OCTOBER 2020

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Orange Victims' Day

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Orange Heritage Week

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Moneygore tractor run

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Orange Institution is flying the flag for NI CentenNIal

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland is presently advancing plans to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of Northern Ireland next year. 2021 is a trully significant milestone and the Orange Institution will be pulling out all the stops to ensure it is marked appropriately.

During Orange Heritage Week, the NI CentenNIal flag was officially unveiled at Schomberg House and competitions for music, poetry and song launched a few days later.

The CentenNIal 2021 Working Group, which is chaired by Wor. Bro. Raymond Spiers, continues to work hard making plans and preparations. All County, District and Private lodges are being encouraged to pursue their own events to celebrate the centenary year. Plans are in place for several key events - including a parade in Belfast and a gala dinner - amongst others.

See page 3



Chairman of the Northern Ireland CentenNIal Working Group, Wor. Bro. Raymond Spiers, pictured with the NI CentenNIal flag which was launched during Orange Heritage Week.

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT

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Orange Family: we're in this together

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EDITORIAL

Heritage Week was the perfect platform for CentenNIal flag launch

Like just about everything else, this year's Orange Heritage Week was very different to what has gone before.

The fourth version of this annual event was largely online-based, with just a few small events taking place.

This is in stark contrast to the last few years which saw dozens of lectures, musical performances, displays and special attractions at venues around the province.

Just 12 months ago we had events like the successful 'A Joyful Noise' evening in the Ulster Hall. At present, such an event would not be practical.

The unveiling of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's Northern Ireland CentenNIal flag took place during Heritage Week and generated great interest.

Launched just over 100 days before the Centenary year begins, the flag will be to the fore of the Orange Institution's celebrations. Wor. Bro. Raymond Spiers, chairman of the NI CentenNIal Working Group, had the honour of displaying the flag for the first time.

The resulting web story and social media interest confirmed its popularity with hundreds of orders secured within a matter of hours.

Unveiling the flag during Heritage Week was appropriate, particularly given the central role many prominent Orange figures have played in public life throughout the hundred years since Northern Ireland's formation.

For the Orange Institution 2021 will be very much regarded as a year of celebration. In the background a lot of hard work is ongoing to prepare major events. These will be supported by hundreds of smaller events over the year hosted by Districts and Private Lodges.

Remember the Covid-19 restrictions!

As we head into Autumn the battle with Coronavirus has been escalated.

Everyone will no doubt have seen the messages from the Health Minister Robin Swann and Chief Medical officer Dr Michael McBride appealing for one last push as we fight to contain the second wave.

The efforts of the Orange Family throughout this awful pandemic have been impeccable.

The selfless efforts to help everyone in the community with groceries and other necessary items while at the same time supplying vast quantities of personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff of nursing homes and other health services has been widely recognised.

Now we must build on that with sensible behaviour in our everyday lives.

Northern Ireland is seeing hundreds of new cases of Coronavirus and as we approach Winter, the fear is that will only rise.

The message is clear.

This disease is very much still with us, it hasn't gone away, and the restrictions currently being put in place are there to prevent further spread.

There's a narrow window for action here and the Orange Family can play its part.



The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis MP visited Schomberg House on Thursday, 24th of September. Mr Lewis met with senior Orange Order officers before undertaking a tour of the Museum of Orange Heritage.

Order restates its opposition to the Parades Commission

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has restated its continued opposition to the Parades Commission. Senior Orange Order officers, including Grand Master Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson, used a recent meeting with Secretary of State Brandon Lewis MP to air their frustrations and lobby for change.

The Orange Order maintains that far from being a solution to parading problems, the unelected commission and its determinations often serve only to make things worse.

And the recent advertisement for new members has done nothing to soothe fears that the current unacceptable situation of decisions being taken without transparency and accountability will continue.

