



JUNE 2024

# The Plumblíne

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MUNSTER



Freemasons' Hall, Tuckey Street, Cork

# Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster

Freemason's Hall, 27 Tuckey Street, Cork.



And so, another successful Installation and Dinner season draws to a close and it is heartening to note that, for the first time in quite a while, this year every Lodge in the Province held a dinner. As was pointed out to me the Installation meeting and dinner is very much the parade of sails for each lodge - it is the night on which they put their best foot forward and display the lodge at its best. And so it was as many Lodges had record numbers at their Installation meetings - on two occasions The Magahy Room in Tuckey Street was filled to capacity - and the sense of fraternity and bon homie at all festive boards was wonderful to behold.

What is striking is the amount of newer and younger members taking up the various offices in their respective Lodges, the days of reusing and recycling officers clearly a thing of the past for many! This augurs well for the future of those Lodges and a portend of vigor and vitality for years to come. What was also striking was the number of visitors in many Lodges, often outnumbering members, as reciprocal invitations were very much in evidence. A sincere vote of thanks must go to the hard-working Dinner Secretaries in each case for the tremendous effort they and their teams put in to ensuring the success of their respective nights.

The conferring of degrees continues apace across the province as men are initiated and Brethren passed and raised at an unprecedented rate. Indeed, several Lodges are having to convene extraordinary meetings in order to give the degrees necessary to deal with the influx of members. This is a very healthy sign and feeds into the Recruit aspect of the 3 R's. To assist with the retention of these, and other newer and younger, brethren it has been decided to initiate Munster Young Masons (MYM). The concept is to provide a social platform for young and young at heart Masons (essentially any member who has not yet attained the chair of a Lodge) where events can be organized for members and their families and where Brethren can come together in an informal forum to exchange ideas, concerns and experiences. You will find more details of this important initiative elsewhere in this edition of The Plumblin but, in the meantime, I extend my best wishes to all involved in MYM and commend it to all new, and those maybe not so new, members.



R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne

Hall's fiscal need great  
Pro tanto now to repay  
Debts owed to dead men

I've long had an interest in, and an appreciation for, Haiku and recently have started dabbling in it - from a certain angle one can attach a Masonic symmetry to its formation. No foreword from me would be complete without mention of the Tuckey Street Development Fund. To date we have raised the staggering amount of just over €400,000 - this from individual members, families of deceased members, bequests, Lodges and other branches of the Order. Curiously, with one

or two exceptions, the giving from the 'out of town Lodges' i.e. Lodges that don't ordinarily meet in Tuckey Street is higher, both in total and per capita, than many of the city Lodges - food for thought! To everyone who has donated to date a heartfelt thank you for your wonderful generosity, it has been humbling to witness the selfless response by so many. Our sincere gratitude must go to the indefatigable **Bro. Gerard Murphy** and his hardworking fundraising committee for helping to get us to this point - with this amount in hand our own hand is strengthened greatly when we make our submission to Grand Lodge for the monies, we need to initiate the project. In quoting Winston Churchill Bro. Gerard highlighted that this is 'perhaps, the end of the beginning,' and that there is much still to do but, no one can deny that it is a phenomenal achievement thus far. Of course, further contributions to the fund are always welcome and will be readily accepted by any member of the committee or by Lodge Treasurers.

Countless are the hours put in by so many without regard for thanks or reward in the day to day running of every Lodge in the Province, much of it undetected. To this dedicated band I want to record my sincere thanks along with a deep gratitude to the many Brethren who contribute in so many ways, often behind the scenes, to the smooth running of Provincial Grand Lodge and as thoughts invariably turn to the summer recess can I wish each one of you a relaxing and reinvigorating break.

Fraternally,

Derek  
PGM Munster

# J.P.Sousa

## *March King & Freemason*

Writes R. W.Bro. Alan Campbell

I have played a tuba in a brass band for many years and derived huge enjoyment from my playing.

Recently we played "The Liberty Bell" by J.P.Sousa and difficult though it is to play it is undoubtedly a very fine march indeed.

Liberty Bell is a symbol of American independence. It was cast in 1752 with the following lettering from the Biblical Book of Leviticus "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof". It is located in Philadelphia and has a huge history worthy of a paper in itself.

This march was written by Sousa in 1893 and is one of his most famous works and is played at Presidential inaugurations in the United States. Other famous marches he wrote were "The Stars and Stripes Forever" which became the national march of the United States, "The Washington Post", "Semper Fidelis", "Comrades of the Legion March & "Anchor and Star March". He literally wrote dozens of marches, many with a patriotic theme.

What I found of particular interest as I researched the March King was his Masonic career and more about that later, just to say at this point that three of his best-known marches have Masonic origins. They are "The Crusader" composed in 1888, "The Thunderer" composed in 1889 and "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" which he composed in 1923.

### **Let's just look briefly at this patriotic musical genius' background.**

Born on 6th November 1854 in Washington D.C., he was third of the 10 children of John Anthony Sousa who was of Portuguese origin and his wife Maria Elisabeth Trinkhaus who was from Bavaria in Germany. He started to study music at the age of 7 and studied violin, piano,



J.P.Sousa in 1922

flute, several brass instruments and singing. One would begin to wonder if he had time for anything else when his music lessons in all these forms were completed! He was said to have perfect pitch and in fact wrote his first piece at about 9 years of age. It was called "An Album Leaf" but sadly, his teacher made nothing of it and it has been completely lost. I get the impression that the said teacher was a bad-tempered guy and the young pupil struggled with him.

Sousa's father was a trombonist in the Marine Band and, at the age of 13 he enlisted John Philip as an apprentice to stop him joining a circus band. He was enlisted under a minority enlistment which meant he would not be discharged until his 21st birthday.

On his discharge in 1875 he performed on the

violin for a period and joined a theatrical pit orchestra where he learned to conduct. He returned to the Marine Band in 1880 as it's head and remained its conductor until 1892. After he left the Marine Band, he formed The Sousa Band and it toured from 1892 until 1931 performing at an amazing 15,623 concerts both in America and throughout the world.

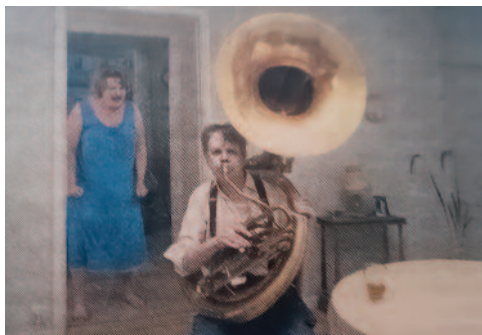
Now to turn to his membership of the Masonic Order. He was initiated in Hiram Lodge no 10 in Washington D.C. on 15th July 1881 when he was 26 years old. He followed his father who was also a Mason.

He was passed and raised subsequently in Hiram Lodge no 10 and remained a member of that lodge until his death 51 years later. He joined a number of Allied Orders and was very highly thought of by his brethren. It was said that he was always extremely proud to be a Mason.

After his death, on 6th March 1932, a Masonic memorial service was held at the grave site in Congressional Cemetery, Washington D.C. and Almas Temple Band of which he had been named honorary leader in 1922, played at the ceremony.

Sousa's patriotism and love of his fellow man led him to enlist during WW1 in the US Navy in 1916, at the age of 62 and for a nominal salary of \$1 a month. He did this to enable him to train Navy bandmen at Great Lakes Naval Training Station near Chicago. While there he took a huge band made up of recruits, known as a "Jackie" band on tour to raise money for war causes.

The last item of interest I would like to bring to your attention is the Sousaphone. Now, it is quite difficult for tuba players in marching bands to strap on their tuba comfortably. This was well known to Sousa who with the collaboration of a man called J.W.Pepper designed a form of tuba that is bent in a circle to fit around the body of the musician. It ends in a large flaring bell which is pointed forward thereby projecting the sound ahead of the player. Because of the ease of carrying the Sousaphone it is used by many marching bands, of course, mostly in America, though not entirely by any means.



The picture above shows a man playing a Sousaphone and I think the lady in the doorway may be his landlady. She does not seem very impressed by his playing, to say the least.

This picture reminds me of a story told to me by a fellow tuba player and, in fact, the brother who proposed me for Masonry, W.Bro Johnnie Hornibrook.

He said that there was a young player in the Band who played a G bass trombone. Now a G bass trombone when fully extended is 6 feet long and has to have a handle fitted to enable the player to get at all the positions with the slide. This guy was renting an attic room on Wellington Road in Cork, and it was too small to extend his trombone fully. He solved it by opening the skylight window back on to the roof and played out the open window. I wonder what his landlady thought of this operation, I bet she resembled the lady in the picture!



# Quis Separabit Lodge No. 595

Writes **W. Bro. Guy St. Leger**

This number was originally issued in 1781 to Enniskillen and was used until 1835 when it was cancelled. The Warrant was revived in 1914 for the 5th Royal Irish Lancers in France under the title "Quis Separabit Lodge". It was a military travelling Warrant which allowed the Lodge to meet anywhere. For the duration of the war it met in France. It is said that members, if asked where they were going at the time of a meeting, would say they were going "to take wine with the Colonel".

