JUNE 2020

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THE ORANGE STANDARD

"LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE" ISAIAH 62:10

REMEMBER 1690 FOUNDED 1973

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORANGE ORDER



Distribution of PPE and essential items

See pages 5-7



Feature: Life in Lockdown

See pages 13-15



Raising the banners for NHS

See pages 18-20

Details of the '2020 12th At Home' celebrations revealed

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has revealed details of its programme of events for Twelfth of July celebrations with a difference, which will see the Orange Family mark the 330th Anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne at home.

The restrictions in place due to Covid-19 meant that all traditional Twelfth of July parades and gatherings have been cancelled.

And, despite a slight easing of the lockdown restrictions in recent weeks, it is not possible to host the kind of Twelfth parades that we would normally see.

As an alternative, Grand Lodge has produced a digital package of resources and ideas under the banner of '2020 12th at Home'.

Central to the celebration will be four days of digital radio broadcasting as Grand Lodge launches 'Radio Boyne'.

Full story on page 3



Institution marks 75th anniversary of VE Day

The Orange Institution marked the 75th Anniverary of VE Day on Friday, May 8. County, District and Private Lodges laid wreaths at cenotaphs across the Province. The Orange Family played it part with families holding celebration events and decorating homes to mark the occasion. Pictured is Redrock Orange Hall in Co Armgh with a great viual display.

Full coverage see pages 8-12.



STAY at home
PROTECT the NHS
SAVE lives

goli.org.uk/covid
Orange Family:
we're in this together

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EDITORIAL

Get ready for a Twelfth of July like no other!

The programme of events to mark the 330th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne has been unveiled.
A dedicated section of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland website is now live, packed with ideas of ways you can mark the '2020 12th At Home'.
Check out www.goli.org.uk/12thathome where there are plenty of craft, art, recipe and other activities to add fun to your Twelfth celebrations.
Celebrate Online. In Your Home. At Your Door. That's the message this year.
A few weeks ago, it was unclear just what our Twelfth celebrations would look like. But now we have a full and engaging programme of events, offering a range of activities that include all members of the Orange Family - young and old.
The current restrictions - even under the slight easements we have seen in recent weeks - would not permit any kind of gathering remotely comparable to a traditional Twelfth of July parade.
The medical advice is that Coronavirus likes crowds. In fact, it thrives in situations where people are in close contact with each other. That is why we have been living with the strict social distancing guidelines.
So, for 2020, your garden at home becomes your Twelfth field!
Have a picnic with the family, decorate your home with bunting, fly your flags proudly, and if you're fortunate enough to have a few family members that are musically gifted let them entertain you.
Radio Boyne is a very exciting project. Four days of digital broadcasting is a big undertaking but one that will no doubt receive the support of the Orange Family.
While new ideas are wonderful to see, it is important that the traditional elements of our Twelfth day are respected and observed.
Plans are being made for coverage of the Resolutions and also a Twelfth Church Service.
There is also a wonderful learning opportunity here. The website will have plenty of Orange History information available, much of it easily understood by young children. Why not make the time to share this with the younger generation to ensure they know their heritage and culture? That is surely something we all should be doing!
As you make your plans and preparations to celebrate this Twelfth, remember that the battle against Covid-19 continues.
Stay safe.

Protect the NHS badges

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has commissioned a special pin badge to acknowledge the role played by members of the Orange Institution in the fight against Coronavirus during 2020.
The badge is also designed to commemorate the Institution's historic decision to cancel the Twelfth of July parades for the first time since the Second World War.
The badge is available – priced £3 – and can only be ordered through lodges, who should inform District representatives of the number of pin badges they require.

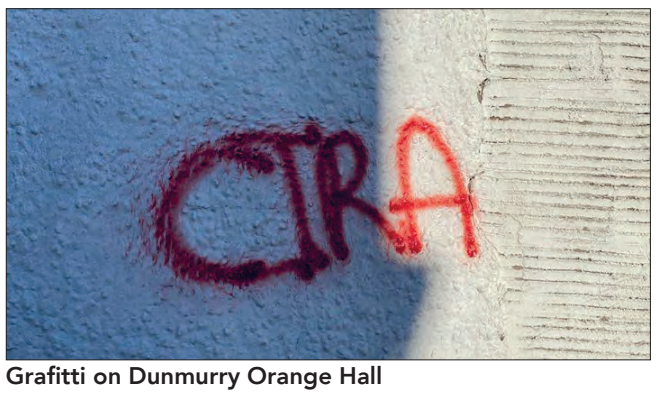




The damaged banner on Dunloy Orange Hall

Orange Halls in County Antrim targeted in attacks

The month of May brought about two attacks on Orange Halls in Co Antrim.
On 6th of May, a banner supporting the NHS and front-line workers was damaged at Dunloy Orange Hall.
A Union Flag, which formed part of the banner, was cut out and removed.
Just days later, Dunmurry Orange Hall, which was also displaying a banner of support for the NHS, was targeted and 'CIRA' spray painted on the wall.
Both incidents were reported to the PSNI as hate crimes.
The attack on the hall at Dunloy drew condemnation from political representatives, including DUP Leader Arlene Foster and MLA Mervyn Storey.
The response from Grand Lodge in relation to the Dunloy attack was measured, and encouraged the membership not to be drawn out by 'animosity and intolerance'.
The statement read: "The Orange Institution has been saddened by the attack on a banner supporting the NHS displayed on Dunloy Orange Hall.
"In a time of unprecedented community cohesion in the face of Covid-19, it is disappointing to be reminded of the clear animosity and intolerance shown to our members and the unionist community. We had hoped that as a result of the shared hardships and efforts made by our whole community in recent weeks that these types of incident could have been consigned to the past – sadly it appears not to be the case.



Grafitti on Dunmurry Orange Hall

"The immediate priority and focus of our Institution and indeed all citizens of Northern Ireland must be to fight this pandemic by supporting the NHS, appreciating our essential workers, and doing all we can to support and encourage everyone to respect the social distancing and isolating guidelines in place at this time.
"Our response to this attack will be to continue to strive to meet any need we can and assist all in our communities, regardless of creed or politics.
"The Orange Family has played a central role in helping the elderly, vulnerable and isolated right across Northern Ireland and areas of the Republic of Ireland. We will not allow this incident to deflect from that good work.
"We will deal with issues of this nature at a later date."
A statement posted on the Derriaghy District LOL No 11 Facebook page highlighted the disappointment of the local Brethren at the act of vandalism.
The statement read: "
Early on Saturday morning (9th of May) Dunmurry True Blues LOL 1046 erected a banner on Dunmurry Orange Hall voicing their support for the NHS staff and keyworkers and by lunchtime on Monday red graffiti had been sprayed on the side of the hall supporting the Continuity Irish Republican Army.
"The Brethren of Derriaghy District No.11 are no strangers to sectarian attacks and abuse. It is a sad reality that we and our supporters have come to accept over the years as a price we pay for expressing our beliefs and culture in an area with a rapidly changing demographic.
"However, this was not an expression of Protestantism, Unionism or Orangeism, it was simply a group within the local community who wished to express their gratitude for the sacrifices that the NHS and keyworkers are making for EVERYONE in that community.
"Despite the small mindedness, ignorance and sectarian hatred of the individual who broke lockdown restrictions to perpetrate this act, the Brethren of Dunmurry True Blues LOL 1046 and Derriaghy District as a whole will not be shaken in our support of the heroes saving lives and ensuring vital services are delivered during this crisis."
Both attacks have been recorded by Grand Lodge as hate crimes and will be followed up in meetings with senior PSNI Officers.

ORANGE NEWS

Exciting plans for '2020 12th At Home' celebrations are revealed

The 330th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne will be celebrated in style thanks to a range of activities put in place by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.
The traditional parades are not possible as a result of the restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but that certainly does not mean the occasion will go unmarked.
In fact, this is shaping up to be a Twelfth of July like no other.
'2020 12th at Home' is the title of the four-day Boyne Anniversary Celebrations, which will begin on Friday, 10th of July and run through to Monday, 13th of July.
And the message is simple.
Celebrate the day online, in your home or at your door. It is vitally important that there are no breaches of the government's restrictions which may be in place at the time.
Grand Master Edward Stevenson has appointed Deputy Grand Master Wor. Bro Harold Henning to oversee events.
Bro. Henning commented: "Just because our parades and gatherings may be cancelled –the 2020 Twelfth isn't! King William's momentous and symbolic victory at the Boyne 330 years ago will most certainly still be celebrated and commemorated in a number of ways by the Orange family."
There will be a wide range of activities and resources available on the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland website - goli.org.uk/12thathome - specially designed to ensure all members of the Orange Family can enjoy the long weekend.
The cornerstone of this special celebration will be 'Radio Boyne' featuring four days of digital broadcasting which can be accessed through the Grand Lodge website. You can listen to Radio Boyne at goli.org.uk/radioboyne when it goes live on 10th July, 2020.
It is anticipated that a range of guest interviews, music, news and history programming will be available from the 10th to 13th of July.
The broad focus will be on activities for all the family.
A section has been created on the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland website with colouring, crafts, recipes and other ideas to help make your '2020 12th at Home' a success.
The traditional elements of the Twelfth of July demonstrations, including the reading of the resolutions and the religious service will be broadcast online, both through Facebook and the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's YouTube channel.
Acts of remembrance, such as laying wreaths, will also be covered. The Grand Chaplains will be preparing a special prayer to be read out on the day.
There will also be a Boyne Annual Divine Service online on Sunday, 12th of July.
It is hoped that all members of the Orange Family will embrace the situation and play a full part in the '2020 12th at Home' celebrations. And that lots of pictures and videos will be shared with Grand Lodge to be displayed in a special picture gallery on the website!
The flying of flags, decorating homes with bunting, creating items by following online craft videos, and recipes will help to bring an orange flavour to a Twelfth garden picnic.
There will be plenty of opportunities for young and old to engage with their history through fun learning initiatives. Follow William as he travels from Carrickfergus to the Boyne. And who knows, you might even find out if he really crossed the Boyne on a white horse!
Social media has played a huge part in how Grand Lodge has communicated news and the work of the membership over the last few months.
This will continue with the Orange Family being encouraged to share pictures and videos of how they marked the Twelfth of July.
The web page goli.org.uk/12thathome is now live and will be updated over the coming weeks.
Please visit the page regularly to see the new content as it is added.





1st of July commemoration

A page will be added to the Grand Lodge website later this month featuring resources for remembrance, children's crafts and stories of our heroes all associated with the Battle of the Somme.
It is anticpated this page will go live on June 8 so watch www.goli.org.uk for details.



Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson



We have come this far – we must not stop now!

The sacrifices made in the fight against Covid-19 have been many and they have been significant.
We have spent many long days in lockdown away from our family and friends.
We have missed out on important moments in family life that would usually have been celebrated with gatherings. The other side of that is that we will be aware of many who have lost loved ones and not been able to have traditional funerals or services where friends and relatives could gather to offer sympathies.
The Orange Institution has faced a major challenge with meetings, parades and church services all cancelled. It is through steps like this that we have played our part in fighting this deadly disease.
You, the membership, have stepped up when needed. You have answered the call to help your neighbours and play a positive role in your communities with Districts and Private Lodges providing food parcels and PPE right across the jurisdiction of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.
The decision to cancel the Twelfth of July parades was not taken lightly. But it was a necessary decision, taken in a timely fashion, with the best interests of the entire community in mind.
As we approach the Twelfth of July period I would encourage everyone to take stock of the last few months, the sacrifices that have been made and the hard work that has been done, and prepare to stay strong in the weeks ahead.
The staff at Grand Lodge have designed a programme of events that will help us to mark the 330th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne in the comfort of your own home.
Under the banner of '2020 12th at Home' there will be a range of activities for families, young and not so young, to help make this Twelfth one to remember.
There is no doubt it will be a Twelfth of July like no other. But that does not mean it will not be celebrated in the best way possible, in line with the Government restrictions.
Our rich history and culture deserves to celebrated and it is up to us all to ensure that it is.
It will be done with the flying of flags, with music, and most importantly of all, with family.
We have to continue to be responsible. While slight amendments to the restrictions continue to be introduced, it is important that we respect the guidelines that will bring us through this terrible pandemic.

ORANGE NEWS

Belfast Twelfth Booklet online

The County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast's annual Twelfth Booklet has been made available online for the first time in its history.

It is believed the first booklet was published in 1966, with the original editors being Rev. Martin Smyth and the late Rev. S.E. Long.



The profits from the sale of the booklet traditionally go to local charities.

County Grand Master Spencer Beattie explained: "While we may not be holding our traditional Twelfth of July parades due to the Coronavirus, we did not want the charities we support to suffer."

The charities benefitting this year were announced by Booklet Committee Chair William Parkinson. They included Child Evangelism Building Fund; UDR Benevolent Fund; Wounded Police Officers & Families Association; N.I. Prison Service Benevolent Fund; RNLI Donaghadee and Survivors of Suicide.

One recipient of a charity donation, Tom Saunders, who will take part in a 100km trek across the Western Front to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund - Frontline Walk Appeal - thanked the Booklet Committee for their generosity.

The Booklet, which was compiled before lockdown, contains details of the now cancelled June and July 2020 Belfast parades. A list of 12th of July parade venues at the back of the booklet confirms this year is only the seventh occasion since 1872 that 12th of July parades haven been cancelled.

There are over 25 articles in the booklet, including a personal look at Britishness by the Grand Masters of Ireland, Scotland and England; the history of the Ulster Special Constabulary Association and the Orange Institution in Toronto.

There is also a fitting tribute to the late Dawson Bailie, who was the driving force behind the booklet for many years.

The Committee Secretary Tommy Wright commented that the wide range of informative articles in the booklet was down to the long-time serving editor, the local historian, Frazer Agnew.

The booklet can be viewed free online by visiting:
https://www.paperturn-view.com/?pid=OTA90001&v=5

Orange Day of Prayer

Tuesday, 26th May, was the day designated as the the Orange Day of Prayer during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson issued a call to the members of the Institution and wider Orange Family to take part in the day of prayer.

The date – 26th May – was chosen as it had considerable significance during the Second World War. When Britain was close to defeat, and the entire British Army was trapped at Dunkirk, King George VI called for a National Day of Prayer on 26th May, 1940.

In issuing his call, the Grand Master said: "In this time of great trouble, when thousands of lives have been lost to the Coronavirus and many families have been left bereaved I would ask the Orange Institution to stand firm and take part in a day of prayer.

"As an Institution, our faith is of great importance and it is appropriate at this time that we set aside a day to pray for our nation during this pandemic. We should pray for the NHS and the frontline workers, for families, and for our government who face difficult decisions."

To assist the Orange Instituion to take part in the Day of Prayer, a dedicated section was created on the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland website filled with information about the day. The Grand Chaplains compiled detailed points for prayer, complete with relevant portions of scripture, which helped give focus to prayers on topics including families, health needs, our national leaders, and on the Institution itself.

Curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage, Dr Jonathan Mattison wrote a historical article on how the nation responded 80 years ago to King George VI's call to prayer.

The membership of the Instituion certainly seem to have taken the idea of a day of prayer onboard. Social media figures after the event revealed thousands of people engaged through the Grand Lodge social media channels, with a short video message by Wor. Bro. Rev. Ron Johnstone, Grand Chaplain, attracting just over 10,000 views.

Letter to the editor:

Universities becoming battleground in a cultural war

Sir, There is a cultural war which is being waged across the University sector.

We have seen a consistent and sadly successful attempt by a crop of extreme, yet influential, republicans to attain cultural supremacy over the Unionist and Protestant minority within our universities.

At Queen's University, a poster was displayed at the Fresher's fayre in September which read 'Brits out', no action was taken.

In February, the Students' Union saw fit to elect an IRA apologist to the office of President. This individual has repeatedly glorified the actions of the IRA and made incendiary and sectarian remarks on social media which many have found extremely offensive. Again no action was taken. Most recently, last week in fact, the Students' Union renewed with vigour their alienation and mistreatment of Protestant and Unionist students.

A motion was ratified by the Students' Union which celebrates the weaponization of the Irish language, as provided for under the 'New Decade, New Approach'.

The motion states that the deal repeals the last of the 'penal laws' - this is more than a tad ironic when the Students' Union has been implicit in penalising the largest minority at Queen's, by creating a cold house for Protestants and Unionists over many years. The motion calls for the introduction of bilingual signage around campus, which only serves to demarcate territory, and create a Unionist 'no-go zone'.

The clear lack of mention of the provisions for British identity under the 'New Decade, New approach' is a forcible reminder that the Students' Union is only interested in furthering the Republican agenda and it is incredibly insulting to Unionist students that the Students' Union felt it was beneath them to even make mention of our cultural identity.