The cost of the Parades Commission runs into hundreds of thousands of pounds. The position of Chair attracts a fixed annual remuneration of £50,000 while the member position receives £22,000. This is for just a few days' work per week.

The Orange Institution believes the Parades Commission's decisions are often pre-determined and strategies devised with so called 'resident's groups' to further restrict legitimate cultural expression.

This position has been reached over many years of institutionalised incompetence and clear bias by the Commission, underpinned by Legislation not fit for purpose. No-go areas in Northern Ireland have been created by the Commission for the Institution and their supporters.

Over the summer, the Parades Commission hit a new low when it attempted to deny applications for parades by bands around the Twelfth of July on the basis of Covid-19 regulations.

This embarrassing blunder resulted in the Attorney General stepping in and confirming that the Parades Commission had no legal powers to prevent the parades on health grounds.

The applications for parades stated that bands would adhere to the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time, which allowed for up to 30 people gathering with social distancing.

Grand Lodge continues to monitor the work of the Parades Commission. Unfortunately we have no right of appeal and cannot challenge the inequalities of its decisions. The time for the Legislation to be replaced with equitable, accountable, and transparent processes is long overdue. Reshuffling the Commissioners will not change the culture of bias.

Meeting of Loyal Orders

Leaders of the Loyal Orders met at Schomberg House in Belfast on Tuesday, 1st of September, to discuss a range of issues relevant to all the organisations.

In what was a first of its kind meeting, representatives of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland welcomed their counterparts from the Junior Grand Lodge, the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland, Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter, Royal Black Institution and the Apprentice Boys of Derry for talks at their Cregagh Road headquarters.



The Leaders of the Loyal Orders pictured together on Orange Victims Day.

The meeting, while informal in nature, saw a wide range of issues discussed, including the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on traditional events and parades and plans for the 2021 Northern Ireland Centenary. It followed a service of remembrance to mark Orange Victims' Day in which all the Loyal Orders participated.

Further meetings are expected to be scheduled in the coming months.

ORANGE NEWS

NI CentenNIal flag officially unveiled

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has officially unveiled a flag which the Institution will use to mark Northern Ireland's centenary.

The flag features elements which have key symbolic meaning to Northern Ireland, the rest of the United Kingdom and the Orange Institution.

Central to the design is a shield bearing the Red Hand of Ulster which is the same shape as the original government of Northern Ireland crest. The Queen's crown symbolises our Monarch and Head of the Union. A floral display represents the United Kingdom featuring the Tudor Rose of England and Wales, the Thistle of Scotland, and Shamrocks, Flax Flower and Lily for Northern Ireland.

The Shamrock is representative of our strong Christian heritage with the three leaves representing the Holy Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The Orange Lily represents our proud culture and the Glorious Revolution, and the Flax flower representing the Linen trade where it is said Northern Ireland was at one time the Linen Capital of the world.

The scrolls on each side hold the names of the six counties that make up Northern Ireland with the bottom scroll highlighting the 100-year anniversary.

Finally, on the bottom corner of the flag is the purple star representing the Orange Institution.

Wor. Bro. Raymond Spiers (pictured), chairman of the Orange Order's NI CentenNIal Committee, said he was delighted with the final design of the flag.



"This flag, with its striking colours and iconic imagery, is an excellent visual representation of what this milestone event means to the Orange Institution.

"Grand Lodge has put in place a NI CentenNIal Committee which has been meeting regularly for more than a year to discuss our plans for 2021.

"As we unveil this Northern Ireland Centennial flag it is just the beginning of what we hope will be a year full of events to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary."

"Covid-19 has presented significant challenges to everyone and the Orange Institution has certainly not been immune from its far-reaching effects. We believe that planning for 2021 must continue with positivity, but also recognise that restrictions could possibly impact on planned events.

"At this stage, events for 2021 include a major parade, a black-tie gala dinner and a family day out. District and Private Lodges are planning their own individual events throughout the year.

