

DECEMBER
2023



The Plumblíne

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MUNSTER



Merry Christmas

Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster

Freemason's Hall, 27 Tuckey Street, Cork.



M.W. Rodney L. McCurley, pictured with R.W. Derek Dunne PGM, during his visit to Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster recently. Also pictured were R.W. Stuart Brownlow, Provincial Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Malcolm Tyrrell, Assistant Grand Master, Past Provincial Grand Masters, R.W. Charles Olden, R.W. Alan Campbell, R.W. Leslie Deane, Past Provincial Assistant Grand Master R.W. Raymond Gordon, and R.W. Philip A.J Daley Grand Secretary.

As I pen these notes on a cold and blustery winter's evening I call to mind words I read recently by Victor Hugo 'Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart.' I can scarcely believe that it is nearly 6 months since I was writing the foreword for the summer edition but, as I cast an eye back over the past number of months, I am happy to record that the autumn and early winter have been a busy time in Munster. Every Lodge has conducted degrees of one kind or another and many Lodges have held social events or have visited other Lodges outside the

Province (in some instances outside the country) and I do hope you enjoy reading about the various goings on amongst the Lodges in this bumper edition of The Plumline.

Invidious as it always is to shine a spotlight on any event there are 2 that I feel deserve special mention. The first of these being what I hope was the inaugural Autumn Gala Ball in the Carrigaline Court in September in aid of the Tuckey Street Building Fund. This was a magical event bringing together, as it did, Brethren and their wives and partners from around the

Province for a lovely evening of colour and glamour - the men didn't look too bad either! Great tribute must go to **W. Bro. Walter Mahony** of Neptune Lodge 190, Cobh, and his band of helpers for the drive and commitment that went in to make this the success that it was. The second is Lodge 555's Music Miscellany in November. This has become one of the more popular events to punctuate our annual Masonic calendar and much credit is due to **V.W. Bro. David Butler** and the Brethren of Lodge 555 for yet again putting on a wonderful evening of music and song.

In early October the Province was honoured to host a visit by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary for not 1 but 2 evenings. The feedback from this visit has been nothing but complimentary and whereas M.W. Bro. Rodney is a keen ritualist in the 'ordinary' working of the Irish Constitution he marvelled at the impressive working of Munster tradition at Hibernian Lodge 95 on one of the nights and at Provincial Lodge on the other. That said I'm not so sure we have done enough to convince him to promote abroad our way of doing things!

As the end of year draws near and the deadline for commencement of works to Bishop Lucey Park approaches I renew our appeal for funds to help with the proposed extension to our Tuckey Street premises. I am profoundly grateful to those who have so kindly donated to this vital work already **but** the percentage of our membership that have given thus far is relatively small. The vast majority of those I speak to are very supportive of the project and realise that it will be our legacy to future masons as well as the community at large and to miss the opportunity that is before us would be a travesty. We are fortunate to have such generous support from Grand Lodge but it is crucial that here in Munster we show our ability to raise our share of the cost. I strongly urge those who have yet to lend their support to do so as a matter of urgency - the goodwill that is so much in evidence must translate into actual giving. 'Winter is on my head but eternal spring is in my heart.'! In conclusion as I wish you and all those near

and dear to you the very best for the Festive Season I want to renew my thanks to **R.W. Bro.'s Stuart Brownlow** and **Malcolm Tyrrell**, Provincial Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters respectively, for their unwavering support throughout 2023. To **V.W. Bro. Kevin Ryan**, Provincial Grand Secretary and **V.W. Bro. Marcus Calvert**, Provincial Grand Treasurer and the entire officer board of the Provincial Grand Lodge for the tremendous amount of work that goes on unseen to ensure the smooth running of the Province. Lastly our grateful thanks to **W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan** for putting together yet another spectacular edition of our Provincial magazine, The Plumblin.

Fraternally,

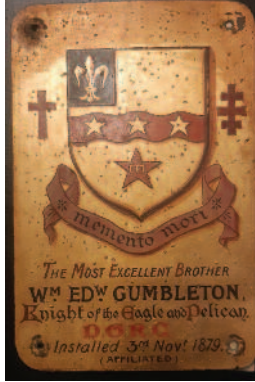
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek', is written over two horizontal blue lines that serve as a signature line.

**Derek
PGM Munster**

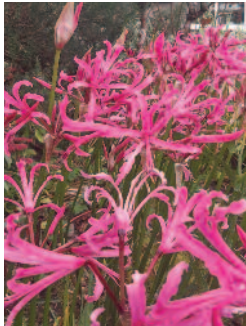
W.E. Gumbleton, distinguished horticulturist & Freemason

R.W.Bro. Alan Campbell writes:

In reading the weekend edition of The Irish Times on 25th February last I was very interested, being a keen amateur gardener, in **Finnuala Fallon's** article on the Neirine bowdenii, also referred to by its common name of Guernsey Lilly or Naked Ladies since their showy flowers appear before the leaves. Here is a picture of some in my garden and I am sure most readers will recognise them.



In reading further I was surprised to find that it was introduced to Ireland from its native South Africa by **William Gumbleton** who grew it at his garden at **Belgrove, Cobh** (Cove at his birth & Queenstown at the time of his death), Co.Cork in the very early years of the 20th century.



I said to myself, I have heard that most unusual name before. I began to wonder was it on a Prince Mason's plaque in Tuckey Street that I saw it. Only one way to find out, so on my next visit for Friday morning coffee I searched and lo and behold there it was. I have taken a photo and here it is.

I did a little research into **Bro. Gumbleton** and I found he was born at Belgrove on 2nd March, 1840 and he died there on 4th April, 1911 aged 71. The son of a clergyman, **Rev. George Gumbleton** and his wife **Frances Penrose**. He

was educated in England at **Brasenose College, Oxford** where he matriculated in 1858 but never graduated as I read that there is no record of his being awarded a degree. Now here in his life started his Masonic career. With the invaluable assistance of



Rebecca Hayes, Archivist & Curator at Grand Lodge, I discovered that he was initiated on 25th April, 1861, 3 weeks after his 21st birthday, in **Apollo University Lodge no 460, Oxford**. He went on to be passed & raised in this Lodge and then went on to affiliate to **Churchill Lodge no 478 & Westminster & Keystone Lodge no 10 in 1862**. Not content with that, he affiliated to **Carnavon Lodge no 708, Hampton Court in 1866** !

He was not backward in coming forward in Irish Freemasonry either. He joined the **First Lodge in 1861, No 190 Queenstown (Cobh)** in 1862 and **Lodge 557** also in **Cobh** in 1863.

Grand Lodge has on record a letter from **Bro. Gumbleton** dated 17th February, 1862 addressed to the assistant to the Deputy Grand Secretary ordering books published by Grand Lodge and requesting the address of the Masonic Jeweller in Grafton Street.

