was made up by a kind brother.

The Seven Peaks - some statistics!

- The Seven highest peaks in England, Wales, Scotland and the Four Provinces of Ireland.
 - Total of 7035m of ascent
 - Total time taken: 6 days, 8hrs, 24 mins
 - Total of 92.21km walking, 147,898 steps
 - Total of 1779 miles on the road and 41 hours driving
 - And two morals to the story...
1. Life is short! Do what you love and love what you do.
 2. Never ever forget the less fortunate than you and that all charities that depend on efforts as well as your generosity. It could so easily be any of us in need of help!

Although I have finished the Seven Peaks I can still accept donations. All further donations will be donated to Courtmacsherry RNLi Harbour Lifeboat only. Donations can be made direct to Ancient Bandon Lodge No. 84 or I can be contacted on jim@jimodonnell.ie

A huge thank you to all the Brothers who supported me!

TLC Charity Walk Neptune Lodge 190 Cobh



Group setting off from the Masonic Lodge King's Terrace, Cobh.

Report by **W.Bro. Walter Mahony**

Neptune Lodge 190 in Cobh supported by family and friends, completed our 18km (about 11.18 mi) "Teddies for Loving Care" charity walk last January. The event was greatly attended and the charity raised not only surpassed all expectations, but continues to rise. The final charitable amount shall be donated at our March Installation Meeting in Tuckey Street (photos to follow).

We left King's Terrace at approximately 10.15am and, despite a small number of unplanned but necessary stoppages along the route, made it to the Provincial Grand Lodge in Tuckey Street, Cork City with a walking

time of 3 hours and 10 minutes. The weather, despite one solitary refreshing shower, held up splendidly for the entirety of the walk.

Throughout this year we fully intend to host several more such charitable events including walks, hikes, tours of the lodge building as well as other social events and all are most welcome. We shall also diversify the charities to include many other local (Cobh and Cork) causes, so keep an eye on our facebook page! Should anyone have a general interest in Freemasonry and wish to contact us please feel free to do so through our facebook page (Neptune Lodge) or through our email address at neptunelodge@yahoo.com



Group at their final destination, Tuckey Street, Cork.

PGM Annual Report 2021

Writes R.W Bro Derek Dunne

2021 will long be remembered as the full year of Covid19. A year of lockdowns and restrictions, a year of isolation and loss. Despite all this, and with archetypal resourcefulness and initiative, the Lodges throughout Munster rose above it all. We witnessed an impressive list of events and activities punctuate the calendar – through the wonders of technology as well as, where Covid19 protocols allowed, in person. We thank **V.W. Bro. Barry Jenkins**, Covid19 Officer, for his diligent guidance during strange and unsettling times. By highlighting those inter-Lodge and Provincial activities I wish in no way to undermine the primacy of our Provincial newsletter 'The Plumblineline' which chronicles the goings on in individual Lodges around the Province (for this we are especially indebted to editor-in-chief **W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan**)

The year kicked off with the annual Robert Burns' Night on January 25th., the third such celebration in the Province. A Burns' Night with a difference though as 40 guests sharing 27 screens joined the Caledonian Brethren of Munster on Zoom to toast the Scottish Bard. In addition to the festive fun an impressive sum of €200 was raised for the Masonic charity **TLC** (Teddis for Loving Care).

During April the Provincial Grand Master, **R.W. Bro. Leslie Deane**, donned his walking boots and, putting his best foot forward, took to the highways and byways to raise funds for the Grand Master's Festival, Vision2020. In all Leslie walked a blister-inducing 265.7km, the equivalent distance from Freemasons' Hall, Tuckey St. to Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth St. raising a phenomenal €4,231.17 – inspiring stuff.

On July 24th. Downton Abbey came to Munster! Following a recommendation from Grand Lodge that Provinces around the Constitution organise social events to cele-



PGM Derek Dunne

brate (later turning out to be temporary) easing of restrictions, 50 Masons and guests descended on Doneraile Court. Billed as a Social Gathering, Tour and Afternoon Tea, the weather gods smiled most benevolently, and a truly memorable day was enjoyed by all lucky enough to secure a ticket. So successful, in fact, was the day that the suggestion of an annual event has been mooted! The day could not have happened without the tremendous work put in by **W. Bro. Kevin Ryan** and his team and to them we extend our grateful thanks. Thanks must also go to **Ms. Janet Schley**, O.P.W.'s Manager in Doneraile Court for her unstinting cooperation - who knows this could be '...the beginning of a beautiful friendship' between The Province of Munster and the wonderfully restored home of the Lady Freemason!