Mr Spiers added: "We look forward to all citizens celebrating this historic anniversary."

● The CentenNIal Flag is priced £9.00 can be bought at Schomberg House or through the GOLI online shop at www.goli.org.uk/product-page/northern-ireland-centennial-flag

Competitions launched which aim to mark centenary in words, music and song

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has launched a competition to celebrate the Centenary of Northern Ireland in words, music and song.

To mark the end of Orange Heritage Week 2020 and the beginning of the run up to the 2021 CentenNIal, the Orange Institution is giving writers, musicians and composers of all abilities an exciting platform to share their work.

So, if you have a talent for taking mere words and turning them into song, a gift for creating original musical masterpieces or a flair for penning perfect poetry then this is the competition for you!

Up for grabs is a cash prize of £500 in each category, but perhaps more important is the opportunity for the winner to have their individual piece of work performed at a suitable CentenNIal themed event during 2021.



Chief Executive Iain Carlisle explained: "As part of our series of planned events to commemorate Northern Ireland's 100th birthday, the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland are pleased to announce this new competition to create a piece of instrumental music, a song, and a poem to mark this important milestone.

"Each piece should reflect in some way Northern Ireland's identity, culture, and its people.

"Northern Ireland has a rich history which it comes to music and the written word. We know there is a depth of creative talent out there and it is hoped many people will come forward and submit their work to this exciting competition.

"The competition is open to all, and applications will be assessed by a panel drawn from music professionals, writers and community arts practitioners.

Mr Carlisle added: "As an Institution, we are determined that 2021 will be a year of CentenNIal celebrations. Many events are being planned to ensure this historic occasion is marked in the best way possible."

For more details, including the specifications for each section of the competition, email 2021@goli.org.uk or telephone 028 90701122.

The deadline for entries is 4pm on Friday, 26th of February 2021. Late entries will not be judged.



ORANGE NEWS

Third annual Orange Victims' Day service held at Schomberg House

The 339 members of the Orange Institution murdered during the Troubles were remembered at a ceremony in Belfast to mark the third annual Orange Victims' Day.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's Schomberg House was the venue for the wreath laying service, which was attended by the leaders of all Loyal Orders, in memory of the 338 Orangemen and one Orangewoman who lost their lives in the republican campaign of terror.

Grand Master Edward Stevenson led the acts of remembrance by laying a wreath and paying his respects at the Institution's memorial in the Garden of Remembrance.

He was joined by representatives of the Junior Grand Orange Lodge, Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland, Royal Arch Purple Chapter, Royal Black Institution and the Apprentice Boys of Derry.

The service at Schomberg House was among a number of commemorative events being held across Northern Ireland this week, as County, District and Private Lodges remember the murdered members within their locality.

Speaking at the service, Grand Master Edward Stevenson said: "We come together to remember and respectfully pay tribute to the 338 Orangemen and one Orangewoman who were killed at the hands of republican terrorists during the Troubles.

Many of those murdered were also members of our other Loyal Orders represented here today.

"This annual commemoration illustrates our determination that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

"This is a day of remembrance and reflection for the wider Orange family. We remember not only those who lost their lives but also the families who lost loved ones. We also remember those who suffered serious injuries and still bear the scars – both physically and emotionally.

"As we look across this memorial garden, we see the crosses – each one a small but important tribute to a life cruelly cut short.

"The Orange Institution will continue to give its support to the innocent victims and consistently challenge the republican agenda which would see the history books re-written."