The Students' Union demands the creation of 'recommendations of best practice' for the Irish language across the Universities in Northern Ireland, however, the Students' Union's best practise towards Protestant and Unionist students has been to trample and ride roughshod over our genuine and legitimate concerns. It is not surprising that the proposer of this motion is the same individual who has glorified the IRA, reminding us once again (not that any was proof needed) that the Irish Language is part of a wider strategy to aggressively 'green' our society, to the detriment of other cultural identities.

A motion was also defeated which, very reasonably, sought to condemn all terrorist acts of violence during the Troubles and it's glorification in the future. Unsurprisingly, giving the incoming leadership of the Students' Union's track record, this vote was defeated.

We hear much pontificating about this generation creating a reconciled society. The Protestants at Queen's have not seen much sign of it. This issue has consistently been ignored by the 'equality' generation, with many seeming happy to accept what George Orwell described as 'all being equal, but some being more equal than others'.

There has been a distinct failure within civic society to even acknowledge the problem, never mind address it. However, I am very proud to report that Queen's Orange Society has been at the cutting edge of the fight for equality for Protestants and Unionists. We have single-handedly led and pioneered the opposition to this injustice. It is the duty of the Orange Institution to show leadership to our people. I believe that the Orange Society's activism has embodied this historic duty.

Whilst we are holding the line, we need support! We are grateful for the support which we have already received from our Orange family, however this will be a long and difficult fight and we cannot do this alone. Education is critical to our future success and we must therefore treat this as a priority.

I feel that the Orange Institution must lead the way, as we have so many times before on many issues, in standing up for the rights of the marginalised students from our community, while others continue to ignore the 'elephant in the room'.

It is now that we must stand up for those who are experiencing alienation for holding to the cause which we all cherish so much.

Bro. Calvin W. Reid,
Chairman,
QUB Orange society.

ORANGE NEWS

East Belfast Lodges responding to crisis





Beersbridge Bible and Crown Defenders LOL 891 donated goods to Somme nursing home

As with other sections of the Institution, East Belfast lodges have been trying to help their community.
The immediate Past District Master for Ballymacarrett District LOL No. 6, Bro. Raymond Spiers, was appointed by the District to liaise with the various other community groups in the area to see how the District could support community efforts to support the vulnerable. A number of community groups in area came together to form East Belfast Coronavirus Community Support to establish helpful initiatives including helplines for the vulnerable.
Various local branches of the Loyal Orders, including the Royal Black Institution and ABOD, raised over £1K for this initiative within a few days.
No.6 District has since established its own Coronavirus Contingency Fund with donations from lodges and members with a view to being able to support local community initiatives in the future depending on what problems or pressures arise in the area.
Some private lodges have also been spear heading their own initiatives with "the Hack Lodge" Star of The North LOL 1053 (under the leadership of Senior Orangeman Bro. John McCrea who is Master for 2020) and Preston LOL 870 have been delivering food hampers.
The lodges have a successful media platform and through these platforms have started an appeal called Food Hamper Fridays.
Each Friday they delivered hampers to Widows, Orangemen who are pensioners, retired or to those who are vulnerable and have now opened it to non institution people who fall in the same categories from our community.
Hampers have been delivered to Carrickfergus, Ballygowan and Comber as well as East Belfast.
Each week they use a different local business to produce the hampers so different local businesses are getting support as well.
Each hamper is valued at £30 of groceries. The lodges acknowledge it will not necessarily keep people alive in the way NHS staff and other essential workers do, but they believe they are helping to boost community morale and have brought a smile to peoples faces to let them know we are thinking of them and that if they need anything we are on hand to help. One 1053 Officer stated: "It's a joy to see how happy it has made people."
They hope to sustain at least 20 deliveries a week for as long as funds hold out and are grateful for the sponsorship received from their own members as well as the wider Orange family and its supporters.



Newtownstewart District supports local Welfare Care Groups

In admiration and recognition of the selfless devoted service of welfare caring staff and personnel, working with the elderly and vulnerable people with underlying health problems, Newtownstewart District LOL No. 9 made an appeal to it's nine Lodges to contribute to the purchase of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to donate for the use of those making daily homecare visits during the current coronavirus pandemic.
This resulted in the purchase and procurement of a considerable quantity of PPE consisting of face visors, hand gloves, face masks and hand sanitizer, which was divided equally and distributed by district officers to each of the following five groups: Glen Caring (Strabane), NW Care (Omagh), Care Plus (Castlederg), Positive Futures (Omagh) and Marie Curie (Omagh Branch).
A spokesman for the District Lodge added: "We hope that this donation of personal protection equipment will, in some small way, go to help supplement the need of our local carer's personal protection as they carry out their daily work."
Pictured with the PPE are Derek Reaney, district treasurer; David Dunbar, district master; Derek Tinney,district secretary and Richard Campbell, district committee chairman.

DoH www.health-ni.gov.uk
HSC Public Health Agency

Coronavirus
Isolate your household
Stay at home

If you or anyone in your household has a high temperature or a new and continuous cough – even if it's mild

- **Everyone in your house must stay at home***
- **DO NOT** go to your GP, hospital or pharmacy.
- **You can ring NHS 111** for information or advice and they will help you decide if you need to contact your GP.

Calling your GP is only necessary if you have:

- an existing health condition
- problems with your immune system
- very serious symptoms

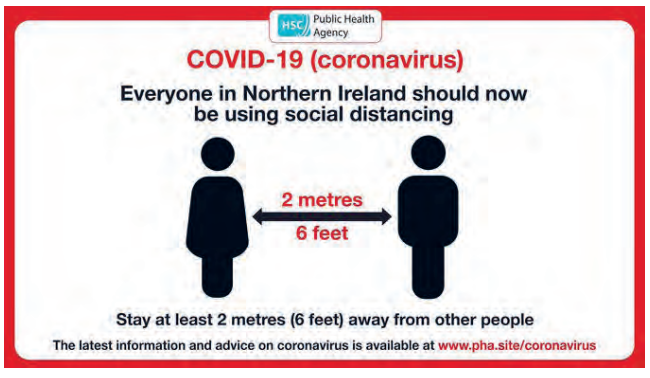
- **Protect** older people and those with existing health conditions by avoiding contact.

*Find out how to isolate at home at **www.pha.site/coronavirus**

If it is a medical emergency and you need to call an ambulance, dial 999 and inform the operator of your symptoms.

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF OTHERS & THE NHS

190320/20



DoH www.health-ni.gov.uk
HSC Public Health Agency

Coronavirus
Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds

Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:

- **Get home or into work**
- **Blow your nose, sneeze or cough**
- **Eat or handle food**

For more information and the Government's Action Plan go to nhs.uk/coronavirus

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

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AROUND THE LODGES

Tell us your story!

Please get in touch if you have a story for the Orange Standard – big or small we'd love to hear from you!

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Dessie Dixon of LOL 544 Grange Corner True Blues delivering PPE to Drummaul House, Randalstown, supplied by Harold McCloy of Village Blinds Ballymena.



Strawletterdallon LOL 1114 and pipe band, WM William Ross, DM Alastair Crawford, Sec Richard Campbell and Bro. Derek Ross delivered PPE to Newtownstewart Surgery, Newtownstewart District Nurses and Plumbridge & Gortin GP Surgery. Thanks to our members who donated to support our local NHS heroes.



The City of Londonderry No 5 District Loyal Orange Lodge pictured presenting cheques totalling £1,350 in support of Macmillan Cancer, Northern Irish Cancer Care and Sevenoaks Care Home. The City of Londonderry No 5 District Loyal Orange Lodges thanks the following lodges for their support, making these presentations possible: City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge; Bro. Scott Goligher Memorial LOL 461; Killaloo True Blues LOL 621; Hope of Eglinton; No Surrender, LOL 764; City of Derry Temperance LOL 1007; Curryfree Glen True Blues LOL 1060; Ne Plus Ultra In Uno LOL 1688 and Fawney Fort LOL 2048

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Cullybackey LOL 696 members Neil Campbell (secretary) and Denver Davidson delivered several items of PPE to the staff at Redford and Craigdun Nursing Homes on behalf of the lodge and band.
It is hoped the items can help them through these times and thank them for all their work looking after elderly members of our community and families.
Thanks to Harold McCloy and all at Village Blinds.





WM James Stewart hands over a care hamper on behalf of the members of Violet Hill LOL 571 to Lorraine Brady project manager of Cavan/ Monaghan Hospital for the medical staff.
This gift is in recognition of their dedication, professionalism,care and compassion during Covid-19. The Lodge would like to acknowledge Markeys pharmacy, Cootehill for compiling the hamper and donating 10% discount in extra products.

ORANGE NEWS

Cheque for Craigavon Hospital brings total giving across Co Armagh Districts to over £60,000

As a continuation of the Co Armagh Grand Orange Lodge covid-19 support, a cheque for £10,000 has recently been donated to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, for specific use at Craigavon Area Hospital.
The Trust representatives were overwhelmed at this magnificent gesture and expressed their gratitude accordingly.
This brings to approximately £23,000 the amount of support provided thus far by the County Grand Lodge. And when the 11 District Lodges support is added, the overall total for Co Armagh is almost £61,000.
A very commendable effort which will benefit all sections of the community.
The photograph shows Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Grand Master; and Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Lawson, Deputy County Grand Secretary, presenting the cheque to Jane McKimm, Head of Communications, and Helen O'Neill, Director of Finance.



By ALOI Grand Mistress Sister Joan Beggs

Thinking of others is something we do very well

It is in challenging times for the Association of Loyal Orangewomen and the Orange Institution as a whole that I start to write this article for Orange Standard.
All of us have been have had to come to terms with not having our meetings for Private, District, County or Grand Lodge in the normal format because of lockdown. We miss these very much, as well as Twelfth of July Demonstrations, Church Services, band parades and all other events organized to celebrate our culture which have been cancelled.
It is quite amazing how we have been inspired to assist in our communities in so many ways. Local and daily newspapers have photographs and write-ups showing members of the Loyal Orders being



generous and compassionate to others, yet they too may have their own uncertainties regarding their future. Thinking of others is what we do very well. Congratulations to everyone for the tremendous effort you have made so far.
We put into perspective how Covid-19 has impacted on some families in our community who have been bereaved, have had positive tests or are self-isolating etc. Our sympathy and compassion are extended to them.
Everyone involved in any part of conquering this virus needs our prayers and support , be it emotional, physical or mental, as we move towards the new normal.
May I encourage each Member to consider Prayer, Bible Reading and Church attendance (when it becomes available) more earnestly and give our Lord thanks for his goodness and mercy in these uncertain times. I trust He will be a comfort to you all and look forward to moving out of this phase in our lives.

See more pictures of PPE and essential item presentations on pages 34 and 35

equiPPE
FOR ALL YOUR PPE NEEDS
www.equippe.us



One of our team Christoper Wallace helping to Supply PPE for the Orange Order

Box of 50 3 Ply Face Masks From £25

FFP2 KN95 Masks also available

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ORANGE NEWS

Institution marks 75th Anniversary of VE Day



Castlewellan District LOL No 12 & R.B.D.C. No 3 commemorated the 75th Anniversary of V.E. Day by laying wreaths at the Cenotaphs in Castlewellan and Newcastle. Pictured at the Castlewellan Cenotaph are Bro. John Smyth, Assistant District Secretary and P.D.M. No 12 [left] and Sir Knt. Brian McBride. W.D.M., R.B.D.C. No 3 [right]. Pictured at the Newcastle Cenotaph are Sir Knt. Kenneth Cromie. P.D.M. No 3 [left] and Bro. Trevor Orr, P.D.M. No 12 [right].





Members of the Orange Institution marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday, May 8.

Lodges and Districts around the province placed wreaths at cenotaphs as Brethren observed silent respect for all those who lost their lives in the Second World War.

Some were accompanied by pipers playing laments.

The VE Day celebrations were much changed to what had been envisaged prior to Covid-19. However, the Orange Family adapted their plans to fit in with the social distancing restrictions in place.

Many families held small celebrations at home, enjoying fun games and barbecues.

Some Orange Halls flew flags and bunting in a colourful display to mark the milestone anniversary.

In Co Fermanagh, well known Master of Ceremonies Bro. Gary Wilson was delighted to be able to deliver the 75th anniversary of VE Day cry for peace and lead the Nations toast to our heroes at Enniskillen, the most Westerly location in the UK to do so this week.

Joining town criers around the UK, Gary adapted the official script to also pay tribute to the front-line workers during our current crisis.

Bro. Wilson said: "It was an honour to pay tribute to so many brave men and women and remember those who didn't come home." He added: "I was thrilled to be presented a this specially engraved bell by Bruno Peek LVO OBE the pageant master in London who planned these and many other major commemorations over the years!"





To assist with people's preparations for VE Day, The Museum of Orange Heritage hosted a special page on its website filled with recipes, colouring pages, history articles and craft ideas. A make your own bunting video by Outreach Officer David Scott proved particularly popular.

Sunday, May 10, saw The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's special VE Day Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration.

This pre-recorded service, which featured a message from the Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson and was conducted by the Grand Chaplains, was broadcast on the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Facebook page and Youtube channel.

To coincide with the VE Day celebrations, the Museum of Orange Heritage launched the second of its online exhibitions – Service and Sacrifice – 1939 to 1945. This exhibition focuses on the Second World War and specifically the contribution of Orangemen.

The exhibition can be accessed by visiting www.orangeheritage.co.uk/VE75.

Left: Articlave LOL 1017 marked the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Right: Ballyhalbert Coronation LOL 878 commemorates the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.



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A wreath was laid by the WDM of Bushmills District LOL 21 at the town's War Memorial following two minutes silence at 11am in memory of all those who made the Supreme Sacrifice.



VE Day anniversary marked at Newbuildings Victoria LOL 1087.



A number of City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge Officers marked the 75th Anniversary of VE Day with a short Act of Remembrance.



On behalf of the Officers and members of Lurgan District LOL No 6, at 11am, the WDM Bro. David Martin laid a wreath and observed two minutes silence at the monument in Brownlow House, to remember the fallen on the 75th anniversay of VE Day.



Cloughfin LOL 1277 and Cloughfin Pipe Band, Sixmilecross, Co. Tyrone held a VE Day tribute where a reading, short thought, poem and pipers tribute was played followed by the toast and the grand chaplains prayer. The short tribute took place at the orange hall



Worshipful District Master Bro. Dowds, along with the Deputy District Master Bro. Magill and District Chaplain Bro. Hillen, laID a wreath on behalf of Banbridge Orange District LOL No 7 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.



Mourne District laid a wreath on the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Pictured are DDM Bro. William Bailie and District Secretry Bro. Stephen Nicholson at Kilkeel cenotaph.



Redrock Orange Hall is fabulously decorated to commemorate VE Day. This community art installation is the combined work of members of Redrock Purple Star Heroes LOL 788 and the Redrock Tuesday Club.

ORANGE NEWS



Deputy District Mistress Sister Norma Gillespie, Portadown District WLOL 3, VE Day celebrations.



Noah and Lily Steele, from Ahoghill Co. Antrim Dad's lodge Ballygarvey LOL 746 Ballymena.

The entire Orange Family joins in the fun on 75th Anniversary of VE Day



Minute's silence being observed at Dan Winter's House.



Enjoying VE Day fun are the McElroy Family, from Katesbridge LOL 140



Jude (8) and Isaac (2) Ritchie from Belfast. Their Dad and Grandad's lodge is Rhonehill Temperance LOL 1902, No 1 District, Clifton Street and Stepmum/mum and Granny's lodge is St Anne's WLOL 37, No 5 District, Sandy Row.



Michelle West, WM of Moygashel WLOL 106, has her home decorated for VE Day. Michelle's mother is a PM and her sister is my DM. Her son is a member of LOL 708 Moygashel. A real family affair for the Wests!



AROUND THE LODGES



A much bigger display was originally planned for the front of Carleton Street Orange Hall to mark VE Day. But with the current circumstances the display has been downsized. The display pays tribute to the Belgian troops, American and British Troops who called Carleton Street Orange Hall home over different periods of time for the duration of the Second World War.



VE day at Sir Edward Carson Memorial LOL 1991



Brother Eric Hassan showing how it should be done in the VE Day celebrations!





Above: Shirley Branyan cuts a special VE Day anniversary cake.

Left: Portadown District Mistress Shirley Branyan and her husband Portadown District Lecturer Adrian celebrating VE Day.



AROUND THE LODGES

Cookstown District marks VE Day with a digital Service of Remembrance

Cookstown District LOL No 3 held a special service to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

The service was held digitally and saw contributions from District Officers as well as a bugler and piper.

Addressing the gathering, Chaplain Norman Thom said: "Dear friends we have come to commemorate the anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

"We remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War.

"We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

"But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as is in heaven."

Bro. Thom read from John 15:9-14

This was followed by prayer.

District Master Bro. Glen Espie BEM then addressed the Brethren on why we are celebrating VE Day.

He said: "Brethren, we meet here this morning - digitally and individually because of Covid 19 - to celebrate the 75 Anniversary of VE day. Today, 75 years ago, the unconditional surrender of all the German armed forces was signed. Why do we celebrate this pivotal moment in our Nation's history?