After the war the regiment was based in England and in 1919 was posted to Risalpur in northern India where it remained until 1922. Lances were used as Deacon's wands and these are now in the museum in Molesworth St. The Warrant was surrendered in March 1922.

The Warrant was reissued to Cork in December 1924. It operated Grand Lodge working, the only Lodge in the Province of Munster to do so. This feature proved attractive to its members, many of whom were commercial travellers, bankers and insurance officials. When they visited other Provinces the Lodge working would be familiar to them.

It met on the third Thursday in the month. The Installation dinners were separate to the Installation itself and were held in Thompsons Cafe. There was a slick musical programme. The numbers were performed by the members and the "595 Chorus". In 1962 the Installation dinner

was held in the Metropole Hotel. The incoming WM was William H. St. Leger, the father of W. Bro. Guy St. Leger of Shamrock Lodge No. 27, and W. Bro. Hugh St. Leger of University Lodge No. 33, Metropolitan Area. The Deacons wands from this period are in the Royal Arch room in Tuckey St. and the rather fine Worshipful Master's chain is on display in the premises.

In 1974 a Golden Jubilee Dinner was held at Tuckey St. to celebrate the bringing of the Warrant to Cork in 1924. Latterly, as the number of members declined, the Lodge would team up with the Third Lodge of Ireland for dinners,



Apron of Lodge 595

events etc. The Warrant was surrendered at the end of 1995.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Charles Olden, V. Wor. Bro. Noel Bishop, W. Bro. Guy St. Leger, and W. Bro. Gordon Watson are all former members of the Lodge and are still active in the Province.

There was also a RA Chapter No. 595 which amalgamated with RAC No. 3 in 1963.

# Trust

Writes **Bro. Anton Glasnović**

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One of the essential building blocks of the lodge, or even broader - the group, is the connection among brethren who then act together as a single body, without unnecessary disputes and schisms. This connection is necessary for the lodge to be cohesive, and the main building block of this connection, and one of the symbols our Entered Apprentices will only come to know, symbolized in Freemasonry by the working tool of the trowel, is trust.

Now, why precisely trust and what is it, anyway? Trust, as a concept in human relationships, can be described as the feeling one person has toward another, in which both parties approach the relationship completely at ease, without fear that the other person will at any point do anything against the first, or behind their back, which could cause harm or pain. Such trust is primarily acquired through good will, a concept Immanuel Kant described as the only thing that, as a concept of practical reason, has moral justification, while any action that may end up benefiting another, but is done with an intention other than considering the person as an end in themselves, not a means, is deemed immoral. However, even beyond morality, Kant teaches us about the concepts we harbor within ourselves. Good will is within us, even if we do not perform good deeds. To better understand it, we must contemplate one of its aspects - duty. Duty is something that must simply be done, meaning, in the case of our human actions, it must be its own reason. Ideally, what we wish to do and what our duty calls for align. Yet, in most cases, this is not the reality. Through duty and our attitude toward it, we discern whether there is good will in someone, or good intention. At this point, Kant introduces the concept of maxims, or the subjective principle of the will, the rules we set for ourselves that determine our will. This principle of maxims is not objective, but subjective - it is a principle we give to ourselves. From this, Kant derives three principles.

For an action to possess moral worth, it must be

done out of duty. An action done out of duty derives its moral worth from the maxim by which it is determined. Duty is the necessity of an action out of respect for the Moral Law.

Notice here, and if you have read Kant and his other works, that he always presents his principles in sets of three, so the third principle is a resultant or conclusion of the first two. Thus, the most important principle is, I repeat, 'duty is the necessity of an action out of respect for the moral law.' Kant defines respect as a feeling, but it is a feeling that does not arise from fear or inclination; rather, we must rid our will of all inclinations and thereby make it good. Kant further develops his theory, which is too extensive for this discourse. Nevertheless, even with this, we know enough about the basic concepts to apply this system to ourselves and our lodge.

Allow me to give you an example to perhaps better grasp what Kant was talking about. Let's say our Worshipful Master or another brother tells us that within the lodge, and even outside of it, we must treat our brethren with utmost consideration and respect. Here, we will not take into account cases where brethren do not heed the counsel of an older and more experienced brother, for that is misplaced, and such individuals do not deserve to be our brethren, only the situations where the directive is followed. In the event that we wholeheartedly obey the Worshipful Master and behave toward our brethren with respect due to the fear that he might otherwise expel or chastise us in front of everyone, then our inclination is fear, and hence, our will is not good. In the event that we wholeheartedly obey the Worshipful Master and behave with respect toward our brethren because we believe that this is the easiest and quickest way to gain a higher position, our inclination is personal interest, and hence, our will is likewise not good. However, if we heed the counsel of the Worshipful Master and carry it out without any inclination, purely for the sake of carrying it out, out of consideration for the act itself and the individuals we are impacting, then we can say that our will is good.

But let us return to the concept of trust with another example. So, if we engage in a warm conversation with a brother, for the purpose of maintaining good inter-lodge relations and ensuring a harmonious workshop, then that is by no means moral. As someone who has honed my empathetic senses to the utmost in my own psychoanalytic process, I would perceive it as insincerity and ultimately - distrust. On the other hand, if you are warm with someone because your desire is to get closer to that specific person, your actions will undoubtedly instill trust and be moral, for trust is cultivated in an active process. Similarly, if you are angry or in a bad mood, yet still engage in conversation with a brother and try to make them feel good despite feeling bad yourself, that effort will be felt and such behavior is moral, fostering trust, for nothing is hidden, but quite the opposite - it is sincere, and the aim of your interaction is for mutual benefit.

And now, in the spirit of Monty Python - something completely different. If you didn't know, I am an only child, but sailing through our Freemasonic turbulent seas, I have found several brethren. Lost, never touched by my paths, nor I by theirs. It's like when you have a child. You don't know how much you can love them until you have them, and once you do, you can't imagine life without them and you would give your life for them. So, through this journey, I have found several brethren who were there for me when I was at my lowest. It may seem sentimental, but I don't know how to describe and express the feeling in which people who are mostly older, wiser, more accomplished, sicker, but even more - better people than me, without any interest to call me, ask me how I am. And not only that, but genuinely care for me. They, in such a way, evoke in me the feeling that I have someone of my own apart from my family! How to describe the feeling that in front of these people, I can be exactly what comes to me at that moment, like towards a closest brother, sister, or parents? That I can curse, knowing they will understand. That I can berate them, knowing they won't hold it against me. That they can talk about their problems, even if they know I hear them with one ear because I'm narcissistically preoccupied with my own problems, and they will understand again, and that will be enough for them. That they are

seriously ill and need a short walk, coffee, or a brief phone call with me, and that I simply can't or forget, maybe even suppress it due to the difficulty of the whole situation, and they will love me anyway and patiently wait for me to reach out. These people are brethren to each other and they are the sole purpose of this fraternity, without which we are just hollow shells of regalia and grandiose and empty words, even more so titles.

And now you may wonder what the connection between a brother's love for another brother has to do with trust? It has a lot, because without trust, there is no love. Or if there is love but no trust, then one side is pathologically-idealistically interested in loving the other, but over time realizes that the other doesn't love them, meaning there is no trust, or even basic interest in loving them, and they distance themselves. I have had coffees with countless brethren, and of course, the primary motivation was to meet with them because we are brethren, and because our masonic community means a lot to me, as Fichte said, considering what it has the potential to become. But only with brethren who I can count on ten fingers on my two hands have I felt genuine joy and trust that they were there for me, not for some entirely different interest. And with those brethren, I am still a brother to this day, and with those brethren, I still maintain almost daily relationships.

The goal of my discourse here is to reveal my intentions, which are entirely focused on each one of you individually, where I see each of you as the sole aim of my work in this lodge and beyond. Literally, regardless of everything that has happened, I approach each of you with complete trust, without any Kantian inclinations, and sincerely hope that each of you will feel the same interest in me. Nothing else. Because only in this way will we make something of any lodge we are members of, and not turn that lodge into an imaginary project, and make it a group of individuals who trust each other, and whose lodge is the result of their relationships, and not an imaginary goal without intersubjective substance.

I will conclude with just one piece of advice, and that is to be a brother to one another and see each other as the goal, not a means to achieving your own inclinations.

## Making History at Youghal – Revival of The Roch-Hodges Ritual –

*David J. Butler writes ...*



Saturday 2nd December 2023 saw an historic occasion in the entire conferral of the Third or Sublime Degree, according to the ancient Youghal working, as transcribed by V.W. Bro. Canon Hodges and W. Bro. Colonel Roch in the first quarter of the twentieth

century. The degree had last been conferred according to original working by W. Bro. Roch in the late 1950s, following which it was adapted by subsequent degree givers, or conferred by visitors, according to their own lodge traditions.