Now, it is recorded that **Bro Gumbleton** could be very pass remarkable, more about this later, but it seems he resigned from 190 within the year and also no 557 but there is a record that he rejoined the latter on 27th July, 1873.

Perhaps his character caused annoyance or he was too impatient with his brethren. There is no record of him having resigned again from Lodge 557 but this Lodge returned it's warrant in 1884. It appears he remained a member of

the First Lodge for the rest of his life. Just as an aside, it is interesting that a number of items in Cobh Lodge Room & in particular one of the gavels used by the Wardens in Neptune Lodge 190, to this day has the number 557 engraved on it.

One can certainly say that **Bro. Gumbleton** was a very keen member of the Order, he occupied the chair of the **First Lodge** in 1880 but was by that time already a Past Master from his membership of one of the other Lodges mentioned, he represented the First Lodge on the Provincial Board of General Purposes for many years and was a member of all the other allied Orders up to the Prince Masons.

Now let us have another look at his career as a horticulturist. It seems **Sir Joseph Hooker**, a British botanist and explorer of the 19th century named the species **Arctotis gumbletonii** after him "in recognition of his services as a raiser and flowerer of many fine new plants" Here is a photo of the said *Arctotis gumbletonii*.

He also had two cultivars named after him. Cultivars are a cultivated plant selected by gardeners for certain desired traits and when propagated retain those traits. These two cultivars are named **Kniphofia**



"W.E.Gumbleton" and **Azalea "W.E.Gumbleton"**

As I mentioned earlier, it is reported that **Brother Gumbleton** was very opinionated and it seems, very intolerant of plants which he considered "inferior". It seems that during visits to other people's gardens, he destroyed inferior specimens of plants, sometimes with the tip of his umbrella! It was said he had a particular passion for rare plants which he delighted in showing off. Clearly he disliked common or inferior plants, or at least those which, in his opinion, were not either very rare or beautiful. He was impatient with those whom he believed should have known better.

However, from what I have read he appeared to have a magnificent garden at Belgrove, accounts of which were published in "The Gardner's Chronicle" and "The Garden" which indicated that he had a particular interest in herbaceous perennials such as **Dahlia**, **Arctotis** (picture above) and **Olearia**, more commonly called **Daisybush** and are native to Australia & New Zealand.

"The Gardener's Chronicle" said that a visitor to his garden in 1891, finished his account thus: " It will be understood from the above that Belgrove is stocked with objects of interest, and one follows another with rapid succession, and Mr Gumbleton has the history of each ready for you, that it is with a certain sense of relief that you at last hear him say " And that is all I have to show you; good morning"

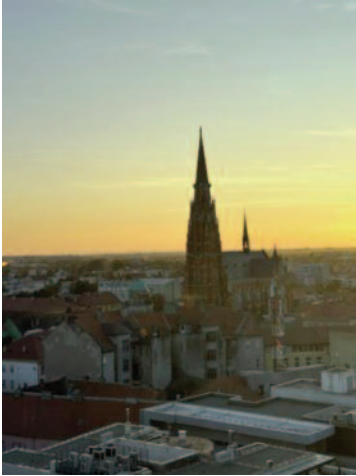
Sadly, after his death, he had no descendants and the property passed to relatives who left the house get into a bad state of repair and it was demolished in time. It is said that a garden will in 3 years return to the wild & that, sadly, is what happened with the exception of a few beautiful, flowering trees.

He had no discretion to whom he could leave Belgrove to since his father had entailed the property and it had to go to a male relative. However, he could leave other items to who ever he liked and he bequeathed his excellent collection of botanical books to the National Botanic Gardens. They are described as fine illustrated works published in the early nineteenth century and their donation to the Botanic Gardens enriched its library. They remain there and can be accessed to this day. Despite the reports of he being a difficult character, I noticed that in the 1901 census his butler was a **James Walsh** and his cook **Anne O'Neill**. When the 1911 census was taken, just 1 day before his death, those two people were still his butler and cook. In fact it was James Walsh who was with him at his death and had the death registered. So, I would suggest that he can't have been as difficult as thought by outsiders and perhaps "his bark was worse than his bite"

How interesting, I thought, to bring to life the person behind the name recorded on a 19th century Prince Mason's plaque in our ancient and historic Lodge Room. I hope you agree.

250th Anniversary Celebration Trip to Vigilantia Lodge Orient Osijek, Grand Lodge of Croatia

Written by Bro. Craig Setterfield



Osijek Cathedral from the hotel at sunset on arrival

We then had a short journey to our hotel, with transport



On the 6th of October 2023 seven brethren from our Province of Munster - mainly from Youghal Lodge 68 - traveled to Croatia to join our brethren from overseas for this glorious achievement. All the arrangements were put in place Bro. Anton Glasnovic of Croatia and V.W. Bro. David Butler, our lodge secretary.

Our journey started at 04.00 at Cork airport, flying to Stansted then after breakfast onwards to Osijek airport where the fun really started with a small delay coming through customs ... the Hall in Tuckey St is larger than Osijek airport!



‘Car meets Tank’, as seen from our transport en route from the airport! And, *left*, the original Masonic Hall in use 1912-30s, was a cinema with masonic symbolism, and the small lodge room to the left hand side.

arranged by our host. This was very pleasant as you got to see the flatness of the land and some small snippets of marks of history with amazing statements of the resilience of the people over war.

On the evening of arrival, we were invited to the Masonic Hall on Europska Avenija

Osijek for welcome drinks; this was very casual and relaxing; we were introduced to some home cooked savoury delicacies and this was followed by a little night cap back at the hotel.

Saturday 7th October commences with a very nice breakfast at the Hotel Osijek; then scrub up and polish ready for the day ahead. There were 120



brethren present approximately and each visiting delegation was announced before parading into the hall in order of age of foundation (we were last, and I personally was very proud of this!).

All the guests were treated to an Entered Apprentice degree conferral led by Bro. Glasnovic as master of ceremonies, according to

Above: Some of our brethren before the meeting, *right,* The National Theatre; *below,* The General Post Office.

the 1775 Draskovic Observance, which was full of dramatics and theatre - very impressive and a credit to all involved. We were then served a buffet lunch after which had some social time, before a guided tour of the National Theatre in Osijek.



Then evening festive board and yes you guessed it some more drinks where we passed the rest of the evening away.

Sunday 8th October our host Bro Glasnovic and his wife, Josipa, gave us a guided tour of the town. The town is full of amazing buildings and

architecture steeped in history some sadly not kept as one would like, but you can see there is a progressive future in this area.

This very large General Post Office building was under renovation; its signage alone showed it was the general post office.

We walked on the banks of the river and through the old town, taking the



Seated, left to right, Bro. Glasnovic, W. Bro. Peters, W. Bro. Cronin, V.W. Bro. Butler, V.W. Bro. Walls, Mrs Glasnovic, Bro. O’Sullivan and yours truly behind the camera!

occasional rest. In the next photo, we are contemplating the lovely view!