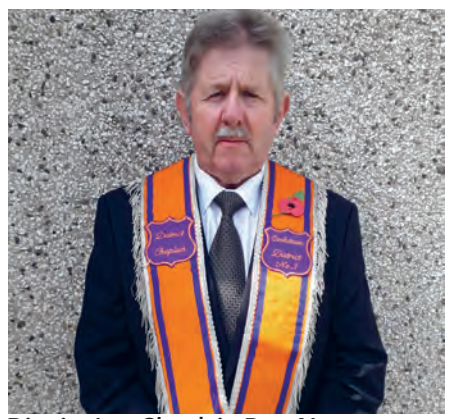
"To find out, we have to look back to the dark days of 1940, when our British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was in full retreat to the beaches at Dunkirk, harried all the way by German Armoured Divisions and the Stuka dive bombers of the German air force, the Luftwaffe.

"The miracle of Dunkirk between 27th May, 1940 and 4th June, 1940, saw 338,266 British and French soldiers were plucked from the beach and the knoll at Dunkirk, in operation Dynamo.



Cookstown District Master Bro. Glen Espie BEM


Deputy District Master Bro. Stephen Fulton


District Lay Chaplain Bro. Norman Thom


District Secretary Bro. Walter Miller


District Treasurer Bro. Cecil Hewitt


Bugler Chris Donnelly


Piper Ewan Mitchell

"The Nation after Dunkirk stood alone in the fight against Nazi Germany. The Germans now planned, with their Operation Sea-lion, the conquest of the United Kingdom. To do this the Luftwaffe needed air superiority in the skies over Britain.

"The Battle of Britain took place from 10th July to 31st October, 1940, featuring brave pilots of the RAF, which included pilots from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Sir Winston Churchill said "never was so much owed by so many to so few" of those pilots of Fighter Command of the RAF.

"Not forgetting the German blitz of London, Coventry and our own city of Belfast, when in one attack 900 of our citizens were killed by the Luftwaffe.

"We had the Battle of the Atlantic which lasted from September 1939 until 8th May 1945.

"We as an island Nation needed the life-line of supplies, food, fuel, raw materials and military supplies from Canada and America. We think of the sacrifice of our Royal and Merchant Navy on these conveys. Should a merchant ship be sunk and the crew recovered, the Merchant Seaman's pay stopped when his ship was sunk. We also remember both the Royal and Merchant Navy on the Arctic conveys to Arkhangelsk and Murmansk in Russia, to supply the Soviet armed forces with literally thousands of tanks, lorries jeeps, radio equipment and other munitions.

"We think of RAF Bomber Command who took the war to Germany on a nightly basis, bombing the German war factories in the Ruhr valley and into Germany. Bomber Command suffered 60% casualties, that's 60% of the people that served in bomber command were killed, wounded or taken Prisoners of war.

"We think of our Army, especially the 8th Army (Desert Rats) under the leadership of General Montgomery at the 2nd Battle of El Alamein from October to November 1942, when the Germans and Italians were beaten. After the 2nd Battle of El Alamein our Army never suffered another defeat, and we pushed the Axis Forces out of North Africa into Sicily. We liberated Sicily in Operation Husky from July to November 1943.

"In September 1943 our Army landed in Italy and battled up the toe of Italy with the great battle of Monte Cassino. We then had the liberation of Rome on 4th June 1944 by General Mark Clark's 5th US Army.

"On the 6th June, 1944 we had the largest seaborne invasion in the history of the world, Operation Overlord, on a 50 mile stretch of the Normandy Beaches 156,000 British, Canadian and American soldiers were landed on the first day of the invasion, opening the second front against Germany.

"We had the battle for the City of Caen, were Field Marshal Montgomery's Armoured and Infantry Divisions were doing battle with the elite German Armoured Divisions that were blooded on the Russian front, such as the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler, Das Reich and 12 SS Hitlerjugend.

"We remember the French civilians killed in Normandy and those killed in the City of Caen when it was bombed by the Allied air force. The German forces were pushed south of Caen where their Army was trapped in the Falaise Pocket and destroyed by Allied air power. We had the battles of the Hurten Forest, the last great German Offensive of WW2 in the west, through the Ardennes Forest of Christmas 1944, known to us as the Battle of the Bulge. The crossing of the River Rhine and that great moment on 25th April, 1945 when American and Soviet forces met at the river Elbe.

"The suicide of Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, in the Fuhrerbunker in Berlin on 30th April 1945, to that moment in the history of our Nation when, on 7th May 1945 at Reims in France, General Alfred Jodl of the German Army signed the unconditional surrender of all German armed forces. The surrender was signed again on the 8th May in Berlin in front of General Georgy Zhukov representing the Soviet Union. We also remember that our allies, the Soviet Union, suffered over 26 million casualties in WW2.

"We can see why today this is such a Pivotal moment in the history of our Nation. Today we remember the service personnel from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland who were all volunteers. The personnel from the UK, Commonwealth and Dominions, those who made the supreme sacrifice, and those that served that we today have the freedom to celebrate the 75 Anniversary of VE Day.

"Brethren, as the war time sweet heart Vera Lynn sang: "We will meet again, don't know when, don't know where", but brethren, when Covid-19 is over, we will meet again."

District Secretary Bro. Walter Millar added: "As we commemorate and celebrate VE Day, we are mindful of the many Orangemen within Cookstown District who served in the Army, the Royal Air Force, Navy and Homeguard during that period of War. We recognise and are thankful that many returned home safely, but sadly many gave their lives in their fight for freedom and their names are written in the Cenotaphs and Churchyards throughout our District.

"We give thanks to Almighty God for the Victory of the Allied Forces over the Germans and for the ending of the war in Europe. The war still went on in the Far East in places like Burma and India for three months after the Victory in Europe. We also remember those who fought for the Allied Forces against the Japanese Imperial Army.

"We also recognise the sacrifice they made and pay tribute to them as we give thanks today for the Victory in Europe."

Chris Donnelly, bugler, a member of Tamlaghtmore Silver Band played the Last Post and the Reveille. He was wearing his father's RAF WW2 Medals.

Ewan Mitchell, a piper with Ballybriest Pipe Band, played Abide With Me.

Bro. Cecil Hewitt, District Treasurer, said the Kohima Epitaph.

ORANGE NEWS

A Williamite's story of hope through isolation



The current Covid-19 crisis, and resulting lockdown, has changed the very nature of life as we know it. Indeed, it has become one of the defining moments of our time, with governments, global agencies, and networks, trying to come to terms with – to paraphrase Boris Johnston – 'an invisible assailant'.

A recent article by Richard Gunderman, chancellor of Indiana University, got me thinking about the trials and tribulations that have impacted many individuals and peoples down through history, and how they emerged victorious in the end.

I know what you are thinking – here is another commentator taking me down the long and winding road of misery that has befallen his own life! Certainly not. We all have our own life stories to tell and recount, which we can, and do, bore our close friends and family with. But this is not the course of action I wish to pursue here.

The following is a quick examination of the fate of real and fictional characters during their struggle with adversity. Unlike most essays you will not have to read the whole article to know what I am trying to say. I am going to start with the overwhelming message I want you to take from this gallop through my imagination. When the chips are down... we focus on those things that are important. And here is the rub; Shouldn't our focus always be on this?

Could advice for dealing with social isolation actually be lurking on the bookshelves of our childhood? When we think of individuals in forced isolation we automatically think of Robinson Crusoe, the book written by Daniel Defoe and first published in 1719 (for the younger generation, this was the basic framework for the Tom Hanks film, Cast Away! Defoe was a keen supporter of King William III and the Glorious Revolution. In his book, the circumstances impacting our hero, who finds himself the only survivor of a terrible shipwreck and stranded alone on an island, allow us to draw certain parallels with our own experience today.

The experience of Defoe's character was not a mere flight of fancy. Crusoe was a rich Englishman who went to sea, was captured by pirates, sold into slavery and is shipwrecked on a deserted island. This quick litany of disaster mirrored the experience of the author. Daniel Defoe was born in London in 1660 and would witness some very momentous events in his childhood. In 1665 over 70,000 people died during the Great Plague of London, which ravaged the city and was no respecter of rank or privilege, although the poor districts of the city suffered terribly. Then, as now, efforts had been taken to try and stop the plague from entering the British Isles but to little avail (however, I'm sure it was all the fault of the Brits and both an obstacle to and accelerator of Irish Unity....but I digress!).

More tragedy followed.

In 1666 the Great Fire of London devastated the city and impacted both people and the economy. In 1667 the Dutch Fleet sailed up the Medway and attacked the town of Chatham and, three years later, in 1670, Defoe's mother died. It is hard to imagine the impact this rapid-fire list of crises had on the young Defoe. During his life he would be a journalist, pamphleteer, advisor and spy. He would suffer attack, imprisonment, and poverty, dying in virtual hiding from his creditors.

His character Crusoe would have a slightly different journey.

A rich man, Crusoe's arrival on the island brought him face to face with both his situation and his demons. Over the next 28 years he became a man reborn. After 28 days of isolation we are asking "When can we get back to normal?" How easily we forget our own history; the population of Londonderry held out for 105 days; our forefathers advanced over the top into machine-gun fire and endured the Blitz... we're being asked to limit movement for a while! That's perspective.

Materialism now meant nothing. As he roamed the island, he found precious gold on the ground but did not even lift it up as it was of no use. The new valuables were food, water and shelter. In a crude reflection of this, we witnessed panic buying of food and essentials at the end of March this year. No one went out to panic buy a house, a new car, jewellery etc etc. The arrival of a modern plague had rendered the acquisition of material goods irrelevant. Survival of the individual and the community was the driver.

Making the best of the situation was important. Crusoe quickly had to make the island his home, create shelter, find food and water, but also learn to do things himself. This highlighted the capacity of humanity to learn, to adapt, and to flourish in an alien environment. It may seem a little extreme for us to view our own homes as 'alien' but if we really think about the amount of time we spend here, during our busy lives, and the focus we give family and friends, can we really say, without fear of contradiction, that home is where the heart is? It should be. Our recent isolation experience has shown that it really can be (although my culinary skills remain to be perfected, as does my ability to cut my own hair without looking like an extra from The Walking Dead).

Evaluating who we are and what we believe. The longevity of Crusoe's forced isolation resulted in an understandable re-evaluation of what he believed and what he had achieved in his life. Our present circumstance can do the same. Are we making the most of our God given talents? Are we doing things for the good of everyone or just ourselves? Perhaps this crisis will see a shift in the benevolent nature of community and society. As an Orangeman, I have been both humbled and proud of the way in which lodges and bands across the Orange Family have been helping the vulnerable, frontline health workers and, not to be forgotten, protecting others by staying at home.

The cancelling of our traditional celebrations has been difficult but necessary. Re-imagining the Twelfth of July celebrations can be part of this 'adapting to circumstances' and the Orange cannot be accused of doing anything but caring for the greater good.

History is littered with examples of tragedy and hardship, especially in the Twentieth Century. The Armenian Genocide, Two World Wars, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia... the list could go on and on. These cataclysmic events all changed what was 'normal', even just for a while. For the individuals affected, they were generation shaping events. For the World, they changed the landscape of human experience.

Isolation has allowed us to experience and enjoy what many would describe as 'the simple things'. We now notice the birds singing in the morning, the Starlings and Finches flitting about the garden. We engage with our neighbours to see if they are ok or need anything. We no longer want to impress anyone, we want to be part of something bigger, something that delivers a positive outcome for all. With the hustle and bustle of modern life being paused, we have learned to be thankful for what we have. This was true of Daniel Defoe's Crusoe, Robert Louis Stevenson's David Balfour in Kidnapped or even Tom Hanks in Cast Away. The burdens of the world have been replaced with a practical evaluation of what we need, what we can do and what we can contribute; not how much can we make?, what position can we achieve? and how much can we acquire? This is not a manifesto against capitalism or the need for a balanced economy, and I am conscious that business must get back to work as soon as is practically possible, but creating the space for evaluating who we are and who we should be, is transformative. We should set new goals, aim for better, and place the perceived shortcomings of our former lives in the past. We must come to terms with what has gone before and allow the experience to shape how we approach the future.

If we look at the circumstances of Crusoe or Balfour – whose scheming uncle tried to get rid of him so he could steal an inheritance – isolation or a sudden, dramatic, change in lifestyle, can initially create despair but also the space necessary for growth and personal development. So, as we worry about what lies ahead, let us all turn to the one book that has been translated into more languages than Defoe's Robinson Crusoe – the Bible. It provides hope, encourages Faith, and can turn the key to a new life.

After all, that was the book that Crusoe held so dear during his enforced isolation.

The Orange Pimpernel

Quincey takes historical presentations online

Orchard County historian Bro. Quincey Dougan, who has made presentations across the length and breadth of Ireland and beyond, has continued his lectures despite all of his upcoming bookings being cancelled because of the Covid-19 emergency.





I am a member of Redrock Purple Star Heroes LOL in the Markethill District and specialise in what I describe as forgotten history. Much of my subject matter is largely undocumented facts about organisations, events and personalities rarely, if ever, raised in present-day discussion, journalism or academia.
I have a particular interest in Orange outposts outside of Ulster. Prior to the current health emergency, already this year I had undetaken speaking engagements in Gorey, County Wexford to speak on Wexford Orangeism, Tandragee speaking on the Stronge Dynasty of Tynan Abbey, Liverpool examining the City's connections with militant Irish Loyalism in the 19th and 20th century's, and in the Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House Loughgall looking at the Orange heritage of Donegal.
As the Covid crisis emerged, engagements quickly started to be postponed and, in an attempt to both continue my interest and also contribute positively in the current environment, the search began for alternatives.
The first of these took place on the evening of Tuesday, 24th May, when, in conjunction with the Newtowncunningham Community Outreach Project County Donegal, I carried out my first ever live online presentation. The topic on the evening was the Donegal Volunteers, examining the formation and evolution of the Donegal Ulster Volunteers during the Third Home Rule Crisis, with an exceptional 103 individuals tuning in to watch despite relatively little publicity.
I was both surprised and happy with the response. For over 100 people to set aside a part of their evening to listen live was a humbling experience, showing the level of interest there is in history across society.
I'm not aware of anything like it ever having taken place before. It is about more than just a 'talk' however. In the trying days we now find ourselves in, among the many issues that face us is that of our general mental health. It almost does not need said the potential dangers of the ever increasing isolation and stress created by current events. Getting people to schedule and stimulating them to both listen and reflect on new knowledge, is hugely beneficially to their mental well-being. New days mean new ways.
I have made at least one presentation each week, and already have has covered the subjects of Cork Orangeism, the Ulster Special Constabulary, Orangeism in the City of Dublin, The Stronge Dynasty of Tynan Abbey, the anti-Home Rule Volunteers of Connacht, Munster and Leinster, and the Orange Lodges of Mayo. These topics were all broadcast live via my Facebook page at www.fb.me/bygone.days.history every Tuesday evening at 8pm. Each presentation that has been made is also available to be watched again at any time.
For more information you can contact Quincey Dougan via Facebook, or alternatively email qdougan01@qub.ac.uk or telephone 07835 624 221.

Sonia's face masks help meet the demand for PPE

Sister Sonia Copeland, District Mistress of District No 2 in Ballymacarrett, has been very busy during the Coronavirus pandemic. She tells Orange Standard readers of her experiences making PPE for frontline staff here in Northern Ireland and in Scotland.





What frightening times we all live in at present. Who ever thought in this century we would all find ourselves in a lockdown because of a virus. But this isn't any old virus, this Covid-19 virus is affecting the whole world and can be deadly to some people. There is a lot we don't know about it, which is more frightening because we are working in the dark as to how we manage it and how we fight it.
In this last nine weeks or so, I have watched with a vast range of emotions how in some countries their health service cannot cope with those admitted to the intensive care units, how the lack of PPE is putting more anxiety and pressure on the hospitals and the carers in nursing homes, and care in the community. I thought automatically of my son, who is a Doctor in the Mater Hospital in Belfast, working on the Covid-19 Emergency Department, who dedicated to his profession. I guess this was the first time I really thought of the impact that this would have on him and all of his colleagues not just now but after this pandemic leaves us. I remember the first question I asked him before I couldn't visit him or hug him, "Please tell me you have enough PPE." He assured me that they were well equipped and that he would be OK. But really none of us are safe from this virus.
As an Alderman in Belfast City Council, and who is having to work from home, which is not ideal as I love face to face working with my constituents, I decided that I needed to do something to help in some way. Due to a phone call from my sister who is a carer in the community and who had no PPE, I decided that I would make face masks for those who needed them. So far I have made 250 masks for various nursing homes, mental health wards, and those who are delivering parcels and meals to those who are vulnerable. I continue to receive orders from all over Northern Ireland and have posted a few to Sisters and Brethren in Scotland.
As a trained counsellor I have grave concerns as to the impact this virus will have on the mental health of those not only with already mental health issues but also because of the impact of this lockdown. It's important that when we feel low we, speak to someone on the phone or any of the organisations who are just a phone call away, like the Samaritans or Lifeline. Please do not suffer in silence.
I would like to thank all those in our Health Service, our Cleansing Staff and Crematoria Staff at Belfast City Council and to all the Staff in our Nursing Homes and to Carers in the Community, all Transport Services, our Police and Fire Service, the Orange Institution, Royal Black Preceptory, Apprentice Boys of Derry, and the Independent Order and everyone in the communities who are helping others less fortunate. These are the real heroes of this Pandemic.

