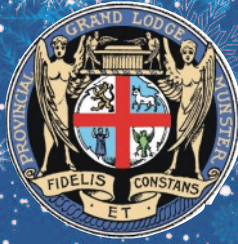


DECEMBER 2024



The Plumblin

NEWSLETTER OF
THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MUNSTER



Friday 29th November saw the laying of the foundation stone in the northeast corner of the extension to Freemasons' Hall, Cork by the RW Provincial Grand Master and a selection of officers of the Province. The ceremony was kindly facilitated by Cumnor Construction.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster

Freemason's Hall, 27 Tuckey Street, Cork.



Meeting of The Provincial Grand Lodge of The Far East in Zetland Hall, Hong Kong with representatives from English and Scottish Constitutions.

How quickly time passes, it seems no time since I sat down to pen the foreword to our summer edition of *The Plumblin* and yet so much has happened around the Province in the meantime. Gone are the days when June, July and August were fallow months in our calendar and Lodges now use the downtime to catch up on the conferring of degrees and for hosting social events. I very much hope you enjoy reading about the various Lodge activities and articles of masonic interest chronicled throughout this edition. Thanks as ever go to our indefatigable editor, **V.W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan**, who never fails to bring together a publication of the highest quality, a thing of beauty and the envy of other Provinces!

In June, at the invitation of **R.W. Bro. Tommy Cheng**, (PGM Far East), I travelled to Hong Kong and enjoyed a frenetic few days of masonic activity, 3 meetings over 4 nights! Munster had played host to a delegation from The Far East when Tommy and several of the Hong Kong brethren, along with their wives, visited Tuckey Street during 2023 and so they were most anxious for a return visit. I have to say the wonderful welcome and outstanding hospitality I received throughout my visit was second to none - fraternity at its very best. I extend fraternal

good wishes to **R.W. Bro. Fred Leung** who is to be installed as PGM in November.

August saw nearly 400 members of the public pass through the doors of Tuckey Street for the annual Heritage Day and in September no fewer than 4 buildings in the Province (Tuckey Street, Skibbereen, Youghal and, for the first time, Kinsale) opened their doors for another successful Culture Night. I extend my thanks to **W. Bro. Aidan McDonald**, the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, and the members of the respective Lodges for the hard work and dedication that went in to ensure these events went off so smoothly. Elsewhere on Culture Night the Provincial Grand Senior Warden and Provincial Grand Secretary made the trip to Doneraile to give a presentation on Munster Freemasonry and our connection with Doneraile Court, home of the Lady Freemason, to invited members of the OPW.

The Freemasons' of Ireland Young Musician of the Year Competition is a tremendous example of the Order's reach beyond our usual spheres of concern and has become one of the more prestigious music competitions in Ireland in recent times. It was heartening to see such a good representation from the Province attend on the night of the final to show support for this

important event. 2 of the 4 finalists had Munster connections and by the time these notes go to print Mr. Adam Buttimer, one of those finalists and a tuba player, will have played at Lodge 555's annual Music Miscellany concert in Tuckey Street.

Another initiative of which we should be immensely proud is that of **TLC** (Teddis for Loving Care). Now in its 11th year you will read more of the wonderful work being done in our name by **W. Bro. Liam Cunningham** and his band of loyal helpers later in this publication but I want to record here my sincere thanks, and that of the Province, to these stalwart Masons.

It is encouraging to see that the initiation of new members continues apace along with the conferring of Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees. I was delighted to host a social evening in November where newer members from different Lodges came together in an informal setting to get to know each other, to exchange ideas and to share their experiences to date. I never cease to be amazed at the calibre of young, and in some cases not so young, men joining the Order today. Many approach their membership having given it very serious thought and consideration and the discussion and debate on the night bore this out, it was lively, stimulating and entertaining. My thanks to **W. Bro. Conor Crowley** and **Bro. Aaron Patton** for choreographing the event and for helping to ensure it becomes a regular feature in the Provincial calendar.

By now you cannot but be aware that works have finally begun on Bishop Lucey Park and, by extension, on our Provincial Headquarters, the Grand Dame of Tuckey Street. Cumnor, the contractors, aided by relatively benign weather, are making good headway and have completed much of the preparatory work on the project. I am assured that whereas most of what has been completed to date is underground and out of sight we are thus far on schedule and on budget. (Some Government projects please take note!) With the assistance of Grand Lodge an appeal was broadcast throughout the Irish Constitution, here and overseas, and it has been humbling to witness the financial donations that have come in from near and far. From 10's and

20's of euros to hundreds and even thousands the outpouring of support has been hugely encouraging - of note and worthy of especial mention is the great number of Lodges and indeed individuals in the Northern part of the country with whom this project has resonated and who have rallied to our cause - we will be forever grateful. As donations, cheques and pledges continue to arrive we are still some way off our target and I plead with those members of Munster who, in some cases, waiting to see if the project would actually get off the ground have yet to donate to please do so, within your means naturally. **All** donations, both great and small, will be gratefully received.

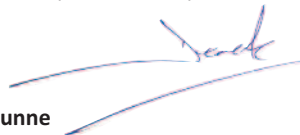
As ever I wish to reiterate my sincere and grateful thanks to the officers of Provincial Grand Lodge for their unstinting support and encouragement. To a man they give selflessly of their time and commitment, so often working behind the scenes and under the radar, to ensure the smooth running of this fine Province.

Despite the early and unseasonal deadline imposed by our editor the sights and sounds of Christmas are all around and so I sign off by wishing every one of you, your families and those nearest to you a happy, healthy and peaceful Festive Season.