Our last evening meal was in *Project 9* a permanently moored boat restaurant recommended by the waitress in the hotel. This was enjoyed by us all, and was a great way to finish the weekend Ireland.



Some further walkabouts on Monday in the city walls and old town brought this fantastic trip to Osijek to a close.

Above: Our brethren dining on board *Project 9* and *left,* The suspension bridge at Osijek,



The Broken Column

R.W.Bro Alan Campbell writes :

In the May edition of “**The Plumblin**”, I wrote a piece about **The Broken Column**. I mentioned that such monuments, dating mostly to the 19th Century, can be found in many old graveyards and that they mostly mark the last resting place of a Mason.

In the piece, I said that in more modern times the Broken Column had been used by our Brethren in some Grand Lodges of the U.S.A. and New Zealand in the design of a widow’s pin. I will repeat the wording on the accompanying card used in New Zealand here to remind readers of the purpose of the pin.

“ The brooch depicts an incomplete column in symbolic form, the passing of a member of the Craft, and represents the character and spirit of him whose earthly life has ended. It is our wish that it be a reminder of your ties with us, a relationship wherein you will find friends who will assist you in times of need, join with you in times of gladness and welcome you to a continual association with us as we continue our labours of Friendship, Brotherly Love and Truth” It was created and presented with the hope that it would be worn by the widow of a Master Mason on all appropriate occasions, especially when travelling, so that she may be recognised, greeted and assisted when necessary, by Masonic friends throughout the world.

When writing that piece, I had never actually seen a widow’s pin. On 27th May last, I attended a meeting of our Kerry Lodge, Star of the West no 130, which met in Tuckey Street to initiate our **Bro.Danijel Gubina**. A visitor at the meeting greeted us and said he was from **Illinois** and he would like us all to have a lapel pin from his Lodge. I received mine from him after the meeting but when I got home and examined it, I found it was actually a widow’s pin. I was delighted to see it and to note that the top sloped from left to right. I had read that since the Broken Column is considered a Masonic

symbol when it slopes from right to left it wouldn’t be correct procedure for a non-Mason to use the symbol in this way so the opposite was adopted.



Here is a photo of the brooch which I think you will agree is very attractive.

Fifteenth Lodge Host Skibbereen Arts Festival Event

Writes W.Bro. Denis O'Driscoll
Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland

There was a frisson of excitement in a packed lodge room in Skibbereen during the Summer for an evening entitled "*Killer Instinct: Inside the mind of crime writers*". Earlier in the year, Brethren were approached by organisers of **Skibbereen Arts Festival** enquiring whether the lodge room could be used as a venue for the event. The Brethren of the Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland were delighted to facilitate and be part of Skibbereen Arts Festival which is held annually in July and features local, national and international artists across all genres. The event was quickly "sold out" and the lodge room was literally packed to the rafters at all points north, south, east and west to hear the terrifying machinations in the minds of Cork crime writers **Catherine Kirwan, Michelle Dunne, Amy Cronin and Tadhg Coakley**. An interesting observation was made that the vast majority of the authors and audience were female- make of that what



you will!! There were many complimentary comments and 'likes' on social media following the event highlighting the uniqueness of the venue- one comment being that the opening of the lodge room for a community event was "*breaking new ground*". Earlier, in March, again following a request, the Brethren made the lodge room available for a meeting of *Skibbereen & District Historical Society*- an event which also generated favourable comments on social media.



Sir Knights Joe Patterson, Jeff Johnstone, Vincent O' Donovan & Sir Knight Tom Wyper picture at Special Occasional Meeting to celebrate the Centenary of the Grand Council of Knight Masons, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, in June.

Antient Bandon Lodge No. 84 – Ladies Lunch

Sunday 25th June, Dunmore House Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.



A Great Honour Bestowed On Hibernian Lodge 95



Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ireland Rodney L Mc Curley picture with Hibernian Lodge 95, W.M Hugo Beasse, PGM R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne, officers of Lodge 95, officers of PGLM and Grand Lodge officers during his visit to Hibernian Lodge 95 recently.

Report By W. Bro. Leo Spillane

Hibernian LODGE 95 which was first warranted in 1738 had the great honour of having the **Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ireland Rodney L Mc Curley** attend and preside over its regular meeting on Tuesday the 3rd October 2023 . After opening lodge the Grand Master was presented with the maul by **WM Hugo Beasse** which he accepted. On taking the throne of King Solomon the Grand Master firstly thanked the WM for the opportunity to preside over the meeting. He then complemented the Munster opening ritual stating it was quite different in many ways from Grand Lodge but nevertheless thoroughly enjoyable. The Grand Masters first business was to request the brethren to rise and to observe one minute silence to salute the memory of the recent passing of RW brother Deane's brother Bryan Deane. The minutes of the lodges last stated communication was then read and passed in open lodge signed by the Grand Master then counter signed by the WM and the PGM, The Grand Master was then conducted back to the north east corner to return the maul to the WM the completion of the lodge officers reports a short paper was read by WB David Peters on mentoring newly initiated candidates. He then handed over to our newly initiated **Brother Aiden O Connor** to present a paper he had written himself

over the summer on his experience of receiving the first degree of Freemasonry. Brother O Connors presentation was both insightful and inspiring and was received by all present with a tumultuous round of applause. At the end of any other lodge business the Grand Master and officers of the Grand Lodge of Ireland where saluted followed by a salute to the Provincial Grand Master and officers of the provincial Grand Lodge of Munster. Both Grand Master's complimented the lodge officers on their excellent working. In conclusion Hibernian Lodge 95 would like to sincerely thank **Right Worshipful Brother Derek Dunne PGM** for his help and support for making the meeting both memorable and enjoyable.



Grand Lodge Secretary R.W. Philip A. J. Daley, V. W. Kevin Ryan Prov. Grand Secretary Munster, pictured comparing notes with and W. Bro David O' Leary Secretary Hibernian Lodge 95 during their recent visit to Hibernian Lodge 95.

Neptune Lodge November 2023 :

It's been a busy couple of months for Neptune Lodge with multiple degrees and charity donations rolling us nicely into a calm and relaxing Christmas period.

The latter half of the year commenced with the first opening of the lodge to the public in 180 years for Culture Night. Over 50 people attended for our first attempt, which generated much interest from local groups which, we trust, shall bring future events to fruition in the coming months.



Neptune Lodge for Culture Night 2023.

Also in September, two of our Entered Apprentices received their Fellowcraft Degrees in an excellent manner thanks to the goodwill and support of the brethren of St. FinBar's Lodge 8. The meeting was attended by a number of brethren from both lodges and topped off with a superb festive board, courtesy of Brother Peter and V.W. Bro. David Butler.



Neptune brethren at Lodge 8.

Two weeks later, at our own September meeting, another 2 Entered Apprentices received their Fellowcraft degrees through the new Neptune standard whereby almost all brethren present had an active role in the degrees given.



Double FC at Neptune Lodge with visitors from 68 Youghal, 555 and Surrey.