Life in lockdown: Experiences of the Orange Family during Covid-19 crisis

Valerie steps up to ensure the bands play on!

Sister Valerie Quinn, Secretary of Coleraine WLOL 78, has kept busy during lockdown ensuring bands have a digital platform for their music while bringing culture and entertainment to others.



Orange members of the Quinn family

With a family background immersed in marching bands and the Loyal Orders, I witnessed my first "Twelfth" at three weeks old, eventually joining an accordion band myself at 14 years old. This developed into promoting the Band Scene collectively and I would be an active campaigner and advocate for the positive societal contributions made by Bands and Loyal Orders.
Seven years ago, I joined my local Ladies Lodge, Coleraine WLOL 78 and I am honoured to act as Secretary since 2017.
Professionally, I'd just accepted a new job offer as Senior Project Manager when the Covid-19 Lockdown started, meaning I couldn't start my new position as planned. I've been in full isolation since early March, so I found myself with little to do, and a lot of time to do it in. Having assisted in the creation of a mental health charity "Light of Foot" in 2019, I could clearly see how the 'lockdown' situation would lead to an increase in mental health challenges. Many don't realise how much a marching band is part of your daily life and support network. To have this so suddenly removed seemed unfathomable, and like many I struggled to process the idea of several months without parades. I keenly felt this 'gap' on St Patrick's day, and the following weekend the idea came to me of a "Virtual Band Parade". I knew the technology was available via social media, and the material was plentiful thanks to the many videographers throughout the scene. A message to them quickly established they were on board and more than happy to allow their footage to be used. I contacted a friend, Roy McPeake, to assist technically and we ran a few tests that afternoon. By that evening, we held our first Virtual Parade.
I already had a Facebook page "Ulster Bands Forum" with almost 19,000 followers, but we genuinely didn't know how it would be received. We were absolutely blown away by the immediate response. That first virtual parade alone has been viewed by over 20,000 people, and the weekly live feed numbers have remained consistently high, with our six-hour special on Easter Monday being viewed by almost 36,000 people.
We've just completed our 20th show, running both Friday and Saturday evenings at 8pm. The programs consist of an initial section dedicated to bands who would have been hosting their annual parades, then the rest of the 90 minutes is dedicated to requests from previous weeks.
Occasionally, we dedicate an evening to footage solely from the late 80's/early 90's which is always very popular. This has led to the kind donation by a gentlemen from Liverpool of his entire collection of 280+ vhs tapes/dvd's ranging back over 30 years. The collection, which has been named the "Gordon Corbett Collection" in his honour, will be slowly digitised for all to enjoy in the future.
We are aiming to feature a clip from each of the 660+ bands in Northern Ireland as well as clips of all bands in Scotland, ROI and England. To date we've covered 470 different bands, and the current request list of unfeatured bands is sitting at 218, so there's still more than a few to go.
We're trying to provide entertainment on those occasions where people will be really missing the parades. Plans are currently in place for special themed programmes on 1st July (Battle of the Somme), 4th July (Scottish 12th), 11th July (Orange Singalong), 13th July (Virtual 12th) and 14th July (Scarva), in addition to the usual Friday and Saturday shows.
As the shows are live, viewers can interact with myself and each other via online comments both on Facebook and Youtube. Regular watchers have become familiar names, with the banter, running jokes and a common bond well established. Viewers from USA, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada & Australia as well as the UK are all experiencing our wonderful musical culture and heritage.
Personally I'd like to thank Roy McPeake and Lisa Kerr for their weekly assistance in compiling the show, as well as the many videographers who have allowed us to use their footage. My parents are also in isolation and it gives them something to look forward to, a little structure to their week, and the added bonus(?) of seeing me!
I've received many lovely messages from viewers sharing how it's helping them cope and giving them something to look forward to each week. Many are reconnecting with friends they haven't seen for some time, and now feel they're making new friends with other commenters – exactly as they'd do at a real parade.
That's really all I ever wanted it to do – bring a little musical entertainment and enjoyment into these long weeks until we're back on REAL parade again. I hope I've achieved that in some small way.

Kilimanjaro still on radar for Co Down Orangemen

Bro. Stuart Magill, No Surrender LOL 20, reports on how Covid-19 has impacted on plans for a charity hike up Mount Kilimanjaro.



Lockdown has prevented training in the Mournes

Planning for our charity expedition to Kilimanjaro had been going fantastically well. Our training was underway and we had just finalised the names of another group to join us, doubling our numbers from 12 to 24. We were also just days away from our first fund-raiser which was a gate collection at the 'Belfast Big Two' football match between Glentoran and Linfield. But like all things this came to a immediate halt when lockdown was imposed.
We have seen some good news from Stormont to say that outdoor activity, including hill walking, was permitted under stage one of the pathway to recovery so we are very pleased to recommence our training up the Mournes, which is a very welcomed boost.
At this stage, we are not expecting the trip itself to be affected as thankfully we have time on our side. Our trip isn't until the 27th December 2021 and we are praying by that stage there will be some sort of normality and our trip can go ahead and not be pushed back. The only major ramification of the current crisis is our inability to carry out planned fundraising, which may affect our total collection come the end of our trek. However, we are committed to make up for lost time once we are fully operational again.
Banbridge Orange District No.7 has been working tirelessly to make sure that all the members of our District and their families are looked after to the best of our ability. As a District we are having weekly Zoom meetings to keep up to date with each other and getting each lodge to report on the well-being of their members and families. We have worked hard to have the resources set in place to support those members who find themselves in times of difficulty because of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. Currently, we are providing hot meals to over 70 of our District members and their families.
We also found it important to reach out and support the wider community in Banbridge and have teamed up with a foodbank initiative namely the J29 Project. Named after the Bible verve Jeremiah 29 v 11 which reads: 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give us hope and a future'.
The J29 project is a non-profit Christian organisation that supports families, regardless of background, in the Banbridge area, that have been referred to them by social services. It is run by a local family, Neil and Sarah Adair. We have opened up Banbridge Orange Hall for a food collection each Saturday from 10.30am to 12 noon and the response has been incredible. The J29 project have stated that they have never received a sustained contribution from any grouping like what they have seen from the Orange Hall.
They were asked to pass on the thanks of a elderly Catholic lady from the town to say that it was the Orange Hall that was providing food on her table each night and that she was eternally thankful.
This food bank appeal at the hall has been a huge success and will continue as long as we have the support of the community which to date has been incredible and the WDM Bro. Nigel Dowds has expressed his thanks to each and everyone who has donated but stressed that this is still work in progress and we aren't finished yet there is still work to be done.

PULPIT

by Rev. Ian McClean



Stay at home and save lives!

Stay at home! Save lives! This is the advice, the plea that has gone out throughout our country. And thankfully, it is a policy that has been largely effective.

It is not the first time that people have been instructed to stay indoors. It happened before, on one of the most important occasions in the history of the world. We can say that, not merely on the authority of some great historian or social commentator, but on the authority of the Word of God. The importance of that event is evidenced in that God refers to it well over one hundred times throughout the bible, both Old Testament and New Testament. It was on the night of the Passover. On God's instructions Moses said to the people of Israel "None of you shall go out of the door of his house." (Exodus 12:22)

And the reason? That lives would be saved. Moses had instructed the people (Exodus 11:4ff) "Thus says the LORD: About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. There shall be a great cry through-out all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again." But God provided a protection for the people of Israel. In each household a lamb was to be killed and the blood applied to the doorposts and to the lintel. (Exodus 12:13ff) "The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you or destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt." As we know, that is exactly what happened.

Have you ever wondered what the people of Israel were thinking when they killed the lamb, when they brushed its blood on the doorposts, when the next morning they heard the cry and learned of their great deliverance? We don't know. But today we know far more than they did.

Some twelve hundred years later, in the year 55AD the apostle Paul referred to this great event (1 Corinthians 5:7) "For Christ our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." What happened that fateful night in the land of Egypt was a dramatic picture that God gave, not only to the Children of Israel, but to us today that the only deliverance from eternal death is when we put our trust in the blood, the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 1:29) "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (1 John 1:7) "the blood of Jesus, his Son cleanses us from all sin." (Ephesians 1:7) "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace." The Hebrew people could only see the Way of Salvation dimly through the prophetic representation that God gave them. Yet they obeyed and were saved. How much more clearly we today can understand the significance of those words of God "When I see the blood, I will pass over you!"

Today peoples' lives are being saved because they stay indoors, but sadly it is not a certain protection for all. But for all who put their trust in the Great Sacrifice, the Lord Jesus Christ, there is that assurance that he "has freed us from our sins by his blood." (Revelation 1:5).



Bannvalley District LOL 20 were delighted to present vital PPE to Crozier House in Banbridge. Pictured receiving the donation are nurses from the home, including senior nurse, Pamela Brown. The PPE was presented by Bro. Stuart Woods, DDM, and Bro. David Moffett, WM of Emdale LOL 407.

Garvagh District LOL No. 4 purchased a consignment of PPE equipment from W. Bro. Harry McCloy and distributed it to three nursing Homes in Garvagh and to the local Health Centre. The consignment, which was purchased with donations from the District Lodge and the private Lodges in the district, included Visors, masks, gloves and hand sanitiser. The attached photograph shows Derek O'Neill, District Secretary; Colin Kennedy, WDM; Uel Doherty, DDM; and David McFetridge, District Treasurer.



Fundraising for the Drew Nelson Legacy



Portballintrae Royal Blues LOL 1142 raised a total of £1142 for the Drew Nelson Legacy following a sponsored walk up Knockladye last year. The Lodge would like to thank everyone who was involved and for the kind donations. Pictured presenting the cheque for £1142 is WM Bro. Richard McMullan and the County Deputy Treasurer Bro. Rodney Stewart. A further cheque for £320 from Portballintrae LOL 1142 and Preston Purple Abstainers LOL 1987 and with the Drew Nelson card for £30 increased the amount raised to £1490.

OBSERVER

A time to look back with fondness on Twelfth memories from years gone by

With no Orange parades this year on the Twelfth, there will be other ways of marking the most important day of the year for a large section of the Protestant and loyal population, writes Brian Courtney.

One of the ways in which I hope to compensate for parading with my lodge, or watching from the sidelines, will be to reflect on several past 12th July parades which spring to mind.

Perhaps other brethren will take the opportunity provided by the cancellation of this year's parade to look back on former Twelfths and chose what they feel to be among the highlights of their Orange membership.

My first Twelfth parade with my lodge, Wesleyan Temperance LOL No 161 was the year 1954, and the venue that year for County Armagh lodges was my home town Portadown.

I was 16, having joined the adult Orange Order a year earlier than what was the minimum age of becoming a member, because I had been a member of Parkmount Junior LOL No 150, a lodge which is happily still an active in the Junior Order.

It was a thrill to be part of a parade of some 6,000 Orangemen, with over 100 bands, many Lambeg drums, and tens of thousands linking the streets of the town as the huge procession made its way to Shamrock Park.

My lodge had its own band in those days, First Portadown Old Boys Silver. Most of its members were Methodists, and a large proportion were also fellow brethren in my lodge.

I spent the day with young members of our lodge, about a dozen of us, who had belonged to the Boys Brigade. We had joined the recently formed Methodist Orange lodge at the same time, which we considered to be an excellent way of maintaining our friendships.

One of our officers owned a café in Portadown, and I can still remember the feeling of brotherhood and camaraderie as over 60 members of our lodge, along with the band members sat down to enjoy a lovely meal on the evening after the parade.

Our lodge chaplain at the time was Bro The Rev. Morley Thompson, a truly inspirational Methodist minister and committed Orangeman – our lodge had seven Methodist ministers among its membership in those years.

Bro. Thompson, who proudly grew orange lilies in his manse garden, at that meeting stressed the importance at that dinner, of the Orange Order in protecting the Protestant heritage and British identity.

The following year the County Armagh Twelfth was held in Lurgan, and the year parade and demonstration was marked by the glorious weather.

It was one of the hottest days of 1955, and the sun was so strong that it melted tar in the streets.

It was a marvellous Twelfth, and what made it so enjoyable for our lodge was that our officers hired several large steel churns packed with ice cream.

The heat was so strong, that most of our members were content to relax at a large garden on the Gilford Road, kindly provided by a loyal family, and enjoy lashings of the ice cream.

We had travelled by train to get to our Twelfth in Lurgan that year, and many of the County Armagh districts had used the same mode of travel to Portadown the previous year.

This was an option available for lodges in many parts of Northern Ireland in the years prior to 1957 when two thirds of the railway system was axed, a decision many people still believe was a mistake.

In 1956, Portadown District LOL No 1 travelled in a fleet of trains to the county demonstration at Tandragee.

The trains stopped at the Madden station, roughly half-way between Gilford and Tandragee. It turned out to be quite a walk, with the sun again beaming down, but the Orangemen and band members coped well, and the good weather certainly helped the enjoyable atmosphere of the great day.

In Tandragee, the brethren of 'The County of the Diamond' paraded to the grounds of the famous castle, one of the homes owned by the Dukes of Manchester for generations.

I didn't realise it at the time, and I am sure most other brethren were equally unaware in July 1956, that a few months later the same castle and its grounds would become the centre of a flourishing new industry in Northern Ireland – the famous Tayto crisp firm.

Indeed, our present Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited Tayto premises a few months ago, the latest of a number of prominent callers down the years.

As I relaxed with the other brethren of LOL 161 in the field that Twelfth, I was totally unaware that a few months later I would be visiting the castle grounds along with other reporters to write stories about the new crisp industry just getting under way in Tandragee.

Weather-wise, the 1957 Twelfth, held in Bessbrook, was a more traditional Ulster-style demonstration weather-wise, with fairly heavy showers sharing sunny spells throughout the day.

It didn't spoil the atmosphere and the turnout of Orangemen and bands was as big as ever.

The IRA border campaign was at its height in 1957, and I remember our train slowing down as it crossed the great railway viaduct outside Bessbrook.

To our surprise, and delight, one of the B Specials guarding the viaduct was a member of our lodge, and he promised to join us for the evening meal – a promise he managed to keep!

I have paraded on many a Twelfth when rain was a big feature, and one that stands out in my memory was the 1961 county demonstration in Loughgall.

I believe it was the year that a plaque was dedicated at the historic Sloan's House in the village. I stood outside the building during the ceremony as the torrential rain beat down, and before the day was over my fairly new collarette had been saturated.

Fast forward many years to the year 2003, and that Twelfth I took part in the Toronto Orange parade while on a visit to relatives.

It was a fascinating and enjoyable experience, and although I heard from Toronto brethren that the parade was only a fraction of the size it had been as recently as the mid-1960s, I still felt proud to be among the marchers.

That's because I was taking part in an Orange procession in Canada's largest city which had been taking place for 183 years.

The 2003 Toronto Twelfth in which I took part may have been modest sized, but there was the compensation of joining with warm hearted and hospitable Orange folk who made it a hugely enjoyable day, and one of the most memorable from a personal point of view.

On the evening of the Toronto Twelfth, my wife Sylvia and I were guests of the Brampton lodge at their Orange hall at Campbell's Cross.

It was a marvellous occasion with several hundred people present at the dinner, including members of lodges from Hamilton and Toronto.

There were Orange and Irish songs, laughter galore, and a few tears shed by some of the Ulster-born Orangemen as they recalled bygone Twelfths in their native province before they emigrated.

That's why the Twelfth is a special event, commemorated in various parts of the British Isles and the Commonwealth, and it binds together the people of the Orange family.

King Billy's on the wall - in Canadian TV series!

One of the most popular Canadian television series is based on stories centred on the Toronto police force in the late 1890s.

Called 'Murdock Mysteries' the series is screened on Sky television and several of the past stories have mentioned Orange parades in the days when the Order had a huge influence in the Canadian city. Toronto was a fiercely loyal city in those days, and viewers will have noticed that the Union Jack and portraits of Queen Victoria were prevalent in the police station.

One of our eagle-eyed readers – or digital viewers at the moment – contacted me recently to say how pleased he had been to see a particular portrait hanging on a wall in the Toronto station. The portrait in question shows William of Orange crossing the Boyne, and it certainly underlines the influence of the Orange Order in Canadian society at that time. Many of the police officers in Toronto were members of the Orange Order, so it is not all that surprising that a portrait of the Prince of Orange should adorn the wall of the police station at a period when Prime Ministers and provincial Premiers of Ontario were members of the Order.