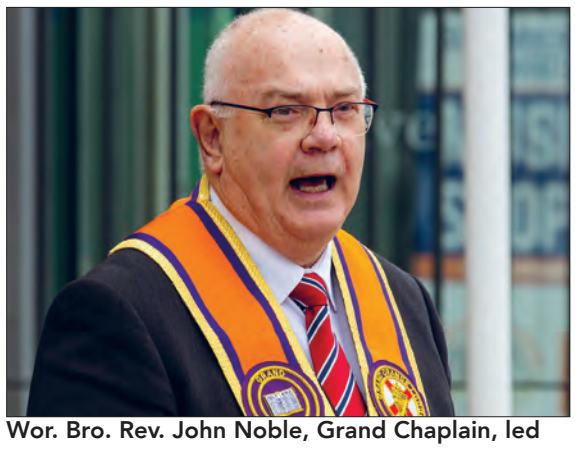
The service of remembrance was conducted by Wor. Bro. Rev. John Noble, Grand Chaplain.

This year, the 1st of September marks the 45th anniversary of the IRA attack on Tullyvallen Orange Hall, which claimed the lives of four Orangemen with a fifth dying later as a result of his injuries.

Orange Victims' Day is not only to remember those killed in the Troubles but also to highlight the ongoing plight of the injured and bereaved.



Loyal Order leaders pictured in the Memorial Garden at Schomberg House. Pictured from left are Grand Mistress of the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland Sister Joan Beggs; Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson; Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution Rev. William Anderson; Governor Graeme Stenhouse, Apprentice Boys of Derry; Junior Grand Master Wor. Bro. Roy Nixon, Junior Grand Orange Lodge; and Grand Master John Clarke, Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter. Pictures: Graham Baalham-Curry



Wor. Bro. Rev. John Noble, Grand Chaplain, led the service.



Grand Mistress of the Association of Loyal Orangewoman of Ireland, Sister Joan Beggs, lays a wreath.



Above: Grand Secretary Wor. Bro. Rev. Mervyn Gibson, Grand Master Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson, Deputy Grand Master Wor. Bro Harold Henning and Grand Chaplain Wor. Bro. Rev. John Noble.

Right: Grand Master Edward Stevenson prepares to lay a wreath on behalf of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.



ORANGE NEWS



Wor. Bro. Rev. John Noble, Grand Chaplain, leads a short service in the Memorial Room on Oranbge Victims' Day.



Governor Graeme Stenhouse lays a wreath on behalf of the Apprentice Boys of Derry.



Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson pictured at the Memorial Window in Schomberg House with Deputy Grand Master Wor. Bro Harold Henning, Grand Secretary Rev. Mervyn Gibson and Grand Chaplain Rev. John Noble.



Junior Grand Master Bro. Roy Nixon lays the wreath on behalf of Junior Grand Orange Lodge



Grand Master John Clarke lays the wreath on behalf of the Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter.



Sovereign Grand Master Rev. William Anderson lays a wreath on behalf of the Royal Black Institution.

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ORANGE NEWS

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Ballymacarrett District ceremony

On the morning of Tuesday, 1st of September, Officers of Number 6 District LOL gathered at Derwent Street in East Belfast to commemorate Orange Victims' Day.
Derwent Street hosts a photographic mural dedicated to the memory of innocent civilians killed in various PIRA atrocities.
Several Orange Brethren were killed, injured or bereaved in these terrorist attacks. Indeed no less than four Brethren were amongst the dead, when the PIRA murdered ten Protestant workmen at Kingsmill, on the 5th January 1976.
Following a short prayer, a poppy wreath was laid by the Deputy District Master Wor. Bro Tam Boyd P.M.
Also present was Wor. Bro. John Dempster, P.M. of East Belfast LOL 578.
His Mother June is depicted on one of the photographs of the mural, helping those injured in the aftermath of the Abercorn Restaurant Bombing in 1972.

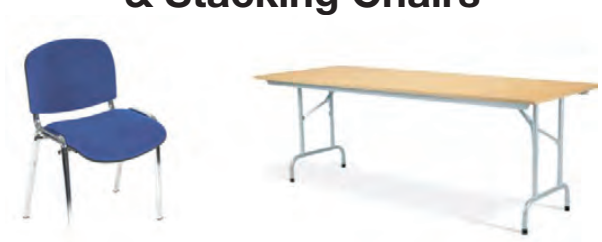




The Officers of Markethill District LOL No. 10 laid a wreath to remember the Brethren of Markethill District who so bravely gave all for our liberty and freedom.