In October Neptune greeted two new Entered Apprentices as well as welcoming back former members to the lodge and guests from Lodge 8. It was followed by yet another impeccable festive board courtesy of Bro David McLean and Bro John Ramos (one of our new EAs). We were also blown away by the musical talent of not one but TWO Neptune Organists ! (Available to support all other lodges at a small fee).



Double EA in Neptune Lodge with visitors from Lodge 8 and the return of former members.

Also in October, we handed over a cheque to the Provincial Grand Master in the presence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of 5465.37 euros being the proceeds of the Gala Ball which took place on Saturday September 2nd in the Carrigaline Court Hotel. Despite illnesses and family/work commitments, 146 people attended the event.



Handing over of the proceeds of the Gala Ball at the PGL meeting in October.

On Saturday November 4th cheques amounting to almost 1500 euro were handed over to C6bH Hospital and the SVP following our Summertime Wine-Tasting/BBQ event and series of Charity Walks.



Bros. Terence, John and Oliver handing a cheque over to the SVP C6bH.



Brethren handing a cheque over to C6bH Hospital.

On Wednesday November 8th this was followed by our Worshipful Master delivering a cheque of close to 700 euros to CUH.



WM. Stephen McSweeney handing over a cheque to CUH on behalf of Neptune Lodge.

On November 22nd coming at 8pm we welcome 2 new Entered Apprentices to the lodge to which all are welcome to attend.

Additionally, on Saturday December 9th at our Emergency Meeting we shall be delivering 3 Master Mason Degrees at approximately 10am, 11.45am and 1.30pm. The last meeting shall be followed by Mulled Wine, Hot Cider, nibbles and merriment to which all friends and family (including children) are also welcome. Please feel free to attend one or all of the degrees on the day.

We look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Merry Christmas from all at Neptune Lodge 190, Cóbh.

Confidence

V.W. Bro. Peter R. Waldrip writes ...

During a recent installation I was the installing Marshal [as we term the lodge director of ceremonies] where I presented the Master elect to be installed. The last part of the Marshal's part [in our jurisdiction in the Grand Lodge of Washington] reads, '... we doubt not that our confidence in him is worthily bestowed'. This piqued my interest in the word 'confidence', and what it all entails.

The word 'confidence' occurs rarely in Masonic writings; but where it does appear, I think it makes a big impact and is to be especially noted. According to the dictionary, confidence is 'the feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust.' I think stating that you have confidence in someone is one of the highest honours one can give. It says so much, that you rely on and trust this person without question. And to lose your confidence in someone or something is a terrible thing that can rarely be regained without great effort.

I have a 1998 Chevy truck that has been the workhorse in our family for close to twenty-five years, traveling on family vacations, toting scouts to numerous outings and other functions that trucks do. Having full confidence in it, I trusted it over the years, not hesitating to go in remote areas knowing that it would faithfully return us home. Well, recently it failed me twice on the way home from evening Masonic events (no relationship), once not getting home until several hours into the next day. It was an intermittent electrical dead short that neither of two reputable mechanics could pin point. So as a result of not finding the problem, I lost confidence in the truck and became afraid to drive it. I've since purchased a new pickup and plan to dispose of my 'trusty' old truck.

I think relationships with our brethren are similar, where we put our



confidence in them to do what they are charged or expected, to do. Over time, you learn just how far your confidence in people can be fulfilled. Apty, the word appears in many of the Charges. The brother receiving the charge should feel obligated to live up to the trust and worthiness bestowed on him through the use of the word "confidence". If not, the brother falls short of his duties in my



opinion. So next time you hear the word ‘confidence’, think about all that it means and its expectations.

On a lighter note, Sue and I had the pleasure of traveling to Ireland in August to sight see and give support to our son, who successfully completed an Ironman course (170 miles of swimming, bicycling and running). The race was centered on the town of Youghal, in County Cork. Of course, I researched the local Masonic Lodges and found most Irish Lodges go dark during the summer. However, the Youghal Lodge secretary, V.W. Bro. David Butler, agreed to meet us for a tour of the building. He was very gracious, driving an hour one-way to

show us around the Lodge. Youghal Lodge No. 68 was chartered in 1835 and has been in this building since 1863 (pictured, previous page). They have about 36 members with 24 brothers that regularly attend, pretty good participation. I presented him with the Grand Master’s coin and lapel pin as a token of my appreciation for his efforts [which will be displayed in their lodge museum]. Once again, I’m finding that there are brother Masons around the world for us to seek out and enjoy.

V.W. Bro. Peter R. Waldrip

Deputy of the Grand Master in District 11



This article will appear as the quarterly report of the author in the *Winter 2023 Washington Tribune*, the newsletter of the Grand Lodge of Washington which, alongside past issues, is accessible online at freemason-wa.org

Youghal Remembers



David J. Butler writes ...

On Sunday 5th November, All Saints Sunday, people from throughout East Cork and West Waterford attended the annual remembrance service in the Collegiate Church of St Mary the Virgin, Youghal. The church, which has a transept memorial chapel (dedicated in 2018), has eight panels which list the names of 154 local people who fought and died in both the First and Second World Wars.

Archdeacon Andrew Orr, who organised the Service, paid tribute to everyone involved in keeping the memorial project alive. The memorial

chapel unveiled in 2018 follows years of research by local men Norman MacDonald (our tenant at 'The Haven' adjacent to Freemasons' Hall) and Billy Healy, who worked very hard to uncover the names of approximately 900 people from Youghal and surrounding districts who signed up for World War I.

The Service, which has a long history, begins with a procession led by a piper, who leads in the clergy, the colour party, and a procession of light. Relatives of those who died carry candles representing the combined total of the world war years. The clergy in attendance included two brethren of Youghal Lodge 68 – The Revd Canon Peter Rhys Thomas (former rector) and The Revd Edwin W. Hunter (former priest-in-charge) as well representatives of the other religious communities of town and district.

Each year, the civic dignitaries include representatives who lay wreaths on behalf of the Mayor of County Cork, national and local government representatives, the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, the





Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen, the Royal British Legion, associations (the Connacht Rangers, The Munster Fusiliers, and the Cork Western Front Association), and representative community groups, including Youghal Masonic Lodge, forty-four of whose members served, with four dying during the First World War.

Representing several of these entities was Mrs Mary Roch-Perks (pictured here flanked by officers of the Defence Forces) daughter of W. Bro. Colonel Horace S. Roch, PPSGD, for 48 years a member of our lodge, 1911-59; granddaughter of W. Bro. Deputy Surgeon General Samson Roch (1829-1906), for 53 years member (1853-1906); widow of V.W. George Roch-Perks PPSGW, successively a member of 555 and 68 over 66 years (1954-2020). Her

grandfather served at Sevastopol, her father in the Boer War, and both saw service in India.

This year, our wreath was borne by Bro. David O’Sullivan, *I.G.*, representing the brethren of the lodge.



