



# Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim **NEWSLETTER**

No 6 January 2013

## **Antrim Bids Farewell to the Provincial Deputy Grand Master**

It was a cold, wet night in September when Antrim Freemasons gathered at Rosemary Street for the Provincial meeting which saw the retirement of Dennis Millen as the Provincial Deputy Grand Master. However, the warmth of feeling expressed that evening for a long serving officer more than made up for the weather outside. Members from differing branches of the order queued to give testament and show their affection for a hard-working and much loved brother.

Dennis, humbled by what he heard, didn't let it go to his head and stated that all his work within the order was for the betterment of his fellow brethren and he had gained much pleasure and gained many friends from his time serving the province and, at times, the entire Irish Constitution. In his farewell speech, Dennis made reference to the recent turmoil within the Province and hoped that all brethren could be reconciled.

Dennis recalled that he joined the Masonic Order some forty-six years ago when a friend, Trevor Hanna, nominated him to Zion ML 700, Rosemary Street. Dennis is still a member of that lodge today although it has changed somewhat. *Three lodges were struggling with members and we decided to amalgamate. We're now Festival of Zion ML 796, which incorporates a*



**RW Bro Dennis Millen** pictured with his successor, a relaxed RW Bro David Lyness

*piece from each*, he explained. Dennis joined the Rosemary Street Social Club and became its secretary for ten years whilst also joining the Charity Committee. During the tenure of Robert Thomson as PGM, Dennis was invited to become a PAGM with responsibility for the charities of the Province, subsequently forming the Antrim Charity Council. *My heart has always been in the work of Masonic Charities ever since I heard RW Bro Gordon Bradshaw give a talk about the charities in my mother lodge*, added Dennis.

When asked what he felt was his most noticeable contribution to Freemasonry, he said that his dedication to charity and getting different charities working and communicating with each other was high on the list along with masonic breakfasts and the Christmas Carol Services. *However, it's not about me*, he insisted. *It's the future that matters. We need to address the continued cost of maintaining halls and continue to improve our image in the wider community of which we are an integral part.*

Taking a keen interest in ritual Dennis was always a regular attendee at the Grand Lodge of Instruction and he was thrilled to have been made an honorary member in recognition of his ongoing support.

When I enquired why he had decided now was the right time to step down he explained that new blood was needed, young and fresh. He felt it important to support RW Bro John Dickson as the PGM during the transition period after he was installed in the post.

*I'd like to wish the PGM, Officers and Brethren success for the future and extend my warmest congratulations to W Bro Lyness on his appointment to the office of PDGM Antrim, he added.*

Dennis continues to be an active member of the Masonic Order and still has many duties on committees in Dublin. He will also remain a familiar face within Antrim and looks forward to seeing the Province moving from strength to strength and will continue to support Charity work by District Committees and Lodges alike.

*Michael Holden  
Grand Lodge PR Officer for the Northern Provinces*



## NEWS FROM LODGES

### Union Lodge 1008, Portrush



On 24 August 2012, Union Lodge held a Charity Golf Outing which raised £450 to support a young girl from Bushmills. Louise Greer, pictured here with WM W Bro Colin Bredin, has a disability, but nevertheless hopes to enter for the 2016 Olympics in Rio in the Disabled Horse Riding Competition.

The money raised will assist with riding lessons and associated expenses. We wish Louise every success in fulfilling her ambition

### Temple Lodge 51



The sun shone on members and their guests as they enjoyed a day out target shooting at a local range on Saturday 20 October last year. The standard of marksmanship displayed by the sixty-five people who were in attendance was, to say the least, impressive. The event culminated in a festive board of soup, sandwiches and sausage rolls and for all it had been a great day's entertainment.

## **In Memoriam**

### **VW Bro David Bramwell McCutcheon**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012 Irish Freemasonry lost one of its giants with the passing of V. W. Bro David Bramwell McCutcheon. David McCutcheon was born in 1929 in south Armagh. He was the eldest of a family of ten and was christened David Bramwell McCutcheon. His parents were devout members of the Salvation Army and they gave him the middle name of Bramwell after the eldest child of William Booth, the organisation's founder. When he was 15 he went to sea as a cabin-boy and after two years he left it and came home to start work on the railway as a fireman on the steam engines. He worked on the railway and progressed to other positions until, at the age of 32, he joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Over the following years he served in all the six counties of Northern Ireland until 1962 when he came to Larne as Station Sergeant, a post which he held until his retirement from the RUC.