*....will no one come to groom you, restore your
aging flair,
Open up your windows replace that stuffy air,
Sand and paint and plaster, straighten out your
bones,
Dress you in the colours and fabrics of your day,
Fire burning in your hearth, you'll no longer be
alone,
Filled with love and laughter, you will once again
be home.*

Grand Dame – Victoria Feathers

Yours sincerely & fraternally,



Derek Dunne
PGM

General Giuseppe Garibaldi, “Father of the Fatherland” & Freemason

R.W.Bro Alan Campbell writes:

Recently I was asked to meet a man at Friday morning coffee who had expressed an interest in joining the Order and tell him something about what we do. We sat down with a plate of biscuits between us, some of them being Garibaldi biscuits. I passed the comment that he had been a Freemason and my guest wondered why the biscuits were called after him. I said I thought he had made up the recipe to ensure his troops had fruit in their diet to ward off scurvy. I wasn't at all sure. I said I knew he had a connection with Lodge no 84 in Bandon and I thought he may have lived in Ireland during a period of exile. I wasn't sure of this either so I thought it was high time I did a little research into Brother Garibaldi and hence this little article for the Plumblin.

I hope you enjoy it.

Giuseppi Marie Garibaldi was born on 4th July 1807 in Nice, France to Italian parents.

At that time Nice was part of France but had originally been part of the Kingdom of Sardinia and was returned to Sardinia in 1814 until 1860 when it became French again, much to the annoyance of Garibaldi.

He appears to have had quite a varied young life. He lived in Constantinople for a few years from 1828 when he was 21 and taught Italian, French & mathematics. It was a trip to Taganrog, (a port city on the north shore of the Sea of Azov, in Russia) in 1833 on a schooner, bringing a shipment of



Giuseppi Marie Garibaldi

oranges, that was to put him on track for what became his life's work.

Whilst in port he met a man involved with the secret Young Italy movement which was started by Giuseppe Mazzini who was extremely involved in the idea of the unification of Italy. Later that year he met Mazzini and joined the Carbonari. The Carbonari were a network of secret revolutionary societies active in Italy from 1800. They were unhappy with the repressive political situation in Italy especially in the south of the Italian Peninsula. They became very involved in the many events which in time, led to unification.

After participating in a failed uprising in Piedmont (in the North West of Italy), he was sentenced to death, but escaped to South America, where he spent 14 years in exile.

He wasn't idle in South America because he became involved in several uprisings including the Uruguayan Civil War in which he raised an Italian force known as the Redshirts. His work in contributing to the reconstitution of that country is still celebrated today.

In 1848 he returned to Italy, well versed in battle tactics and he commanded in a variety of military campaigns which eventually led to the unification of the Peninsula.

He became an international figurehead for national independence and republican ideals. He is, quite simply Italy's greatest national hero.

If you visit any city or town in Italy you will find a piazza, street or boulevard called after him. Here is a picture of Italy before unification & one

of it after. You will clearly see the changes that took place and on the second map the dates of their amalgamation into the unified Italy are shown.

As you will see, a large part of the central region formed the Papal States which were under the direct sovereign rule of the Pope from the year 756 until 1870. To say the Roman Curia was furious with the situation brought about by Garibaldi and his followers would be a great understatement. The fact that Garibaldi was a Freemason would not have made the Order in any way popular although, of course, Freemasonry had nothing whatever to do with the situation.

Let's now have a look at Garibaldi's Masonic career.

He was initiated in 1844 in L'Asil de la Vertud Lodge in Montevideo in Uruguay and remained an active Mason until his death in 1882. The Lodge he had joined was an irregular one. In other words it wasn't recognised by the 3 Home Grand Lodges being those of England, Ireland & Scotland. Some 4 years later he regularised his membership by joining a French Lodge, Les Amis de la Patrie, which was at that time, considered regular.

He was said to consider Masonry as a network that united progressive men as brothers both within nations and as a global community. He was, in time, elected Grand Master of the Order in the Isle of Sicily.

In 1864 General Garibaldi was admitted an honorary member of Lodge no 84 in Bandon. No reason for his membership is given in the minutes of the Lodge & I won't second guess why it might have happened now, 160 years later. Did he visit Ireland and Cork in particular? I think not. I have asked the co authors of that fine book "Two Hundred & Seventy Five Years of Freemasonry in Bandon", V.W. Brothers Alwyn Williams & David Butler and they both agree.



MAP SHOWING ITALY STATES AFTER UNIFICATION (1858)



The Grand Lodge Archivist & Curator, Rebecca Hayes, helpful as always, checked for information and found he had written to thank the Lodge and said " Pray accept a Brotherly embrace and believe me, Yours for ever". I think the fact he wrote would confirm that it is very unlikely he actually visited in person.

He also gave a donation of 5 shillings to the Cork Masonic Female Orphan Asylum which in our money would be around €50.

In that same year he visited England briefly where he was absolutely mobbed by admiring people. He was awarded the Freedom of London, met the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister but not Queen Victoria who, it was reported was not amused by his popularity !

And what about the Garibaldi biscuit. Did he devise the recipe for to keep his troops healthy? Not a bit of it.

The British biscuit makers Peek Freans in the early 1860's

recruited a famous biscuit recipe maker, Johnathan Carr. It seems he devised the biscuit and as it coincided with Garibaldi's visit to the UK he called it the Garibaldi Biscuit. It worked, some 160 years later it is still popular and we often have them with our coffee in Freemason's Hall on Friday mornings.



Garibaldi died in 1882 at Caprera, a small island off Sardinia at the age of 74. He had been married 3 times and was father to 8 children. His house on Caprera is a museum and a memorial chapel. The island is a national monument.

So that, in summary, is the tale of M.W.Bro General Giuseppe Garibaldi, I hope you found it interesting

The Sweet Legacy of Eddie Batmazian and Hadji Bey



Hadji Bey shopfront

In the quiet corners of Ireland's bustling confectionery history lies the sweet and remarkable tale of Eddie Batmazian and the Hadji Bey brand—a story marked by resilience, dedication, and a passion that spanned generations.

A New Beginning in Cork

The story begins with Harutun and Esther Batmazian, an Armenian couple who fled the pogroms of the Ottoman Empire in search of a safer life. Arriving in Cork, Ireland, in 1902, they brought with them not just hopes and dreams, but also a unique skill—mastering the art of making Turkish Delight. This sweet confection, whose secret Harutun had perfected while studying in Istanbul, would become their family's legacy.