As recorded in the December edition of 'The Plumblineline' Saturday November 13th. was a red-letter day for the Province as the **Grand Master** and the **Grand Secretary** travelled to Cork for an Occasional Meeting of Grand Lodge. **R.W. Bro. Ian Devonport** and I were installed as Provincial Grand Masters of South East Counties and Munster respectively and it was both humbling and encouraging to see over 150 Masons, of all ages and rank, from around the Province and beyond turn out in support. The celebratory dinner later that evening in the Rochestown Park Hotel, where we were joined by wives and partners, was a colourful and fun filled affair and gave a brief glimpse of all that we had been missing for the previous 19 months. The choice of date was serendipitous as had we scheduled the event for the following week we would have been returned to full lockdown and all that that entailed. I renew my thanks to both **W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan** and **W. Bro. Kevin Ryan** and their team without whom the day could not have happened.

Vision 2020, The Grand Master's Festival, continues apace in the Province under the stewardship of **W. Bro. Kevin Ryan**. During the year the global pandemic could not deflect Lodges from employing some ingenious initiatives, both online and at local level, in fundraising for this worthy cause. The Grand Master has decreed that The Grand Master's Festival will officially end in June 2022 and so a final push for the line is strongly encouraged for all.

Freemasons' Hall House Committee are pleased to report that work on the Supper Room, started in 2020, was completed during 2021. Following a most generous bequest from the late **Bro. Bill Magahy**, Third Lodge of Ireland, which allowed these works to proceed, the room has now been renamed in his honour. Plans for the development of the new lift and fire escape are at an advanced stage and our thanks must go to **W. Bro. David Butler** for the tremendous amount of work he has done in consultation with Cork

City Hall to get us to this point.

The Provincial Grand Steward of Charities, **W. Bro. Uwe Schiller**, paints a rather bleak picture on the charity front for 2021, expectedly so given the dearth of meetings. He reports receipt of €8,285 (down from €15,851 in 2020!) This was allocated as follows: VJMBF - €2,187, MWF - €2,437, MMBF - €2,482, TLC - €910 and €250 to the PGM's Discretionary Fund. I wish to thank **W. Bro. Uwe** wholeheartedly for the dedication and conscientiousness he brings to bear on this important office.

Talking of bears! **W. Bro. Liam Cunningham**, the coordinator for TLC in the Province, reports that during 2021 a total of 1,728 Teddies were delivered to the A&E's hospitals in our constituency (CUH, Mercy, Bantry, Mallow and Tralee). This is a visible and tangible expression of Freemasonry in action and reflects so well on our Order in the wider community. To receive a most gracious letter of gratitude from the staff of the paediatric unit in University Hospital Tralee is both encouraging and reaffirming. The work that **W. Bro. Liam** and his band of helpers do in maintaining this link with the various hospitals is tremendously important and, on behalf of the Province, I thank them sincerely.

As with 2020 the Christmas Lunch for the Ladies could not take place in Tuckey St. and so it was decided to deliver again a Christmas Hamper to all concerned. We extend our gratitude to the Provincial Grand Almoner, **W. Bro. Stuart Brownlow**, and his merry band of elves who were able to deliver these hampers along with the December edition of 'The Plumblineline' to 49 ladies around the Province. This could only happen with the generous support of the Lodges in Munster, many of whom dedicate a specific collection for the lunch at their November meetings. A sincere and heartfelt thanks must also go to **W. Bro. Stuart Musgrave** for his most generous support for this initiative.

This Christmas, in a break with custom, I made donations to *four* charities from the

PGM's Discretionary Fund. The four were:

My Canine Companion (Autism & Therapy Services) who do invaluable work with so many families.

Street Angels - a small Cork City charity dedicated to caring for and assisting some of the most vulnerable on the margins of our society.

The Cork branch of **Order of Malta** who provided essential medical cover for our day in Doneraile Court

November – an initiative which seeks to raise awareness of men's health in general and Prostate Cancer in particular. This is a relationship I should very much like to foster given the demographic of our members. More of this anon.

2021 saw three Brethren in the Province celebrate their 60th. Anniversary in Freemasonry, namely **V.W. Bro. Alwyn (Al) Williams** and **W. Bro. William (Bill) Perrott**, both of Antient Bandon Lodge No.84 and **W. Bro Robert (Bob) Thompson** of Neptune Lodge 190, Cobh. Also during 2021 **R.W. Bro. Alan Campbell**, Shamrock Lodge No.27, celebrated 50 years a Mason. I wish them all my warmest congratulations and I look forward to being able to celebrate their immense contribution to Freemasonry in the Province in person during 2022.

Sadly during the year The Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster lost a number of Past Provincial Grand Officers. In January **V.W.**

Bro. George Kingston, PPJGW, passed away quite unexpectedly. In April we learnt of the passing of **R.W. Bro. C. Edward (Eddie) Fleury**, PPGM, as well as **V.W. Bro. George Roche-Perks**, PPSGW, following a long illness in both cases. We are thankful for their service to the Order, and to the Province, and commit to acknowledging their contribution at the appropriate time.