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Mourne District remembers

1st of September marked Orange Victims' Day, an Institution wide initiative to highlight the ultimate sacrifice of 339 members murdered at the hands of IRA terrorists.
Mourne District LOL No. 6 held an Act of remembrance.
This was a greatly reduced event due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, members look forward to future years when once again a parade can mark this sombre occasion and an invitation can be extended to family's and all those wishing to attend.
The act of remembrance emphasised the Institution's desire that the all the innocent victims of republican terrorism should be remembered and that the Institution would not allow history to be re written in favour of terrorists.
The service was conducted by Rev. William Bingham, who opened with prayer and scripture.



For the act of remembrance the names of the victims were read out, the exhortation given, a silence observed and the wreath laid by Wor. District Master Bro. Neil Cousins.
Pipe Major Bro. James Stevenson of Aughnahoory Pipe band played the lament Oft The Stilly Night.
In particular 2020 marks the 50th Anniversary of the death of Bro. Samuel Donaldson of LOL 564 who along with his colleague were the first Royal Ulster Constabulary officers murdered by the IRA in the Troubles.
Also remembered were Bros. George Beck and John Eakins LOL 424, Bro. Alexander Donaldson LOL 564, Bro. Alexander Beck LOL 1943, Bro. Gordon Hanna LOL 343b, Bros. Alan Johnston and Kenneth Graham LOL 1034.
Present at the act of remembrance were Stephen Nicholson, District Secretary; Piper Bro. James Stevenson; Wor. Bro. Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master GOLI; Bro. William Bailie DDM; Bro. Rev. William Bingham; Bro. Neil Cousins WDM; and Bro. Eric Niblock District Chaplain.

ORANGE NEWS



Boyd Memorial LOL 312 - Sixmilewater District LOL No.10

Boyd Memorial LOL 312 held an Act of Remembrance for the 338 Murdered Orange Brethren and one murdered Sister at their Garden of Remembrance, Burnside Orange Hall Antrim, on Sunday 30th of August.

Special guests were Bro. Thomas Wright, Past County Grand Secretary, County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast; and Bro. Rab Lyttle, Piper.

1st September has been designated Orange Victims' Day by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland this being the date of the Tullyvallen Massacre at Tullyvallen Orange Hall in South Armagh when five Brethren of Tullyvallen Guiding Star Temperance LOL 630 were murdered whilst having their monthly Lodge meeting.







Sixmilecross service of remembrance

To mark Orange Victims' Day on the 1st September, the Officers of Sixmilecross District Orange Loge and Sixmilecross Royal Arch Purple District Chapter held a short open air service of remembrance and wreath laying at the RAPC Memorial Stone at Clogherney Parish Church.

The service began with the District Master of Sixmilecross Orange, Wor. Bro. Ken McDowell outlining the purpose of Orange Victims' Day and how 338 Orangeman and Orangewoman had been murdered by cowardly terrorists.

Orange District Treasurer Wor. Bro. Roy Graham outlined how Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland was adamant that there can be no equivalence between victims and victim makers.

The bible reading was taken from Psalm 37 V1-11 read by the District Master of Sixmilecross RAPC Bro. Irwin Anderson.

The Prayer for Orange Victims' Day was read by Orange District Secretary Wor. Bro. Alan Gibson.

The exhortation was read by David Black, District Secretary of Sixmilecross RAPC.

The lament was played by Robin Anderson, Pipe Major of Cloughfin Pipe Band.