His Masonic career began Lodge No 819 in Ederney, Co. Fermanagh in 1953. As a consequence of moving to different postings he received his Master Mason Degree in Jocelyn Lodge No 734, sitting in the Mount in Belfast. When he came to Larne he affiliated to Carnlough Lodge No 216 and he became Worshipful Master in 1980. We, in Carnlough, were singularly fortunate that he chose to affiliate to us for he brought with him a great store of knowledge and infectious enthusiasm. He became Director of Ceremonies for the next ten years and represented Carnlough Lodge No 216 at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim's Board of General Purposes. In 1995 he was elected to the post of Grand Senior Warden in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim and he was nominated on two different occasions for Grand Lodge honours. For many years he was a prominent member of the Committee of Inspection.

He was one of the founders of the Larne Craft Class of Instruction and served several Offices including those of Secretary and Chairman for many years. He brought teams together to exemplify the First, Second and Third Degrees before the Grand Lodge of Instruction. His knowledge of ritual was impeccable and his guidance was always given in such a gentlemanly manner. He was at all times a very enthusiastic recruiter for the Larne Craft Class and as the present chairman, it is to him that I owe so much due to his encouragement. In 2008 we celebrated our bicentenary in Carnlough Masonic Lodge No 216 and I put together a short history of the Lodge to mark the occasion. VW Bro McCutcheon was most helpful to me throughout the preparation and production of it.

In 1981 he joined Lodge No 200, the Irish Lodge of Research and for many years, up to the time of his death, he was their Director of Ceremonies. He was one of the few who was awarded their Jewel of Merit which he always wore with pride. He had a great love for Masonic history and through the Lodge of Research he became very well known throughout the length and breadth of Ireland and beyond, because he was a Correspondence Member of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 in the English Constitution. He had many friends and acquaintances within the Scottish Constitution as well. He was a big man in every sense of the word: physically big and his knowledge of the Laws and Constitutions and the finer points of ritual were second to none.

In other branches of our Order he was a Past King of Glenarm Royal Arch Chapter No 45 and he was a Past Chief of Glencloy Council of Knight Masons No 47.

Aside from Freemasonry he was a "Radio Ham" in his younger days, holding a Amateur Radio Operator's Licence. He was a committee member of the Larne branch of the British Legion and other welfare associations. A few years ago he went, in his own words, "back to school," to the University of Ulster at Jordanstown to do a Law Diploma which he duly passed with flying colours – no mean feat for a man of his years.

We all have many good memories of him from the mischievous twinkle in his eye when he was exchanging a bit of good-natured banter or the hearty chuckle as he enjoyed a good joke at our Festive Board. His latter years were not easy ones due the slow but steady decline in his health which was stoically borne. We extend our sympathy to his wife Muriel and the family circle. Although we shall miss him, our loss is the gain of the Grand Lodge above.

*W Bro Alistair Montgomery  
Carnlough Masonic Lodge No 216*

## Masonic Breakfast Serves Up £2000



A charity breakfast was held in the Bayview Hotel, Portballintrae last November to raise much needed funds for two local charities. The event was organised by the Cary & Dunluce Masonic District Charity Committee. This is an annual event, now in its fourth year. The hotel commenced service at 7am and finished at 10am and had a very varied selection on offer. W Bro Andrew Bingham, the secretary of the charity committee was delighted with the turnout and said, *We've served a hundred more breakfasts than we did last year. There are many people here who have no association with Freemasons, but who want to support us and the charities.* Those charities benefitting from the function were, **Guide Dogs for the Blind** and the **Chest, Heart & Stroke Association**.

Representatives from Guide Dogs for the Blind were present and enjoyed a breakfast themselves. Tori, along with her guide dog Ushi, seemed to be enjoying the morning and commented, *I'm overwhelmed by the support here today. Everyone sounds like they're really enjoying themselves.* Tori went on to explain that each dog costs approximately £50,000 for its lifetime as a guide dog and every penny raised was gratefully received.

After the event the committee chairman announced to those people still at the event that the money raised was in excess of £2000, and with more donations promised it was hoped that the figure would be closer to £3000.