I conclude with great thankfulness to all who contribute in so many ways to ensure the smooth running of Freemasonry here in Munster. Especial thanks must go to our Past Provincial Grand Master, **R.W. Bro. Leslie Deane**, and outgoing Provincial Assistant Grand Master, **R.W. Bro. Raymond Gordon**, for their stewardship over many years. To the officer board of Provincial Grand Lodge and to **V.W. Bro. Marcus Calvert**, Provincial Grand Treasurer, and **V.W. Bro. Rowland Newenham**, Provincial Grand Secretary, in particular, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for giving so freely of their time and energy in the furtherance of our Order. To the Grand Secretary, **R.W. Bro. Philip Daley**, and all the staff in Molesworth Street my grateful thanks for the support, forbearance, and wise and gentle counsel to one of the 'new boys'. As we emerge into the light of 2022, hoping that the worst of Covid19 is firmly behind us, the prospect of new and exciting projects excites the imagination!

Investiture of Foreign Representatives at Grand Lodge



Writes **W.Bro. David J. Butler**

At the quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, held at Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street Dublin, on 3 March 2022, two brethren of this Province – namely R.W. Bro. Nigel H.H. Chillingworth (P.M., Youghal 68) and R.W. Bro. Patrick J. Fullam (P.M., Youghal 68 and Drogheda 411) – were invested to represent The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of China and The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois, respectively. R.W. Bro. Chillingworth, the first Munster representative to hold this office, is pictured in The Grand Lodge Room with, (left to right), W. Bro. Kevin Ryan, Provincial Asst. GSec., R.W. Bro. Charles W. Olden, PPGM, R.W. Bro. Derek H. Dunne, PGM, R.W. Bro. Stuart Brownlow, PDGM, R.W. Bro. Malcolm P. Tyrrell, PAGM and W. Bro. David J. Butler, PSGD.

Also invested the same day, pictured here in The Masonic Hall, Drogheda, was W. Bro. Patrick J. Fullam, originally of Youghal 68 and now also of Drogheda 411 in the Province of Armagh, which province also holds the Illinois representativeship to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.



Visiting Lodge 884 “France d’Irlande in Grand Lodge, Molesworth Street, Dublin.

Writes Bro.HugoBeasse

“Nous sommes venu rencontrer des Frères, nous sommes partis avec des amis” - it is by those words that the R.W.Bro. Derek Dunne perfectly summarised this wonderful day in the Molesworth St. We indeed came to meet brothers from Lodge 884 and we left with friends, tightening the connection between France and Ireland.

On that day of Saturday April 16th 2022, R.W.Bro Derek Dunne, W.Bro Kevin Ryan, W.Bro Michael Travers, Bro. Hugo Beasse and Bro. Jim Forde travelled to Dublin to meet the lodge 884 “France d’Irlande”. The story of this lodge is fascinating. A group of Frenchman living in France and lovers of the Emerald Isle decided, 10 years ago, to create a lodge under the Irish constitution. The process took some long months but those dedicated men

managed to set up a French speaking lodge in the Metropolitan area with the incredible support of Molesworth St.

They come from Nice, Marseille, Paris, Chartres or other places in France and travel to Ireland five times a year over the weekend to meet and attend to the business of their lodge. This Saturday, we received a very warm welcome from the “Venerable Maître” André Demante, the “Respectable Frère” Michel Ducas and all the brethren present. After a lunch together, we had the honor of attending a third degree expertly given by the “Premier Surveillant” (S.W.) Stephane Hebert. We all left on that day happy to have celebrated the diversity that makes the greatness of our order. Invitations were sent and we are now hoping to meet again our “Frères” in Tuckey St, in June 2022.



The R.W.Bro. Derek Dunne PGM Munster (Center) with the Vénérable Maître André Demante (on his left)

Kinsale Masonic Lodge 234

(Bezaleel Lodge 234)

~ The Early Years ~

This is an extract from a paper, presented to the Irish Lodge of Research, Lodge 200, by WBro. Aidan McDonald, on their visit to Kinsale in 2015.

Kinsale, Co. Cork

The earliest records show that a walled town named Kinsale (Cionn Tsaile) was built in the 12th Century, by the Anglo-Normans. St Multose church was built in 1190 and is still in use.

Kinsale received its first charter from Edward 111 of England in 1334.

It was the site of the Battle of Kinsale in 1601, when the Irish Army under the command of Hugh O'Neill and Hugh Roe O'Donnell and their Spanish allies were defeated by the English. This led to what became known as the 'Flight of the Earls', when the Irish commanders fled to France.