Wreaths were laid by Wor. Bro. Ken McDowell and Wor. Bro. Ross McKnight, District Master and Deputy District Master of Sixmilecross District Orange Lodge. Bro. Irwin Anderson and Bro. David Mitchell District Master and Deputy District Master of Sixmilecross Royal Arch Purple District Chapter. This was followed by a minutes silence in remembrance. The Lord's Prayer was led by Bro. Jo Crozier, District Treasurer of Sixmilecross RAPC. The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

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ORANGE NEWS





Tribute at Brownlow House

District officers from Lurgan gathered to mark Orange Victims' Day and remember those from their lodges who were amongst those murdered.
The Foreman of the Committee, District Secretary and The Worshipful District Master met at the memorial on the grounds of Brownlow House, which has the names of those taken from us on it, to lay a wreath.
The District Master also took the opportunity to say a few words to mark the occasion. He reflected on the members who were lost to terrorist murders and the high esteem they were held in, each being a well respected member of the Orange and a person who served and worked to put back into their community.
The District Master also emphasised that it is important that the torch of remembrance is passed on to those who come into our Order in future generations, those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the years of violence should continue to be honoured with dignity even as the years progress.
The District Master finished the short ceremony with a word of prayer.



Portadown District Act of Remembrance

The District Officers and Committee Members of Portadown District LOL No. 1 paused to remember the Brethren from the District murdered by the enemies of Ulster. They also remembered the Brethren and Sister murdered during the troubles in the Province.



Officers of Witherow Memorial LOL 1337 place a poppy cross at mural in Thornedyke Street in memory of Orange Brethren within the District lodge killed while serving in UDR.



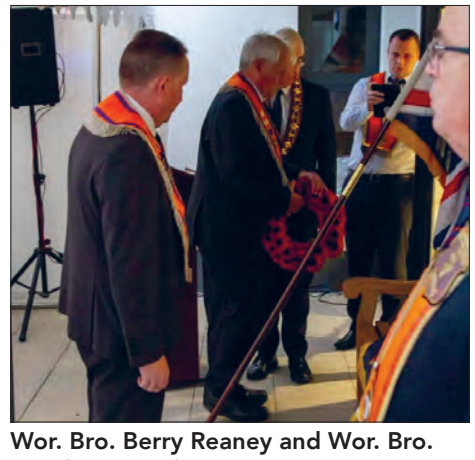
The service was held in a marquee outside the Museum

Service at Sloan's House

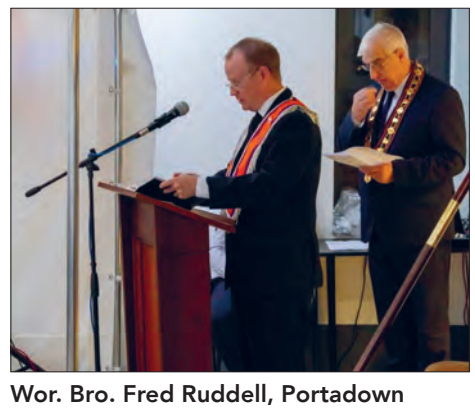
County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge held a short and socially-distanced Service of Reflection at the "Museum of Orange Heritage", Sloan's House, Loughgall, on the 1st of September, to mark Orange Victims' Day.
Proceedings were introduced by the County Grand Master, Rt Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, and the service was conducted by Wor. Bro. Rev William Anderson, Deputy County Grand Chaplain, and Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution.
Members of Portadown Ex-Servicemen's LOL 608 were present and the Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. Jack Johnston, led the Act of Remembrance.
The names of the 68 brethren from Co Armagh Grand Orange Lodge were read by the County Officers and a wreath was placed at the Museum Memorial Tablet by Wor. Bro. Nigel Lutton and Wor. Bro. Berry Reaney on behalf of the relatives of our murdered brethren.
Wor. Bro. Johnston also placed a wreath at the Tablet on behalf of LOL 608.
The scripture reading was by Wor. Bro Fred Ruddell, Portadown Deputy District Chaplain, and a member of LOL 608. Wor. Bro. Rev. Anderson then gave a short Epilogue and the National Anthem concluded the evening.
Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 regulations, it was not possible to have the relatives of the murdered Brethren present, but they can be assured that the Orange Institution in Co Armagh paid a solemn and dignified tribute to their loved ones.
The service can be viewed on the Sloan's House Facebook.