General Jephtha & the 2nd Degree Password

An Anomaly Re-Assessed!

Writes : Bro. Andrew Petersen & .W. Stuart Musgrave, The Third Lodge of Ireland

A Curious Storyline!

As widely recounted in assorted Lodge Ritual Books, the murderous emergence of the Fellow Craft Degree Password, introduces a handful of unfamiliar figures and particularly obscure events drawn from Scripture, lore and legend. We are faced with rabble-rousing *Ephraimites*, double-dealing *Gileadites*, a renowned general named *Jephtha*, warmongering *Ammonites*, *Jordan River*-bank massacres sparked by a *defect in aspiration* and finally a *winding staircase* barred to all unqualified persons! These citations in their various expressions most probably perplex and challenge Masons in equal measure ; indeed many Brethren including especially Fellows of the Craft might justifiably contend that the Password references are much too remote to be readily understood in context ; perhaps, for that reason too, in an otherwise vividly-powerful narrative set against a militaristic backdrop, the gentler moral or spiritual significance of its underlying Masonic lesson is unclear.

Jephtha – An Anomalous Fellow!

Foremost among these abstruse names in the Password's violent storyline is that of Jephtha who appears to be, on one hand, a patient, war-averse character yet, on the other, readily conducts himself as a horrifying sociopath, an ostensibly irredeemable figure who is undeserving of any mention in Masonry's ceremonial 2nd Degree, let alone symbolising one or more hidden moral messages in it! Without doubt, Jephtha is one of Masonry's more anomalous figures of interest!

Jephtha – His Life and Times Revisited

We recently revisited the life-history, tribal tensions and cultural landscape of Jephtha, as a means of informatively underscoring this enigmatic, Biblical figure for Masons generally. In

particular, we sought to shed a momentary light on those very qualities and actions that impresses Jephtha's name firmly in our Ritual ceremony, whilst contributing an object-lesson or two to Masonry's code of morality.

Displaying a life of balanced contrasts, Jephtha was born illegitimately, the son of a non-Israelite prostitute, in the homeland of Gilead, an area east of the Jordan River in modern-day Jordan. Gilead, named after his father, was noted for its spices, balm, myrrh and ointments as well as its countless sheep-flocks. Significantly, having settled in a part of dispossessed lands inhabited by Transjordan Ammonites, nomadic Levantine Amorites and the northern Bashan from the present-day Golan Heights, the Gileadites were persistent prey to invasions, hit-and-run tactics and oppression by several external armed forces including Philistines from the west.

As an unfairly disgraced adult of "*impure*" blood, Jephtha was exiled into the northern mountains in a callous act of family disinheritance. There he became an infamous outlaw-chief commanding a well-armed mob of robbers, looters and marauders preying on, for the most part, the Gileadites - perhaps for pent-up motives of revenge and retaliation for his forced exile.

After many fruitless attempts at creating a durable stability in their homeland against unrelenting Ammonite and Moabite raiding parties and the terrifying prospect of harsh oppression if conquered, the hypocritical Gileadite elders made a risky pitch to Jephtha, the outlawed warlord and disdained son. Following intensive bargaining, it was settled that provided Jephthah destroyed the harassing enemy forces he would become Gilead's general and permanent, supreme commander. Jephtha did succumb to the blandishments of the tribal seniors, suggesting a possible narcissistic gullibility, even naivety, on the part of this violent renegade. Yet, more realistically, Jephtha was a scheming strategist, who grasped the heady possibilities

of social re-integration, respectability, exoneration for his colourful life of crime, and of course political advancement. At any rate, both sides emerged, mutually advantaged ; the manipulative Gileadites recruited a formidable defender, whilst Jephtha, the exiled reject, had seized a career-opportunity that promised iconic status and glittering military honours for himself along with great battle-plunder for his new homeland.

As the newly-elected Gileadite champion, General Jephtha repeatedly tried to negotiate with the Ammonites and the Moabites but diplomacy ultimately failed, inevitably provoking the so-called Ammonitish War. The Ammonites lost the conflict, 20 of their cities were razed and an immense plunder of goods, valuables and war-booty fell into Gileadite hands. Unfortunately, the spectacular triumph that rescued the homeland of Gilead from annihilation had two shocking consequences in the form of a family-tragedy for Jephtha as well as a savage war with the Ephraimites, former allies of Gilead but now on a war-footing, enraged at being excluded from the original fight and plundered gains.

Before plunging into the Ammonitish War, Jephtha had impulsively sworn an oath to his God (*Yahweh*) that if he overcame the Ammonites he would sacrifice, as a burnt offering, the first person he saw upon his return home to the city of Mizpah. Devastatingly, that person was his daughter, later named as Seila or as Iphis – an only child, upon whom his future bloodline depended. Jephtha, clearly a man of outstanding honour, blundering foolishness or crass insensitivity, duly sacrificed his daughter. However, the word '*sacrifice*' has since been interpreted as '*service to God*' - in this instance, an austere duty that bound Jephtha's daughter to forever remain a virgin in isolation. Whether or which, Jephtha's action doomed his family line to extinction!

Subsequently, in the bloody combat-manoeuvers against the Ephraimite onslaught, Jephtha's army routed as many as 40,000 Ephraimites, matching the death-toll in the siege of Jerusalem many years later during the First Crusade (1095 – 1099).

As is colourfully recounted in the Masonic nar-

rative, the Fellow Craft Password originated in the immediate aftermath of that conflict. First ordered by Jephtha, the Password was a vengeful test of speech to surviving Ephraimite combatants, desperate to escape across the Jordan River fords. If they wrongly pronounced the Password, their dialectic variety of speech identified them as the enemy and subject to summary execution. The Password later became the hallowed term decreed by King Solomon to safeguard right of entry into his Temple's middle chamber.

Following his heroic victory at the Jordan River, Jephtha became one of ancient Israel's eighteen Judges who periodically governed from 1398 b.c. to 1050 b.c. Possibly still burdened by the weight of past military deaths he master-minded, Jephtha died in eastern Israel after completing six years service as a Judge.

We Assess Jephtha's Life Story as a Masonic Morality Tale

A more rounded estimation of Jephtha, the anomalous figure in the 2nd Degree, is imaginable from our limited review of his lifestory. From that, the legend's cryptic moral representation may be more easily understood by Masons generally.

Jephthah was first an outlaw soldier, then a military commander and finally a Judge in Israel. Unable to alter the flaws of his early life in Gilead, he nevertheless spectacularly achieved the highest possible military honours and political stature in his country. During his extraordinary journey, he variously balanced hardship with fortune, barbarism with remorse and impulse with patience, among other qualities. Although he demonstrated impressive military intuition and resourcefulness, Jephtha had only a fickle awareness of human nature. He showed poor judgment by making a rash vow regardless of its consequences. His obligation brought an accompanying dilemma but Jephtha failed to see its red flag!. Unquestionably however, his example set the highest standard for a commitment, but an ingrained sense of duty became his profoundest misfortune ; a hero turned anguished figure, barely able to confront on a grand scale, barely able to anticipate the shape

of a Gileadite future.