ORANGE NEWS



Bros. Neil Holmes and Gordon Lowey pictured at the Evelyn Downshire Memorial Orange Hall, Dundrum, with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland NHS Banner.



The W.M. Bro William J. Elliott of Preston's Purple Abstainers LOL 1987 and the WM Bro Richard McMullan of Portballintrae Royal Blues LOL1142 Both Lodges showing their support to all NHS Staff and Essential workers.



Banner supporting the NHS and key workers displayed by Richhill True Blues LOL 665.

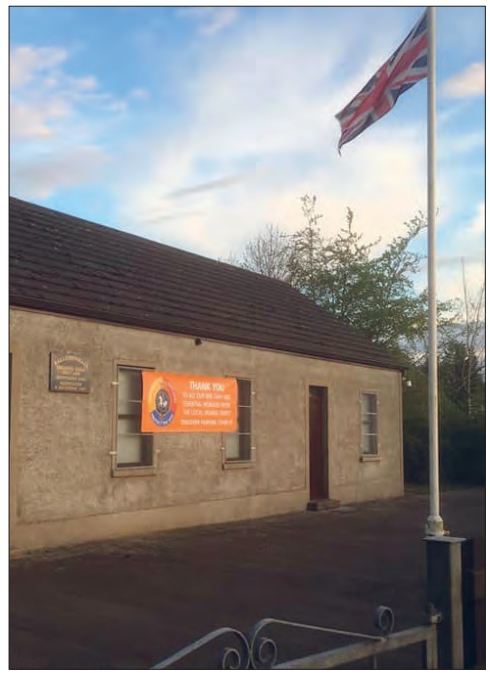
Lodges display banners of support for the NHS and all key workers





Wickliffe's Invincible Morning Star LOL 62,Dollingstown, proud to support the brilliant National Health Service.

Above: Hillsborough Orange Hall is one of a number of halls in the Hillsborough District displaying the banner.
Below: Halls in Staffordstown District are also showing their support.





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AROUND THE LODGES



Ballintoy Rising Sons of William LOL 803 showing support for the NHS and all essential workers.



Cairncastle LOL 692 showing to the NHS, care home workers, essential workers and all in the front line.





Castlewellan Star of Temperance LOL 356 showing support for the NHS and all front line essential workers.



Banner displayed at Tamlaght O'Crilly Orange Hall.



Mourne District No 6 thanks the NHS and key workers.



Thanking the NHS in East Belfast.



Banner on display in Newtownbutler



O'Haras True Blues LOL 804 and Lyles Knights of the Bann Valley RBP 479 say thanks to the NHS and all essential workers at Bendooragh Orange Hall.



A big thank you to you all from the Officers and members of Giants Causeway LOL 1195.

AROUND THE LODGES



For more pictures of Orange Halls displaying banners of support for the NHS and key workers check out the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Facebook page.



Ballynafeigh Orange Hall showing support for NHS Staff and Essential Workers at this difficult time.



Sandy Row District No 5 shows its support.



Ahoghill District No 12 showing their support for NHS and key workers.



Lower Iveagh West District No8 Deputy District Master Bro. C Turkington and Deputy District Lecturer Bro. A McCormick with the banner at Magheralin Hall from all three lodges thanking all the NHS and Key Workers. PPE supplied by Grand Lodge was also distributed to local key workers by the District.



Aughintober Orange Hall, Castlecaufield District, in support for NHS staff and essential Workers.



Newry District Lodge No.9 supporting the NHS and all essential workers.

Orange news from across the world was once a regular feature...

History Lessons
with Dr David Hume MBE

OVER many years I have been fascinated by a particular column in the Weekly Telegraph newspapers.

The column relates to Orangeism Overseas and appeared in the early years of the 20th century. Entitled 'Orange Intelligence' it contains Orange news not only from Ireland but also the wider British Isles and beyond.

These reports are often very detailed, providing details of initiations, conferment of degrees and names of those leading the lodges concerned.

They continue over several years and suggest that there was a regular conduit either through the Orange Institution officially or through a well-placed Orange journalist to whom reports were sent from across the world.

While the majority of reports were from local lodges, there was ample space devoted to Orangeism abroad, including from Australia, Canada, South Africa, Scotland and England.

In October 1903 the dedication of a new Orange Hall at Corbetton, Ontario, was reported on in the column, with the Grand Master of British North America being the chief guest.

Corbetton LOL 353 welcomed Dr. T. S. Sproule MP to conduct the opening ceremony on the afternoon, with teas then served until 7pm in the Presbyterian Church hall. Other officials who attended the event were also listed including C. E. Perry and J. R. Bell, Past Grand Chaplains and John McMillan, Grand Master of Ontario West.

The evening concluded in entertainment "by the best local talent" according to the report.



Robert Jamieson



Twelfth of July, Stoughton

The same column also reported on the death of William Moncrieff, one of Canada's oldest Orangemen and a member of the Order for some 83 years. He had passed away at his daughter's home at Young's Point, Ontario, just two months away from his 100th birthday.

The article detailed that he was always a popular visitor at any Orange function, and was not surprisingly able to provide much detail on the history of Orangeism in his lifetime.

It was detailed that in July 1903 he had been given a place of honour on the platform when he attended the Twelfth at Lakefield, Ontario.

"With his 83 years in the Orange Order, and participation in 80 celebrations, Br. Moncrieff was a valued mine of Orange anecdote and history and a visitor esteemed most highly in any lodge that he entered," the newspaper column detailed.

In July 1904 there were reports on the progress of Orangeism in South Africa, India, and Manchester, as well as reports of Apprentice Boys and Black Preceptory meetings.

The report on South Africa highlights that several Belfast men had been behind a meeting to ascertain interest in forming an Orange lodge in Durban.

Among those who attended were members of the Order in Australia and one who had been initiated in Gibraltar. The report on the proceedings was provided by Arthur Johnston who was a member of LOL 971 in Belfast and he listed many of those who attended the initial meeting.

From the point of view of Orange history this is quite fascinating, highlighting that a combination of Belfast men and Australians were responsible for the decision to apply to the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland for a warrant (although there had also been a proposal to apply to the Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia, instead).

Those listed as being from Belfast at the meeting were Arthur Johnston, James Johnston, George R. Ward, David Patterson, Andrew Thompson, Hugh McKinney, George Wilson, John Martin, John Noble and William McCormack.

Johnston, who lived in a property called Rath-na-seer in Durban, detailed that W. Williamson, the late Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, was present as were J. R. Heggerty, John Williamson, and John J. Wilkins from Victoria while other Australians present were listed as Charles Findlater, James Robinson, John Carratt, William Ballivant, George Sadler and Thomas S. Godfrey. Another man, E. King, was from Ireland originally but had been initiated in Gibraltar 1868, suggesting a military connection.

A letter from C. J. Wakefield of the Royal Irish Rifles, highlighted that members of the battalion stationed in North India had prevailed upon the regimental chaplain, Rev. J. A. Elliott, a Wesleyan minister, to deliver a special sermon on the first Sunday in July on the theme of the Bulwarks of Protestantism. Orangemen filled more than one aisle of the church for the event. It is clear from his letter that Wakefield did not presume to assume to beginnings of Orangeism in the region but clearly hoped it was a step in that direction.

Another column from September 1904 highlighted more locally based Orange events including a social function to mark 15 years as WM of Clifton LOL 1936 by Thomas McIlveen, and reports on City of Derry LOL, Sandy Row True Blues LOL 1054, Ballee LOL 474 in Ballymena, Garvagh District LOL, Limavady LOL 657, lodges at Tullyhappy, Derryadd, Kilkeel, Tynan, Upperlands, Lisburn and elsewhere. There remained an international flavour to the column, with an account by Thomas A. Duff, the Grand Organiser of the Grand Orange Lodge of British North America.

In his article Duff related visiting lodges in Manitoba and the North West Territories of Canada, including at Gainsboro, Carnduff, Frobisher, Glen Ewan (the reader was candidly told that the Oxbow lodge members had not turned up to the meeting and only a few of Glen Ewan lodge were present, leading to a "heart-to-heart" discussion about the welfare of the lodge) and Coalfields as well as other towns.

The report provides excellent detail on the lodges that existed, those involved and also a tentative friendship with the Sons of England officials in one of the areas; "He paid a very high tribute to the Orange Institution and emphasized the fact that both organisations should go hand in hand as their principles are so alike."

The same column also provided information on North Pontiac District in Quebec and a profile on Robert Jamieson, a men responsible for revival of Orangeism in Motherwell in Scotland and whose name was, according to the column, a household one in Scotland and in the British Isles.

The report on North Pontiac details that on August 15 a meeting had been convened in the Orange Hall at Campbell's Bay for isolated primary lodges in the area, with representatives attending from Greermount, Leslie, Thorne, Ladysmith and Campbell's Bay. The meeting was chaired by the County Master, T. A. Macfarlane and was called for the purpose of establishing a district lodge for North Pontiac. Fred W. Schwartz of LOL 67 became the first District Master, his officer team comprising William Craig, LOL 1391, Deputy District Master, Robert Holt, LOL 1516, Chaplain, E. H. Workman, LOL 1300 was Recording Secretary and David Gambell LOL 1300 was Financial Secretary, Thomas Tubman, LOL 67, was Treasurer, George A. Moore, LOL 1300 was appointed Director of Ceremonies and T. A. Macfarlane, LOL 1300, was appointed Lecturer.

"There is good reason to hope that the District Lodge will be of much benefit to these isolated lodges," the report concluded.

The Orange Intelligence column reminds us of the openness with which Orangeism was reported in the media (and there can be no doubt the reports were being sent officially, or with official approval) at the time.

But it also speaks to the sense of unity which prevailed; Orangemen in Belfast were connected to those in Quebec or Toronto, to Motherwell, Australia, India and South Africa. This sense of fraternal togetherness must significantly have added to the overarching sense of unity provided by being a subject of the British Empire.

That's the long and the short of it...

EXPLORING our tangled history is the subject of a new series of The Long and the Short of it, currently running on BBC Radio Ulster.

Presented by comedian Tim McGarry and I, this is our fifth series of what has proved a very popular concept, and the current programmes are broadcast at peak time on Saturdays at 10.30am. They are repeated on a Wednesday at 6.30pm and are also available on BBC iPlayer.

In the current series we are tackling a range of more contemporary historical issues, such as whether the Irish Free State was a cold place for Protestants, whether the Irish language was hijacked by republicans and whether the B Specials unfairly get a bad name.

There is little consensus likely on most of the subjects, but each is explored with experts so that the various arguments can be outlined fairly.

News from the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland

THE ORANGE TORCH
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119 v 105)

Attack on Springburn Orange Hall

Springburn Orange Hall in Glasgow suffered an arson attack on the evening of Sunday, 10th May.
This is the fourth and most serious attack inflicted on the hall.
There have been 10 attacks on Scottish Orange Halls this year.
Grand Master Jim McHarg slammed the incident as a "hate crime" and stated CCTV footage had been passed to police.
He said: "Once again I have to report and totally condemn another arson hate attack on an Orange Hall.
"Members of the local lodge are hurt, disgusted and confused.
"This is a truly sickening incident and one which had a clear sectarian motive.
"The moronic hate-filled individuals responsible are a blight on the local community and ought to be ashamed of their actions.
"This really is a despicable action and we would call on all to condemn the attack."
He added: "I have been delighted to see the positive impact our members and lodges are having in their communities across the country, with the charitable giving and assistance shown to people of all faiths and none during this pandemic, something you won't view in any national newspaper.
"While we help others, we continue to have intolerance and hatred inflicted upon our Orange existence.
"This really is a despicable action and we would call on all to condemn the attack.
A Police Scotland spokesperson added: "Police were called to reports of a fire round 7.45pm on Sunday, May 11, at Orange Halls in Keppochhill Road, Springburn, Glasgow.
"Detectives are appealing to anyone with information that may assist their investigation or anyone driving on Keppochhill Road around that time with dash-cam footage to contact them.
"Enquiries are continuing."


Springburn Orange Hall was damaged in an arson attack

VE Day 75th Anniversary - Sacrifice and Victory

Personal reflections by Bro Lt Col Bob Stuart MBE; Carson's True Blues LOL 134 - Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland

I am a serviceman in my 34th year of service, 30 years as a Regular Soldier and Officer and now, I continue to serve my Queen and country as an Army Reserve Officer – Lieutenant Colonel. I swore an 'Oath of Allegiance' to HM Queen in September 1986 and have upheld my 'Sworn Oath' since then and will continue to do so for some years to come. I am also a proud Orangeman of 25 years.
VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, was first celebrated on 8 May 1945 to mark the end of the Second World War in Europe. Although it was the end in Europe, it was not the end of the War. It was still on going in the Far East and the Pacific, so bittersweet for some.
I would challenge us all to get beyond some hollow token of thanks, and really consider what these individuals experienced, day in and day out, thousands of miles from home, in the face of mortal danger.
This is a time to remember the sacrifices service personnel have made to defend our nation. There are many ways to celebrate and commemorate and we do just that annually with our Remembrance Parade's, church services and various events around the country.
More recently in 2018, we celebrated 100 years since the end of WW1 and the whole of the UK rightly celebrated the sacrifice at home and abroad during the period 1914 - 18.
There are also countless stories of heroics and various heroes from WW1 and WW2, The Falklands Conflict, through to the Gulf War and more recently, Iraq, the Balkans, Afghanistan and the Home Front.
These historic periods tell us all about moments of selflessness on the battlefield experienced by service personnel. What I would say is that anyone who personally knows a service member of HM Forces or any Veteran will tell you that they don't typically talk about their experiences.
Service personnel and Veteran's right to privacy should be respected, their stories often convey an important quality that civilians don't usually hear about: personal sacrifice.
Service personnel actively put themselves in harm's way to save a life or to accomplish a mission. Pause and think about that for a moment..."actively put them in harms way" this is a huge sacrifice and no other profession puts anyone in this position where in some cases at a very young age (18 years old) life has to be taken or you are involved in situations where life is lost.
In my opinion, you will not find any service personnel



who will hold themselves out as heroes. A normal response would be 'I'm not a hero,' and deflect credit to a colleague or minimise the danger they faced."

The reality of 'Victory' Winston Churchill – "This is your Victory"
As VE Day 75th celebrations took place across the UK and abroad to remember past sacrifices and the hard fought Victory in Europe, it is also important to remember that not everyone celebrated VE Day. For those who had lost loved ones in the conflict, it was a time to reflect.
Amidst the street parties and rejoicing, many people mourned the death of a friend or relative, or worried about those who were still serving overseas.
For many of the widows the war had produced, the noise and jubilation as people celebrated VE Day was too much to bear and not something they could take part in. There was also an air of anti-climax.
The hardships of the war years had taken their toll on many people and left them with little energy for rejoicing. In Britain, the strain of air raids, the strains of wartime life and the impact of rationing all left their mark on a weary population who knew there were more difficulties yet to endure.

The War is not over Troops in the Far East – Until 14 Aug 1945
For members of the Allied forces who were still serving overseas on VE Day, the occasion was bittersweet. Although it meant victory in one theatre, the war was not yet over in the Far East and Pacific. The battle conditions there had been some of the toughest of the war. In May 1945, thousands of Allied servicemen were still fighting in the Far East and thousands more were held as prisoners of war in terrible conditions.
The final months of the war in the Pacific saw heavy casualties on both sides, but ultimately ended in victory for the Allies. Japan's leaders agreed to surrender on 14 August and the act of surrender was signed on 2 September. For people in Britain, the end of the fighting didn't mean an end to the impact of the war on their lives.
Although many things slowly began to return to normal, it took time to rebuild the country and shortages were still felt: clothes rationing lasted until 1949 and food rationing remained in place until 1954. Peace brought its own problems. The huge economic cost of the war resulted in post-war austerity in a practically bankrupt Britain and the far-reaching political effects of the conflict ranged from the fall of the British Empire to the onset of the Cold War.

Victory – An explanation
History will tell us that victory is not a new concept; victory has been celebrated throughout the years.
At the end of World War Two, Winston Churchill famously said, "This is your victory". This statement was true at the time and indeed it was a victory that was acknowledged with the signed and unconditional surrender of Germany.
With different theories on what victory is and how it is defined lead us to ask, can opinions and perceptions be influenced, or do we accept that within the contemporary context all future conflict will be solely politically driven.
As we return to modern day and ponder the selfless commitment and on going sacrifices of our service personnel, it is clear that the complex nature of world affairs and the change in the global dynamics will require a different approach in the 21st century. The uncertain nature of future conflict and the fluid and dynamic circumstances that come with conflict will continue to make it difficult to provide a clearer definition of victory.
What is clear is the need for clear political aims, clear military objectives and a complete understanding of how they are linked in order to achieve the overall aims of the state. This will be essential in order to allow victory to be measured and the perceptions of people to be influenced.
It may be that the term victory is not used, but rather changed and understood as the political aims have been achieved and therefore the conflict has been a strategic success.
It is right to celebrate these key historical events in our nation's history as we have with the 75th VE Day anniversary celebrations, however, it is also important to ensure that the wider context, threats to our security, impact at home and abroad is also understood.
Finally, I must finish off by reminding us all here today that what has not changed as we celebrate our Protestant culture, heritage and freedom is the sacrifice and commitment of our Orangemen and women in HM Forces who are deployed all across the globe. They are focused on doing their jobs in difficult situations and defending our nation against the Queens enemies. I would ask you all to include them in your thoughts and prayers.