There are two forts at the mouth of the harbour; James Fort which was rebuilt by the English, following the departure of the Spanish, who had been occupying it in 1600 and Charles Fort. The latter was built from 1678 and is still one of the finest examples of 17th Century star forts in existence. It is open to the public from Easter to mid-October. RMS Lusitania was sunk off the Old Head of Kinsale on 7th May 1915.

Bezaleel Lodge 234 Kinsale Constituted 1877

Known Masonic activity in Kinsale goes back to 1747 when, a warrant was granted to Lodge 156 of 'The Regiment of Foot', but there may well have been Masonic activity prior to this; however, it is not registered in



Seal.

any way.

Indeed, some oak chairs in the lodge room have been dated to the late seventeenth century and are carved with Masonic symbols.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth century's, several military lodges registered with Grand Lodge of Ireland were active in the town of Kinsale.

The presence of these military lodges can be explained by the importance of Kinsale, as a port town, with two star forts – James Fort, built in 1604 and Charles Fort, built in 1653 – flanking the entrance to the harbour, and considerable numbers of troops stationed in each up to 1922.

There is little knowledge about these early lodges, other than letters in the archives of Grand Lodge of Ireland, referring to their warrants. They include: No. 528 (1775); No. 156 (1747); No. 179 (1749) and No. 220 (1814).

The first lodge for which we have a minute-book for is No. 31.

This lodge got its warrant in 1787 and took the name 'Bezaleel'. A number of prominent local people were connected to it, as there are the names of such as Lord Kingsale, de Courcy, Daunt etc.

Lodge 31 was certainly not a military lodge, although some of its members were connected with the garrison in Kinsale. The minute book mentions a conflict with Grand Lodge in about 1820 and, in 1822. Following non-payment of dues, this warrant was cancelled.

It was another 55 years before our Kinsale Lodge No. 234 got its Grand Lodge of Ireland warrant.

In 1895, it took the name 'Bezaleel', which is recorded in our second minute book. Our first meeting is dated 6th December 1877. There is no indication why Lodge No. 234 took the name 'Bezaleel' and therefore we have to speculate that it was done to make a historical link with the cancelled Lodge 31.

Indeed we do find some similar surnames in the minute book of Lodge 234.

The name 'Bezaleel' is rare, and does not occur elsewhere in the Irish Constitution to the best of our knowledge, with the exception of Bezaleel Lodge 827 Ballymacarret, Belfast

Bezaleel

From The Book of Exodus is :-



“ the chief Artisan (skilled craft worker) of the Tabernacle .”

He was said to be highly gifted as a workman, showing great skill and originality in engraving precious metals and stones and in wood-carving.

Bezaleel is said to have been only thirteen



years of age, when he accomplished his great work.

He owed his wisdom to the merits of pious parents; his grandfather being Hur (a companion of Moses and Aaron) and his grandmother Miriam, he was thus a grandnephew of Moses.

The name “Bezaleel” means “in the shadow [protection] of God.

History of Warrant No. 234

This warrant, initially a military one, first issued 8th July 1752 to the 13th Dragoons (later known as the 13th Hussars), who held it until cancelled 1st July 1815, with 39 Brethren registered. 2 other warrants, No.'s 400 & 607, were attached to this regiment.

The original warrant, was presented to The United Grand Lodge of England in January 1935, by Miss Dorothy Finlay, a descendant of Patrick Doherty of No. 607 13th Dragoons. It is now in the Grand Lodge Library, Great Queen St., London. Amongst the literature with the warrant are MM Certificate for Patrick Doherty Lodge No. 607 and His Demit from Lodge 234, dated 22nd Aug 1783, Sligo From the minutes of Grand Lodge, 1st April 1819, “Read a Memorial from Bro.s Con O'Connor O'Donald No.600 & Robert Johnston No.989 to hold a Lodge at Dromahaire, Co. Leitrim” And granted No.234, where it was held seven years until cancelled a second time, 6th July 1826, with 5 Brethren registered.

The warrant was reissued 8th September 1828 to Mallow, Co. Cork where it was worked almost twenty years until suspended, 1st May 1848, 39 Brethren registered.

This number, then lay dormant until reissued a third time, 28th May 1877, to Kinsale, Co. Cork, where it has worked since.

A total of 144 Brethren were registered up to 10 Jan 1900 and the title “Bezaleel” appears on the same page as the registration of Samuel George Lee on 21st Oct. 1890

Lodge Premises

Our premises is a former infant's school-house, built in the 1870s and incorporates a small tenant's apartment at ground floor level (the former teacher's residence), while the lodge meets in the first floor room, formerly the classroom. Our current tenants have been with us since the 1930's. The brethren of Lodge 234 have met at this premises since 1918

Lodge Furniture & Decor

James Charles Stoyte (1852-1918)

(Certificate on North Wall)

Physician.

Initiated in 1878.

