

Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim

NEWSLETTER

No 5 September 2012

A SPECIAL OCCASION FOR CHICHESTER MASONIC LODGE 313

On Saturday evening 02 June 2012 at an Emergency Communication of the Lodge, three of its stalwarts were recognised by Provincial Grand Lodge. **VW Bro W J Liggett MBE** and **W Bro Archie Singleton** received long service awards: for Bill Liggett, a 60-year bar was added to his 50-year jewel and Archie Singleton accepted his 50-year jewel. Archie had originally joined a Lodge in Londonderry and affiliated to Chichester; Bill joined Chichester sixty years ago.

At a good attendance of the Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Dickson was received and welcomed. During the presentation ceremony the PGM referred to events of the day at the time of both brethren joining Freemasonry and highlighted their Masonic and professional careers. W Bro Singleton was WM in 1974 and VW Bro Liggett was WM in 1975. Both served as sergeants in the RUC stationed at Whitehead. *Below, the PGM addresses Archie and Bill during the presentation ceremony.*



After labour the Brethren assembled in the dining room where the PGM was introduced to Lauren and Angela MacDonald, granddaughters of **the late W Bro Capt Angus John MacDonald**. Angus passed away, after his 100th birthday, on 29 March 2012. Angus has been sadly mourned by his Brethren, by whom he is fondly remembered. Angus served as WM of Chichester in 1981.

THREE MASONIC EVENTS

Charity Ball

In an effort to bring more openness to the Masonic Order in Northern Ireland, the Provincial Grand Masters of Antrim & Down agreed to a charity ball being organised in Belfast by two of the Order's younger Brethren. Following on from a similar ball in Dublin in 2011, the wife and fiancée of the two Brethren thought it would be an excellent idea to undertake a similar function here. The Masonic Order is a *men only* club here in Ireland and it would seem strange that this idea came originally from members' partners. When the ladies were asked why they thought it would be of benefit, they said, *There is so much myth surrounding Freemasonry; most of which is nonsense. We wanted to let those not connected with the Order know just how civic minded Masons are. We aren't allowed to join of course, but we are equally committed to what they do and get to enjoy all of the social aspects.*

In finding a venue for the ball, the organisers wanted to host it in a place of renown and felt that Parliament Buildings, Stormont, was the most recognisable place in Northern Ireland. An approach was made to an MLA to seek sponsorship for the use of Stormont. Cross party support was also needed for the event to take place in the seat of government here and Robin Swan MLA managed to attain this for them. The ball was held on the evening of Saturday 12 May 2012 with the *Belfast Jazz Orchestra* providing music followed by *The Usual Suspects*, to help guests dance the night away. This was the first ever occasion that Craft Freemasonry has been granted use of Stormont and the ball, which was open to everyone was attended by representatives of Marie Curie Cancer Care (which was the beneficiary of the event) as well as MLAs.

When selecting the Marie Curie Cancer Care as the charity to benefit, the organisers felt that cancer touches most people at some point in their lives and this would be a very worthy recipient of the proceeds. About 200 people attended the function with approximately £5000 being raised for the fund.

Masonic Gathering in Antrim

An attendance of over 100 Brethren made the event in High Street Presbyterian Church Hall on Saturday 19 May an enjoyable and interesting day. With competition from many other major events around the province the attendance was exceptional and RW Bro Balmer, Chairman of the Information & Support Committee, was full of praise for the speakers, the Brethren who supplied the interesting memorabilia and artefacts and all who attended. RW Bro Balmer said he was pleased that Masonry in Antrim was obviously alive and kicking and he felt that, if the enthusiasm shown at the meeting was anything to go by, the next few years would be very interesting for the Province of Antrim and could see an all round strengthening of attendance at Lodges and an increase in membership. He said he was pleased that several Brethren had made bookings with members of the Speakers' Panel. He hoped that the talks arranged would

be of interest to Brethren, provide something a little different and encourage Lodges to become more pro-active.

Golf Tournament

The Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, RW Bro John Dickson, launched an inaugural golf competition in order to support charities. Held at Ballycastle Golf Club on Friday 18 May, the day was a great event with over 100 golfers registered to play. The event was attended by both men and lady golfers, all aiming to win coveted prizes for varying disciplines during the round of golf.

The event raised £2818 shared between two non-Masonic charities as well as the Victoria Jubilee Fund. Lifelites is a children's charity working in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Children's' Hospice, to provide essential and much needed respite care for patients with terminal or life limiting illnesses. The Charity coordinator at NICH explained, Eighty percent of our funding must come from donations and the Freemasons are always very generous to the hospice. They have contributed, and continue



to contribute, substantial funds towards our important work.

The **Cardiac Fund at Altagelvin Hospital** has also benefited and It is hoped that this will go some way to improving the cardiac services for the local residents.

Pictured is the golf day organiser W Bro Robert Wilson presenting the winning prize to W Bro McVeigh.

WOODLAND LODGE 803 hold a MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Friday 23 March 2012, the brethren of Woodland Lodge 803 held a Memorial Service for departed brethren during their Stated Communication. The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro John Dixon, was in attendance along with a number of distinguished guests, Brethren of the Lodge and visitors. The service was held to commemorate the passing to the Grand Lodge above of the following brethren:

The late W Bro David Crawford
The late W Bro William J C Leeper
The late W B

The late W Bro Thomas Montgomery
C Leeper The late W Bro James L Hewitt
The late W Bro Norman Crozier

VW Bro Rev Ken Gamble, Provincial Grand Chaplain to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, officiated during the service. Scripture readings were read by Bro Barri Orr (Junior Warden), Bro Harold White (Senior Warden) and W Bro Trevor Moore (Worshipful Master). W,Bro Noel Smyth played the organ. This was a fitting tribute to the dearly departed brethren and despite the sombre occasion, an enjoyable evening was had by all in attendance as the brethren reminisced at the festive board about the good times had in the company of those no longer with us.



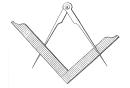


Above

The PGM with members and guests after the memorial service.

Left

After being elected Provincial Grand Lodge Steward for the year 2012, W Bro Trevor Moore is presented with his provincial regalia by W Bro Eric Hanna, Worshipful Master at the time.



You are invited to submit photographs and articles about your Masonic Lodge and its activities. Please use the Diary on the website to advertise forthcoming events eg Charity functions.