God Save The Queen

Arlene's recipes

Spicy Lamb koftas with tzatziki

I love the month of June here in Northern Ireland! It just doesn't seem to ever get dark, and the long summer evenings are the perfect opportunity to get the barbecue lit. Support our local farmers and have a go at this tasty recipe using local Northern Irish lamb and Clandeboye Estate yogurt. The lamb koftas are lightly spiced and are delicious served with this cool and creamy homemade tzatziki.

500g Northern Irish Farm Quality Assured lamb mince;
1 onion finely chopped
1 egg
2 heaped tablespoons fresh thyme leaves
1 level tablespoon ground chilli
1 level tablespoon ground cumin
4 level tbspns sumac, or grated zest of 1 lemon
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 good handful shelled pistachio nuts

1. Soak six wooden skewers in water.
2. Have a hot barbecue ready or put your grill on to its highest setting or heat up a griddle pan
3. Place the lamb in a food processor with the onion, egg, a little salt and pepper and all the pistachios, most of the thyme, chilli, cumin and sumac (reserving a little of each for sprinkling over later). Pulse until the mixture is well minced.
4. With damp hands divide the meat into six equal pieces and shape into 6 oval shapes and insert the soaked skewers through the centre of each oval.
5. Grill or fry the kebabs until nicely golden on all sides and fully cooked through (check that the juices run clear)
6. Sprinkle with the reserved sumac, cumin, chilli and fresh thyme.
7. Serve hot in a flat bread, with salad leaves and tzatziki.

Tzatziki
cucumber, peeled deseeded and grated
250g Clandeboye Estate Greek style yogurt
1 garlic clove, crushed
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, plus extra to serve
1 tbsp freshly chopped dill (or mint) plus extra to serve
Salt and black pepper

1. Use a clean muslin or tea towel and squeeze all the liquid out of the cucumber and discard, then put the pulp into a bowl.
2. Stir in the yogurt, garlic, olive oil, dill and salt. Chill for at least 30 minutes to allow the flavours to come together
3. Taste and check the seasoning before serving with a swirl of olive oil and a little extra chopped dill.





Gardener's Corner

by Beth Lunney

We were allowed to open up our Nursery Centre to customers on Monday, 18th of May. I didn't know how things would go. All our staff came back on the Friday before we opened and we were thankful that everyone got stuck in and got the place back to looking its best –we had been so busy whilst we were closed making up deliveries some things like vacuuming the floor or making sure the paths in the sales area were clean had to be overlooked.
Our joiner had already taken action and had our Perspex screen for around our tills ready to put up when we got the word we could open. New signage had to go up everywhere 'keep your distance', 'exit', 'no exit', 'entrance' 'no entrance' plus much more.
We had to make a separate way in and another way out. Organise where customers would queue to get in with a sanitiser station and also where they would queue to either get to the tills or the shop. It was all such a worry - you have to think of the safety of your staff and also the customers. Masks, lycra gloves and visors are now part of our uniform.
Care had been taken during the time we were closed to keep our plants in pristine condition.
Plants are the mainstay of our business. We had taken a chance and agreed to take the second batch of our order of Rhododendrons and Azaleas (pictured right) as soon as the specialist nursery in England could get back to sending orders out. It couldn't have worked out better – they arrived the day after we got the word that we could re-open. A great array of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Hybrid Azaleas all in bud or just showing some colour – it made a great impact.
The morning that we opened we knew that we would be busy but we did not expect what happened. People were arriving from just after 8am. We had never been so busy and this continued all week. We had to control how many people could be in the sales area and shop at one time so that social distancing could be maintained and after that it was one customer in as another customer went out. It was great to see so many of our customers back and also many new faces – we are really thankful for their support and their understanding of our 'new' way of having to work.
It has been hard work and hopefully our business has come out the other side.
We do appreciate the fact that we were among one of the first businesses to re-open and many of our customer who have businesses are still closed and suffering but hopefully they will be able to open soon.

Stay safe.



Rhododendron



AROUND THE LODGES

Presentations for members of Rising Sons of Portadown





Brethren from Rising Sons of Portadown LOL 273, Portadown District LOL 1, pictured being presented with 50 year jewels and certificates at their March meeting in Edenderry Orange Hall.

Above: Worshipful Brother William Alan Woods PM (centre) being presented 50 year Jewel and Certificate by Worshipful District Master Brother Darryl Hewitt (right) and Worshipful Master of LOL 273 Brother Brian Hewitt (Left).

Right: Worshipful Brother David Jones PM (centre) presented with a 50 year Jewel and Certificate by Worshipful District Master Worshipful Brother Darryl Hewitt (Right) and Worshipful Master of LOL 273 Worshipful Brother Brian Hewitt (Left). Worshipful Brother Jones is a past District Secretary of Portadown District LOL 1.



Milestone birthday!

Members of Articlave LOL 1017 and Articlave RBP 439 visited with Sir Knight and Brother James Craig on his 90th Birthday recently.
Pictured with Bro. Craig are Bros. Ian Brown, David Dickinson and Sir Knight Lindsay Graham.

Covid-19 forces Witherow LOL 1337 to adapt plans for centenary celebrations

Due to the ongoing health crisis, LOL 1337 Witherow Memorial has had to adapt its centenary plans.
April 22, 2020 marked the centenary of Rev. William Witherow's death. As the lodge had to postpone much of its planned events members decided to do a synchronised toast to Rev. Witherow's memory.
The lodge Treasurer read a short biography of Rev. Witherow just prior to 7pm on April 22 the text of which had been posted on the lodge's What's App group with lodge members each toasting his memory at 7pm before exchanging fraternal messages and pictures of eachother.
Some members of the lodge also posted a picture of an old banner with the Reverend's image on it on social media for the day.
While its not the commemoration the lodge would like to have, a very positive and fraternal spirit existed amongst members which kept the lodge in fellowship with each other.
As the lodge will be unable to take part on the 1st of July (a high point for any East Belfast lodge) and the Twelfth of July parades in their centenary year, it has commissioned 100 centenary flags which it will distribute amongst its members and friends to display outside their houses over the Twelfth period.
The profits from the sale of the flag will go towards the cost of a new centenary banner for the lodge.



MUSEUM NEWS

International Museums Day marked with launch of online Staunch & True exhibition

The Museum of Orange Heritage chose to release its 2017 exhibition Staunch & True, Celebrating the Reformation, to mark International Museums Day, writes Dr Jonathan Mattison.

The Reformation was not just a single event in time, but a series of events that built upon each other creating an unheralded drive for liberty of conscience and individual freedom. As the 30th President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge stated, "Liberty is not collective, it is personal. All liberty is individual liberty." Equality, Diversity and Inclusion can only be guaranteed through Liberty. The Reformation laid the foundation stones for future liberty by unshackling the individual. The most public manifestation of this was to give people access to the Bible in their own language. This simple act transformed society and allowed advances in society, education, economy, but most importantly, the individuals relationship with God. Providing the Bible in the language of each country created a level of inclusion and individual awakening, unrivalled in modern history.

Today the Museum of Orange Heritage has chosen this seminal development as one of the frameworks that allowed for the development of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We also highlight a champion of this endeavour – William Tyndale.



The English Bible

William Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire, England, c 1494. He became one of Britain's most significant figures of the Reformation, translating the Bible into English. He believed that giving the individual access to the Bible, in their own language, was one of the greatest ways to set them free.

In common with many of the Reformers, Tyndale was an accomplished academic, having obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1512. During his studies for a Master's he lamented the lack of access to the Bible; "They have ordained that no man shall look on the Scripture, until he be noselled in heathen learning eight of nine years and armed with false principles, with which he is clean shut out of the understanding of Scripture." Nevertheless, he continued his studies and became a gifted linguist. Tyndale's independence of mind often brought him into conflict with others. During one particular argument, an opponent stated: "We had better be without God's law than the Pope's" to which Tyndale issued a stinging rebuke, "I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the Plow to know more of the Scripture than thou dost!"

In 1524 he left London and enrolled in the University of Wittenberg to continue his translation work on the Bible. A full New Testament translation was produced in 1526 and smuggled into England. This act, along with Tyndale's continued opposition to 'praying to the saints'; and support for the Justification through Faith Alone, resulted in his condemnation by Cardinal Wolsey.

In 1530 Tyndale quarrelled with Henry VIII over the latter's annulled marriage to Catherine of Aragon. This clash sealed his fate and he was convicted of heresy in 1536. Tyndale was strangled at the stake after which his body was burned.

Sola Fide... By Faith Alone

This is the great Reformed doctrine that Justification (having our sins forgiven) is received by Faith Alone. We can do nothing to justify ourselves in the sight of God. Our works are of no use (Romans 5:1). The true believer will outwardly show their justification by their behaviour. The book of James in the New Testament illustrates this clearly.

Sola Gratia... By Grace Alone

Grace is God's unmerited and undeserved favour shown towards sinful people. This is the centrepiece of God's salvation. "For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God... (Ephesians 2:8).

Sola Scriptura... Scripture Alone

For many years people did not have a Bible, and when read, it was in a language they did not understand (Latin). The Reformation brought Scripture to the people. At Worms, Luther summed up the high view Protestants have for Scripture: "Unless I am convinced by testimonies of Scripture or by clear arguments that I am in error...I cannot withdraw, for I am subject to the Scripture I have quoted; my conscience is captive to the Word of God."

Soli Deo Gloria... To the Glory of God Alone

"Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." (Westminster Shorter Catechism). "All glory is due to God as God." The Reformers realised that our lives should be lived solely to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Solo Christo... In Christ Alone

The Reformers called the church back to the centrality of Christ. This doctrine reaffirms Christ's essential role in salvation. "Christ stepped in, took the punishment upon himself and bore the punishment due to sinners. With his own blood he expiated the sin which made us enemies of God, and thereby satisfied him. We look to Christ alone for divine favour and fatherly love" (John Calvin, Institutes of Christian Religion).

The Reformation was thus a key moment in liberty and inclusion; giving everyone the freedom, and also the means, to fully enter a personal relationship with God.

You can view the Stanch & True exhibition by visiting www.orangeheritage.co.uk/staunchandtrue

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ORANGE NEWS

Co Tyrone Brethren putting their best foot forward!

The Orange Order in Co Tyrone is encouraging its members to put their best foot forward as it bids to raise £10,000 in support of key health workers.
Brethren, Sisters, Juniors and members of the wider Orange Family are being asked to get their running shoes on and play their part in covering a distance of 10,000 miles before the Twelfth of July.
To give some idea of the scale of this challenge, 10,000 miles is the distance between Northern Ireland and Australia!
The idea is simple. Each participant will complete the distance and then donate £5. Of course, if you get exhausted by the idea of running five miles you can still be a part of the fundraising fun by walking the required distance.
To reach the £10,000 target will require 2,000 participants, but with the good work already being done by the Orange Family in Co Tyrone and further afield, senior officers are confident the goal can be achieved.
County Grand Master Wor. Bro. Perry Reid explained: "As Grand Master of Co Tyrone Orange I have been immensely proud of the tremendous efforts of the Orange family during this time of national crisis.
"Many of our Members have been busy sourcing and distributing PPE to our Health Care workers. Others are involved in offering support to the vulnerable through the distribution of food parcels.
"We have now lunched a new initiative to raise £10,000 for those involved in ensuring the health and well-being of our wider community."



Pictured at the launch of the Co Tyrone fundraiser are Robert Cummings, Omagh District Master; Sidney Alexander; 99 year old Robert Alexander; grandson Kyle and Great Grandson, two year old Reuben. In the background is County Tyrone Grand Master, Perry Reid. Picture by Isobel O'Brien.

Bro. Reid added: "I am sure we will get lots of people coming forward to support us in this worthwhile endeavour."
While Covid-19 may have led to the cancellation of Twelfth of July parades, this initiative will give Brethren the chance to work together to support three very worthwhile causes.
The money raised will go to AWARE, which is a mental health charity, St John's Ambulance and health care workers on the front line.
Please visit the Just Giving page Co Tyrone Orange Appeal and make a donation.
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cotyroneorange-appeal



Fivemiletown District members preparing to distribute food pacels



Items of PPE

Fivemiletown District leading the way in Clogher Valley

Fivemiletown District Orange has been to forefront of the community effort in the Clogher Valley in the battle against the worst impacts of the Coronavirus.
Initially, the District set up a freephone helpline in order to provide assistance to those that are house bound, primarily to collect groceries, medical prescriptions, or other errands.
As the crisis deepened the District launched an appeal to local farmers and businesses to donate PPE for Health workers.
The response from members and friends was tremendous and as a result PPE was distributed to many branches of the health sector, such as, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service, The Rapid Response Nursing Team, local nursing homes and Local community care nurses.
The District received messages of appreciation were received from those in receipt of the PPE.
Currently members of the District are assisting the council to deliver the government supplied food boxes to those who are self-isolating having received letters from their GPs. A team of volunteers head out weekly to deliver the food parcels across the Clogher Valley region.
Members of the District are also active in the Fivemiletown Coranvirus Help Group which operates from the British Legion in the town.



Food boxes loaded for delivery

ORANGE NEWS





Efforts ongoing in Co Armagh

As part of the magnificent effort being made by members of the Orange Institution to assist all communities, Co Armagh Grand Orange Lodge recently purchased approximately £8,000 of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), writes Roger Gardiner.
This was allocated to the 11 District Lodges within the County at the Museum of Orange Heritage, Sloan's House, for distribution locally to care homes, health centres, etc.
In addition, the County Grand Lodge Officers were pleased to make a donation of PPE to Mrs Gladys Brownlee from Marie Curie. She is a local



Loughgall lady and indeed is a member of Kinnego Flute Band.
The photographs show the County Grand Master, Rt Wor. Bro. Denis Watson; County Grand Secretary, Wor. Bro. Roger Gardiner; and Deputy County Grand Secretary, Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Lawson, preparing the boxes of PPE for distribution and making a donation of some to Mrs Brownlee.
In addition, Wor. Bro. Barry McQueen, District Secretary, on behalf of Loughgall District LOL No 3, made a donation to Mrs Brownlee for Marie Curie of £1,450.
Once again, we see the very positive role being played by the Orange Institution in our society.

Newtownhamilton District



Newtownhamilton District Treasurer, William Copeland, is pictured presenting Anne Dalzell with PPE for the Southern Area Hospice.
The PPE consists of gloves, face shields, face masks, wipes and hand sanitiser, all of which are vital for the Hospice at this time. The PPE is the District's share of the quantity purchased by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and £8,000 by County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge.
This is the second donation the District has made to the Hospice in these difficult times, with £1,700 previously donated at the end of April.

Institution in England working to help communities

Who would have thought six months ago that our country would be in the situation it is in? The Coronavirus (Covid-19) has certainly changed the lives of all, not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout the world. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have suffered and those who sadly have been taken from their families and loved ones. I would not for one minute want to be in the shoes of the Government, the devolved bodies, or the scientists who have had to take decisions as to how best we all must change our everyday way of life. That said we are all in it together and with the Grace of God we will have vaccines and antibodies available to combat this deadly decease in the near future. We all must be grateful for the dedication of all those working in the NHS, whether it be the doctors, nurses, general staff, ambulance, paramedics, GPs, the police or the staff who have been working in schools. We must



also not forget the shop workers keeping the shelves full who have enabled essential workers to carry on in their respective work places. As individuals everyone has been affected, but what of the Orange Family? I know that throughout the Institution in England there have been various endeavours undertaken were lodges have helped out in their communities by working with the local food banks, going to the shops for the ones who have been housebound and also collecting essential medical supplies from chemists and doctors surgeries. There have also been opportunities where lodges have started food banks in their own locality. These efforts are to be applauded. Within the Order there have been initiatives to set up groups to keep in contact with members who may not have families locally, so that they don't get depressed or think that they have been forgotten. Areas have started interacting with bulletins, quizzes and generally keeping morale up.
My senior Chaplains have been sending sermons and scripture readings to the various Provinces, also on the initiative of the Grand Chaplain we are putting on the Grand Lodge website a sermon on Wednesdays and Sundays these have been well received.
I have been in senior office in England for over 35 years, and these past few months there has been decisions that have had to be made that I would never have thought would ever have seen the light of day. Firstly the cancelling of all meetings, parades, socials that had been arranged but the biggest one was the postponing the 12th parades. I know that in some cases there was verbal opposition, but the decision had to be taken when it was. In England there would have been lodges buying new outfits, juniors having been picked to be Kings and Queens, bands renewing uniforms and magazines being printed. It was a huge responsibility but one that had to be made and the three UK Grand Masters did not take it lightly. A lot of soul searching was needed.
I made a statement on local radio a number of years ago, when there was opposition to the 12th parade going through the city centre in Liverpool midweek, where I said that so long as there was a July 12th in the calendar there would be Orange feet walking the streets of Liverpool on that day. It's not to be this year which will make next year's celebration's all the sweeter. Next year will also see the Order acknowledging the 100th Anniversary of the formation of Northern Ireland. A pity it was not the nine counties, but only the six.
Can I take the opportunity to extend to you all my thoughts and prayers that we all stay safe take what precautions are necessary to safeguard you and your loved ones, and that we put our trust in Almighty God to see us safely through this pandemic. And when our lives our back to some sort of normality our Lodges will meet again and the fellowship will be stronger than ever.