Harutun Batmazian

They debuted their confections at the Great Cork International Exhibition of the same year. Despite facing the challenges of language barriers and cultural differences, the Batmazians were determined to establish their new life. Their exhibit of exotic sweets drew considerable attention, with both the flavour and their unique story capturing the hearts of visitors.

Establishing Hadji Bey

Inspired by their exhibition success, Harutun and Esther opened a shop on Lower Glanmire Street, Cork, which later moved to the more prominent McCurtain Street. Under the exotic name “Hadji Bey et Cie”—which means “Hadji Bey & Co”—the shop quickly became a local favourite. With its quasi-French façade, the storefront gave the shop an international atmosphere that intrigued and drew in customers.

Their Turkish Delight, a finely crafted blend of sugar, cornstarch, and aromatic flavours, found its way into the hands of those well beyond Cork. The business grew rapidly, and soon, the delights were being exported to prestigious stores such as Harrods in London, Bloomingdale's in New York, and even Buckingham Palace. The quality of Harutun's Turkish Delight made it a sought-after luxury, setting a high standard in the confectionery world.

Surviving Adversity

However, peace and prosperity did not come without their trials. In 1918, amid the confusion and prejudices of a post-WWI society, Hadji Bey's shop was mistakenly targeted and burned down. There was a tragic irony in this attack—despite being Armenian Christians who had fled the Turkish-led pogroms, the Batmazians were mistaken for Turks by soldiers returning from Gallipoli who sought revenge.

Rather than bow down to hardship, Harutun published a heartfelt letter titled "Live and Let Live," explaining his heritage and appealing for understanding and peace. His words, coupled with the undeniable quality of his sweets, helped to re-establish trust with the local community. The shop was rebuilt, and the business flourished once more.

The Legacy Continues with Eddie

After the death of Esther in the 1940s, Harutun eventually moved to the United States, leaving the business in the capable hands of their son, Eddie Batmazian. Eddie, sometimes known as Eddie the Turk, carried on the family's sweet tradition. Joining Hibernian Lodge 95 in 1935, Eddie's life was marked by dedication—not only to his craft but also to his community. He served as Worshipful Master in 1955 and Provincial Grand Lodge Inner Guard in 1958, roles that underscored his steadfast commitment and character.

Eddie continued the family enterprise until his retirement in 1970. Though his departure marked the beginning of a decline in the Hadji Bey brand, his tenure ensured that the brand was deeply ingrained in Cork's cultural and economic fabric.

Hadji Bey in Modern Times

The world changed significantly after Eddie's retirement, and by the late 1980s, Hadji Bey had ceased production. Yet, the story did not end there. The allure of Hadji Bey Turkish Delight lingered in the memories of its fans. In 2010, UHC Confectionery of Newbridge, County Kildare, resurrected the brand, keeping its rich tradition alive. Their new production site ensured that the same meticulous care and dedication to quality that Harutun and Eddie upheld would continue.



Hadji Bey, a premium confectionery brand

Today, Hadji Bey remains a premium confectionery brand known for its exquisite quality and nostalgic packaging. The flavours, especially the iconic rose variety, capture the essence of their historic roots in every bite. Each box comes with a snippet of its storied past, a testament to the enduring legacy of the Batmazian family.

Honouring a Legacy

Eddie Batmazian's legacy is commemorated by his long-standing membership and various leadership roles within the Hibernian Lodge 95 and PGL. As a valued member of the community he and his family are reminders of the many contributions, not just to his business but to the rich and historical culture of Cork. His story is not only one of confectionery success but also of resilience, service, and a commitment to heritage.



This is Eddie and his wife at his retirement in the 1970s

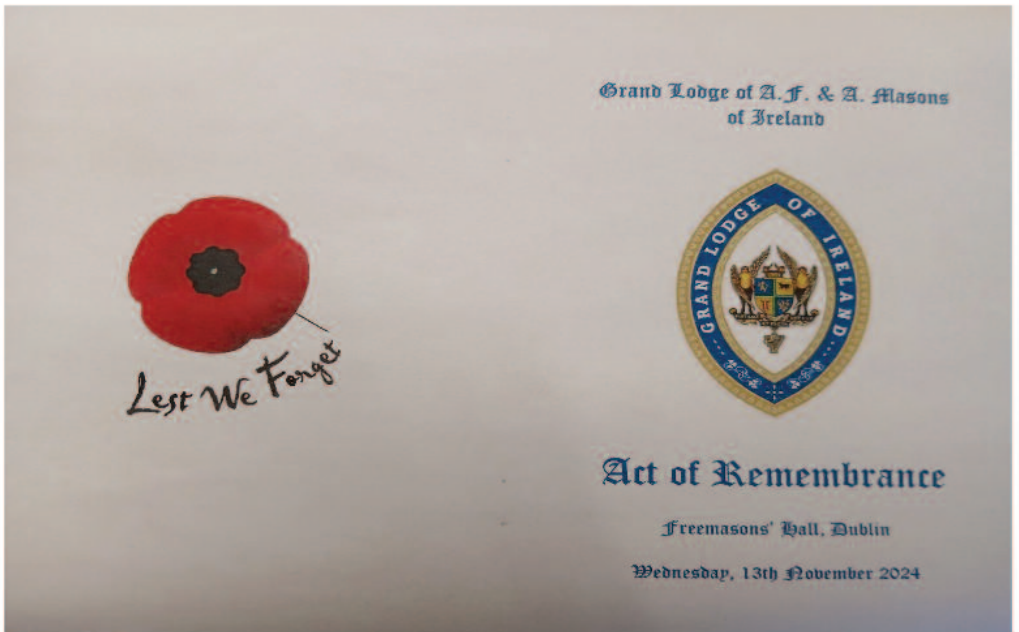
The sweet legacy of Hadji Bey and the Batmazian family continues to be celebrated. They embody a rich cultural history and are a testament to the spirit of overcoming adversity. With each box of Turkish Delight sold, the flavours of their rich past are shared, delighting new generations and keeping their remarkable story alive.

