



Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim **NEWSLETTER**

No 17 May 2014

BI-CENTENARY ST JOHN'S MASONIC LODGE No 121



St John's Masonic Lodge No 121 in their Bi-centenary Year

History On 02 December 1813, Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes received a memorial from Brothers William Stewart, Richard Mussen and Matthew McCreedy, all members of Lodge No 811, praying Grand Lodge for a Warrant to hold a Lodge in Ballymullan, Co Down. At the meeting of Grand Lodge on 06 January 1814, **Warrant No 121** was issued to Bros W Stewart Snr., R Mussen and M McCreedy to form a Lodge in BALLYMULLAN, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

Presiding Officer The Worshipful Master, W Bro Frankie Hanna welcomed all present on this historic occasion.

The Event The Bi-centenary Celebration took the form of a **Ladies' Night** in the Belsize Masonic Centre on Friday 07 March, following a special communication on Friday 07 February.

The Photograph In the front row: W Bro R Farrier (standing), Bro Heaney, RW Bro John Dickson PGM, W Bro Frank Hanna (WM), W Bro Ken Gamble, W Bro Morrell Murphy & Bro G Gilmour (standing)

Photographs and original text for this article provided by RW Bro Robert Bashford

MEMORIES OF ST JOHN'S BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



PGM with W Bro Morrell Murphy and
Bro Harry Lewis

W Bro Frank Hanna
WM of St John's Lodge 121

Valerie Jackson, W Bro Albert Jameson
& Anne Jameson

PGM in conversation with Bro H Lewis
and W Bro Cecil Corken

Jenny Moulds, Sarah Moulds, Adrian Brown
Ernie Brown & Maggie Brown

PGM and his wife Margaret with other
guests at the dinner

PRESENTATION OF 50-YEAR JEWEL AT LODGE 318

James Chambers Masonic Lodge No 318

On Friday 21 March the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren paid tribute to W Bro Billy Webb on his 50 years in Freemasonry.

Billy was initiated on 21 February 1964, passed on 19 April 1964 and raised on 19 June 1964. He became an active member of the Lodge and along with two other Brethren, W Bro Robert (Bob) Irwin and W Bro Billy Davidson, formed a Social Committee to look after the sick and to arrange social evenings with the Brethren and their wives or partners. The social committee remains active to this day.

In January 1978 W Bro Webb was installed Worshipful Master of the Lodge and soon after becoming a Past Master he took office as Director of Ceremonies, an office he held until the 10 year rule required him to retire. W.Bro Webb would, to this day, say this was the most enjoyable office he had held, and one that he would still love to be doing.



RW Bro Ken Porter, Provincial Assistant Grand Master, being in attendance spoke highly of the work carried out by W.Bro Webb, in particular the setting up of the social committee. RW.Bro Porter presented the 50 year jewel and certificate to W.Bro Webb, making the evening one that he will remember for years to come. W.Bro Webb thanked the Worshipful Master, PAGM and Brethren for making this occasion such a special one for him.

The brethren then retired to the main hall for the monthly festive board, but with a difference to mark such a special occasion and including the presentation of a cake specially baked to celebrate W Bro Webb's fifty years as a Freemason.



Above,
W Bro Webb
with the PAGM
and WM W Bro
Darren Marks

Left, the
Brethren pose
for the camera
before retiring to
the Festive
Board.

Original text and photographs from W Bro Sandy Mutch , Director of Ceremonies of Lodge 318

“On Yer Bike!”

W Bro Scott Harkins of **Temple Masonic Lodge No.51** announced to the brethren that he would be taking part in the **Great Divide** cycle race in June 2014.

He will cycle a distance of 2,745 miles from Banff in Canada to the New Mexico border on a mountain bike, a feat yet to be completed by anyone from Ireland, North or South. He hopes to complete the distance in 25 days, a little short of the record of 17.5 days, but none the less a great effort.

When asked why he was doing it he replied, *When I was diagnosed with testicular cancer on 28 May 2004, I vowed that, if I survived, I would undertake the challenge of a lifetime to raise much needed funds for the **Marie Curie Foundation**. That was nearly 10 years ago and, following treatment and annual tests, I am now clear of the disease and focused on the challenge which is to compete in the longest mountain-bike race in the world, **The Great Divide**.*

Scott has set himself a target of **£10,000** and is already half way there. The Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Lodge wish him well and every success. If anyone wishes to make a donation towards the cause this can be done at <http://www.justgiving.com/teamscottharkins>.

You can see a more detailed plan of the event at www.teamscottharkins.co.uk.

Original text and photograph from W Bro Nicholas Harrison , Secretary of Temple Lodge 51



Bereavement for Magheramorne Masonic Lodge No 514

W Bro Reginald Baxter passed away on Wednesday 26 March 2014 and was laid to rest on Saturday 29 March 2014 in Cottagequinn Cemetery, Dungannon. He was interred with his wife Grace who had passed away in 2001. A service was held in the Oratory of the Ashbrook Care Home, Coalisland, at which Rev Elizabeth Stevenson officiated: this was well attended by family and friends. The Lodge was well represented at the funeral and the Worshipful Master W Bro James Keenan read a Masonic Prayer as part of the service.

Reg, as he was known to his family and friends became a member of **Magheramorne Masonic Lodge No 514** in 1941 and remained so until his death. As reported in the January 2014 issue of this Newsletter, he was presented with his 70 year certificate by RW Bro John Dickson (PGM) in July 2011.

W Bro Reg always enjoyed and was proud of his involvement in Freemasonry. He took great delight from his various meetings with the brethren and thoroughly enjoyed the Communication which the Lodge held in the Ashbrook Care Home in March 2013.

Reg had reached the grand old age of 98 on 01 January 2014. Such was his personality and presence, he will be sadly missed by everyone who had ever met him, but especially by his fellow members of **Magheramorne Masonic Lodge No 514**.

W Bro Russell Millar, Secretary