



Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim **NEWSLETTER**

No 31 Early April 2016

PRAYERFUL THOUGHTS

The Brethren of the Province of Antrim extend their heartfelt sympathy to **RW Bro John Dickson, Provincial Grand Master**. We remember him in our thoughts and prayers as he mourns the passing of his wife, Margaret, who was laid to rest on Thursday 24 March in the cemetery of Ballinderry Presbyterian Church, following a service of thanksgiving in the church. The church was filled to capacity, with additional seating in the church hall to where the service was relayed. Freemasons from all over Ireland were in attendance, including the Grand Master and his Deputy. Brethren and friends were able to pay their personal respects at a reception in the church hall afterwards.

We continue to remember RW Bro Dickson following the death of his brother at the beginning of April. These past few weeks have not been easy for our Provincial Grand Master, but in the knowledge of the support of the Brethren of the Province he will be sustained. We trust that he will be strengthened and enabled to return in the near future to his role as Head of our Order in the Province of Antrim.

MASONIC ORPHANS' WELFARE FUND

The **Masonic Orphans' Welfare Fund** held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 19 March in Arthur Square Masonic Hall. Proceedings included an update on the forthcoming centenary of the Fund and the launch of the commemoration jewel which is now available. Following the business of the meeting the Brethren enjoyed lunch and a talk by RW Bro Robert Bashford. Further information and photographs are included in this Newsletter.

NORTHERN IRELAND HOSPICE APPEAL

At the beginning of April, receipts for this very worthwhile appeal have exceeded **£27,000**. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects the care and concern of our Brethren for a truly deserving charitable organisation.

LANGFORD 616 WAR VETERAN HONOURED



W Bro William Eames, pictured here with Worshipful Master W Bro Laurence McLea and Brethren of **Langford Masonic Lodge No 616**, received the Legion d'Honneur on 16 February in Thiepval Barracks, along with twenty-two other Northern Ireland veterans of the D-Day Landings. The award was presented by Regine McCullough, France's Honorary Consul in Northern Ireland. W Bro Eames was a pilot in the war.

INSTALLATION at DOAGH UNION LODGE No 317

On 26 February W Bro Desmond McMullan was installed as Worshipful Master, twenty-three years after his first term of office in the Chair of Doagh Union. He is pictured below with Provincial guests, RW Bro David Lyness and RW Bro Jack Dunlop.



MASONIC ORPHANS' WELFARE FUND

The Committee of **MOWF** held its Annual General Meeting in Arthur Square Masonic Hall on Saturday 19 March. The AGM began at 11am with a full complement of members and in the presence of RW Bro Ken Porter, Provincial Assistant Grand Master of Antrim. Comprehensive reports were received from W Bro D Wallace (Treasurer) and W Bro A Patterson (Secretary). During the year to date some ninety-five students had qualified for the full available grant of £180. Progress was being made in respect of future fund raising for 2017 and beyond. W Bro Colin Bonnes stepped down as Chairman and W Bro Dennis Walker was elected to the office for the year 2016 – 17. The meeting was formally closed and the members and guests adjourned to the Sir Robert Baird dining room for a very pleasant lunch, after which RW Bro Robert Bashford gave a most interesting talk on the background to and history of Masonic Charities. An enjoyable AGM came to a conclusion at 3pm.



REDHALL CHARITY EASTER BREAKFAST

Redhall Masonic Lodge No 260, Ballycarry, held its annual Charity Breakfast in support of RNLI on 29 March.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *Thankyou to RW Bro Robert Bashford for photographs and original text in respect of articles on Doagh Union 317, Masonic Orphans' Welfare Fund and Redhall Charity Breakfast. More information and photographs about these, and other Masonic events, can be found on www.irisfreemasonry.com*