By Bro. W R Bather
MWGM Grand Lodge of England.

STEPPING OUT

Supporting our Marching Bands

by Quincey Dougan





Captain Tom Moore is pictured on famous instrument

A lockdown initiative recently has come to fruition that will leave a very visible legacy and reminder from the spring of 2020. Just a few weeks into the current crisis, celebrated and highly respected County Armagh Lambeg Drum artist Andy Young launched a competition.
His request was for submissions for a brand new painting on a Lambeg drum, with the winner having the work reproduced.
The criteria was solely that the concept must provide an opportunity to positively remember the events that our country is currently experiencing.
Entries were independently judged and the victorious concept was deemed to have been that of Birches man Keith Currie.
Keith explained his idea as combining both the Biblical and the contemporary: "I chose two elements that I believed truly represented the times we live in and the future ahead.
"From current events I chose famous NHS fundraiser, Captain Tom Moore, now Sir Tom, of course, who given the 75 anniversary of VE Day, we depicted as a young man in military uniform.
"To symbolise how we should be thinking positively and forward, I combined the Captain with the Biblical episode of Noah's Ark, in particular the return of the Dove with a leaf. Illustrating hope in the midst of adversity."
Andy interpreted the idea and produced what can be only described as a beautiful artwork in its own right.
It is further cemented by its context and meaning, and given an even deeper resonance being on a Lambeg Drum.



The isolated and the essential backed by bands

As we make our way through the Covid-19 emergency, bands are continuing to illustrate their central place in many local communities.
In Co. Armagh Keady's Drumderg Loyalist Flute launched some online fundraising and very quickly raised over £1,000, which in turn purchased significant amounts of food and PPE. As part of a larger band syndicate they contributed to a batch of 10,000 face masks handed over to the NHS, whilst food parcels were given to dozens of individuals who were being forced to isolate during the current crisis.
The Drumderg band master Paul Elliott openly



expressed how many were emotional and tearful at the thoughtfulness in these difficult times.
He said they wanted to assure people the band had not forgotten them at this time of crisis, explaining: "We covered many homes throughout County Armagh and were overwhelmed with the response on the doorsteps – people were so genuinely pleased to see us and touched by our gesture."
Further north Larne's Cairncastle Flute (pictured left) distributed their own custom 'thank you' packages to members of no less than five local care homes.
Larne Care Centre, Broadway Private Nursing Home, Gillaroo Lodge Nursing Home, Lisgarel Residential Home and Clanrye Private Residential Home staff all benefited, with the band eager to express that they were for ALL staff.
A band spokesman said: "These packages are for everyone - no matter their religion or personal beliefs. We hope it shows our appreciation for all your efforts."

Lockdown discoveries for Magheramourne

One local band is making the most of lockdown to delve into the archives.
Co-ordinated by one of its assistant conductors, Bro. Dr Mark McKinty, snapshots of the band's 140-year history and photos of artefacts are proving very popular on social media.
Magheramorne Silver Band is one of the oldest brass bands in Ireland and the oldest still on parade.
It was started by Magheramorne LOL 291 (Larne District, Co. Antrim) in the early 1880s, leading the lodge and taking part in local engagements from 1882.
The oldest known photo of the band dates from around 1890. In it we can see one of the treasures still in band possession: the old bass drum depicting Queen Victoria. Visitors to Schomberg House can meet one honorary band member who forms part of the museum section on banding, which also includes a recording of Magheramorne Silver.
Anyone interested in viewing more of the history can search for Magheramorne Silver Band on Facebook and Twitter, and band members are particularly keen to receive any photos, articles, or stories as they hope to publish a book in the near future.



Magheramorne Band from the 1890s.

Crimson Arrow salutes heroes

One South Armagh band has been taking the weekly 'thank you' to our NHS and key-workers to a new level across Armagh and South Down. Since the end of April the Bessbrook Crimson Arrow Pipe has been visiting various health care locations to perform for staff whilst also entertaining residents, all the time of course within the required social distancing parameters. Their first outing was Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry, where the gesture was hugely appreciated and acknowledged widely across social media. A band member said of that occasion: "Our aim was to say 'thank you' to all the staff at Daisy Hill and also to all key-workers during this pandemic. Many people are providing support and maintaining vital services in our community. Everyone at the band here felt that by doing this small gesture it would be a token of thanks to the real heroes of the NHS who are doing an incredible job day in and out, and it was our way of showing support for them to give them a lift in extremely difficult times for them."



Pipers from Bessbrook Crimson Arrow perform at a care home

Since then they have maintained their performances, among their travels having visited Ashgrove Care Home, Cloughreagh House, Hockley Nursing Home and the South Area Hospice. Crimson Arrow intend to continue their hugely appreciated exploits for the weeks to come.

Unique fundraiser from Hillhaven

Due to not holding a procession this year and in their effort to show appreciation for the Southern Area Hospice and the NHS via a monetary contribution, North Armagh's Hillhaven Flute Band are currently holding a raffle with what is a totally unique raffle prize. The winner of the Twelfth of July draw will come away with the product of the skilled hands of a past Deputy Bandmaster, who both designed and manufactured an exceptional arm-chair utilising one of the bands old uniforms! The perhaps surprisingly attractive piece of furniture has attracted a lot of attention online, and the band hopes to raise a significant amount for the very worthy causes. Tickets are priced at £5, or five tickets for £20. To find out more just visit the bands Facebook page, or alternatively you can



purchase raffle tickets directly by forwarding payment to hillhaven1983@outlook.com via the usual form.

Tributes for David

Tributes have come from right across the length and breadth of the band scene, crossing the full length of Northern Ireland and all its band genres, following the death of a Newry man on the 23rd of April from Coronavirus. David Andrews Senior passed away in Antrim Area Hospital after a four week battle. Aged 67, David was a life-long member of Newry's Commons Silver Band having amassed almost sixty years' service, and was dedicated to both furthering it musically, and cementing its intrinsic place in the local community. A band member stated: "David was always a great steadfast member, someone who always showed encouragement, right up until recently with the purchase of our new uniforms, but above all he was an outstanding musician who truly formed the foundations of the band through his strong and creative drumming. He truly was one of a kind."

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MOTOR MOUTH

with Graham Baalham-Curry



This latest edition of the family car is sure to retain its popularity with motorists

Impressive Focus from Ford

The Ford Focus is no stranger to pretty much every street in the country and this latest model confirms it is sure to remain a popular choice.

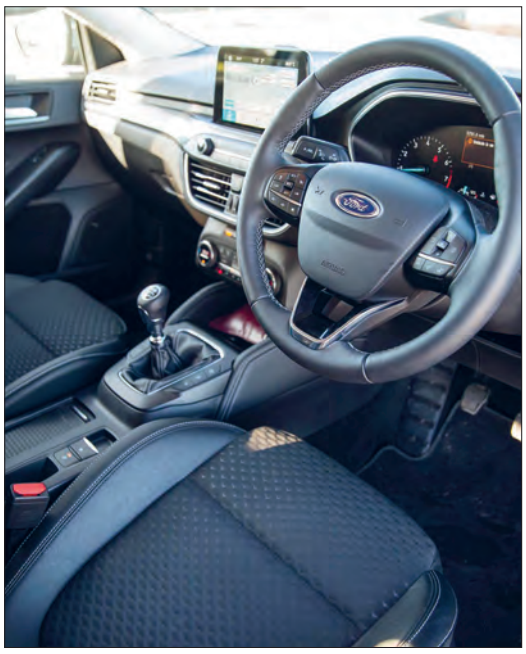
Sitting in the small family car segment of the market, against cars like the Vauxhall Astra, Renault Megane, and Volkswagen Golf, this latest Focus from Ford is available as a five-door hatchback or five-door Estate.

It's as practical as a car of this size can be, and even comes in crossover guise, with lifted suspension, for those who seek a little more adventure.

A total of ten trim levels keep your options very open when buying.

Starting from £20,690 with a 'Zetec' you get 16-inch alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, automatic headlights, front fog lamps with cornering function, eight-inch touchscreen and app-link for Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, sports style front seats, centre console with armrest, three-spoke leather trimmed steering wheel with integrated audio controls, leather trimmed gear knob, cruise control, and a quick-clear heated windscreen with heated washer jets.

A 'Titanium' starts from £22,690 and on this you get a navigation system, FordPass connect, dual-zone climate control, heated front seats, rear centre armrest with cup holder, ambient cabin lighting, LED rear lights, rain sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors, keyless entry, and auto dimming rear view mirror.







An 'Active' model starts from £22,940 and with its rugged SUV-inspired styling, brings a heightened sense of adventure to the focus range with 17-inch alloy wheels, raised ride height (3mm taller), LED front fog lights with cornering function, black roof and mirrors, restyled front and rear bumpers with skid plates, selectable drive modes with slippery and trail mode, and rear privacy glass.

An 'ST-Line' offers you the first of the sporting models and is priced from £22,940 which gets you sports tuned suspension, polished twin tailpipe, trim specific restyled bumpers and body styling kit including rear spoiler, flat bottom steering wheel with red stitching, aluminium gear knob with alloy finish pedals, and a dark cabin head-cloth.

A 'Titanium X' starts from £23,940 and adds partial leather trim, soft console knee pads, unique door and instrument panel inserts, and a 6-way electrically adjustable driver's seat.

Starting from £25,190 the 'ST-Line X' adds 18 inch alloy wheels, and red brake callipers, while an 'Active X' receives panoramic roof and starts from £25,230.

The pinnacle of comfort for the Ford Focus comes in the form of the 'Vignale' which starts from £26,730 and receives a unique front grill and body styling, door edge protectors, 'Bang & Olufsen' audio system with 360-degree sound, rear wide-view camera, active park assist, full leather seat trim, heated steering wheel, head-up display, and colour changeable ambient lighting in the cabin.

An 'Active X Vignale' is available from £27,130 and, whilst those who fell in love with the Ford brand through their successful rally exploits, having won the World Rally Championship's manufacturers title four times, the 'ST' model is most certainly for you and starts from £29,825.

The 'ST' comes with 19-inch alloy wheels, adaptive full LED headlights, electronic limited slip differential (petrol model only), continuously controlled damping suspension, adaptive cruise control with Lane centring assist, and Recaro partial leather seats, the front of which are heated along with the steering wheel.

Coming as front wheel drive only you have the choice of a six-speed manual or eight-speed automatic gearbox, as well as a trio of petrol engines and a pair of diesels, all of which are trim dependent.

The petrol engines start with a 1-litre EcoBoost producing either 100ps or 125ps, seeing 0-62mph in 12.1 seconds and 10 seconds, with a return of 50.4mpg and 46.3mpg, respectively.

Should you require a little more get up and go, the 1.5-litre EcoBoost comes with either 150ps or 182ps, seeing 0-62mph in 8.8 seconds and 8.3 seconds, with a return of 44.8mpg and 43.5mpg, respectively.

Available only in the ST model, the 2.3-litre EcoBoost engine is nothing short of outstanding, producing 280ps it's good for 0-62mph in 5.8 seconds, with a combined return of an impressive 34.4mpg.

The Focus diesel range starts with a 1.5-litre EcoBlue producing either 95ps or120ps, seeing 0-62mph and 11.8 seconds and 10.3 seconds, with a return of 62mpg and 57.6mpg, respectively.

A two litre EcoBlue is available with either 150ps or 190ps, seeing 0-62mph in 8.7 seconds and 7.7 seconds, with a return of 53.3mpg and 50.4mpg, respectively. The more potent of the latter diesel engine is available only in ST trim.

The model tested and pictured is in Titanium X trim, fitted with the 1-litre EcoBoost 125ps engine and six-speed manual 'box. At £27,840, thanks to almost every option being ticked, it may be well kitted out, but it's not exactly affordable.

With its transformed shape, the Ford Focus looks more sophisticated than ever and, the 'Chrome Blue' colour option on this model tested is absolutely stunning, it's especially pleasing on a bright summer's day.

Fitted to this car is automatic door edge protectors that pop out when opening the door. The aim is to protect the paintwork on your door's edge, should you happen to bump a wall or another car. A great idea, but in reality, they are very noisy in their operation and also feel incredibly flimsy.

There is a reasonable sized boot that although shallow, coped well with a single-width double buggy. There was no chance of our side-by-side twin buggy fitting however, so perhaps not ideal for those with a very young family.

The Ford Focus cabin is surprising for the size of car. Noticeably spacious, with comfortable seats and an easily navigated infotainment screen floating from the dash.

At the heart of this model is the highest powered 1-litre EcoBoost engine and with a real world economy of almost 40mpg, it's certainly not as frugal in real life as it is on paper. Offering ample power, this engine will suit the needs of almost anyone and, in a chassis as good as that seen with the focus, it's an enjoyable driving experience.

Ford offer a three-year, 60000 mile warranty, whichever comes first.

Fact File for model tested

Make: Ford
Model: Focus
Trim: Titanium X
Engine: 1-litre turbocharged petrol
Gearbox: six-speed manual
Cost: £27,840.

ORANGE NEWS

Well done to our online FIFA tournament winners!



Saturday, 9th of May, saw the finals of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland online FIFA 20 tournaments.

David Labourn won the PS4 Tournament. Playing as Barcelona, David recorded a 3-2 win in a very competitive final.

The Xbox One Tournament was won by Carter Conlane, who played as Liverpool and claimed an impressive 3-0 victory in the final.

Both winners received £50 vouchers.

This marked the end of the Orange Institution's first venture into the world of online sports gaming and it certainly got off to a winning start.

Regular followers of The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland social media channels will be aware that Youth Development Officer Gary McAllister put together an online football tournament, using the popular EA Sports game FIFA20.

Interest in the competition was such that the final total of participants was just short of 300, across both the PS4 and Xbox consoles.

Commenting on the competition, Gary McAllister said: "We have been absolutely delighted with the interest shown in the competition. It was very difficult to know just how popular a competition of this nature would be, but it is clear there is certainly a big appeal with younger gamers and those not just so young!

"In this competition we had players registered from across Northern Ireland, a strong contingent from Scotland as well as some from England and the Republic of Ireland.

"The idea of the competition was to provide an outlet for people during the difficult days of restrictions as we fight to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. The games have been competitive with no shortage of goals in some ties!"

Gary: "Congratulations to our winners and thanks go to everyone who took part in the tournaments."

The competitions have been very well received.

PS4 tournament winner David Labourn enjoyed participating in the event - his first tournament for eight years!

David explained: "I've never really entered many events for FIFA or tried to compete but when I saw the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland advertisement on Facebook I thought to myself, I'll give it a go.

"With the lockdown in full swing, I guess like others I had more time to compete and with a pretty smooth format and deadlines for the scheduled games to be played, it was a thoroughly enjoyable tournament.

"All my opponents deserve credit as they provided a challenge for 90 minutes and for a couple of games, 180 minutes as there were three games I think that needed another game to determine a winner.

"My semi-final was a tough one at that and then of course Carson in the final. Playing in a final is tough as it is, but having to live stream it for others to watch, safe to say that there was that extra pressure.

"Thankfully after going behind twice I managed to come back and eventually take the lead and hold on for the win. Carson was very good opponent and maybe deserved more from it but as they say, there can only be one winner."

David added: "I'd like to thank the Grand Lodge of Ireland for the opportunity to compete in this and hopefully it's something that can be arranged again when FIFA 21 comes around and who knows, if I'm still playing, I'll maybe re-enter to defend that number one spot."

Juniors adapt to the challenges posed by Coronavirus (Covid-19)

The Belfast Junior County Lodge has been revamping how it interact and inspires our young members over the last 18 months, writes Bro. Gary Workman.

Thanks to a grant funding programme, we have been able to offer a number of various activities for the junior boys and girls within Belfast. These have included a visit to the farm at Christmas for our primary school ages members and an outing to Airsofting at Trigger Happy for the post primary aged members along with those seniors who are still young at heart.



As we were about to launch the next phase of this programme we entered 'lockdown.' This included the postponement of our Annual Easter Tuesday Parade and Fun Day.