The story of Jephtha's life contains a moral lesson or two for Masonry, namely that each person irrespective of the crushing disadvantages of dismal beginnings can by sincere personal deeds attain distinction, honour and admiration. Even so, the most courageous individual sometimes makes poor and impulsive decisions that have a tragic outcome. Like Jephtha's vow, a Mason's pledge never to reveal our secret rituals is absolute; however, unlike Jephtha's promise, a Mason's vow should only be given after the deepest reflection on its meaning and effect. Only through that practise can Masonic honour be maintained in all dealings with fellow Masons and all others.

One of the principal causes of the Gileadite-Ephraimite collision centred on a one-sided expectation of acquiring the rich spoils of war without participating in the battle. The moral of the tale for Masons is that reward should not be expected without struggle, effort and work.

The 2nd Degree Password is a Hebrew word and an especially awkward sound for every Ephraimite. Whilst quite likely a historical appropriation, the story of the test-word is questionable in its linguistic claim. It infers that the 12 religiously-unified but persistently fractious tribes of Israel could be distinguished from one another by their accents, dialects and speech patterns – an assertion of ethnic purity that probably had no validity. In the case of the Ephraimite tribe, its dialect was said to have been conspicuously singular inasmuch as an alleged lisp or whistle left followers unable to express the sound “sh” in the Hebrew (as in “shin”); instead, they pronounced it as “s” (as in “sin”). This exquisitely-slight, linguistic foible – whether a panic-stricken slip of the tongue or an authentic “*defect in aspiration peculiar to their dialect*” – was held by Jephtha's sentinels to confirm Ephraimite ethnicity – with instantly fatal consequences! Ritual Books tell us that on the “*field of battle and on the banks of the Jordan that day*”, Ephraimite losses amounted to 42,000 men, a catastrophic blow to the aggressive tribe! But just how many mispronunciations or other perceived dialectic defects were heard at the Jordan passages has never been

revealed so there is no way of knowing how many summary executions were carried out by Jephtha's men on entirely spurious or subjective grounds. The overall consequences of the defeat on Ephraimite society lingered for at least one generation.

What If?....

So, having regard to the foregoing review and assessment, an intriguing question arises. Would the court of Masonic opinion concur with us that both the Password and General Jephtha are – notwithstanding their cruel, violent associations – quite simply, captivating anomalies in an otherwise solemn and composed Degree Ritual?

To Conclude!

We hope that the information presented here has provided some revelatory information on General Jephtha so that your enjoyment of our 2nd Masonic Degree may be measurably enhanced!

Prince Rose Croix Masons

Chapter No1

Constituted 1838 (*Joint-Third Oldest in the Irish Constitution*)



By Illustrious Bro Rev Edwin Hunter 32 degree.

Having missed the deadline for the last issue of Plumblin I need to be careful not to let that happen again, so some of this offering is old news.

Cork 1

Being the home of the number 1, it is fitting that Prince Masons chapter is based in Cork. We met only four times in a year, so our news volume is unlike that of lodges with nine meetings per year.

As with all other sections of the order Covid took its toll, and membership slipped back and with the natural wastage of age and illness numbers are down.

However, the chapter met in November 2022 to install a new **Most Wise Sovereign**, the honour falling to **Ex and Perfect Prince Alec Bryan**, indeed by the time this is published and in hands for reading he will have finished his tenure in the chair. The Installation ceremony was preformed by **Illustrious Bro Rev Edwin Hunter 32 degree**. In attendance was the **Vice President of the Grand Chapter of Prince Masons V. Ex. Tom Gardiner**, and the Supreme Council of 33 degree was represented by **Most Illustrious Bro. Charles Olden, Grand Chamberlain**. Sadly, both the **Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander Eric Waller** and the **M. Ex-President Derek Moffatt** were unable to travel for the occasion. The Installation was followed by the traditional festive board and a great time was had by all.

By the time this is published we will have had the installation meeting to install officers for 2024, this will take place on 28th November when.

Ex and Perfect Prince Guy St Leger will be installed, once again by **Illustrious Bro Rev Edwin Hunter 32 degree**, as at the time of writing.

The scribe of this piece does not know exactly who our official guests will be but we will welcome them with a true Cork welcome.

The other officers of the Chapter will also be installed on that night, namely two Wardens, and a Captain of the guards and a Standard Bearer all by promotion. As in other sections of the order the semi-permanent officers will remain, Chaplain, Master of Ceremonies, Keeper of the Archives Treasurer and Venerable Secretary. We look forward to a great evening and welcoming guests from other Chapters.

Where are the other Chapters?

Well there are only two other Chapters in the southern country, outside Dublin, namely **Limerick** and **Longford** from which we hope to welcome the Most Wise Sovereign and Venerable Secretary from each, as well as other invited guests.

Seven of the totals of twenty six chapters are based in Dublin with the remaining sixteen spread across the Northern section of the country. Indeed, many members travel great distances to attend their meetings or to visit another chapter.

Members of a Chapter of Prince Masons should not be seen as an elite group making their own rules and lording it over others, they are a group of freemasons who have been **rewarded for services** to their **Lodge, Chapter, Preceptory, Province and District** over a long time and have been invited to be a member of a group, **limited to 33 members**, and its members still continue to serve their Lodge Chapter and the Preceptory from which the member is invited. All Prince Masons are people who are prepared to help and if necessary, and are asked, to instruct.

Season's greetings to all members in our province and a big thank you to Vincent for his work in producing an excellent Plumblin.

St. Fin Barre's Lodge No.8

Au Revoir Bro. Julien



St. Fin Barre's Lodge No.8

Writes W. M. Eamonn McCarthy

Those who attended **St. Fin Barre's Lodge No.8's** regular meeting on 3 November had mixed emotions. We were honoured with a visit by the **PGM, R.W.P.G.M Derek Dunne**. However, we were sad at the knowledge that we were saying 'au revoir' to our **Senior Deacon, Bro. Julien Dufresne**, who is moving to Germany before the year's end. Bro. Julien has been a loyal, enthusiastic, and much-loved brother of the Lodge. **We wish Bro. Julien and his family every success and happiness in this next stage of their life.**

An extra special festive board was prepared on

the night (they are always special) thanks to **Bros. Julien Dufresne, Michael Noonan, Varun Obhan and Peter Kelly.**

Bro. Julien brought delicious French delicacies to tickle our palates. Bro. Michael brought scrumptious cakes to sweeten our taste buds. Bro. Varun brought a spicy Indian curry to make our mouths water. Bro. Peter, our highly qualified chef (among many other qualifications) augmented his usual cordon bleu cuisine with a selection of tantalizing dishes and confectionaries. All the foregoing went to give us a sumptuous spread that underscored the high regard that all presents have for Bro. Julien.

