



# Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim

## NEWSLETTER

No 19 September 2014

### Tribute to the late W Bro Peter Leach Tower of Lebanon Masonic Lodge No 169

**Peter Douglas Kenneth Leach** was born in Portsmouth on 20 February 1955 and soon after the family moved to Northern Ireland, residing first at Ballyrobert (near Bangor) and later at Greenisland. Peter was born with glaucoma and attended the Jordanstown School for the Blind and Deaf. Peter never allowed his disability to interfere with his achievements. He was the first student at Jordanstown to obtain an O Level in Art. He was a very keen Boy Scout and went on to become a Venture Scout Leader with fellow Mason, Matt Philson.

In his mid-twenties he helped with an Audio Newspaper and interviewed quite a few famous people, most notably Rowan Atkinson. His first job was with Abbey Meats and after that he was employed by Belfast City Council in their finance department. Unfortunately, with the passage of time his eyesight continued to deteriorate and that, along with the ever-increasing use of computers at work, meant he was forced to retire on medical grounds. In 1990 the family moved to Lisburn and Peter was resident there at the time of his death.

Peter was initiated into **Abbey Masonic Lodge 180** on 30 April 1986: he was passed on 29 April 1987 and raised on 27 May 1987. His proposer was the Headmaster of Jordanstown School, W Bro James Anderson who was also a registered blind person. In April 1991 he affiliated to **Freedom Lodge No 169** and took his demit from Abbey Lodge in December 1998. He was Worshipful Master of Freedom Lodge in 1998 and became Secretary in 2002. In 2005 Freedom Lodge merged with Tower of Lebanon 285 to become **Tower of Lebanon No 169**. W Bro Peter remained as Secretary of the newly amalgamated lodge and served in that office until his untimely death in July of this year

Peter was also a member in other branches of the Order. He was a Companion of Finaghy Chapter No 651 and served as Excellent King in 2006. He was member of Sharon Council No 66 for a period of time.. He originally joined Liscoole Preceptory and latterly was a member of Stewartstown Preceptory.

From 2011 he was the Webmaster for the Provincial Grand Lodge Website and was instrumental in developing the present layout and keeping information up-to-date. He was able to offer assistance to individual Lodges wishing to develop websites and also monitored Masonic activity on the internet. His passing left a void in that area of Provincial responsibility.

Despite his visual impairment, W Bro Peter Leach lived a full and interesting life. He owned a motor cycle as a younger man!! He owned a boat which was kept in Lough Neagh and enjoyed the associated activities. He travelled with his family to Disneyworld in Florida. He had an abiding interest in the exploration of space and enthusiastically followed developments in technology. He enjoyed attending concerts over the years, including stars such as Robbie Williams. He was a big fan of Doctor Who.

Peter Leach has left a valuable legacy, both to his family and Freemasonry. He will be missed by his friends and his Brother Masons. His life is an example of courage and fortitude over adversity and he will be long remembered for his contribution to the current success of **Tower of Lebanon Masonic Lodge No 169**

*RW Bro Ken Porter*

# SHALMAN MASONIC LODGE No 609

## *Presentation of 60-year Bar at Portrush*



W Bro Samuel Alexander Cheyn Robinson was initiated with his twin brother William on 09 December 1954. Together, they were passed on 31 March 1955 and raised on 30 June 1955. Some twenty-nine years later, in 1983, Sam was Worshipful Master. His twin brother died in 1995. Sam received his 50-year jewel in 2004 and, before the summer recess, he received his 60-year bar. He is pictured with Past Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Dunlop and the current Worshipful Master of the Lodge. *Photograph and text from Paul Davis Photography*

### **ANTRIM FUND PROPOSAL**

At the Provincial Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes on 01 September, RW Bro David Lyness (PDGM) gave a presentation on a proposal to set up an **Antrim Fund**. The basis for the proposal is based on the belief that charity is the backbone of the Order and that charity work and community involvement will guide the future of Freemasonry. Many individuals, Lodges and District Charity Committees are already involved in this type of work, but the Masonic Order receives little or no recognition for the valuable, and often significant, contributions which are made.

A discussion document will be issued to all Lodges in October and it is hoped that Brethren will take the opportunity to consider the issues and respond in a positive manner.

# ABBEY MASONIC LODGE No 180

## *Presentation of 50-year Jewel and Certificate*

### VW Bro Sidney Vokes



On a lovely sunny early afternoon in April, brethren from **Abbey Masonic Lodge No 180** gathered at the Jordanstown Nursing home on the Old Manse Road in Whiteabbey to celebrate our own **VW Bro Sidney Vokes** and his 50 years in Masonry. It was a real delight to have the recently retired PAGM Bill Dyer at our event, with a witty word and a truly memorable speech about Brother Sidney and the events and times of the last 50 years - his career at Harland and Wolfe and his years at sea. It was a real family affair with Sidney's sons Kirk and Darren, as well as his daughter-in-law Tina present to enjoy the proceedings and to hear (probably not for the first time) the tales from their father's youth.

RW Bro Dyer presented VW Bro Sidney with his 50-year Certificate and fixed the Jewel squarely to his collar, where it shone resplendently with the awards and regalia earned from half a century of labour with our very proud lodge, Provincial duties and Freemasonry in general. Tea, coffee and scones followed along with the usual wit and banter on these occasions.

VW Bro Sidney Vokes received his Entered Apprentice Degree on 25 March 1964. He was passed to the Fellowcraft Degree on 28 December 1966 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on 22 February 1967. Sidney took his maul in hand as Worshipful Master of **Abbey 180** in 1988, after which he was Lodge Secretary for thirteen years from 1993 to 2006. Nominated by his peers, Sidney became Provincial Grand Senior Warden in 1988, an honour of which he was justly proud. In later years Sidney was an active member who was always there to set up the lodge room prior to our communications and had a real interest and involvement with the comings and goings at the Whiteabbey Masonic Centre.

**Congratulations Sidney from your friends and brothers in ABBEY Masonic Lodge.**



*Text: WBro Ian Eachus    Photographs: WBro Alan Hunter*

# FROM THE ARCHIVES - JANUARY 2011



W Bro Mervyn Murphy (centre) who was installed as Worshipful Master of **Antrim Royal Masonic Lodge 28**, in Antrim Masonic Hall, is pictured here with Lodge Officers and Brethren.



← W. Bro Mervyn Murphy (left) who was installed as Worshipful Master of **Antrim Royal Masonic Lodge 28**, is pictured with his brother W. Bro Andrew Murphy, who was the Installing Officer.

↓ Below

W Bro Walter McNeill (left), Treasurer of **Antrim Royal Masonic Lodge 28**, presents a cheque for **£100** to Valerie Guthrie of the **Antrim & Ballymena Alzheimer's Society**. The money, proceeds from the sale of Masonic regalia belonging to Lodge member W Bro Fred McIlvenna, was presented in Antrim Masonic Hall in the presence of W. Bro Brian Henderson (Secretary) W. Bro Mervyn Murphy (WM). and W. Bro Maurice Henderson (Director of Ceremonies).



*Photographs and Text from  
Pat McGuigan Photography  
Randalstown*