WM Lodge 234 in 1914

Born at Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland on 15

March 1852, son of

Rev. John Stoyte and Elizabeth Bleazbey, He received a medical education at Trinity Medical College, graduating in 1873. He practiced in Kinsale until 1882 when he moved to Manitoba and settled at Souris. Past Deputy District Grand Master of Brandon District. He died on 2 April 1918 and is buried at the Ballymartle Church Cemetery in Ireland.

Captain Stoyte, was installed as WM of Lodge 234 in 1896.



Dr. George Vickery (18??-19??)

(Luas in North East Corner)

He was a Medical Doctor. And Worshipful Master Kinsale 234 in 1890. Installed as Treasurer of 234 in 1896.



A record for GEORGE JOSEPH VICKERY, born June 13, 1846 in Reen Donegal, Cork. Headstone in St. Multose Cemetery, Died 18 June 1930 aged 85.

Lodge 234 Organ

Our Metzler & Co. reed organ was purchased by WBro. D.H. Lane the outgoing WM of 1st Lodge of Ireland in 1898, for use in the Lodge room in Tuckey Street.

I gave faithful service in Tuckey Street for 115 years until 2012. Following refurbishment, it was presented to the Brethren of Lodge 234 in 2012

WBro Isaac James Savage (1869-1964)

Initiated into Bezaleel Lodge 234 7th Jan 1890.

WM in 1919, The year the lodge moved to High St. (Now Upper O'Connell Street) Kinsale

He was a Member of the lodge for 74 years until his death in 1964 aged 95.

His Master Masons Certificate is also on display in the Lodge room cabinet

WBro John Savage (1908-2001)

He was a son of Isaac James and was initiated into Lodge 234 in 1933. He was WM in 1940 And his 50 Year jewel is on display in our Lodge room.



WBro R.G. Moffett

Presented 3 Tracing boards, now hanging in our Lodge room on 28th Sept 1950, while he was Senior Deacon.

Painted by Bro. Harris PM 1849?

WM's Chair

Has the inscription "T.R. Scott Dublin 1902" The same company were responsible for Church furniture, including:- St Bartholomew's Church, Dublin, & Free Church. Gt Charles Street. Dublin.

SW's Chair

Presented by Bro. Ben White PM Lodge 126 January 1926

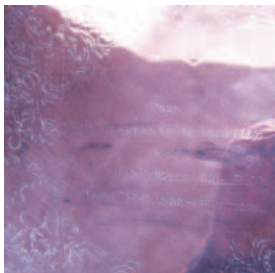
Altar

Presented by The Dublin Jewish Brethren to Lodge No. 385, Clonakilty January 1926.

J.W. Tighe Surgeon-Commander RN

From "The Press" New Zealand 30th June 1933 & 4th Aug 1933

"Surgeon-Commander J. W. Tighe, lent to New Zealand Division for, three years"



"Surgeon-Commander J. W. Tighe, who served in "Q" ships during

The war, and who later saw service in the Persian Gulf. For a time, he was attached to the Valhalla in the Atlantic Fleet, and he later served on the Australian and China stations. He has come to New Zealand from the Bermuda naval dockyard"

RNAS Ireland Island & Boaz Island

Haulbowline Dockyard, in Cork Harbour was responsible for the conversion of many mercantile steamers to armed decoy ships. "Q" Ships

Bro G.S. Walker Army Medical

Initiated into Lodge 234 May 7th 1895, presented an engraved silver Trowel with an Ivory handle to the Lodge.



Captain **G. S. Walker**, who died of enteric fever at Ladysmith on February 23rd. was the son of Mr. Henry B. Walker. of Ballymacus, near.

Kinsale, co. Cork.

Bro. Francis C. Crossle PGS Down, The Chestnuts, Newry, Co. Down

Presented on 10th March 1891 an hand written manuscript, transcribed from notes in his possession, along with a print of The Lady Freemason to the Brethren of Kinsale, "as a small token of grateful, sincere and fraternal regard."

Notes relating to Kinsale town and the Hon. Mrs Aldworth, as well as a hand copied certificate for a Royal Arch Mason from Chapter 32 Kinsale are included.

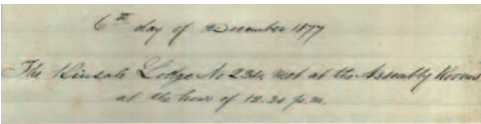
First Minute Book, 1877

Interesting events which occurred in this year :-

- Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills **Wilde**, dropped his middle names .
- Prince Leopold, youngest son of Queen Victoria, Junior Grand Warden.
- Tom Crean, Antarctic explorer and publican Born
- Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India.