Harmony 555 – Lodge Meeting held in Fermoy after almost 72 years!

David J. Butler writes ...

An emergency meeting of The Harmony Lodge 555 took place on the morning of Saturday 4th November 2023 at The Fermoy Bridge Clubhouse, Mill Road Fermoy, by kind dispensation of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster. It was the first meeting of our lodge in the town since the February 1952 installation meeting held at our former hall, on the adjacent Rathealy Road,



Front, left to right: Bros. G. Caroto, F. Caroto, A. McCarthy, *S.W.*, W. Bro. D. Ruttle, *W.M.*, W. Bro. M. Mason, *J.W.* (67), Bro. T. Roche, R.W. Bro. D. Dunne, *P.G.M.*

Back, left to right: Bros. D. O. Sullivan, *I.G.*(68), G. Villarreal, *Stew.*, A. da Silva, *S.D.*, W. Bro. S. MacAllister, *I.P.M.*, V.W. Bro. D. Walls, *Chap.* (234), Bros. A. Peterson (3), C. O'Dwyer (67), Ricardo Melo Joia, *Stew.*, W. Bro. Brian Dungan (68), Bro. J. Brinkmann, *J.D.*, V.W. Bro. D.J. Butler, *Sec./D.C.*

almost 72 years previously – and followed on from two previous fieldtrips to town and district: the first in 2009 (the 200th anniversary year of Grand Lodge recognition) and the second in 2013 (marking sixty years since leaving Fermoy).

Following a welcome delivered to the brethren and our visitors by the Worshipful Master, with particular gratitude to our acting officers, the meeting moved to its only business, namely the conferral of a triple Fellow Craft degree upon Bro. Tim Roche (a Fermoy resident), and father and son, Bros. Frank Caroto and Giovanni Caroto (also resident in North Cork).

The degree was conferred by V.W. Bro. Butler (obligation and explanations), W. Bro. MacAllister (working tools) and, following the ceremony, a paper on the degree legend and tracing board was presented by Bro. O’Sullivan (Youghal 68). The whole ceremony was very well received by the candidates and the assembled brethren alike. In several ways, the meeting harkened back to the final days at Fermoy when the 555 brethren cooperated with brethren of several different lodges to convene their meetings. Salutes were brought from our six visitors, representing Cork city (the Third Lodge of Ireland and Harmony 67), Youghal 68 and Kinsale 234.



We were joined immediately after the meeting by our Provincial Grand Master - fresh from a Kinsale 234 work party at their Hall - and a prospective member, who kindly took photographs of our brethren and visitors.

The meeting was followed by a delicious buffet lunch of home cooked cold meats, salads, dessert, wines, tea and coffee, ably provided by our regular caterer, Clodagh. A toast was offered by W. Bro. Mason of Harmony No. 67, a native of Fermoy and the acting Junior Warden on

the day, welcoming us back to the town of Fermoy and encouraging us to return annually; a sentiment echoed by our Provincial Grand Master, given the obvious suitability of the premises, itself a former 1880s clubhouse.

Visitors To Shamrock Lodge 27, November 19th 2023

Report by V.W Kevin Ryan

RW Brethren Dunne, Tyrrell, and I travelled North in May of this year on a twofold mission. We attended the Stated Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down on May 13th, 2023, and celebrated the Installation of RW Brethren Gardner and Selby as Provincial Grand Master and Provincial deputy Grand Master respectively. However, the first leg of the journey took the form of a visit to **Lodge 680, Strathearn** in Lisburn on the previous evening. The seeds sown by this visit bore rich fruit in the form of a memorable evening of Irish Freemasonry in Freemasons' Hall, Tuckey Street, Cork., on November 9th, 2023. The Worshipful Master of **Lodge 680, WB Mark Scott** promised to travel South with some members of the Lodge, and Secretary, **WB Brian Hampton** wasted no time in getting the ball rolling.

Our agenda for the meeting was, as is usual for Shamrock Lodge 27, a full one. One of the main items was the Initiation of Pawel Mateusz Wojcik, a young man of Polish origin, who has settled here in County Cork. Bro. Pawel's Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred by **VW Bro. Marcus Calvert** and I, and he proved himself to be a most attentive candidate throughout. After the charge was read to him, Bro. Wojcik was presented with a Shamrock Lodge 27 tie. He was exhorted to refer to it as a reminder of his unique relationship with his 'Mother Lodge', as well as his responsibility to always represent his Lodge in such a way as to make his Masonic Brothers proud of him.

For me, as Worshipful Master, it was a joy to see the Lodge Room so well-occupied. Along with our visiting Brethren from Lisburn, we had some visiting Brethren from other Lodges in Munster as well as some Brethren from The Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area. It was a particular



privilege to welcome **RW Stuart Brownlow**, Provincial Deputy Grand Master, and Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, as well as having the opportunity to salute representatives of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Shamrock Lodge 27's capacity for refreshment was well exemplified on the night. **Bro. Michael Birrane** and his team orchestrated a superb supper for our Lisburn visitors, – four from

Lodge 680 Strathearn and four from **Lodge 103, Hiram's Ancient Band** – and a large representation of our own Provincial and Lodge Brethren, before the meeting. Our festive board after the meeting featured a little 'libation or two' which, I have no doubt assisted in boosting the proceeds of the Fundraising Raffle organised by **Bro. Ryan Fitzgerald**, Lodge Steward of Charities.

The unanimous verdict was that the evening represented the very best of all things Masonic – a great display of Fraternity, a wonderful commitment to Benevolence, and a very strong sense that our invocation of the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe on our proceedings did not go unheeded.

From Cork to Clonmel

By W.Bro. Fraser Sim. Shamrock Lodge no.27

I've always enjoyed visiting other Lodges. This was instilled in my early Entered Apprentice days back in Scotland when I was taken around the **Province of Stirlingshire** by my Lodge peers. I was eager to meet new brethren, excited to see old Lodge rooms with adventure in abundance. Soon after, when I arrived in Ireland, visiting a different Constitution was a landmark occasion. That was a **wee** while ago now, but whilst the **memory stays strong**, my appetite to visit other Lodges remains fresh and alive.

These memories were reflective of a recent visit with a small contingent of Lodge 27 brethren to **Lodge 44 Donoughmore in Clonmel** for their November meeting. Travelling within the Province of Munster is always an enjoyable experience given the rich Masonic heritage and fraternal relationships we are most fortunate to have. However, stepping out of the Province to a neighbouring Provincial Lodge further enriches that participation befitting a Freemason. This was the experience I believe shared by all visitors from Cork at Lodge 44 that night.

I set off with our Worshipful Masters. **W.Bros. Kevin Ryan & Derek Dunne** as well as **Bro. Ryan Fitzgerald** who had not travelled to this particular Lodge. Not far behind was Bro. Michael Travers of Lodge 234 putting the miles in also.