Wor. Bro. Jack Johnston, WM of Portadown Ex-servicemen's LOL 608, leads the Act of Remembrance.



Wor. Bro. Berry Reaney and Wor. Bro. Nigel Lutton place a wreath at the Memorial Tablet on behalf of the relatives of the murdered brethren.



Wor. Bro. Fred Ruddell, Portadown Deputy District Chaplain and member of LOL 608, reads the scripture, with Wor. Bro. Rev. William Anderson, Deputy County Grand Chaplain and Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, in the background.

ORANGE NEWS

Rathfriland District hosts Orange Victims' Day service



Above: Wor. Bro. Joseph Moorhead, Worshipful District Master Rathfriland No.3 District, reads the Roll of Honour of local Orange Brethren murdered by the IRA.

Below: Rathfriland No.3 District Chaplain, Bro. Harry Baxter, reads a portion of scripture during the annual Orange Victims' Day Commoration Service.







Above: Members of the Eillott, Herron, Heenan and McConville families, lead by Bobby McCready, who laid a poppy wreath at Rathfriland Cenotaph, during the annual Orange Victims' Day, in memory of all murdered Orange Brethren from within Rathfriland and District, who were murdered by the IRA, during the Troubles. Pictures: Gary Gardiner.

Left: Piper David Hanna plays a Lament as Bobby McCready, relative of Thomas John McCready (aged 32) Annahinchago LOL 580, who was murdered by the IRA in 1974, lays a poppy wreath.



Brethren of Cairncastle LOL 692 met for an Act of Remembrance at Cairncastle Orange Hall to mark Orange Victims' Day.



On Orange Victims' Day, Brethren from Purple Star LOL 941 met at the graveside of Bro. Ernie Moore, who was murdered on 3rd of July 19766. They were joined by Bro. Moore's family who took part in a service conducted by Bro. Gary Adair, Hillstown LOL 176.



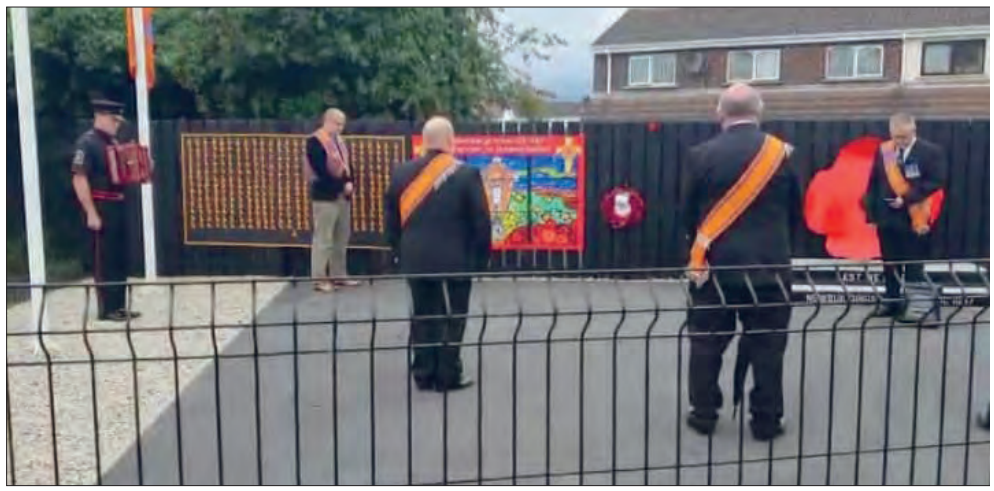
West Belfast No.9 District Lodge marked the event with a short Service of Remembrance at West Belfast Orange Hall, led by District Chaplain, Rev. Dr. William Malcolmson.

