



Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim **NEWSLETTER**

No 3 April 2012

INSTALLATION OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



The annual installation of officers took place on Saturday 25 February in the Provincial Masonic Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast, in the presence of a large number of brethren. The Provincial Grand Master welcomed the Assistant Grand Master RW Bro Rodney McCurley, who brought greetings from the Grand Master. Fraternal greetings were also received from the Provincial Grand Masters of Down, Londonderry & Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh and North Connaught.

50 Year Jewel at St John's Masonic Lodge No 788, Cairncastle



W Bro John Marshall is pictured receiving his 50 year jewel from the Worshipful Master, W Bro Robert McToal, at a recent communication of the Lodge. They were joined on this special occasion by RW Bro Jack Dunlop, Provincial Assistant Grand Master, who said: ***It's a great honour to be able to present such an auspicious medal. W Bro John joined Freemasonry on 31 March 1961 and went on to become WM of the lodge in 1978.*** He thanked W Bro Marshall for being a valued member of the lodge and he hoped that this would be the case for very many more years to come.

Philippines Flood Relief Campaign – The First Shipment



Thanks to a great effort by volunteers, on 10th February 2012, the first container shipment of clothing and toys destined for flood stricken areas of the Philippines was loaded and despatched. Generous financial donations to pay for this shipment and hundreds of black bags of clothing had been received from Lodges and individuals throughout Ireland. The container has just arrived in Manila and after customs clearance, distribution will be in handled by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

A second shipment of clothing and medical equipment is planned in the near future. Donations are always welcome!

Soon after despatching the container, the following message was received by text from the Grand Master of the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines:

Bro Bal Madrid, I acknowledge your text message about the 20 footer container you are sending, of used clothing for the relief of our people and our brothers affected by the severe flooding due to typhoon Sendong. This aid will go a long, long way. The Grand Master and the officers of the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines appreciate very much the help you and other brothers of that jurisdiction extended to our kababayan (fellow countrymen) and the Masonic families. Please extend to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim, Sir George Clark Memorial Lodge No 669 and other Lodges who have donated, our outmost thanks.

MW Bro Juanito P Abergas, Grand Master

Father Installs Son as Worshipful Master



At their Installation Communication earlier this year, the new WM of St George's Masonic Lodge No. 267 (Lisburn), W Bro Colin Watson, was installed by his father W Bro Robert Watson. This was the second time Robert had been Worshipful Master of the lodge and he only took on the role for a second term of office so that he might install his son. At the festive board, the assembled brethren were told of their new WM's was active involvement in the Lisburn community. He is involved in the scouting movement, is currently chairman of Lisburn Rugby Club and is also a keen

golfer. With reference to St Geirge's Masonic Lodge, Colin told the brethren: ***If I am half as good as the men who have gone before me then I'll be happy.***

A SAD TIME for TEMPLE Lodge 51

LESLIE HOWARD McILROY 1921 – 2011

Do not stand at my grave and weep:
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sun on ripened grain
and I am the gentle Autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand on my grave and cry.
I am not there; I did not die.

Freemasonry has lost a *Great Character* and a *Real Gent* with the passing of W Bro Leslie Howard McIlroy on 24 November 2011. Leslie received his first degree in February 1952 when he joined Lodge 557. He became a Master Mason in April of the same year and was a regular attender at his lodge, eventually taking the chair in 1966. Always keen to help out he took on the role of Secretary in 1971 completing ten years in the position before eventually affiliating to Temple 51 in 1996.

Leslie never missed a lodge night except when visiting his son in England and was always willing to fill any vacant position in the lodge. He was well known for his quick wit at festive boards and his ability to recite from memory such poems as *The diagonal steam trap*, *The boy who could fly*, *The lion with no teeth* and his favourite, *Piddling Pete*, was legendary.

He was presented with his 50 year jewel and certificate in September 2005 by R.W.Provincial Grand Master Adam McKinley, who commented on his long and distinguished service. He will be sadly missed by the members of Temple 51.

Until our next merry meeting, Leslie

Presentation of 60 year Bar and Certificate at Carnlough



Carnlough Masonic Lodge No 216 held their annual Installation Communication on Saturday 03 March and at that meeting W Bro John McVey was presented with his 60 year bar and certificate.

W Bro McVey is seen here with RW Bro Bill Balmer (Provincial Assistant Grand Master), VW Bro Raymond Mark (Grand Lodge Inner Guard – and also District Grand Inspector for Lodge 216), together with Worshipful Master, W Bro Andy Hamilton.

RW Bro Balmer paid tribute to the long service given to the Lodge by W Bro McVey.

A GLAD TIME for TEMPLE Lodge 51

PRESENTATION OF 50 YEAR JEWEL TO W Bro J H Mc COLLUM



W Bro John Harold Mc Collum (front centre) joined Temple Masonic Lodge No 51 on the 04 March 1959, becoming a Master Mason in November of the same year. A regular attender at his lodge, he first became Worshipful Master in 1971 and then again sixteen years later in 1987, before taking on the roll of Chaplain in 1995. In 2000, to commemorate the turn of the century, the lodge members saw fit to honour him again by making him Worshipful Master for the third time. He is the only member in the history of the lodge to have done so.

In recent months W. Bro Mc Collum has suffered from ill health and the members of the lodge wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him again in the near future.



Westland Lodge No 461

The WM, W Bro Roy Kimpton, with officers and Guests following the Installation of Officers on Saturday 21 January.

W Bro Kimpton was initiated into Westland 461 in January 2004, having originally joined Freemasonry in the English Constitution.