R.W. Bro. Baker, W.M., in his opening address, welcomed the visiting Provincial Grand Officers and Grand Officer and noted the historic occasion was even more special, given that the conferring officer, Bro. Glasnović, from Croatia, would be speaking in his second language, to Bro. Villarreal, from Argentina, who would be comprehending in his third language! The degree was also a courtesy degree for Harmony Lodge 555, Cork, a most useful and practical rekindling of the old Fermoy 555 - Youghal 68 connexion.

The conferring officer, Bro. Glasnović commenced his contextual preamble, and the legend of the Sublime degree, entirely from memory with a measured and meaningful fluency, able assisted in the various activities by the wardens and deacons.





Following Bro. Villarreal's investiture with the distinguishing badge or apron of a Master Mason and reception of the Working Tools and Charge, he was then saluted; in his reply, Bro. Villarreal expressed his gratitude and honour to be the candidate, on the historic occasion of the revival of the antient Youghal working.

Following the lodge meeting – which had been preceded by the annual installation of officers of Youghal Mark Master Mason's Lodge, the brethren repaired to *Table 8 Bistro*, Youghal Golf Club for their annual pre-Christmas luncheon. They were joined by guests, including the daughter of the said W. Bro. Colonel Roch – in her 91st year – widow of the late lamented V.W. Bro. George Roch-Perks and, in her own right, inheritor of an incredible Youghal masonic heritage, stretching back – through her father and grandfather – to 1853.

Bro. Villarreal returned the favour of the conferral of his courtesy degree to the Youghal brethren at their January meeting, with his presentation of the following paper; one of a series researched and written by him, as a entered apprentice living in Argentina, in 2021-22:

## The Theological Virtues

*Gastón Villarreal Riveros writes ...*

The cross, the anchor and the cup: this triad is represented in our Entered Apprentice degree tracing board, on Jacob's ladder, symbolizing faith, hope and charity. Before delving deeper into these virtues, I have to ask myself, what is virtue?

*Virtue*, with great importance for our ethical life, can be defined as moral excellence; it is the disposition that a person has to do good, justice, truth and beauty. In short, it is doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong, since in duality, vice appears which we must know how to combat.

*Faith*, symbolized by the cross, not necessarily of religious meaning, is the security or trust that we place in someone or something, like when we were candidates. We had an idea far beyond what we were getting into, but we placed our faith in Freemasonry, to the point of being totally defenceless and deprived of sight, so that someone unknown to us led us through the entire process. Then, it is that faith that keeps us in search of personal perfection; always trying to understand everything that it entails. In Freemasonry, whatever the degree, one always has faith that one will learn something new and that each time one will get a little closer to the light.

*Hope*, symbolized by the anchor, which is a fundamental part of a boat, is the object with which the boat is made secure, in maintaining its position. This is done to prevent the currents – the wind, the wave or the forthcoming storm – from diverting you from your path; so that you may hold on until calm arrives,

until the path is clear, to be able to continue at a firm pace again. This resistance and perseverance represents hope, because no one is exempt from those nights of fog in the soul or stormy waves.

I really like this definition of hope from Sanguinetti:

*Hope* is like a garden of flowers, where one can be at rest; it is security; it is the expanded perfume that fills you with happiness; it is the happy laughter of the walker; it is the tranquillity of pleasant conversation after the fatigue of a prolonged effort; it is the necessary waiting time; it is the end of the guilt of inactivity; it is a protective mother; it is the premonition of good; it is the push onto the last rungs; it is a firm grip of the ladder.

*Hope* helps us move forward with faith, moving towards the unknown or unexpected; it is not rejecting the new just because of ignorance; it is the knowledge that we will achieve it. It is also knowing how to wait, because nothing that is good is instantaneous.

*Charity* calls us to reflect on the selfless, fraternal and universal love that Freemasons owe to each other. This love has an effect on the union between brothers, symbolized in the chain of union that we carry out to welcome a new member; to make him feel that from that moment on he has brothers with spontaneous feelings of help and succour. Charity does not refer to giving alms, nor does it refer only to financial help; for sometimes, charity between brothers is represented in a conversation, in sincere advice, in a word of encouragement, in a moment where a problem can be shared and be heard and be understood.

As a reflection on this layout, I can say that I relate this symbolic triangle to the fire triangle; that is, for a fire to occur, it needs three elements, for if it lacked even one, the flame would never ignite. The same thing happens with this triad. If, for example, we lose hope in something, faith will be affected; we would begin to doubt ourselves; we would be locking ourselves in a box that prevents us from moving forward – which is why the Freemason must always have faith in his ideals, hope of being able to achieve them and love for others.

## **First Conferring of Youghal Working at Freemasons' Hall, Cork The Annual Youghal R.A.C. and Lodge Installations**

*David J. Butler writes ...*

In the gift that keeps on giving, Bro. Glasnović facilitated the alleviation of the backlog of degrees in The Harmony Lodge 555, conferring the Third Degree successively upon two candidates – Bros. James Moore and Kabir Vadera on the morning of Saturday 9th March 2024, when the 555 brethren were joined by one brother each from an English, Scottish, Metropolitan lodge as well as a brother

from old Fermoy, a member of a Cork city lodge – all working together in harmony to facilitate the degree conferrals in a seamless and meaningful manner.



Following a well-deserved coffee break, for half of the brethren in attendance, their masonic experiences that day were only commencing! They drove to Youghal where, following further refreshment to sustain them, they embarked with others upon the annual Youghal Royal Arch Chapter installation of officers, in the presence of M.E. Companion Newenham, District Grand King and R.E.



Companion Schiller, Deputy District Grand King. There was a fine attendance of companions for the impressive ceremonies – the officers wearing their robes and other emblems of office, unique to Youghal – when the installing king, M.E. Companion Hunter, installed Companions Rhys Thomas and Peters and Ex. Companion Cronin were installed as Excellent King, High Priest and Chief Scribe respectively. Following a quintuple proposal of candidates, the chapter closed and, following the traditional sherry reception, was followed by the March meeting of Youghal Lodge 68, incorporating its annual installation of officers.



The annual Youghal Lodge 68 installation had a near capacity attendance of almost forty brethren, when R.W. Bro. Baker commenced his second year in the chair of the lodge. Following the regular business of the meeting, the Fundamental Principals of Freemasonry were read, and the new junior officer team (from senior deacon to superintendent of works) was invested. Much comment was made by the official visitors, led by the Provincial Grand Master, Grand Chaplain and Foreign Representatives, of the transformation of Freemasons’ Hall Youghal and the fulsome number of brethren in the lodge, not to mention the number in attendance each annual installation, which would not have been the case some fifteen to twenty years earlier.

Following an enjoyable series of meetings, the brethren repaired to the upper floor function room at The Red Store, North Main Street, where the atmospheric brick lined room with vaulted ceiling accentuated the enjoyable repast undertaken by the forty brethren who dined.



## The Kinsale Masonic Collections

*David J. Butler writes ...*

The Masonic Hall, Kinsale – situated at Higher O’Connell Street, a former Methodist schoolhouse, built in the 1870s – has been the home to Bezaleel Lodge 234 for over a century. At present, the ground floor apartment beneath the meeting room is undergoing refurbishment and, in parallel to those works, building upon earlier work of the early 1990s and 2014-15, the brethren are making improvements the lodge apartments which consist of a lodge room, an ante room and cloakroom.

The anteroom is being repurposed in the storage of regalia and the facilitation of post-meeting refreshments.

The lodge room, which had been previously refurbished and re-carpeted, has had new window blinds fitted and as Provincial Librarian and Archivist, I was asked to oversee the better display of the existing wall mounted collections, and the provision of additional displays of items of regalia and other Masonica, stored on the premises but invisible to all. What commenced in September and October 2023 had, by November, become a full scale project and with the benefit of the winter recess, saw the unveiling of the full collections, perhaps for the first time fully interpreted, at the February 2024 meeting.

The refurbishment, covered by a mixture of donation and goodwill by practitioners, in gratitude for previous works commissioned, incorporated also the cleaning and repair of Masonica actively used in the ritual: the Deacon wands (1889); the Mauls box & warden columns (1877); the original set of 234 working tools of ebony and mother of pearl or brass (1877); a second set of working tools, mahogany and boxed (1959); the refurbishment of several existing displays of antique 234 interest; the display of items, previously housed in a wall cabinet items from previous and present lodges (wood, metal and glass); and the cleaning and boxing five silver jewels 1940s-70s for allocation to incoming IPMs.



An outstanding addition is the The Kinsale Jewel Collection, mainly early-to-mid twentieth century. This collection of Kinsale members past, primarily belonged to W. Bro. Joseph Garde (craft and royal arch), and also includes a significant High Knight Templar and Prince Mason element.