The County Officer Team decided on various methods of how we would keep in touch with the members of the Junior County. These have included a number of quizzes done via our Facebook page and also at present we are gathering up creative resource packs to help keep our members busy at home. We have ordered 100 packs to distribute to the members which include, paints, scrapbooks, Father's Day crafts and activity sheets. We hope to continue this each month that the young people are away from school.

The next stage was carried our by Ballymacarrett Junior District LOL No 3. Having purchased juice, crisps, sweets, chocolate and popcorn, parcels were made up and distributed to all the Boys and Girls by the Worthy District Master Harry Whiteside and District Chaplain Christopher Cunningham.

All Boys and Girls were very appreciative and surprised to see their visitors.

We trust all young people will enjoy the activity packs and we look forward to meeting up with them again when it is safe to do so.

Share your family War stories with the Museum of Orange Heritage

Given that we have just marked the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, the Museum of Orange Heritage is appealing for stories from the Orange Family about family relatives who may have served in the War.

Curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage, Dr Jonathan Mattison said: "We want to know more about those Orangemen and Women who served during the Second World War, many of whom paid the supreme sacrifice.

"As part of this initiative we want people to send us in stories and images about these Orangemen and Women, the units they served with and what they endured during the war.

We also want to hear about those who were impacted by the Blitz and those who were involved in vital war work."

The museum plans to release these stories and images online through the summer, marking both the VE Day and VJ Day celebrations, as part of a wider online engagement initiative through both the Museum and the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

The information will also form part of an archive about the Orange contribution to the Second World War.

Dr Mattison added: "We want to include as many stories as possible, including those that reflect what life was like on the Home Front. Here are some suggestions of what might be included: Service in the Military; Essential War Work; Stories about evacuation because of the Blitz; Service in the Home Guard or the Police; Service in voluntary organisations such as the Red Cross or St. John Ambulance.

You can email your stories marked 'Orange Contribution to World War Two' to info@goli.org.uk

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Lisburn District No.6 RAPC

Past District Master Bro. Ron Pedlow is pictured receiving his PM Collarette, Jewel and Certificate which was presented by County Antrim Grand Master Rev. Bro. David McCarthy and fellow County Officers in Ballymacash Orange Hall. Sadly Bro. Pedlow passed away several weeks after receiving his gifts of office.

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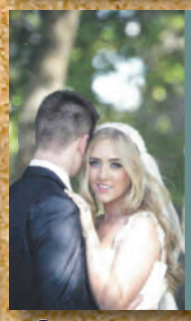
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AROUND THE LODGES



Dyan LOL No 1 and RBP 60 Co Tyrone. Lodge members and Sir Knights donated PPE to A&E South Tyrone Dungannon and Tynan Surgery, Co Armagh.



Seagoe LOL 26 recently visited the elderly and vulnerable members of their lodge with a food hamper. The lodge also gave a donation to the Ambulance Station and Rosemount Care Home.

Brethren help to distribute items of PPE



Bro. Samuel Managh, DM (left), Bro. Walter Crawford secretary (right) and Bro. Ian Mccausland, WM of Brackey LOL 165 Sixmilecross District No 7 under the banner erected at Brackey Orange Hall in support of our NHS and other essential/key workers. The lodge also purchased 150 face visors to be distributed to local nursing homes/carers and hospital.



District Master Brother Ian Hayes and Brother Norman Johnson at Bonn Orange Hall, Pomeroy, showing their support for our NHS and all essential workers by donating some PPE.



As lockdown continues, Bessbrook District officers distributed a second round of food supply packs.



Skeffington LOL 493 Antrim Secretary Bro. Peter Chestnutt collecting Face Visors, Surgical Masks and Hand Sanitiser sponsored by The Orange and Black Demonstration Field Committee for distribution to deserving Health Care Establishments. Many thanks to Bro. Harold McCloy of Village Blinds for his tireless work in sourcing supplies.

AROUND THE LODGES



Representatives from Aughlish LOL 74 and Aughlish Ulster Scots Group delivered food parcels to the vulnerable in their local community.



Shanaghan Victoria Goldsprings doing their bit and donating food, toiletries and PPE to Bannview and The Manor Nursing Home and The Southern Area Hospice.



Glenavy District Officers delivered much needed PPE equipment to Crumlin Surgery, Naroon Residential Home, Aldergrove and Lakeview Care home in Crumlin. This included the allocation from Grand Lodge and also equipment provided by W. Bro. Harold McCloy of Village Blinds, Ballymena.



Approximately 150 meals and VE buns were delivered around Omagh District.



Members of Drumlegagh LOL 626 in Co. Tyrone with food hampers to deliver to members of their Orange Lodge and widows of former members. Front row from left, Deputy Master David Lowry, Worshipful Master Andy Lowry and Iain Pinkerton. Back row from left, Sam and Davy Mitchell pictured at Drumlegagh Orange Hall.



Boyd Memorial LOL 312 - Sixmilewater District LOL No.10: Wor. Bro. Michael Speers W.M. Bro. Raymond Chestnutt, Secretary Bro. Brian Adair, Bro. Stuart Chestnutt, Bro. Brian Graham and Sister Joan Hamilton, Lay Chaplin Sister Brown Memorial WLOL 220, delivered items to Kingscourt Nursing Home (Templepatrick), Massereene Manor PNH (Antrim) and Clonlee PNH (Muckamore). The Lodge donated £300 as their input to the current situation and the goods were greatly appreciated by the Nursing Homes concerned.



Herbert Whitten Memorial LOL 40 Bro. Billy Gillis collecting the supplies from the girls in Patterson's Centra who have been going out of their way to accommodate the lodge in their efforts.



The City of Londonderry No.1 District LOL along with the Private Lodges within the District, (Newbuildings Victoria LOL 1087, Culmore True Blues LOL 1866 & Burt Faith Defenders LOL 1927) in conjunction with City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge, East Band Protestant Boys FB & Churchill FB came together to fund the purchase of PPE to Bryson Care Western Services.

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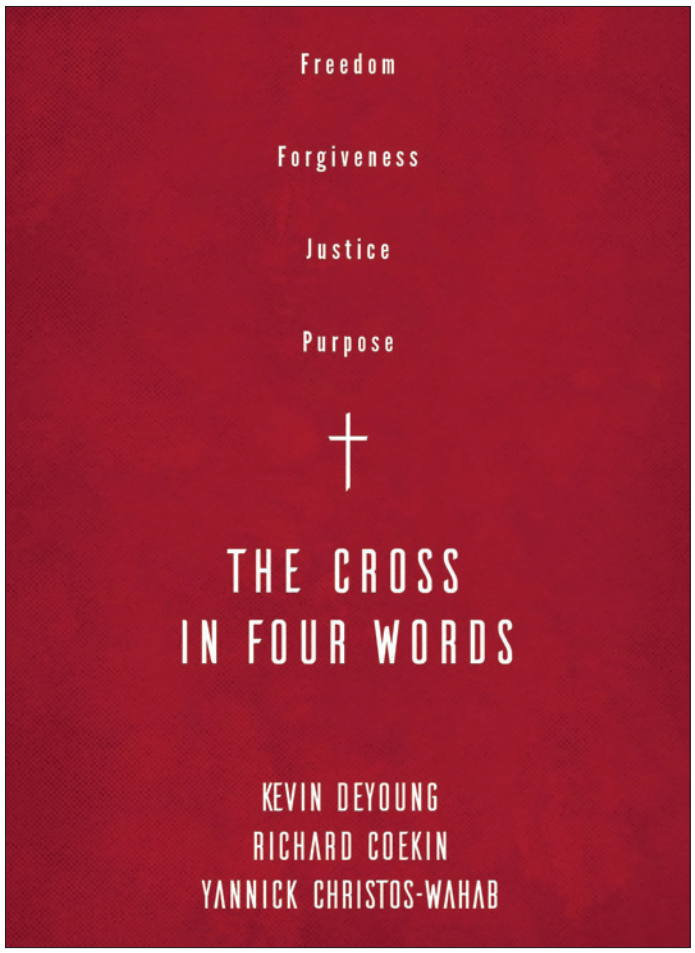
The Cross in Four Words

Many Christians may feel familiar with the basics of Christ crucified. But the more we can understand about the cross, the more we'll delight in God's amazing grace, and the better we'll be able to explain it to unbelieving family, friends and colleagues.

Christ crucified is central to Christianity. The cross is the purpose of creation and the turning point of history, the climax of Scripture and the heart of our faith. It is the highest revelation of God's glory and the deepest joy of our eternity—for ever stirring the vast crowds of heaven to worship the Lamb of God who was slain (Revelation 5 v 6-10)! And the cross saturates the pages of Scripture from start to finish.

For example, one word used for the cross (translated "cross" in Acts 10 v 39 and "pole" in Galatians 3 v 13) is also used at the beginning of Scripture, in the Garden of Eden, for the "tree of life" keeping God's people alive (Genesis 2 v 9). At the end, in Revelation 22 v 2, in a beautiful vision of God's new creation, the same "tree of life" is there to heal and sustain God's people for ever. This language points to the fact that Christ crucified is the centre of everything. Surveying the whole of Scripture, we find that by his death, Christ has glorified his Father in many marvellous ways—too many to describe in detail here.

For example, his death completed an exemplary Christian life that shows us how to live. His death disarmed Satan's claims upon us by suffering the penalty we deserve under God's law. And his death has saved us into a new humanity. But the supreme accomplishment of Jesus' death was in satisfying God's holy justice. He accepted onto himself, like a lightning conductor, all God's anger against our sin. By faith in him, our sin is no longer counted against us. The background which explains this wondrous accomplishment is found in three unfolding themes, beautiful crimson threads, flowing throughout the Old Testament. This is why the risen Jesus himself turned to the Old Testament to explain his death to his bewildered disciples on the road to the village of Emmaus: "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24 v 25-27) Paul, too, emphasised the importance of the cross in the Scriptures when he wrote: "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15 v 3) We will marvel more at the beauty of the cross, and be able to explain "Christ crucified" more clearly to others, when we follow these three crimson threads through the Old Testament to discover how the death of Christ brings us freedom, forgiveness and justice. There is a fourth word which will also help us to fully embrace Christ crucified: Purpose. In a world full of people crying out to know who they are and why they exist, the cross of Christ fills our lives and our churches with the all-consuming mission and deeply satisfying purpose for which we have been created and re-created: to pick up our own cross and follow Jesus in a life of sacrificial service for the salvation of others. As Christians we seek to love the people around us in every way that the Bible commands. We resist injustice, prejudice and ecological irresponsibility; we seek relief for victims of crime, poverty and trafficking; we contend for freedom of speech, protection of the unborn and the reformation of church denominations. But the most precious gift we have to offer the people of this world and the communities where we live is the life-saving message of "Christ crucified". It is the power of God to save sinners from the horrors of hell, for the holiness of heaven, in happiness for ever. So read on and gaze with us in wonder at "Christ crucified... the power of God and the wisdom of God" as we look at how the cross wins us freedom, forgiveness, justice and purpose.



The Prisoners, The Earthquake and The Midnight Song

Based on Acts 16, this is a fun and compelling retelling of how a Philippian jailer and his family learned the wonderful truth about Jesus Christ.

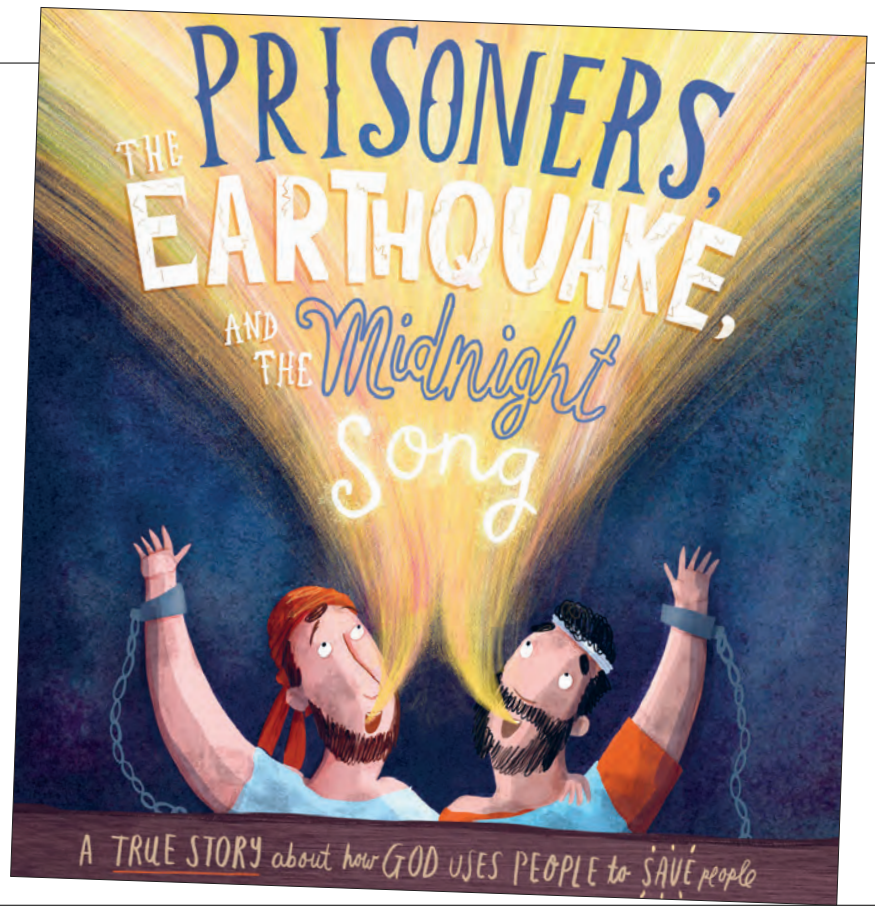
The ascended Jesus' ongoing power to save through the proclamation of the gospel and through the presence of the Holy Spirit is imaginatively and powerfully brought to life by Bob Hartman.

Bob is a compelling storyteller and author of the Lion Storyteller Bible, which has sold over 130,000 copies in the UK and has been translated into 11 languages, and of YouVersion's Bible App for Kids.

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- How they can tell others the good news of Jesus Christ.
- How to imagine the sights and sounds of a Bible story.

Young and old alike will be enthralled by this sensational retelling of the miraculous events of Acts 16. Masterful storytelling and penetrating artwork combine to bring this true story to life... and into our hearts. With simplicity, clarity and power, this work of art brings the gospel to us in a fresh way and challenges us to find our place in the pages yet to be written. Stunning. So clever. Simple yet stretching. Ideal for children aged 3-6.



AROUND THE LODGES

Members of Derryclavin LOL 729 reflect on a busy 12 months

The past twelve months have been busy for Derryclavin LOL 729, a lodge based outside the village of Lisbellaw, County Fermanagh No 2 District.
The year began with fundraising to purchase a defibrillator, which is now mounted on the outside of the hall and is registered with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.
This was followed up later in the year with defibrillator training for family and friends and of course lodge members.
Derryclavin LOL 729 was proud to have two of its Brethren receive their 50 year certificates from Deputy County Grand Master Brother Mervyn Byers.
Brother Derek Wilson and Brother William Potter joined Derryclavin LOL 729 together and have given 50 years of loyal service.
Both Brethren are valued, hard-working lodge members.
Derryclavin LOL 729 finished off a very busy 12 months with a harvest service in October and a new year service in January.
The collection from both services was donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.
A cheque for £730 was handed over to Liam McHugh, from the Cystic Fibrosis Trust at the lodge's New Year's service.
Worshipful Master Donald Crawford presented the cheque.



Pictured at the commissioning of the defibrillator are Chaplin Bro. Clive Beacon; Secretary Bro. Derek Wilson; WM Bro. Donald Crawford; DM Bro. Raymond Crawford and Treasurer Bro. Gordon McKeown.





Defibrillator training being delivered by Bro. Derek Moutray, of Snowhill Lodge, who is a trained medic. This session was enjoyed by a good number of members, family and friends.



WM Bro. Donald Crawford pictured with Bro. Derek Wilson and Bro. William Potter who received 50 year certificates during the past year.



DCGM Brother Mervyn Byers and the officers of Derryclavin LOL 729 pictured with the two brethren who received their 50 year awards.



Presentation of cheque for Drew Nelson Fund

A cheque for £1,000 was handed over for the Drew Nelson Legacy Fund by Bro. John Eaton, District Treasurer for Raphoe District No.3, to Wor. Bro. Maurice Devenney, (PCGM). The money was jointly raised by the District at the "Big Breakfast" in Newtowncunningham Orange Hall back in September and by St. Johnston LOL 992 at their Bowls for Drew Tournament last October.
Pictured, left to right, are Bros David Buchanan (WM St. Johnston LOL 992), Billy Hamilton, (WDM), Maurice Devenney, (PCGM), John Eaton, (Distrist Treasurer), Alan Laird, (DDM) and George Hunter, (DCGM).



Northern Ireland Executive

CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING

STAY AT HOME TO SAVE LIVES

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