Act of remembrance Grand Lodge of Ireland Molesworth street Wednesday 13th November 2024

Writes W. Bro David Peters

There was good delegation from the Province of Munster at the annual wreath laying ceremony held at Freemasons Hall Molesworth street. Pictured are W. Bro. David Peters, R.W. Bro. Robin Newemhan and R.W. Bro. Wilfred Baker, also in attendance was R.W. Bro. Edwin Hunter and R.W. Bro. Charles Olden. The ceremony was enriched with a bugler play-

ing last post and reveille and the excellent parade from the delegation of the British legion. There were delegations from most of the provinces, and the general opinion was that this year the attendance was up in numbers and the ceremony was well executed by all involved. A wreath from the provincial grand lodge of Munster was laid with due respect and deference by W. Bro. David Peters, representing the provincial grand lodge of Munster.



Happenings of a Maritime Lodge temporarily displaced at sea

For several months now, Neptune 190 has been uprooted from our nautical home and accommodated in Tuckey Street. This, however, has not hindered our drive, determination and ambition to develop the lodge into a wider, inclusive, social and friendly experience for our current and future members and guests.

Since our displacement, substantial works have commenced on the complete retrofit of our lodge building into a multi-purpose venue and clubhouse for our members and guests.

Additionally, we have achieved a plethora of FC and MM degrees as well as MMM and RA exaltations which have allowed for a much greater involvement by many of our brethren in the giving of degrees, as well as the organisation of social and charitable events.

In May, we were visited by the RW Assistant GrandMaster of the GLol along with several members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster for the initiation of Bro. Rahul Giri to

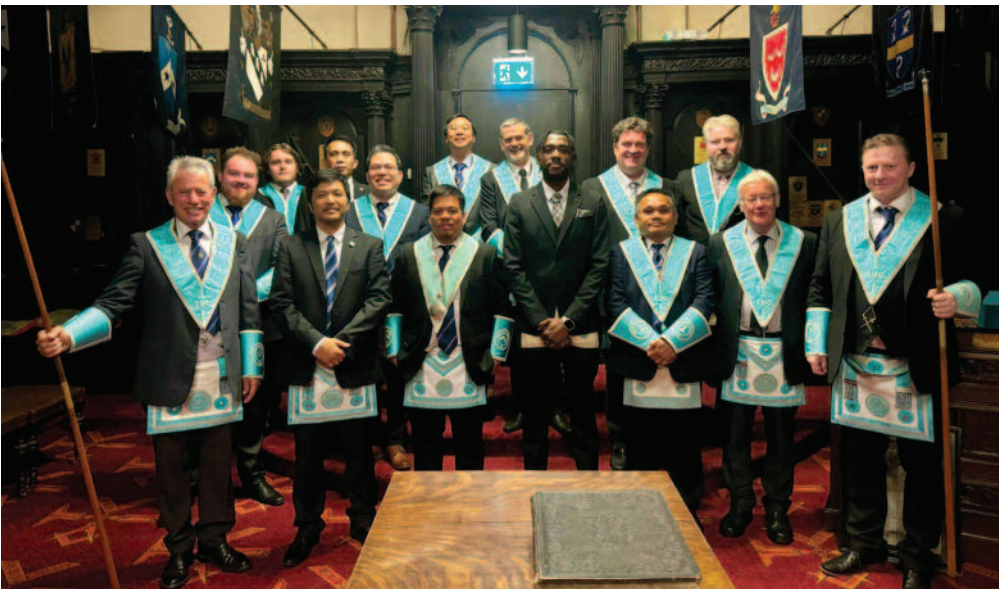
Neptune 190 and the delivery of the 1st Degree Tracing Board to all present.

A special mention on behalf of our Chapter has to go to RE DGK Robin Newenham, RE DDGK Uwe Schiller and EC Aidan Coakley for their great assistance in the giving of chapter degrees which, by December 14th coming, will have helped to increase our chapter size by 8 companions.

We look forward to returning to our own premises in the near future in order to offer a warm and friendly greeting to all brethren far and wide whether it be for masonic or social reasons.

Finally, we would like to thank ALL brethren for their help and assistance in our temporary relocation. For visitors who came and offered us their support and for all the well wishes we have received over the last year.

S&F,
Neptune Lodge 190 C6bh.



(1) Passing of Bro. Sam Nicolmedes to the FC degree.



Initiation of Bro. Rahul Giri to Neptune Lodge 190. Visit by the AGM.



Raising of Bro. Mark Kelly to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.



Exaltation of Companions Mark Carrillo and Terence Murphy to RAC 190.



Lodge social with Filipino BBQ and Karaoke in Midleton GAA.



Raising of Bro. Olivier Bereska to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Brother Guillaume Bursachi, St. Finn Barre's Lodge No. 8, reflects on his first visit to the Grand Lodge of Ireland

On Saturday, 23rd November 2004, I set off early in the morning with Very Worshipful Brother Kevin Ryan and Brother Niall Horgan from Shamrock Lodge 27 for a visit to the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Dublin. We were going to attend a meeting of Lodge 884, France d'Irlande, which meets in Molesworth Street.

We had lunch with the Brethren of Lodge 884, prior to attending the meeting in the afternoon, where a new member received his Entered Apprentice Degree. Before lunch, we spent a considerable amount of time exploring various rooms. The rooms in which the different branches of the Order meet were fascinating, each with its own unique atmosphere.



The Grand Lodge room was particularly impressive, and I'm grateful to Brother Kevin for capturing a photograph of me there.



In the afternoon, we participated in a meeting with the Brethren of the Franco-Irish Lodge, Lodge 884, France d'Irlande.



For me, it was an amazing experience to participate in a meeting conducted entirely in French, offering a new perspective on our practices, and a deeper appreciation for the diversity within our fraternity.

We returned that evening, travelling back from Dublin to Cork. It was an exceptional day, and I truly appreciated every moment of it.

Fraternally yours,

Brother Guillaume Bursachi

Wine Tasting Evening at Freemasons' Hall



The first wine tasting evening held at Freemasons' Hall, hosted by Harmony Lodge 555, took place on Friday 29th November last, in collaboration with The Wine Buff. The brainchild of Bro. Louis Leir, assisted by an able quartet of stewards, the evening was entirely in aid of much needed funds for the Freemasons' Hall Extension Fund. A capacity audience of 108 seated - and many more wanting to attend - has already secured this as an at least annual and much anticipated event.