W. Bro. Joseph Garde was involved in the Port of Kinsale for much of his life; in 1881 his uncle, Thomas Crowley, a local coal and grain merchant, (whose father-in-law, Joseph Hosford, was chairman of the Kinsale harbour board) came together with members of the Acton and O'Neill families to set up the Kinsale Shipping Company (in business, 1881-1918). Joseph was involved before 1901 and by 1911 was also managing clerk to the company of Thomas Crowley & Son, corn merchants. Appropriately, his World War One period Merchant Navy Officer Cap Badges are included.



A very civic minded individual while at Kinsale; he was Hon. Secretary of the Kinsale Y.M.A. [Young Men's Association] by 1914, and resided at Fisher Street. He later resided at Compass Hill, Kinsale. He was initiated into Bezaleel Lodge 234 on 13 February 1906 and served as Worshipful Master for 1912-13 and 1930. He was steward of charities, 1936-48 and treasurer, 1947-53. He served as Excellent King of Bezaleel Royal Arch Chapter 234 for three successive years 1927-29, continuing as treasurer and registrar, 1930-43, until wartime petrol rationing caused the chapter to be relocated to Tuckey Street Hall, Cork – where it endured until its 1992 amalgamation as Bezaleel Royal Arch Chapter No. 8.

Following his death on 10 March 1965, in his sixtieth year of membership, a Volume of the Sacred Laws in blue leather with gold tooled cover inscribed 'Bezaleel Lodge 234 Kinsale' and dedication page, 'To the Glory of God and in memory of Worshipful Brother Joseph Garde ...' was 'Presented by his Children, Richard and Winifred'. This is the volume in current use on the lodge pedestal.

The wall displays at Kinsale now also include interesting items of Edwardian regalia, some of which features in lodge officer photograph of 1912 and which was worn as recently as a quarter century ago.

# Tuckey Street Preservation Project

Writes **Bro. Gerard Murphy**

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## *What's in a name?*

This project is about the ability to preserve and continue use of the rooms at Freemasons' Hall, Tuckey Street as a certainty for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, District Grand Chapter of Munster, as well as those lodges, chapters and councils in the region who meet there – whether monthly or quarterly – and who continue this facility available to them.

## **To date, our challenges were:**

To obtain agreement from Cork City Council for the grant of land. This required a two-thirds majority, plus one, of city councillors present and voting - a first for a Masonic body to receive land from the State. *Achieved.*

To agree a design with the various statutory authorities on a structure that will last the test of time. *Achieved.*

To raise a fresh €300,000 in cash to add to our existing legacies and donations which enabled architect, engineer and professional surveying, to demonstrate our commitment to Grand Lodge for support. *Achieved.*

This brings the total spent and cash available to a combined just over €400,000, putting our province in a proven position to progress with the support of Grand Lodge.

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

## **PLEASE DONATE TO:**

Account Name: **Tuckey St Lodge Building CLG** IBAN: **IE81AIBK 93638397468047**

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

## **What does this really mean?**

Put simply, members will be able to continue to use Freemasons' Hall, in a manner which will be compliant with current and proposed fire regulations. Access to all floors will, for the first time, be available to all, via stairs or lift, something impossible to achieve within the existing building footprint, without significant damage much of the structure.

As Masons are living longer, those now heading into their senior years will no longer need to worry about accessibility. Those who may have difficulty with stairways will no longer be impeded from access and, indeed, attendance.

## **The project continues!**

Members continue to be invited to continue to subscribe – and to obtain subscriptions from their networks – for even with funds to hand met by grant and loan from Grand Lodge, we still have a challenge to meet. However, the milestone of confidence in delivery has now been clearly established – to ourselves as much as to those who will help us now, and into the future.

# THE ROUGH STONE:

## *The Mason's Raw Material in the Art of Promoting Self-Reform*

Writes Bro. Rodrigo Grillo e Lima

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*In every block of marble, I see a statue as plain as though it stood before me, shaped and perfect in attitude and action. I have only to hew away the rough walls that imprison the lovely apparition to reveal it to the other eyes as mine see it. (Michelangelo)*

### I: Introduction

In the words expressed by Michelangelo, we can see that the sculptor shows his iron determination and will, with which he will immediately start the project he has in mind. He no longer sees in front of him just a block of stone in its raw state, but the work of art, or the final product. Reading this confession of yours, or projection, I could not help metaphorically transporting the image and the idea to relate them to our Rough Stone, that striking symbol with which we had first contact on the occasion of our Initiation, and where after being led into its presence, we were invited to strike three blows on its surface. Beginning of a whole work.

The difference, or differences, between the work of the artist above and the work of the Apprentice Mason, undoubtedly has several angles of approach, and one of them may well be related to the fixation with which the first pursues beauty in its essence, and here already taking into account that one of the innumerable meanings of art is what is defined as 'conception or expression of what is beautiful'. The artist incessantly seeks to find something very focused on its visual, EXTERIOR aspect, in addition to what justifies or motivates its contemplation or transcendence, factors that are intrinsically linked to its ideal of perfection. We are not going to go into subjects that are exclusive to the universe of artists and the kind that can generate discussions, involving, for example, your talent or your ego, among others.

The Freemason, even though he is also looking

for beauty and perfection, due to his INTERIOR temple, must certainly be taking into account a set of components such as wisdom, strength and beauty. He will still be searching, and it is here that the meaning of his search undergoes a real turning point, in relation to the artist's objective, his transformation, through his continuous work, the roughing out of the edges of himself, his imperfections, your ego, in order to achieve an intended INNER beauty.

But, would it be possible to conjecture about how long, we Freemasons, should look at the Rough Stone, the same one that was presented to us on our first day, and that will remain there inside the Temple, with a view to work? While we frequent the Temple, and regardless of its function of serving as the first lesson for the work those who are being initiated must perform, it will also remain there to always remind us of that rather arduous mission of the Freemason, which is the mission of the profane that was started, and who ardently desired to go through his own transformation, his reform and his recreation.

So that we do not forget how important it is to be vigilant and willing to provide continuous care for our Rough Stone, it is also going to be there, because, in this way, we will not be making the easy mistake of, with the passage of the time, we think we are so purified and exempt from any kind of roughing to the point of 'humans that we are', we start to worry only about the roughing of other people's stones.

The metaphor used before, I also understand that, serves to better assimilate the following: the artist, the sculptor, can foresee when he looks at that inert block his future work, the final form, and even if he is being prowled during his making by the ghost of perfectionism, will have to declare it finished one day.

The perfectionist spirit, which he is born with, causes him great restlessness, suffering and anguish. And that is an almost general rule in the



artistic world.

The Freemason is not and cannot be a perfectionist in this same sense. The Freemason will acquire, with his work and study, another ideal of perfection, and the formed conscience that this will be a long-term

## II Classification: Controlled work

Will the Freemason, no matter how much he trims his edges, be able to one day consider his work as finished?

If for the painter and sculptor Michelangelo, he could already visualize his finished work in stone, transformed into sculpture, for us, at the time of our Initiation, we saw nothing beyond the stone, the rough stone, therefore, our evolution, our absorption, our commitment, our will and our constancy in chipping away that stone grows with time.

The dynamic between permanence and change is what will make us Freemasons in the true sense of the word. And if we are human beings and we are always under construction, how far can we accept the idea that for the work carried out on the rough stone there will also be a final product, the polished stone?



At what point along the way, imperfect beings that we are, will we be able to perceive our finished 'sculpture'?

When that moment arrives, and if it arrives, only then will we be aware that our great and main battle towards evolution has truly been won. And our deepest conscience always says that there is still a long way to go to reach this stage ... But, the scholar and Master once sees and manages to provide us with another angle of this possibility, and much more optimistically I would say:

*There is within each stone, that is, in the raw material of life and of each individual life, a state of inherent perfection, which is found latent in every form and in every expression, which it is necessary to know, educate and make patent through work that symbolizes of the stone.*

The Stone, so 'hard' and resistant, be it granite, marble, or diamond, can be chiselled transforming it into a work of art, rough or refined like the rough diamond and, brilliantly brilliant! The Freemason, like a Stone, in turn, can be transformed into a 'work of art' or one of intense brilliance! Uncut Stone will not remain.

## III: Conclusion

We must constantly seek to annul the excesses that our ego accumulates, taking great care with the construction of our inner edifice, because, from then on, we will see the other better, tolerate the other better and, then, we will be able to invest in a sense broader, of building the social edifice, of the new society, of the new humanity. In healthy living with our Freemason Brothers, in the accurate observation of their customs and practices, in the exercise of virtues, in the experience of fraternity, we will be stoning ourselves, becoming purer and more committed to the happiness of the human race.

# Greeting from the Island off the Island

• LODGE 190 NEWS •



Worshipful Master, Ian Lawas, pictured at his installation dinner with PGM R. Wro. Derek Dunne and officers of the PGL of Munster, guests from other lodges and brethren of L190.

Writes **Bro Mark Kelly**

Hearty greetings and fraternal salutations from the Island off the Island!

As 2023 ended and we moved into 2024, we find Neptune Lodge in fine form and looking forward to another busy year.