- The first Test cricket match takes place between England and Australia
- All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club stages its first lawn tennis tournament at Wimbledon.
- Anna Sewell's novel Black Beauty published
- Battle of Wolf Mountain: Crazy Horse and his warriors fight their last battle with the United States Cavalry in Montana.
- Tchaikovsky's ballet Swan Lake debuts.
- Thomas Edison announces his invention of the phonograph.
- **1st Meeting of Bezaleel Lodge 234 was held on 6th December .**



Brethren Signing Memorial for warrant The Kinsale Lodge 234 :-

Bro A Cooper Lodge No. 1 Nominated WM.
Brethren from lodges:- 1, 3, 71, 84, 95, 130 & 697 EC , 714 EC

The Day of Constituting the Lodge

The Kinsale Lodge 234 met at the Assembly Rooms, Kinsale at 12.30pm
Between ca. 1860-1883



Municipal Hall and Bowling Green

This building formally the assembly rooms, built in 1736, was destroyed in the Civil War of 1922, rebuilt by Kinsale Urban District Council and dedicated as The Municipal Hall, November 1928.

The project for the Bowling Green, a famous meeting place where John Wesley once preached in 1785, was designed by Cork County Council's Architect's Department with advice from An Foral Forbatha.

The Brethren being clothed in the upper room, formed a procession and walked to the Lodge room.

Presiding officer for the Consecration Ceremony R.W.Deputy Provisional G.M Bro A Cooper .

A letter was read from the RWPGM Bro. Lord Bandon expressing regret that he could not attend due to illness.

Lodge Regalia was lent by Lodge 130.

Brief extracts from the early minute books

1st Jan 1878

It was also proposed at this meeting that future meetings be held at The Fishermans Hall, Kinsale



Built in 1864, Fisherman's Hall, Kinsale, South West Ireland was built as an outlet for Fisherman to meet and play. It then became a Church hall, art gallery and is now a family home.

Built around 1870, at the junction where Higher Fisher Street (now Upper O'Connell Street) and Lower Fisher Street meet in the

town, under the Ramparts, it was conceived of as a place where the saving of souls, not sole, was to the fore, where English and Manx fishermen could worship, and

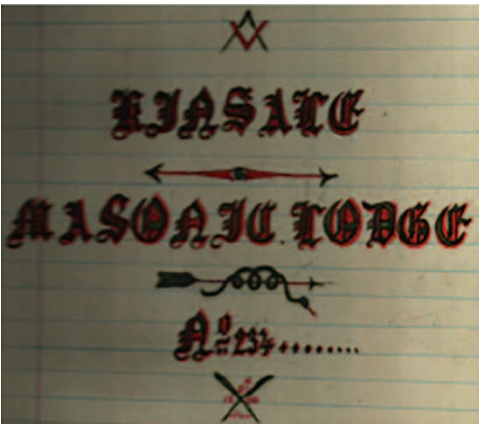
“where the Kinsale fishermen, sons of Huguenots and the fisher lads will have a sound scriptural and secular education given them”

(Cork Examiner, March 15, 1871)

Cornish fishermen in search of herring also found the hall a place of spiritual sanctuary, and in later years it was a focal point for St Multose church’s community.

The plaque, now in pride of place on the hall’s staircase, notes: ‘Fisherman’s Hall. This hall was erected by the exertions of the Rev. John Duncan Craig D.D., Vicar of the Parish from 1864 to 1872; To the Glory of God, and in furtherance of His work amongst the fishing fleet.’

“They that go down to the sea in ships, they do business in great waters: These see the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep.”



The Lodges name was proposed and agreed **“The Kinsale Lodge No. 234”**

Bro. R.N. Feard ? (Lodge No.1, Affiliated to 234) was thanked for donating 3 Triangular tables (Where are they Now?) and also his bottle of Champagne for the Day of Constituting the Lodge.

5th February 1878 (The Fishermans Hall)

W Bro Cooper WM 234 presented a box of Ivory Tools to the Lodge.

1st March 1878

Dr. James Stoyte was balloted for and admitted. And initiated on 2nd April 1878

The Lighthouse keeper from Old Head Lighthouse was placed on the books prior to ballot.

2nd April 1878

3rd Degree emblems of mortality, a charity box and 2 stools were presented to the Lodge by Bro. R. Ward.

2nd February 1892

It was agreed that the Wm, Officers and Brethren of Lodge 234,

“express their sincere sympathy and condolences to Her Majesty & HRH The Prince of Wales (Patron of Our Order), The Princess of Wales, The Princess Victoria May of Teck and members of the Royal family on the sad death of Our Brother, The Duke of Clarence, Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire. And we trust that The Grand Architect of The Universe, will sustain them in this great trial.”

8th March 1892

A committee was formed to look into the sanitary conditions of Fisherman’s Hall and its surroundings.

Preparation were underway with donations and the sale of tickets for a Bazaar to be held in May 1892, in aid of the Masonic School for orphan girls.