There was also a very well supported raffle and a sum, after costs, in the region of €2,500 was raised that evening. Very well done to all concerned!

Annual 555 Music Miscellany

Writes V.M. Bro. David J Butler

The annual 555 music miscellany hosted by Harmony Lodge 555 was held on 16th November. The fourteenth in the series, it featured a selection of quality youth and adult female and male voice choir ensembles as well as soloists.

The evening commenced with a wine and

canapés reception and the musical contributions were punctuated by a large and diverse raffle.

Some 2,500 Euro was raised for the beneficiaries, including the Cork ARC Cancer House, The Hall Extension Fund and the Cork International Choral Festival, which provided many marketing supports, such that the event was filled to capacity and much enjoyed by all who attended.



The Potters, the Masons & the Tsar

Writes W. Bro. Denis O' Driscoll, Lodge 15

For over half a Century, the Potters were one of the most influential families in the commercial and public life of Skibbereen and, indeed, Lodge 15. Their burgeoning business developed from a humble printing and book binding business in the 1830s to include newspaper proprietorships, printing, auctioneering, emigration and insurance agents.

John William Potter Snr, or "Old Jack" as he was known, was born in Haverfordwest region of Wales in 1804 and grew up in a family with ink-stained fingers. His earliest known and extant work in Skibbereen is a bill poster dated 26 April 1837. The Potters, who had Irish antecedents, were newspaper pioneers in Wales being proprietors of the *Pembrokeshire Herald*. He arrived in Skibbereen in 1828. Notably, he was present on 12 May 1842, when Lodge 15 met for the first time in Skibbereen. He was Worshipful Master of Lodge 15 in 1850.

John William Snr had three sons who were all to become members of Lodge 15: John William Potter Jnr (Raised-08/09/1853; Worshipful Master-1864), Osler Bridgewater Potter (Raised-17/07/1854), Frederick Peel Eldon Potter (Raised-27/07/1855; Worshipful Master-1861).

Of the family, perhaps Frederick P.E. Potter was the most successful and best-known figure in Skibbereen and beyond and has been referred to as a 'born journalist' and publicist. Fred Potter was born in 1839 and left Skibbereen as a teenager to be apprenticed in London to learn the latest printing methods; probably, with his relative, Charles Potter, who was a publisher and proprietor of the *Kingsland Gazette* in Hackney, east London. John William Jnr did, likewise, moving thereafter to America. Subsequently, both sons returned to Skibbereen and with their father launched the "Eagle" on 6 May 1857, a new monthly single-sheet newspaper, which soon, due to its popularity, became a weekly multi-page edition. Following a partnership disagreement, John William Jnr returned to America with his American wife in 1865, this time never to return.



Frederick P.E. Potter

From the early 1860s, Fred was west Cork's leading auctioneer with offices in Skibbereen, Bandon and Cork. His practice not only accepted instructions for the staples of property and executors' sales but also wreck auctions in relation to ships which foundered on the coast from Cork to Dursley, unfortunately a common occurrence of the times. A master of self-publicism, he advertised the *Eagle* as being the "largest penny newspaper in the World" and an advertising stanza of the time read:

*"I am the auctioneer, that I am
Where is there another like me?
Not in the County of Cork will you find
One equal to F P E P"*

In 1861, Fred was Worshipful Master of Lodge 15. In 1871, Fred launched the "Daily Telegraph" in Cork which did not prove a commercial success. In 1874, John William Snr died in his 70th year and Fred took over sole control of the *Eagle*. Its motto was "Truth, Justice and Liberty". His editorial policy was that "We are not Tories, we are not Whigs, we are not radicals, we adopt no name of partisanship. We take a plain practical view of society. We believe it to be knit together by common interests and common

duties. We hold that the term "People" means not this class or that class... but the rich and poor, high, low and middling are all essential constituents of that great compound, the "People". Fred also involved himself in local politics and was a Town Commissioner in Skibbereen for the years 1880-81, 1883-84 and 1891-96. In Potter's opinion there was no room for faction or party politics in local

government, it being best served by independent men. In 1885, he opened the *Eldon Hotel* in Skibbereen- named after his son, which remains a successful and popular hotel to this day. In 1888, he founded the *Eagle Printing Works* in Cork which was a successful venture employing over 30 staff. The management of the *Eagle Printing Works* was always in the hands of the Wood family and in his will, Fred Potter expressed the wish that Thomas A. Wood be retained in that capacity subject to the control of his son and heir, Eldon Potter. The *Eagle Printing Works* survived until May 1982.

Notwithstanding his many entrepreneurial achievements and successful public life, Fred will be forever remembered for the *Eagle's* world renown and oft referenced editorial, on 5 September 1898, starkly warning the *Tsar* of Russia that "It will keep an eye" on him.

Fred married twice and had a son- Eldon Potter (Raised- 08/02/1906). Fred Potter died, aged 66, on 4 September 1906 and is interred with his parents and his wife at Abbeymahon graveyard, Skibbereen. In his will, his estate was valued for probate at over £6,000; he directed that his businesses in both Cork and Skibbereen be carried on after his death and that his son Eldon should have the sole management of



The Southern Star Masthead

them. In addition to various bequests and arrangements for the financial care of his wife and family, there was a clause that in the event of his son Eldon not desiring to continue the business and wishing to sell it, his executors, or a majority of them, were to sell the business. And that's how it turned out! Eldon Potter had no interest in journalism, instead he pursued a legal career, as a Barrister, and later he became a High Court Judge in Hong Kong. He was

captured by the Japanese and died before the end of the Second World War. Interestingly, his son, also named Eldon, was buried in Durrus in 1971 (home of his paternal grandmother). The formation in 1907 of *The Eagle Limited*, with new shareholders, was effectively the end of the Potter family's connection with the "Eagle". The *Southern Star* newspaper purchased the *Eagle* for £1,300 in 1929.