2023 closed with the welcoming of 4 new Entered Apprentices, all of whom have been fantastic additions to the lodge and are well on their way to the makings of fine men and masons all. December was a busy month for us here in Cobh, with 3 brothers raised to Master Masons as well as some of the newly initiated brothers assisting at the Widow's Lunch event in

our Tuckey Street headquarters.

We welcomed brothers from Lodge 67 to Cobh for our January meeting which saw our own Bro. Berezka passed to his Fellow Craft degree – we might add that he is an organist in high demand; any and all requests for his fine skills may be directed to our WM... usual fee applies!

February turned out to be an eventful month for 190; we found ourselves temporarily relocated to Tuckey Street whilst repairs and renovations to our own lodge building in Cobh are underway. We hope to be back home by the end of summer so that we can welcome any and all visiting brothers to the warm embrace of our cosy lodge.

Besides this, our February meeting had Bros. Ramos, Olden and Kelly all passed to their Fellow Craft and our temporary relocation to Tuckey Street saw us well prepared for our March Installation Dinner. It should be noted that the team of dedicated brothers delivering the degree did so in an excellent manner and were a credit to 190 in the performance of the Munster ritual workings.

Our Installation Dinner was a tremendous success – we welcomed some 45 guests to share with us in the evening’s festivities and were delighted to see our new Worshipful Master, Ian Lawas take his place in King Solomon’s chair; all of the officers and brethren at 190 have great faith in his dedication to the craft and he will doubtless carry on the great work started by Past Masters who have gone before him.

We are pleased to report that Masonry in Cobh is in very good standing and in very safe and capable hands with our new WM – already we have secured the Travelling Maul from Kinsale Lodge 234... The Gauntlet is now laid down brethren – come to Cobh and take it from

us, if you dare!

We are looking forward to 2 new entered apprentice initiations over the coming months and we hope to have another 4 brethren raised to the sublime degree by the close of the year.

With fraternal wishes and salutations,  
The Brethren of Neptune Lodge 190, Cobh,



Bros. Ramos, Olden and Kelly all passed to their Fellow Craft and our temporary relocation to Tuckey Street at the February meeting.



Visitors from L67 at L190 January meeting.



# Prosperous times at Harmony Lodge 67

Report by **Bro. Conor O' Dwyer**

With the new year brings new and exciting times at Harmony Lodge 67, Having already welcomed three new Entered Apprentices at the end of 2023 and have since welcomed two more at the beginning of this year with a further two candidates waiting to receive their first degrees to be held in April and May respectively. We are tremendously Proud of our **Bro. Aaron Patton** for the manner in which he gives the Degrees and I would highly recommend that any Brother and especially those new to Freemasonry come and visit Lodge 67 in Tuckey Street on the fourth Wednesday of each month in April and May to see first hand the splendid manner in which our candidates receive their first degree.



Right Worship Provincial Grand Master Derek Dunne, Worshipful Master David Williams with the Officer of the Grand Lodge of England and Provincial Officers of Durham, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire and Officers of Harmony Lodge 67 at the Installation Night in Tuckey Street.

Our installation dinner was held on 20th January in Tuckey Street, and it was a night to remember as we saw **W.Bro. David Williams** remain in Solomons chair to steadfastly guide Lodge 67 into what will be a busy year ahead. Under the guidance of our acting director of ceremonies on the night, **W.Bro. Martin Mason**, we also saw **Bro. Sharpe, Bro. Patton and Bro. O'Sullivan** advance in Officer roles and welcomed **Bro. Moran and Bro. O'Leary** as new Officers. On the evening, we had the honor of having our **Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Derek Dunne** in attendance as well as an Officer from the Grand Lodge of England and a mixture of Provincial Officers and Masons from Durham, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire, the meeting closed and all brethren went downstairs to enjoy a night of good food and drink and many bonds of friendship and fraternity were forged and strengthened between those brothers of Lodge 67, guests and all visitors from here in the Province and from those brethren who travelled from overseas. It was truly a night in which the attributes of Freemasonry shone bright amongst all brothers.



December also saw the brethren of Lodge 67 down in the Marina Market once again selling bears to raise money for the Teddies for Loving Care. **Bro. Mark O'Sullivan** leading the charge having secured a prime location and the bears we sold on the day. Many brothers from Lodge 67 took to the floor and put their people skills to work and within a few hours as I walked through the Marina Market TLC Bears were a common sight in the hands of those who had purchased them, and the TLC fundraiser was a roaring success having doubled what we had made the previous year. A huge thank you to all the brethren who gave up their time to help out on the day and we look forward to hopefully doing it again towards the end of the year.

As we look to the year ahead the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of Harmony Lodge 67 would like to wish our very own **R.W.Bro. Ted Rea** a speedy recovery and we are looking forward to having him back in the future.



Right Worship Provincial Grand Master Derek Dunne, Worshipful Master David Williams with the Officer of the Grand Lodge of England and Provincial Officers of Durham, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire.



Bro. Mark O'Sullivan, V.W.Bro Uwe Schiller & Bro.Nick Willaims at the TLC teddy bear sale in the Marina Market.



Right Worship Provincial Grand Master Derek Dunne, Worshipful Master David Williams with the Officer of the Grand Lodge of England and Provincial Officers and Masons of Durham, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire.

# Lodge Hibernian 95 Visit to Scotland, December 2023

Writes **Bro Gavin Richardson**

What started as an innocuous conversation has now borne fruit, and what a considerable harvest at that! In September 2002 a number of brethren from my Mother Lodge, Carron 139 (SC) visited Cork, but due to untimely events in the UK and under direct instruction from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, no masonic business could be conducted. Hospitality was of course extended in Cork to the travelling Brethren and thoughts turned to future arrangements.

It was the original intent of **WBro Hugo Beasse** to lead a small number of brethren from Hibernian 95 to Scotland, visiting Lodge Carron. The date was finalised as the 08th of December, the annual Installation in Lodge Carron. With the appropriate permissions being obtained from the relevant Lodges, the Province of Munster, the Province of Stirlingshire & Clackmannan, the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland, plans began to take shape.

Unsurprisingly, this is where events swiftly overtook the initial plans! During my discussions with brethren in Carron an additional incentive was offered – a possible trip to Rosslyn Chapel, just south of Edinburgh. Enthusiasm grew and sadly this meant that a number of

interested Brethren would be disappointed, as numbers would be limited, nevertheless a reserve list was drawn up in case.

During the summer, plans were laid, meetings held, and numerous phone calls exchanged, with great enthusiasm as to the forthcoming events. Some changes in travelling Brethren were inevitable and for both joyous, sad and work-related issues the reserve list was swiftly called into action. One of Ireland's "favourite" airlines tried their best to derail return flights, but the brethren were determined. Confirmations of dates and times were made, with travel and accommodation plans confirmed and the journey commenced.

Collection of the travelling brethren at Edinburgh Airport was provided by one of the brethren from Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle 312 (SC) who runs his own bus company, and this took the brethren through to Stenhousemuir, where Lodge Carron is located. At 1730hrs prompt on Friday the 08th, the hall was open for introductions and a brief tour of the Temple before the main event of the evening. Some photos were taken, along with some interesting conversations regarding décor, pictures, memorabilia, and some of the very obvious differences evident. As the brethren



Travelling Brethren from Munster with RWPGM and RWM Elect before Installation.

retired to the Lodge bar, it was starting to get busy in anticipation of the main event, the Installation of **Bro George Mawhinnie** and his Office Bearers.

**IPM Bro Jim MacAulay** opened the lodge at 1900hrs and requested that the Deputation from Hibernian 95 headed by **W.Bro.Hugo Beasse** be admitted in due form, being piped into the Lodge by Bro Gavin Richardson. The deputation was presented by **DoC Bro Alan Reid PM 139** with an invitation to **W.Bro.Beasse** to attend in the East for the evening, becoming the first Frenchman to sit in the East of the Lodge. Thus began the Installation meeting, with the usual formalities. I say usual, but there were, of course, some significant differences noted by the assembled brethren due to the fact that each Lodge in Scotland is permitted to use their own workings within certain guidelines. With The Aims and Relationships of the Craft having been read, the Board of Installed Masters were piped into the Lodge.

The Installing Masters on this occasion were **Bro Lennie McColm PM 484, WSPGM, HM 312, 362, 391, 793, 1712** and **Bro Stuart Stirling PM 139, WDPGM, HM 362, 391, 484**, who were accompanied by a fine Board of Installed Masters. As is customary, the Installation was also attended by a large and distinguished deputation of 18 brethren from the Provincial Grand



Left to Right - RWPGM G. Sewell, Bro L. McComb, RWM G. Mawhinnie, Bro S. Stirling, WM H. Beasse.

Lodge of Stirlingshire, headed on this occasion by the **RWPGM Gordon Sewell PM 598, HM 312, 1303**, who were also piped in where the RWPGM took his place in the East. With introductions made, the business of the evening progressed.

I am still struggling to find the words as to how impeccable the Installing Masters were in performing their duties. It was not only word perfect, with not a single prompt needed through the evening, but it was highly personal, with emphasis and real passion in the delivery – one which will last long in the memory of those who witnessed such fine workings.