The 2 Brethren, who represented Lodge 234 at the Bazaar, commented the they “had a grand night and would never see the like of it again “

During the next few years many members of local rank and affluence became members of Lodge 234, Including, Church Reverends, Chief Boatman of the Royal Navy Coastguards, Chief Customs Officer in Kinsale and Military personnel, Majors, Colonels, Captains, Sergeants, Petty officers etc.

5th November 1895

First mention of “Bezaleel” in the minute books.

10th December 1895

The New Lodge Seal bearing "Bezaleel" appears on the minute books for the first time.



14th January 1913

A letter was read from Grand Lodge of Ireland, announcing the death of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, His Grace, The Duke of Abercorn. And directing Lodges under the Irish Constitution to assume a state of mourning for 3 Months.

1914-1915

Congratulation to Bro. Sewell on his promotion from Sergeant Major to Quartermaster will mean his having to leave Kinsale.

(see photo on Lodge 234 wall, bought by Lodge 234 for 2s6d from PGLM April 13th 1915)



References:-

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By Mary Pollard, Bibliographical Society (Great Britain)

NAI Reference: CSO/RP/1819/237W.Bro. Yasha Beresiner [see short biographical note after lecture], Past Master (1997/8), Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 (Premier Lodge of Masonic Research)

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Lord Mayor Cllr. Colm Kelleher visit to Tuckey Street



W. Bro. Derek Dunne PGM welcomes Cork City Lord Mayor Cllr. Colm Kelleher to Tuckey Street, Cork.

Writes **Bro. John O' Brien**

Photos: Adrian O'Herlihy

April 11th 2022 marked a very prestigious visit from our current Cork City Lord Mayor Cllr. Colm Kelleher, to Tuckey Street, welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne and by members of the House Committee R.W. Bro. Stuart Brownlow, V.W. Bro. Marcus Calvert, W. Bro. Kevin Ryan, W. Bro. David J. Butler, W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan and Bro. John O'Brien on a wet and dull Monday morning.

Despite the bleak weather mother nature bestowed, Lord Mayor Kelleher was given warm and fraternal greetings for his first offi-

cial visit to the Munster Masonic Headquarters. After the introductions and signing of the guest register, he was given a guided tour of Masonic Hall, outlining some of the past history of Freemasonry in the Munster Province.

As he walked through the building, some of the photos and artwork around the Supper Room (Bill Magahy Room), hallway and stairwell were commented on with curiosity and interest and was duly explained by some of the brethren present. While the Lord Mayor had undertaken some research of the Masonic Hall prior to the visit, as we all know, nothing beats the experience of witnessing each room in person. On entry to both the Blue Lodge and the

Royal Arch rooms, his awe and fascination was clear.

In the Lodge Room, the connection to the 300-year-old fitted stall seating originating from St. Fin Barre's Cathedral was explained, along with the banners on the walls, those with the coats of arms are of some of the highest-ranking members of the fraternity, that the banners over the stalls are belonging to present members and those higher up towards the ceiling belong to members now departed.

In the Chapter Room, the 1970s neighbouring fire that caused considerable damage to the Masonic Hall roof was discussed and how many historic items were lost. He expressed considerable interest with the regalia that is on display outside the RAC Room by our humble in-house models!

It should be mentioned that Lord Mayor Kelleher's extensive knowledge of local history

was refreshing to say the least. He spoke in-depth about some of his predecessors and his own regalia and the history thereof. A discussion and comparison of the P.G.M. Chain and the Lord Mayor's Chain brought about further conversations of the upcoming Tricentenary of Masonic presence in Munster.

The levels on display that were used to lay the foundation stones for St. Patrick's Bridge in 1859 and St Fin Barres Cathedral in 1865 by leading members of the Masonic Order were also observed. It was mentioned that in 2019, the previous Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Leslie Deane, was present at the reopening of the repaired and restored St. Patrick's Bridge, by kind invitation of former Lord Mayor, Cllr. Mick Finn.

A further topic of conversation was the various ongoing masonic charitable events, in particular, the latest appeal to help the unfortunate



Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne and by members of the House Committee R.W. Bro. Stuart Brownlow, V.W. Bro. Marcus Calvert, W. Bro. Kevin Ryan, W. Bro. David J. Butler, W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan and Bro. John O'Brien pictured with Cork City Lord Mayor Cllr. Colm Kelleher.

people of Ukraine via The Polish Grand Lodge and Medicines Sans Frontiers. Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne also explained how the daughter of the Ukrainian Grand Master has arrived in Dublin as a result of the ongoing war and how the Grand Lodge of Ireland are exploring ways of setting up a temporary English language learning facility in Molesworth Street over the summer months to help with her and others with this transition.

The visit came about from an informal invite to the Lord Mayor's office to show that the doors of Tuckey Street are not always closed and that contrary to what some may believe, we offer out a warm hand of welcome to all.