However, to this day, the successful and widely read *Southern Star*-the paper of record in west Cork-proudly incorporates the *Eagle* in its masthead, still keeping a keen eye on current events.

The Potter family's entrepreneurial flair for the newspaper industry also flourished in America. Having arrived in America for the second and final time in 1865, John William Jnr started a paper in Missouri in 1871 and in 1877 he purchased the *Freeport Bulletin* and the *Rock Island Argus* in 1882. He died in 1885, and his two sons, John William Potter III and Osler, continued the family print business. John William

Potter III died in 1898 aged only 37 and was succeeded by his son, John William Potter IV, who continued to run the family newspaper until his death in 1947.



Eagle Masthead

[Acknowledgment: Tim Cadogan: Southern Star Centenary Supplement]

Culture Day at Doneraile Court

In conjunction with Culture Day 2024, *The Provincial Grand Senior Warden* and the *Provincial Grand Secretary* made the trip to Doneraile to give a presentation on Munster Freemasonry and our connection with *Doneraile Court, home of the Lady Freemason*, to invited members of the Office of Public Works and almost fifty members of the public. It represented another important milestone in consolidating a

relationship between the *Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster* and *Doneraile Court* which was established even earlier than the first official records of the *Grand Lodge of Ireland*. A brief enactment of and commentary on what most likely happened on that fateful night in the early eighteenth century, when



Viscount Doneraile, his sons and some intimate friends met to open Lodge, set the scene for the presentation. V.W. Brethren Vincent O'Donovan and Kevin Ryan introduced the gathering to aspects of "the Craft" ranging from its medieval origins as **operative masonry** to what we as twenty-first-century Freemasons practice as **speculative masonry**. The audience were given an insight into the structure of the Order, with particular reference to The Grand Lodge of Ireland, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, the place of the lodge within the Province, and of course, the individuals who make up a lodge. The men and women present were quite surprised to see at close quarters, some of regalia and working tools and to have their place in our rituals explained to them in an open and transparent fashion. The suspicion around Masonic secrecy with which many of the audience had approached the afternoon was definitely dispelled. A lively questions and answers session definitely cleared up a lot of

the mis-conceptions people may have had. To have had the opportunity to share this fascinating and unique excerpt from the history of Munster Freemasonry, with members of the public, in the ballroom, literally "across the hall" from where the events took place more than three centuries ago, was a tremendous privilege

K.R



L to R: Janet Schley, O.P.W., V.W Brn. Kevin Ryan and Vincent O'Donovan, Prov. Grand Lodge of Munster, and Eileen Twomey, Dromahane.

Evening of Discovery

By Bro. Danijel Gubina

The evening of discovery for new members was absolutely amazing! It was a fantastic opportunity for us to practice opening and closing a Lodge, and we learned a ton of new things.

Entered Apprentice and Fellow Crafts Masons took on various offices during the opening and closing of the Lodge. It really helped me understand what was going on and what the Worshipful Master

was saying. It was only after I said the same words myself that I really got it.

There were also many members from other lodges all around Munster that I had never met before. Most of them were young members my age. It was a great chance to meet new people and learn more about Freemasonry in Ireland.

The food was incredible, and all the social aspects were lovely. It was a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and in one word, it was a great social event.



Guillaume Bursachi, Vincent O'Donovan, Kenneth Freeman, Derek Dunne, Conor Crowley, Atideya Das



Ibrahim Aksel, Pawel Wojick, Stuart Brownlow, Samuel Crowley



Atideya Das, Guillaume Bursachi, Gustavo Torres, Derek Dunne, Samuel Nicolmedes



David Peters, Luke Free, Piotr Michno, Derek Dunne.



Kevin Ryan, Danijel Gubina, Malcolm Tyrrell, Aidan O'Connor, Aaron Patton.

ONWARD AND UPWARD

There can be few of us who can't remember some or most of that first bewildering night when we received our first degree, our number one...

Writes R.W. Bro. Edwin Hunter

...especially if one had never seen the inside of the Lodge room, but two good Deacons can ease the feeling of nervousness as they speak quietly to the candidate helping him onward.

It marked the start of a journey of learning and discovery and self improvement. Over the following years we observed, or should have, what others were doing and the workings of the lodge, and even for some of us the words began to stick and make some sense. The more adventures would commence to ask questions about what was going on.

The whole performance was about our duty to others and the world all of which which dawned on us sometime later.

Suddenly one night at a later meeting we heard the Lodge Secretary announce that we were to be 'promoted' to the second degree at the next meeting, we were being moved onward and upward to degree number 2. We approached this 'degree' a little more confidently having learned from our meetings even when we had to leave the room when something we were not yet ready to know was about to take place, and when we were readmitted the "vic-

tim" appeared unharmed and in good spirits.

Following the administration of the 2nd degree, which needed careful consideration, we were admonished to study and learn.

Some months later the announcement that another forward movement was to take place to degree number 3. By now more members had, so to speak, discovered us and we were treated to some preludes and words that the next step forward was a big one, very special with much advice to relax and enjoy it. Of course all this did was to make one wonder just what was going to happen and even increase nervousness.

On the night yes it was different, unusual and a lot of action, but we were then informed that now we were full Master Masons, entitled to propose new members, vote, attend Provincial Grand Lodge and even Grand Lodge (all the way to Dublin no less). How little we really knew what lay ahead if we were interested, and of course advised to visit other lodges preferably with someone slightly more 'senior'.

Visiting proved to be interesting and enjoyable and suppers good, we were received graciously and kindly and made feel important, and the more 'senior' person with us made entry easy.

Giovanni Battista Belzoni: An Italian Freemason Explorer with Irish Ties

By Bro. Stefano Marcolongo Lodge 37

Giovanni Battista Belzoni, known to history as a daring explorer and pioneering Egyptologist, holds a unique place in Masonic lore. Born in Padua, Italy, in 1778, he was initially a performer, known as the “Patagonian Samson” due to his strength and circus acts across Europe. However, his journey took a dramatic turn towards exploration and a deeper pursuit of knowledge, a path that resonates with Masonic ideals of enlightenment and self-discovery.