As is customary in Carron, during the evening the Lodge was Passed and Raised, with all those who had not yet reached certain steps in Freemasonry retiring. Some notable differences in ritual were seen, details of which I will not get into here – but suffice to say it took the brethren from Munster by surprise! The Lodge was then Lowered and Reduced where the brethren were re-admitted accordingly, and the installation completed. **Bro Stuart Stirling** had the unenviable task of installing the Office Bearers of the Lodge, which again was conducted superbly, with a personal story given about every single one of the brethren stepping forward making it a memorable event. It should be noted that there are a considerable number of differences



WM Hugo Beasse, Bro Gavin Richardson.



in the junior offices in Scotland, most notably the number – some fourteen additional Officers! It must be noted that the two Installing Masters were ably supported by **Bro. Ian Barron PM (VSL, Laws & Constitutions)**, **Bro. Thomas Meikle PM (FC Working Tools)** and **Bro. David Duncan PM (EA Working Tools)**. With the formalities of the evening concluded, **RWM Bro. George Mawhinnie** extended his thanks to all who attended, and as each deputation retired, invited them all to stay for Lodge hospitality and Harmony.

Supper was provided by the RWM's wife and daughters who did a sterling job. The highlight of which were the Stovies, a traditional dish of mashed potatoes, minced meat and onions. During the harmony a number of toasts were performed, and pleasantries were exchanged, including from **W. Bro. Beasse** to **RWM Bro. Mawhinnie**. Sadly, the visiting brethren were not so lucky in the raffle, but the charity collected made the efforts worthwhile. As the hall was to be used early the next morning for a local children's dance class, the hall was cleared and the assembled brethren retired to the Lodge bar, where prices were certainly more reasonable than typically seen in Cork! Songs, jokes, stories, music all continued into the wee small hours, epitomising "from labour to refreshment".

Lodges represented on the night included; St. John (Falkirk) 16, Carron 139, Denny & Loanhead 176, St. Andrews (Cumbernauld) 199,



**WM H. Beasse** presenting newly installed RWM with an engraved tankard commemorating the occasion.

Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle 312, Zetland 391, St. Clair (Glasgow) 362, Slammanan 484, Callendar 588, Polmont 793, Dolphin 911, Kinneddar 1239, Caldercruix 1314, Clackmannan 1303, Corkerhill 1426, Camelon 1456 and Friendship 1712.

The deputation from Munster included brethren from Hibernian 95, St Fin Barre's 8, Harmony 67, Antient Bandon 84 and Neptune 190.

Saturday morning came around and the rain was making its presence felt, fortunately the bus kept us nice and dry while we travelled the 45 minutes through to Edinburgh, with a number of



**Travelling brethren in the East at Lodge Rosslyn 606.**



partners and guests coming along. During the summer, myself and **Bro. Jim MacAulay** had arranged a visit and presentation on Rosslyn Chapel at Lodge 606 Rosslyn St Clair, where a warm welcome was extended by **RWM Elect Bro. Alan Henderson PM**. The 90-minute presentation on the history of the locality onto the St Clair family. The St Clairs were a fascinating family and we learned a great deal on their relationship with Freemasonry, being hereditary Grand Masters of Freemasons from 1582 until their resignation in 1737 on the formation of the Grnad Lodge of Scotland in 1736 and subsequent events throughout the crusades to modern day, which was conducted superbly by **Bro. Steve Chalmers PM**. Some details of which were enhanced by Bro Chalmers' previous life as curator to Rosslyn Chapel! Tea, sandwiches and some stronger refreshments were welcomed on such a dreich morning, with some photos for the lodge website taken, after which we adjourned to Rosslyn Chapel itself.

For those who have yet to venture to Rosslyn Chapel, words to describe the beauty and mystery of the place are hard to come by. From the design carried out in the early 1400's to the laying of the foundation stone in 1450, the skill and craftsmanship to meet the design is simply



North Entrance to Rosslyn Chapel.



Wbro D. Molloy with a large set of compasses.

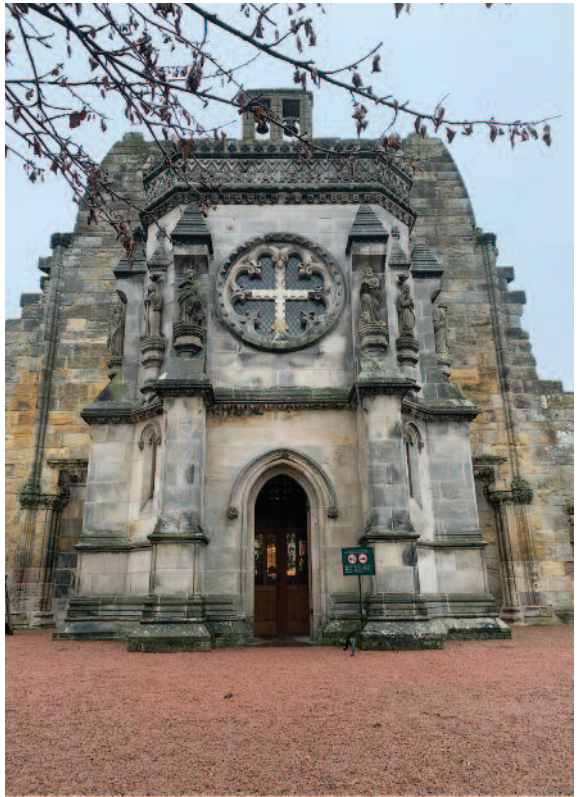
brehtaking. Yes, the most eye-catching elements are the three pillars in the East, named the Masters Piller, the Journeyman Piller and the Apprentice Pillar, but there are hundreds of small, intricate components, the reason for their presence is still a mystery. For example, carvings of corn from North America can be seen, pre-dating **Columbus** by almost a century – in effect debunking the claim that he “found the Americas in 1492” but that’s for another day; the as of yet un-de-cyphered code of the cubes (cymatic tonal music); direct quotes from **King Darius** on his challenges as to strength; pagan influences with the Green Man; music; Templar Knight coffins – there’s so much, a number of books have been written on this fabulous building, many of which are available in the newly constructed visitor centre and gift shop. Stories of how recent interest in Rosslyn has been both a positive, but also a negative were shared, the most dramatic being an individual who was stopped from destroying the Apprentice Pillar using a hammer and chisel as he believed the Ark of the Covenant was inside! Fortunately the Pillar was unmolested and the tour guides are vigilant to the threats.

Our time in Rosslyn over, the brethren retired to Stenhousemuir, back to Lodge Carron, where some refreshments, pies and stovies were provided. **Bro. Ian Barron PM** then hosted a light-

hearted and non-competitive (!?! quiz with some interesting results from the mixed Scottish and Irish teams. Needless to say, this was well received and as the evening drew to a close, **IPM Bro Jim MacAulay** presented **W.Bro Beasse** a quaiach, a traditional Scottish friendship cup, which was filled with a wee dram and enjoyed by the assembled brethren.

On then to Sunday and Edinburgh, or “Auld Reekie” as it is known by locals, called. Those brethren remaining in Scotland certainly availed of the opportunity to see Scotland’s capital, with visits to the Castle Esplanade, the Royal Mile, Fleshmarket Close, Princes Street Gardens, Waverley Station, a whisky tasting and plenty of steps climbed/walked!

In summary, I could not be more proud of my Mother Lodge, RWM, PM’s Office-Bearers and Brethren for showing the true spirit of Freemasonry to the visiting brethren. For the support of the WM and Brethren from not just Hibernian 95, but all who put their faith in me, travelling into the unknown, I am also grateful. A relationship whose foundations were laid by **Bro. Drew Reid** visiting Lodge Hibernian 95 throughout the early 1980’s with his Brother-In-Law, to my own first visit to an Irish Constitution Lodge in 2002, has now taken another turn, with the growing bond between the lodges now firmly cemented. I am sure I speak for all from the trip when I say we look forward to Carron brethren returning to Cork in February 2024, and in the years ahead.



West Entrance to Rosslyn Chapel.



The Master's, Journeymen and Apprentice Pillars in Rosslyn Chapel.

# Meeting Places of the Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland

Writes **W. Bro. Denis O' Driscoll**.

Lodge 15 has met at various locations over the past 200 years. As most of the early Lodge minutes are pithy, it is impossible to catalogue exhaustively all the locations. In the early nineteenth Century, the Lodge was a fluid and temporary concept moving randomly and interchangeably from hotels, taverns and private houses as needs dictated until increasingly from the 1860s onwards, the Lodge became a permanent edifice within a dedicated Masonic Hall.

## 1817 to 1842

From 1817 to 1842, the Lodge met at **Rosscarbery** which was described in Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary* as a market town of 1,522 inhabitants and with "*a square and four small streets containing 282 houses, mostly of indifferent appearance*".