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne, went on to say "A simple example of this is our plan to open our doors in November for 'Movember'. This is an initiative which raises awareness of men's health in general and prostate cancer in particular – important issues given the demographic of many of our members".

He went on to say, "My stated aim since taking office has been to make the building more accessible not only to our own members but

also to the wider public. No longer can the charge of being a secretive or cloistered organisation be levelled against us. This fine old building, what I call the Grand Old Dame of Tuckey Street, can be so much more than a meeting place for Freemasons two or three evenings a week, closed on weekends!"

Before the visit concluded, the Provincial Grand Master presented a gift to the Lord Mayor - a commemorative book by John Day, 'Memoir of the Honourable Elizabeth Aldworth-The Lady Freemason' presented in a very elegant decorative box.

The Lord Mayor was thanked for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Freemasons Hall and in turn he relayed his gratitude for being given an insight into freemasonry and tour of the building.

With Culture Night and Heritage Day scheduled to open for visitors once again later this year after a prolonged suspension due to Covid-19 and our Masonic Hall expected to be in high demand again, I have no doubt that this meeting will only help further the good relations and community spirit between Cork City Council and the Freemasons of the Munster Province.



R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne PGM showing Lord Mayor Cllr. Colm Kelleher the portraits on the stairs of Tuckey Street.



R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne PGM showing Lord Mayor Cllr. Colm Kelleher his personal banner in Tuckey Street, Cork.



Lord Mayor Cllr. Colm Kelleher signing the visitors book in Tuckey Street.



Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne showing Lord Mayor Cllr. Colm Kelleher the Royal Arch room.

First Lodge of Ireland Report

Report by W.Bro.Nikolai Haubold



Kingston Collage, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.



Pictured at Donegal Gaelforce North Race. 2019 were WM.Alan Dowling, Bro. John Crowley, Bro Andrew Whitaker, W. Bro Charlie Daly, and Bro Nik Haubold.

The First Lodge - Where We Began And Where We Are

- The first lodge of Ireland was granted its warrant by the right honourable Lord Kingston, Grandmaster of all the lodges of Freemasons in the kingdom of Ireland and others (more anon)
- The lodge is in the unique position of being only one of a few immemorial lodges in the world and its warrant stands indisputably as the oldest masonic one.
- The regalia of the lodge whilst is of a similar antique origin in that uniquely throughout the Irish Constitution, the members aprons and the ancient velvet collars of the master and mason are trimmed with gold braid, as a consequence of Number 1 being a previous Grand Lodge, unlike the silver of all other regular lodges, which again makes it unique as indeed are some of its workings, even to the province of Munster.
- Whilst the roots of the Lodge are vested in old established Cork families whose names of Newenhan and Wallis still grace our Lodge. Number 1 has changed and moved with the times.
- It is a vibrant and a different kaleidoscope of many varying and different occupations and indeed of none which make up the body of brothers who attend and indeed we have absent brothers who engaged on a very positive and frequent interchange on Zoom over the lockdown years, which was a welcome opportunity to engage with their interaction and positivity.
- One of the endearing aspects of First Lodge membership is the opportunity to dine before each meeting which confers the societal benefits of engagement in turn leading to friendships which have morphed into the lodge being incredibly proactive in fundraising for a wide variety of charitable purposes ranging from Lodge auction, Wimbledonfest, rugbyfest, Christmas raffle, fundraising dinner, which in total raised in excess of €100,000 and many varying charities benefitted including the Masonic ones.
- More recently, some brothers took up the challenge of climbing Ben Nevis and indeed the last meeting attended by a considerable number of brothers from the First Lodge was when they attended at Ormonde Lodge in Kilkenny just prior to lockdown.
- The Lodge prides itself in endeavouring to visit as much as possible and indeed ironically the first Lodge has held the travelling maul for a continuous period of over two years (thanks to covid and lockdown) and more recently quite a number partook in a walk organised by Neptune from Cobh to Cork which was an excellent initiative by that Lodge. Well received by all as a first positive step back to re-engaging with fellow brothers from different Lodges.
- The WM of the First Lodge is currently in the process of organising a meet up with co-brethren of Lodge 2 and Third Lodge of Ireland and their respective warrants, which would then bring the respective brethren from the first 3 Lodges which would be a first for many decades.
- More recently and coincidentally a group of concerned Lodge members in an effort to somehow help and mitigate the plight of the Ukrainian people, agreed to inter alia assist in the renovation, and make good of some fine houses in College Square, Mitchelstown, and they have raised, on their own account, a figure north of €150,000 in a few short weeks to assist that project and others. Ironically those houses were built by the very Lord Kingston, Grandmaster, who gave the First its warrant first day.

Signed:


Nikolai Haubold



The Plumbline



*To submit articles for December 2022 issue
please email W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan
vincent@carrighoun.com*