Belzoni’s affiliation with Freemasonry seems to have played a significant role in his life, especially during his famed expeditions in Egypt from 1815 to 1819. Records suggest he was initiated into the craft, although the exact date remains uncertain. This membership, however, influenced his approach to archaeological exploration. Unlike the treasure hunters of his time, Belzoni showed respect for the artefacts and diligently documented his discoveries, revealing a reverence for ancient cultures aligned with Masonic teachings. His explorations in Egypt were not merely about unearthing treasures but were imbued with a sense of discovery that transcended the physical, echoing Masonic quests for deeper spiritual and intellectual understanding.

One intriguing figure in Belzoni’s entourage was his Irish assistant, James Curtin, a young man from Limerick who had his own Masonic ties. It’s said that Curtin, initiated into a lodge in Cork, was invaluable to Belzoni, providing not only assistance in excavation but also offering insights into the symbols and meanings they encountered in the ancient ruins. Curtin’s Irish origins and connection to Masonry helped bridge a cultural gap between the British and Italian Masonic traditions, fostering a unique partnership in their mutual quest. Together, they worked in a world that resonated with Masonic symbols—such as the “ankh” symbol of life, which Belzoni noted in his journals, connecting it to the Masonic concept of immortality.

Belzoni’s discoveries, particularly his excavation of Seti I’s tomb, held profound implications for the Masonic world of his time. The tomb’s chambers were filled with symbols that resonated deeply with Masonic allegories of rebirth, knowledge, and the journey toward the light. Belzoni, who identified with these themes, meticulously recorded the frescoes and hiero-

glyphics, interpreting them not just as historical artefacts but as representations of timeless Masonic teachings. For instance, the depiction of Seti I receiving a ceremonial welcome into the afterlife by Osiris mirrored Masonic rituals of initiation and transition from darkness to light, providing an esoteric framework for understanding the Egyptian mysteries.

These symbols and Belzoni’s insights reverberated within Masonic lodges not only in Italy and England but also in Ireland, particularly in Cork, where the tradition of Freemasonry was deeply connected to ancient wisdom and the preservation of knowledge. Irish Freemasonry, known for its rich symbolic heritage, embraced Belzoni’s work as aligning with its core values. His discoveries were often discussed in Irish Masonic circles as examples of how Masonry could bridge ancient and modern worlds, using symbols to unlock universal truths. In Cork, lodges would later refer to Belzoni’s interpretations of Egyptian symbols in their own teachings, underscoring the unity of Masonic ideals across borders.

Belzoni’s legacy went on to influence Italian Masonry, particularly through the lens of intellectual curiosity and respect for ancient wisdom. His contributions have since inspired Italian Masonic historians, who see in his work a model of how Freemasons can contribute to preserving and interpreting cultural heritage. This connection between Belzoni’s work and the craft has served as an example of how Freemasonry can inspire a respect for the past and an aspiration to share knowledge with the wider world.

Upon returning to England, Belzoni continued his Masonic journey, joining the exclusive Alpha Lodge in London, where his Egyptian exploits were celebrated. His work, and that of other Masonic explorers, is seen as emblematic of a greater Masonic mission: the preservation and dissemination of knowledge. Figures like Belzoni illustrate how Masonic principles—reverence for history, commitment to enlightenment, and universal brotherhood—are not just symbols but guiding lights in both personal and professional life.

In summary, Giovanni Battista Belzoni remains a significant figure in the intertwined histories of Freemasonry and Egyptology. His discoveries continue to resonate within Masonic circles, symbolising the craft’s dedication to uncovering truth and its enduring respect for the wisdom of the ancients.

‘Up, Up and Away’

Writes V.W. Bro. Joe Patterson

Last November we attended the Annual 555 Music Miscellany Evening, a wonderful evening of Music which I’m sure was very much enjoyed by all who attended. During the interval raffle I was delighted to win the 1st prize, no less than an Introductory Flying lesson! I am of an age when I much prefer to sit behind the pilot and enjoy the pleasures of been flown, I asked AFTA if I could change this to a scenic flight for Catherine and I, which they readily agreed to.

After a false start due to unsuitable weather, we took off on Thursday 1st Aug., one of the rare sunny days of the Summer. After the usual checks our Captain Michéal, told us that he had to head East due to heavy traffic at the Airport. So off we went towards Cobh, luckily there was a cruise ship docked, we then circled Spike Island, the view of the fort from the air is very impressive. On to Ballycotton and around the lighthouse, then towards Youghal where the



Joe and Catherine before take off

beach looked very busy. We then headed home. Capt. Michéal allowed me to take the controls showing me how to turn left and right. Then after circling the impressive Solar farm, we flew in over the north of the city to make a smooth landing at Cork airport.

Many thanks to Lodge 555 for arranging a great musical evening and Bro. Capt. John Murray who donated the first prize.



Flying over Cobh

MUNSTER YOUNG MASONS

Writes Bro. Craig Setterfield.

On the 17th August 2024 a motley crew of masonic brethren embarked on a sea fishing adventure, organised by myself Craig Setterfield. The day started with a meeting point at Passage-west pier at 09:00 awaiting the arrival of our skipper Jim from Mohawk fishing ready to depart at 10:00.



The brethren and guest listed from left to right Brother Aiden O'Conner Hibernian lodge 95, Brother Tom Wyper Bandon Lodge 84, Guest Sean Setterfield, Brother Craig Setterfield Youghal Lodge 68 and Brother Xander Vanwyk Bandon Lodge 84.



All arrived in good time and high spirit even with quite a grey sky over head, we got under way. once we arrived at our first stop, we were to try and catch mackerel for bait, I'm proud to say I had the first catch even though somewhat on the small side.

We then headed out to an anchor point to catch pollock, ling or to be honest anything that would



One of this fish of the day its known as a Cuckoo Wrasse.

Everyone managed to catch some thing on the day even though the fish were reluctant to participate. The overall unofficial award goes to Brother Xander for the largest catch of the day which Brother Tom is posing with.



It was a great day making new friends we finished our trip with one swift one for the road in the Bosun (worth a visit), Where the conversation was to organise again for next year. This I'm happy to do which I will inform everyone via the WhatsApp group.