When the Lodge met for the first time at **Rosscarbery** (on adjournment from Cork) on 27th December 1817, **John Legoe** was entered and crafted '*gratis*' as Tyler. The minutes also note that on 5th April 1821, the brethren had "*changed our lodge from Stephen Legoe's*" and ten months later, at a meeting on 7th February 1822, it was minuted that the Lodge "*met at John Legoe's new room.*" It is not known



whether **Stephen and John Legoe** were brothers or father and son. Legoe's was a hostelry and post office situated on the "*Coach Road*" and is still extant west of the Celtic Ross Hotel on the main Cork to Skibbereen Road (N71). It appears that the brethren were practically minded in choosing the proprietor of the hostelry, Mr Legoe, to act as Tyler outside the Lodge room to keep off all Rosscarbery's cowans and eavesdroppers.

The minutes also record that on 1st May 1833 the Lodge met "*in the room of Richard Dunscombe*".

## 1842 to 1850

By the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, Skibbereen had grown into a large and populous market town of approximately 5,000 inhabitants supporting numerous commercial enterprises, shopkeepers, professions and tradesmen. Slater's 1846 Directory lists include: 15 blacksmiths; 2 banks; 10 bakers; 2 millers; 14 builders and carpenters; 30 grocers, drapers and shopkeepers; 17 bootmakers; 2 coach builders; 13 tailors and clothes dealers; 5 pawnbrokers; 2 attorneys; 5 doctors; 2 apothecaries; 5 painters and glaziers; 6 hat and straw bonnet makers; 2 auctioneers; 11 nail makers; 1 gunsmith; 1 printer; 2 brewers and maltsters; 12 butchers; 4 dyers; 6 wheelwrights and 2 rope makers. All this commercial activity was evidently thirsty work given the fact that there were also 47 public houses and spirits dealers in the town! Given the popularity and development of freemasonry in the early Victorian period, it was inevitable that a society of Masons would wish to meet in Skibbereen.

On **7 December 1836**, **John Williamson** wrote to Grand Lodge requesting leave from Grand Lodge for the transfer of the Lodge 15's warrant to **Dunmanway**.



**Ross Carbery, 7 December 1836**

**Sir & Bro,**

*Owing to the circumstances 1st The death of some of our influential Members, 2nd The emigration of others to America and 3rd Some others having in consequence of its nearness to them, joined the Castletownsend Lodge No.27, we have not had a Lodge Meeting here for the last 8 or 9 months, and the determination is now to solicit your Rt. Worshipful Grand Lodge for a Transfer of the Warrant No.15 to the Market and Post town of Dunmanway situate about seven miles North of this place.*

*In this last-mentioned town & its vicinity are a vast number of respectable persons apparently anxious to associate themselves with the Masonic Institution, and by the contemplated transfer I am satisfied the Craft would be improved and the number of respectable Members augmented.*

*I still hold the office of Master, Wm Reily, S.W. and Thos. Hungerford that of J.W. and in the event of a Transfer we would ourselves attend at Dunmanway once a Month.*

*Will you therefore be kind enough to instruct me in the obtaining of it, and please to state the cost attendant upon it, I would send it.*

*Waiting your answer,*

**I remain Sir & Bro.**

**Yours very truly**

**John Williamson**

Evidently, the transfer of the warrant to **Dunmanway** did not happen. Six years later, on **12 March 1842**, **John Williamson** wrote to Grand Lodge again applying for liberty to move the Lodge, but this time, to **Skibbereen**. **On 28th April 1842**, **Lodge 15 transferred from Rosscarbery and met for the first time in Skibbereen**. Surprisingly, the meeting minutes do not mark the significance of that occasion rather the Secretary settles for a rather prosaic entry: *"The Lodge met in Emergency in the town of Skibbereen"*.

The move to Skibbereen arrested the decline of the Lodge and John Williamson wrote to Grand Lodge again on 8th July 1842 in optimistic terms that: *"With great pleasure I have to state to you*

*that before 12 months we will have in Skibbereen as respectable a Lodge as any in the South of Ireland."*

At that time the Lodge met at **Bro. Montjoy's Hotel** in the town. On 24 June 1846, an entry records that *"Lodge was opened at Br Mountjoy's hotel. Members dined in Lodge and the day was passed with pleasure. The WM [RHH Becher] gave the brethren a dinner at his expense..."*.

During this period the Lodge meetings were frequently attended by visiting Brethren from Bantry (L67), Clonakilty (L385) and City Lodges. This may not sound remarkable to the present-day reader but the journey from Cork to Skibbereen would have taken the intrepid Brethren eight uncomfortable hours with a change of horses every twenty or so miles. When Thackeray visited Skibbereen in the early 1840s he recorded that a *"four horse coach the 'Skibbereen Perseverance', brought me 52 miles today for the sum of 3s6d... Near Dunmanway that great coach the 'Skibbereen Industry' dashed by us at seven miles an hour."*

Fortunately for visiting Brethren of the time, the *speed camera* was an invention of a later age.

**1850 to 1854**

In 1850, the brethren were looking for a new Lodge Room for their regular night of meeting. One can only speculate as to why a move was necessary, but it is likely because Bro *Montjoy's Hotel* had ceased trading as a result of the National tragedy of **An Gorta Mór** which was particularly devastating in West Cork.

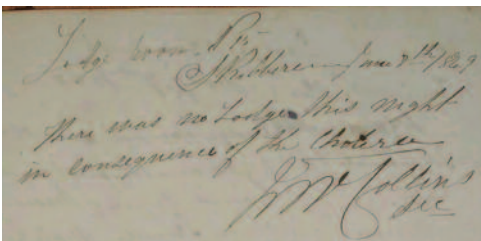
At a meeting held on 5 September 1850 a new Lodge Room was chosen - it was unanimously agreed that *"Brother JW Potter's room be taken at a sum of five pounds per annum"*. JW *"old Jack"* Potter was a Welsh printer and book-binder who arrived in Skibbereen from Pembrokeshire in the 1820s. His four sons were members of the lodge, the most famous of whom were, **Frederick**, who ominously warned the **Tsar of Russia** in 1898 that the **Skibbereen Eagle** would *"keep an eye on him"*, and John Jnr who emigrated to the USA and was the proprietor of the **Freeport Bulletin and Rock Island Argus**.



The devastating effects of the Famine and its economic aftermath were still being felt in Skibbereen into the early 1850s as evidenced by a letter to Grand Lodge on 13 February 1851 written by the newly appointed secretary, **James Charles Mooney**.



Mooney was responding to a letter from Grand Lodge berating the lodge for non-payment of membership dues and he pleaded that *"...after I took upon myself the office of Secretary, my predecessor having gone to Australia for some time previous, and upon resumption of that office I found by an inspection of the books of the lodge that it had scarcely met for the two years previous, nor was there in any one instance a penny paid as dues to the lodge, the whole of the original members having dropped off from causes which the annals of our unfortunate Country will in Centuries to come too truly attest, under those circumstances the lodge owing many local debts which there were no funds to discharge.... I have gone thus far in the hope that Grand Lodge will see what we had to struggle with and consequently deal leniently with men who were struggling as I before said with circumstances unparalleled"*.



From April 1852 until at least October of that year, the Lodge room was not available for meetings owing to the illness of **Bro Potter's daughter, Dora**. Again, a year later, on 28 October 1853, it was noted that *"...this meeting was held at Bro Everett's as a consequence of the illness of Bro Potter's daughter."* Bro. Everett

was a lawyer who resided in North Street. It appears that due to Dora's protracted illness in the years '52 and '53 it was no longer practical for the Lodge to meet at Bro Potter's.

### 1854 to 1861

In January 1854 the Lodge appointed a committee to inspect the **Commercial & Family Hotel** on North Street, Skibbereen run by **Mrs Ellen Doyle** and to report on its suitability as a venue for Lodge meetings. In 1856, the hotel was described in Slater's *Commercial Directory* as *"admirably conducted and combines comfort and economy"*. Perhaps, unsurprisingly therefore, the committee reported back favourably, and the Lodge subsequently rented two rooms from Mrs. Doyle *"at a fixed rental of £2 per annum, Mrs. Doyle also to receive the benefit of the Lodge's patronage."*

Two years later, Mrs Doyle opportunistically rebranded her commercial establishment with the more gentrified title of the **"Prince of Wales"**, following an unscheduled visit to Skibbereen on a rainy Wednesday, April 14th, 1858, by the then **Prince of Wales**, later **HRH Edward VII**, whilst on his Irish tour. Much to Mrs Doyle's delight, the young Prince arrived unannounced, and proceeded to refresh himself at the bar with a *"tumbler of Bass's ale"* to which he added some *"real potheen"*, having endured his conveyance to the town on a *jingle-boy* from Bandon railway station (the railway not having arrived in Skibbereen until 1877).

Mrs Doyle's only disappointment on that most Royal of occasions was the embarrassment that the prince's tumbler was *"unfortunately the most discoloured glass in the shop and had a bit out of it"*. The Lodge met at Mrs Doyle's hotel for 7 years until April 1861.