As expected there was a warm reception by Lodge 44 members. This was extended by other visiting Brethren from wider Lodges of the South Eastern Counties Province with Brethren of Lodge 5 and 32 both in attendance. The visitors certainly helped swell the Lodge room and I am convinced the WM acknowledged the busy Lodge room from his view in the East. The main feature of the night was the **Passing of Bro. Jamie McGrath** to the Fellowcraft Degree. The effort of the Officers of Lodge 44 was well received by all Munster and South Eastern Counties Brethren, candidate congratulated on his conduct with a light hearted Festive board that followed.

Whilst the Munster Travelling Maul was not up for grabs on this occasion, the reward of having travelled to a sister Province was the reward for our Labour.



Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ireland Rodney L Mc Curley picture with PGM R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne, officers of PGLM and Grand Lodge officers during his visit to PGM recently.

50 Year's Service to Royal Arch Masonry

At the regular convocation of Concord Royal Arch Chapter no 71 on Thursday, 23rd November, R.Ex Companion Alan Campbell was presented with a certificate from Supreme Grand Chapter and a jewel to mark his 50 years of membership, by M.Ex.Companion Edwin Hunter, Past District Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster. In reply to M.Ex Companion Hunter's congratulations and good wishes Comp. Campbell said he was very proud to be a member of the oldest Chapter in the Province, in fact in the constitution, since no warrant was issued before 1830 which is the date of ours. He followed his late father Thomas H Campbell in membership and his grand uncle, William T.Campbell had been a member from 1908 to 1937. The latter was Excellent King in 1921 but, due to the dangerous situation in the Country at that time they couldn't meet so he remained in the chair for 1922 as well.

R.Ex.Companion Campbell said he hoped to wear his new jewel for the next 50 years, at least and therefore looked forward to celebrating the bicentenary of the Chapter in 7 years time.



R.Ex Companion Alan Campbell was presented with a certificate from Supreme Grand Chapter and a jewel to mark his 50 years of membership, by M.Ex.Companion Edwin Hunter, Past District Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster.



The Excellent King Liam Cumingham & Officers and Companions of Concord Royal Arch Chapter 71 were honoured to have M.E. Robin Newenham, District Grand King and his Deputy R.E Uwe Schiller attend their October Chapter meeting.

Saturday Social Breakfast: My Experience at Harmony Lodge 555

Gaston Villarreal Riveros writes:



Brothers, first I want to thank you for the opportunity to be able to express my words in this article. For me it is an honour that this opportunity was given to me and for this reason I want to give a ritualistic Masonic look at our Saturday breakfast; where we all meet together to share a good and

relaxed moment, and in which we can get to know each other a little more – as well as those who may become part of our brotherhood.

There is a word to express this action, ‘AGAPE’. It is a Greek term used to express unconditional and thoughtful love, intended to strengthen the ties that unite brothers. And it is on these types of occasions where the conditions conducive to the generation and creation of fraternal ties are generated, thus generating the propagation of our works in the Greco-Roman style, that is, as an expression of fraternal and community love between Brothers.

We all understand that many times, only the work in the lodge is not enough, and it is often necessary for us to continue working on the topics presented beyond the sacred spaces. It is in these ‘Agapes’ that the concept of being ‘brothers’ becomes true. In



strength and courage, this is where we manifest ourselves in fullness, as free people, without distinction of rank or hierarchy, to receive the beneficial fraternity poured out from the East that surrounds each one of those present.

It is within this type of meetings that we may begin to build the foundations of the great work; that is, each brother is a stone that unites with another in this fraternal space – building a non-material temple of the purest Masonic fraternity.

That is why I consider it important to attend these social meetings, since that is where you really get to know a little more, with those whom you share a few hours in the lodge, once a month.

‘Eating accompanied is an action
symbolic of the union’.

Goethe

The 555 Social Breakfast takes place about quarterly, on Saturdays, as announced, at Sutton’s Bistro, Rochestown Park Hotel. All are welcome.

Annual Harmony Lodge 555 Music Miscellany

David J. Butler writes ...



The annual Harmony Lodge 555 music miscellany evening in aid of Cork local charities – first established in 2008 – was held on Saturday 18th November.

The evening commenced at 7pm with a fine selection of canapés wine and other refreshments. A full house was entertained by the performers – *Forte Women’s*

Choir, The Rebels Quartet, Leaside Voices, and a selection of vocal and instrumental soloists – for almost two hours with over thirty pieces performed ranging in date of composition from 1784 to 2022. Truly it was a music miscellany.

A great team effort was put in by the 555 members in stewarding, performing, raffle and the general support of the province, the house management committee and the general public – many of them regular in their attendance.

At time of writing, some €2,550 has been raised, after costs, in aid of our three charitable entities, namely, Cork Samaritans, Freemasons’ Hall Extension Fund, and our longstanding partners, the Cork International Choral Festival.



Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster

The Masonic Hall, 27 Tuckey St, Cork

• Freemasons' Hall Development Fund •

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Brethren,

First, I wish to thank those Brethren who have donated and pledged funds for the coming weeks to our building extension (fire escape/ lift installation) project; your support is most welcome. However, I must appeal further to all Brethren.

To date 15% of the Brethren have contributed €161,000 and pledged for an additional €64,000.

The call is now to YOU - the Brethren of the Province - to support our Province with either a Donation or a Pledge of Funds before the end of January 2024.

Those who have contributed/pledged, I would ask that you encourage Brethren to support this project, which will transform the accessibility and sustainability of Freemasons' Hall, Tuckey St.

If this project does not happen, the Hall will have restricted usage going forward and may eventually be forced to close.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland will support our building extension (fire escape/ lift installation) project with both a grant and a loan towards the full cost.

This upgrading is to comply with Fire Regulations and allow our less mobile Brethren & Guests to access the entire building.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

PGM Derek Dunne



Please reach out to any of these Brethren, in total confidence, to discuss your contribution.

Derek Dunne (Lodge 234)	086 178 6264
Gerard Murphy (Lodge 68)	087-2584907
Barry Jenkins (Lodge 3)	087-2257748
Conor Crowley (Lodge 8)	086-2561318
Malcolm Tyrrell (Lodge 27)	087-2254116
Neville Sweetman (Lodge 67)	085-7584613
Stephen Rowe (Lodge 84)	086-3880639
Leslie Deane (Lodge 95)	086-2248727

For further details please email - secretary.pgl.munster@gmail.com

PLEASE DONATE TO:

Account Name: **Tuckey St Lodge Building CLG**

IBAN: **IE81AIBK9363839746804**

(Please include your own reference to ensure proper acknowledgement of your contribution).



Aidan McDonald, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works for The Province of Munster pictured in the Masonic Hall with Eve and Ana Murphy at the launch of Cork Heritage Open Day Saturday August 12th.

Picture: Clare Keogh



The Plumblin

*To submit articles for May 2024 issue of The Plumblin
please forward them to W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan
vincent@carrighoun.com*