All in all, its shown great potential for the Munster Young Masions to meet the friends we have not yet made.

JUMP FOR TEDDIES

Writes W. Bro. Liam Cunningham

Well folks, I have finally done it, I have decided to face my greatest fear and who knows, with a little luck I may overcome it.

I have never been a great fan of flying, take-offs or landings but, thanks to my wife's constant reassurances, I am slowly but surely beginning to overcome this quirk in my nature.

Why then, you may ask, has this ageing Mason opted to undertake a tandem skydive at **13.00 hours on the 13th of April next?**

Yes, I've signed up, booked up, and paid up, and it's up, up, and away on the 13th of April when the cares of the 14th will have to wait until the 13th is done.

The reason for this madness, mid-life/old age crisis perhaps? Nothing of the kind, there is however a little girl to blame, I don't know her, she doesn't know me and our paths may never cross again.

You see, a couple of months back I was delivering a box of Teddies to Bantry Hospital when, through the automatic doors, I saw a little girl in her daddy's arms coming out of the local injuries unit. Her left arm was in a sling while her right arm cuddled a red TLC Bear, but the icing on the cake for me that morning was the huge smile on her face.

The import of this encounter was that the little TLC bear was doing his job to perfection, and the little girl was smiling. What made that fleeting moment so meaningful for me, was the fact that the old guy with the beard delivering a box to the hospital was probably invisible to them, as it should be but hat I won't tell you is that there was a lump in the old guy's throat by the time he got back out to his car. It was there and then in the carpark of Bantry Hospital I resolved to do something for TLC and here it is, a sponsored skydive, something that pushes my madness to its very limit, if not beyond.

Fear not I am not asking Brethren to contribute, there are enough demands on your generosity at the moment. What I am asking you to do is to encourage family, friends, golf buddies, drinking partners, follow hobbyists and everyone you know to help support TLC.

You can do this because of the nature of TLC,



while it is a Masonic Charity it is not a charity specifically for Masons, it is a charity for all. Think about that for a moment, what are the chances of the child, grandchild, or even the great-grandchild of a Brother Mason being the recipient of a TLC bear?

Since we adopted TLC in Munster some twelve years ago, we have placed, in hospitals here in Munster, in excess of 40,000 Teddy Bears, that's

correct, 40,000 Bears equals 40,000 smiles.

So how is this going to work, well for a start off there is no 'big ask' just a little one. We are going to have mini sponsorship cards with about ten or twelve lines on each. When you meet a friend or acquaintance you can tell them about this 78-year-old guy you know who is going to jump out of a perfectly good aircraft at somewhere between 10 and 13 thousand feet above county Offaly, hurtle towards the ground at speed close to terminal velocity and, if the chap he is strapped onto gets everything right, they will land safely and the old guy can continue to deliver TLC Bears to hospitals.

After which point you ask them if they would like to make a small donation, even two euros would buy a leg for a bear, a full mini-card of, say twelve euros would buy two bears, you get the idea. When your card is full you simply lodge what you have collected to a GoFundMe account where you can see your efforts being recorded, no hassle, no remembering to post a card or to meet someone. Simple!

But we can do far better than a leg for a bear, we are a brotherhood, we have all promised to do our best for one another and for those in need. There will always be little children in need of something to help them in times of stress, something that brings a smile to their faces. Let's help make sure that TLC is always there.

So, in conclusion, brethren, take a mini-card home, take one to work, if you have grown-up children give them one each, they have friends. Let's spread the net far and wide. As I say while TLC is a Masonic Charity it is not a charity strictly for Masons.

In Masonic terms, and assuming you are all at liberty to work with both points of the compass let's see what this circle looks like from 13000 feet.

Milestone Celebrations at Harmony Lodge 67

By Bro. Conor O' Dwyer

Time moves quickly these days and with it brings new celebrations and achievements. I am sure we all remember the night of our initiation, the anticipation of what lay ahead for us as we stand outside the Lodge room door waiting for that moment when we hear the key turning in the lock and we step forward to begin our journey into Freemasonry. On the night of my Initiation as I was nervously waiting in the dining room not knowing what lay ahead, A gentleman who I had briefly met moments ago walked in carrying a book and asked me to sign it. As he explained what it was about, he began to tell me of when he himself was waiting to receive his First Degree many years before. As the evening went on this man stood beside me and after all was said and done he shook my hand and said congratulations brother and I knew I had made the right decision in becoming a Freemason. As time went by I learned more about this gentleman, my brother, and quickly found out that he had done this many times over the years across many lodges as well as becoming a role model and mentor to many Freemasons!

So it is with great pleasure that The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of Harmony Lodge 67 wish to congratulate Rt.W.Bro. Edward Rea on reaching his 50th year milestone as a Freemason. On a fine evening in July Rt. W. Bro. Edward Rea was presented with his 50 year jewel by the Rt. W Provincial Grandmaster Derek Dunne, surrounded by Brothers from



Rt.W. Provincial Grand Master Derek Dunne after Presenting Rt.W. Bro. Edward (Ted) Rea with his 50 year Jewel and Certificate

Harmony Lodge 67 and other Lodges within the Province.

The celebrations continue into final few months of 2024 as many brothers receive their Fellowcraft Degrees and progress along on their Masonic journeys and we look forward to 2025 which will continue to build on the success at Harmony Lodge 67.

As we approach the end of 2024, The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of Harmony Lodge 67 would like to wish all the Brethren and their families a Merry Christmas and A Peaceful New Year!



W.Bro. Martin Mason, Worshipful Master David Williams and Bro. Conor O'Dwyer there on the day to celebrate Rt.W.Bro. Edward (Ted) Rea receiving his 50 year Jewel

THE DISTRICT GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MUNSTER



The Principal Officers the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster. of the pictured with visiting dignitaries.



The incoming officers of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster.



R.E. Deputy Great Chief and the R.E. Grand Scribe picture during a visit to Cork Council 10 recently.



The Plumblin

*To submit articles for Summer 2025 issue of
The Plumblin, please forward them to:*

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