### 1861 to 1870

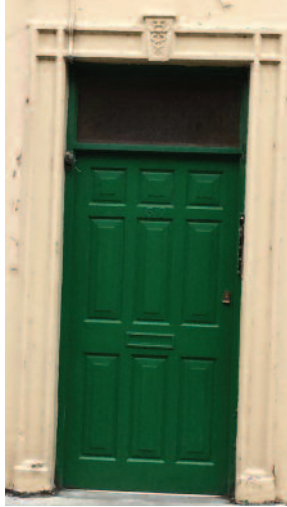
For reasons unknown, perhaps Mrs Doyle was seeking to increase the rent on account of her establishment now being favoured by *Royal Appointment*, but in April 1861 the Lodge leased premises at North Street. Repairs were discussed at meetings and in relation to the *"fitting up of a new lodge room"*.

There are entries in the minutes about the necessity to evict **Dr. Henry Webb**, a sub-tenant, for non-payment of rent. Dr Webb has left the mark of his profession in the town as Caduceus, the medical symbol depicting the Greek mythical character Hermes, represented by two snakes winding around the winged staff, can still be seen in a plaster relief over the door.

Following meetings the Lodge, on occasion, dined at its own rooms in North Street, refreshments being supplied there alternatively by the **Becher's Arms** or the **Prince of Wales hotel**.

At a meeting in June 1862 a tender from the **Becher's Arms** for the St. John's Day dinner was discussed, the brethren unanimously agreeing that 5 shillings for "food and drink" was "cheap" - dinner was to be served at 5:30pm in the Lodge room. Three years later, on 5 October 1865, it was resolved to pay the **Prince of Wales** hotel a sum of 5/6d for a similar St. John's Day dinner.

What type of fayre might the brethren have enjoyed for their festive board? Writing in his *Irish Sketchbook*, William Makepeace Thackeray commented that the kitchen at the **Becher's Arms** "was a huge room, with a peat burning fire" and "as dirty



as the place was, this was no reason why it should not produce an exuberant dinner of trout and Kerry mutton".

Up to this time, all Lodge meetings were conducted by candlelight. But by 1868, gas lighting was being provided in the town by the **Skibbereen Gaslight and Coke Company Limited** from its gasworks in Bridgetown. Bro. Richard Lee's notebook records that gas pipework was installed as part of the renovation works to the Masonic Hall at Mardyke Street. From 1868 onwards the Brethren of Lodge 15 were, metaphorically speaking, truly restored to the Light.

The Lodge continued to meet at North Street for 9 years until February 1870.

### 1870 to present

The Lodge moved to its present location at **No 1 Mardyke Street, Skibbereen** in March 1870 and has laboured there continuously for the past 154 years save for a short period, following a fire in April 2006, when meetings were held at **Abbeystrewrey Church hall** and at **Brinny** (by kind invitation of Lodge 84) whilst refurbishment works at the Lodge room and roof were being undertaken. The Lodge was rededicated by the **M.W. Grand Master of Ireland, George Dunlop**, on 4 October 2007.



# Bezaleel RAC 8, were honoured with a visit from RAC 222 Irish Chapter of Research

Writes **Very Excellent Companion Aidan McDonald**

In March 2024, the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster and in particular Bezaleel RAC 8, were honoured with a visit from RAC 222 Irish Chapter of Research, for the installation of **Very Excellent Companion Aidan McDonald** as the new Excellent King in The Irish Chapter of Research No 222. An honour conferred on only a very few Munster Companions.

The Guest of Honour at the Installation was our **Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King – Most Excellent Companion Charles W. Olden** and he was accompanied by **Most Excellent Companion Robin E.W. Newenham District Grand King of Munster** and **Rt Excellent Companion Uwe Schiller the Deputy District Grand King of Munster**. The meeting was held in the magnificent Chapter Room, on the second floor of Tuckey Street and was well attended with other well-known Companions from the Munster area.

And what a day it was. We enjoyed an Excellent Installation for our incoming Excellent King, which was conducted by Rt Excellent Companion Schiller. It was a fascinating example

of how the Excellent King is Installed in Munster and had some interesting aspects, which we do not always see elsewhere. A confident and excellent performance by Rt Ex Companion Schiller, who certainly set the tone for Very Excellent Companion Aidan McDonald, who installed the remaining officers present with aplomb.

On completion of our Installation, our new Excellent King gave us all an informative PowerPoint presentation entitled – “The Journey of an Irish Royal Arch Mason” which was a thoughtful, considered and detailed view of Royal Arch Masonry. I am looking forward to re-reading the presentation later tonight, as it is full of detail. As the afternoon went on, we could all clearly see the links between Craft Masonry and the Royal Arch, and just how closely both of these branches are in reality. RAC 222 is open for membership to all RA Masons and is a great opportunity to not only learn more of Masonic history and research, but also meet other Brethren for different parts of the country. Meetings are 3 times per year in different parts of the country. For more information contact VEx Comp. Aidan McDonald [kinsalemaster@gmail.com](mailto:kinsalemaster@gmail.com)



Newly installed V.E Companion Aidan McDonald pictured with Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King – Most Excellent Companion Charles W. Olden, Most Excellent Companion Robin E.W. Newenham District Grand King of Munster, Rt Excellent Companion Uwe Schiller Deputy District Grand King of Munster, pictured with District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster officers.

# DISTRICT GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MUNSTER



Writes **R. E. David O'Leary**  
**District Grand Registrar**

Upon joining Freemasonry, most are familiar with the three degrees, and some may be aware of additional degrees within the Appendant Bodies. However, it's worth noting that according to the Laws and Constitutions of the Craft (Law 3), Pure Ancient Masonry comprises the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, and Installed Master degrees, alongside the Royal Arch and Mark Master Mason degrees.

Royal Arch Masonry is regarded as the culmination of Pure Ancient Masonry and is accessible to all Master Masons after one year from their registration date as such, indicated on their Master Mason certificate. Membership is not by invitation only; individuals can express their interest in joining at any time and become members once the aforementioned duration has elapsed since attaining the Master Mason Degree.

Chapters typically convene around four times annually. In the District of Munster, there are eight Chapters, with five situated in Cork City and three in Cork County. For specific meeting schedules and venues, refer to the annual Blue book and the Munster website.

For those keen on learning more, they can reach out to their Proposer, Secretary, directly contact a Chapter Registrar, or consult the District Grand Register for additional information.

DISTRICT GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MUNSTER

**AVAILABLE TO ALL.**

**AFTER 12 MONTHS AS A MASTER MASON ALL BROTHERN ARE QUALIFIED TO JOIN.**

**DON'T WAIT.**

**CONTACT ONE OF THE REGISTRARS BELOW:**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
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| <b>R.A.C. NO 95</b> | <b>Geoffrey Delaney</b><br>royalarchchapter95@gmail.com |



District Grand Royal Arch Chapter Of Munster.





R.R. W. Derek Dunne, pictured with the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster.



R.E. Sir Kt. Joseph Patterson new installed Deputy Grand Superintendent for Leinster, Munster & Connacht with Most Excellent Great Chief and other members of Council 10 and other officers of the Grand Council.

# Munster Young Masons

Report by **W. Bro. David Peters Provincial Grand Inspector.**

We have a new and exciting initiative in the province, Munster Young Masons (MYM) A young mason in this context is, any mason from EA up to and including Senior warden, is classed as a young mason, the title bears absolutely no relationship to the actual numerical age of the member. However, once a mason has reached the privileged position of Master of his lodge then the title MYM is rescinded. MYM is purely a social and fraternal organisation tasked with organising social events to include families and friends, it is non-charitable and non-fundraising. Membership is a once off fee of 20 euro, no further fees or dues payable for the duration of membership. As to the type of events they are as far reaching

as the imagination of the members, so long as events are legal and moral and are in line with masonic values and principles then let's do it and have fun.

It is important to say that the involvement of the members families is paramount, and events will be organised with this in mind.

MYM will also be a vehicle for recruiting potential new members into masonry via MYM events.

I have appointed **Bro David O' Sullivan** as secretary and **Bro Gavin Richardson** as treasurer, both are bursting with ideas for future events. Provincial Grand lodge of Munster will retain oversight of MYM via communications with Provincial Grand Inspector and quarterly reports and annual audited accounts.

**Exciting times ahead watch this space!**



W. Bro Clive Hawkins, Antient Bandon Lodge No 84, presenting the Travelling Maul to W. Bro Michael Travers, Bezaleel Lodge No234 Kinsale, when members of L234 captured the maul.





New installed W. M. of Shamrock Lodge 27, M. W. Guy St. Leger, pictured with his officers and visitors.



R.W.Bro. Leslie J. Nixon Assistant Grand Master, pictured with R.W. Bro Derek Dunne, PGM Munster, W. Bro Ian Lawas, Neptune Lodge No 190, Cobh, and officers and members of Lodge 190 recently.



# *The* Plumblīne

*To submit articles for December 2024 issue of  
The Plumblīne, please forward them to:*

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