



Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim **NEWSLETTER**

No 14 Late January 2014

INSTALLATION AT TOWER OF LEBANON 169

Tower of Lebanon Masonic Lodge No 169 held their Installation Communication on Saturday 04 January in Aerthur Square Masonic Hall. The special guest on this occasion was RW Bro Ken Porter, Provincial Assistant Grand Master. Included in the business was the conferral of the Fellowcraft Degree on Bro Jonathan Mcllwaine, in which the candidate's father took part.



The newly installed Worshipful Master, W Bro Albert Cooke, flanked by the PAGM and Immediate Past Master W Bro Douglas Taylor, instructs other Officers and Guests to join him to be photographed – and accordingly they do so below: W Bro John Mcllwaine (Past PGL Inspector), Bro Pepito Delos Reyes Jnr (Senior Warden), Bro Cuthbert Arutura (Junior Warden), W Bro David Openshaw (Past PGL Inspector), W Bro Peter Leach (Secretary) and W Bro Leslie McCutcheon (Director of Ceremonies).

After the meeting the Brethren retired to one of the function rooms for a satisfying meal and an interesting evening of toasts and entertainment.



70-Year Platinum Certificate *presented to* W Bro Reginald Baxter

W Bro Reginald Baxter reached a milestone when he celebrated 70 years in Freemasonry.

Reginald was raised at 10 Pound Street, Larne and became a weaver. He went on to become an Assistant Manager with the Inver Weaving Factory Ltd.

W Bro Baxter joined **Magheramorne Masonic Lodge No 514** on 17 April 1941 and became Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1957.

During his years in Larne, W Bro Baxter was the Scout Master of 3rd Larne Scout Troop. When he married he moved to the Woodburn Road in Carrickfergus. In the early 2000's, as Reginald was getting older, he moved to Dungannon in order to be closer to his family, but after a bout of illness he eventually moved into the Ashbrook Care Home in Coalisland, where he still resides today.

A presentation ceremony was held at his Care Home on the 17 July 2011, seventy years and three months after his initiation into Freemasonry. W Bro Baxter was presented with his Seventy Year Platinum Certificate by R W Bro John Dickson, Provincial Assistant Grand Master. In attendance were the WM of Magheramorne, W Bro David Noble, accompanied by a number of the Lodge members. The ceremony was also attended by a large number of family and friends. After the presentation everyone adjourned to the Dining Room where a buffet was kindly provided by the Ashbrook Care Home Staff and a Commemorative Cake to celebrate the occasion was cut by W Bro Reginald.



Despite his years, W Bro Reginald visited the Larne Masonic Centre on Friday 09 September 2011 and had an enjoyable evening with his friends, both masons and non-masons.

This page records what happened in 2011. Now read on and find out what happened in 2013.

As a follow on from that event in 2011, the Lodge have kept in close contact with Reg, especially with the help of his main carer Mrs Lorna Neill. Reg had indicated that he would like to attend one final meeting of the Lodge, but as his health had deteriorated with age, it was accepted that he couldn't undertake the journey to Larne. The Lodge decided that as Mohammed (or in this case Reginald) couldn't come to the mountain, then the mountain would go to him. Initially it was suggested that a meeting could be held in the Coalisland Masonic Hall, but it was then agreed that the Training Centre at Ashbrook Care Home would meet all the requirements necessary to hold a meeting.



On Saturday 9th March 2013 at 2.00pm, an Occasional Communication was held in the Ashbrook Care Home, 50 Moor Road, Coalisland, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone and a large contingent of Freemasons made excursion to Coalisland. During the meeting, W Bro Reginald Baxter was conducted to the Worshipful Master, W Bro Phillip Wylie, who presented him with a signed copy of the Felix McKillop book on the **History of Larne**. He also presented him with a certificate, detailing the pertinent dates of his involvement in the Lodge together with a copy of his original signature in the Book of Members of the Lodge. A further photographic book showing Larne in 2013 was presented to him so that he could compare the old with the new. W Bro. John McIlwaine, a member of Lodge No 845 and also a resident in the Care Home, was welcomed and saluted.

As a result of correspondence with the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh, VW Bro Frank Arnold, it came to light that another resident, Mrs Sue Compton was a widow of Coalisland Lodge No 300. Mrs Compton, together with her son and daughter were invited to the festive board after the meeting, where W Bro Wylie presented her with a Widow's Brooch, a certificate detailing the significance of the brooch and a bouquet of flowers.

This was a very unique occasion for all involved and our thanks must go to the management and staff of Ashbrook Care Home who helped make this day such a memorable occasion. We are proud to have W Bro Reginald as a



member of **Magheramorne Masonic Lodge No 514**. He was 98 years old on his birthday on 01 January 2014 and when I visited him prior to that he was looking forward to having a small party and getting some cake.

W Bro Reg Baxter is surely one of the oldest Freemasons in Ireland and is truly one of life's gentlemen - and for all of his 98 years, he is still lively and full of fun.

Reporting and photographs by W Bro Russell Millar

St Patrick's Masonic Lodge No 195



Members of St Patrick's Masonic Lodge No 195 pictured with guests at their Installation which was held in the Nesbitt Room, Freemason's Hall, Arthur Square on Wednesday 22 January. Included in the photograph are the Worshipful Master, W Bro Robert Coulter, and the Installing Officer, VW Bro James McClurg.

Photograph by Pat McGuigan Photography, Randalstown

The Installation Season is well under way. Why not send photographs and reports for inclusion in the next few issues of this Newsletter? We like to refer to special occasions: charity events, 50 year jewel presentations, trips to Dublin, exchange visits, ladies' evenings, barbecues..... The list is endless!!! Send your information by e-mail (with attachments) to: admin@pglantrim.org

BEREAVEMENT for PATRICK MASONIC LODGE No 493

W Bro Robert Simpson passed away on Tuesday 26 November and was laid to rest on the following Friday. He was 93 years of age. Robert was originally a member of Abercorn Lodge 515 in Londonderry and affiliated to **Patrick Lodge 493** in December 1972. He became WM in 1984 and afterwards served in the offices of Secretary and Steward of Charities for a number of years.

In 1994 he served the Province of Antrim as Provincial Grand Lodge Sword Bearer.

He celebrated 60 years in Freemasonry in January 2005 and was made an Emeritus Member of Patrick Lodge in 2011.