ORANGE NEWS



Bangor District LOL No. 18

Bangor District No.18 held an Act of Remembrance at the iconic McKee Clock in the centre of Bangor to mark the third annual Orange Victims' Day on Tuesday, 1st of September. This a was a greatly reduced event due to the Covid-19 restrictions but a sombre occasion nonetheless.





Newbuildings Victoria LOL1087 held an Act of Remembrance to honour our murdered Brethren, on Orange Victims' Day.
The lodge members were accompanied by Wor. Bro. Rev Jonathan Campbell and Bro. Gregory Kerrigan from Barron Accordion Band.

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ORANGE NEWS

Victims of terrorism remembered at Newry

On the 1st of September the District Officers of Newry came together to pay respects to those Orange members of the District that were murdered.
Six members were murdered in the 1920's and eight in recent times. The memories of two District members were recalled this year.
Robert Mitchell, a 68 year old retired businessman whose grocers shop was at the junction of Edward Street and Merchants Quay. Robert was a Church Elder and a Past Master of Altnaveigh Orange Lodge. He was callously murdered by the IRA at his home in Windsor Avenue, Newry on the 26th of February 1977. Two IRA gunmen entered his home, held his two elderly sisters of 79 and 86 years of age hostage for nearly two hours and watched television whilst waiting for him to return home.
On entering the hallway, he was callously gunned down in cold blood. His 86 year old sister was assaulted



when she tried to stop the killers.
The atrocity stunned all sections of the community in Newry as Robert Mitchell was one of the town's most highly respected citizens.
Also remembered this year was Draper Holmes who was brutally murdered whilst walking a short distance to his workplace in the townland of Lisdrumliska on the 9th of July 1921. Draper was 49 years old when he was set upon by nine IRA men, beaten and then shot nine times.
Draper lived in a small cottage with his wife Annie and two small children.
Draper was also a member of Altnaveigh Orange Lodge.
At his funeral the Rev. W G Strahan stated Draper was industrious and a trustworthy family man who cherished friendships and avoided making enemies.





Naval LOL 673 held a memorial service for the two murdered Brethren of their lodge and for the five murdered Brethren from District No. 5 Sandy Row. The Worshipful Master of the lodge laid a wreath. The District Master and other Brethren were in attendance.



Bro. Bobby Irons - Kellswater LOL 453

The Brethren of Kellswater LOL 453 in the Ballymena District continue to remember and pay tribute to their highly esteemed Brother Robert (Bobby) Irons who was murdered by the Provisional IRA on 17th January 1992.



Bobby Irons was a passenger in a minibus with his fellow construction workers as they travelled home from a day's work at Linanelly Army Base in Omagh when terrorists detonated a roadside bomb at Teebane crossroads, half way between Omagh and Cookstown. The eight workmen who died in the Teebane massacre included Bobby Irons and Nigel McKee, who were also members of Kellswater Flute Band.
Bobby Irons was born on 25th January 1930 and grew up with his four brothers and two sisters in a small house in the townland of Tullynamullan four miles south of Ballymena.
Bobby's family home was literally across the road from Kellswater Orange Hall and so it was no surprise that he followed the family tradition and joined Kellswater Lodge in 1947. In his 44 years associated with Kellswater Bobby Irons held various positions in the Lodge, including that of Worshipful Master, and his portrait is proudly displayed on the Lodge's current banner.
Bobby Irons had a great interest in music and he was among the first recruits to join Kellswater Flute Band when it was formed in 1947. For a good number of years Bobby loved to lead Kellswater Band with his four brothers fluting in the ranks behind him. His leadership style on parade was sometimes flamboyant and he liked to toss his Drum Major's pole high into the air to entertain the onlookers.
Bobby Irons was a larger than life character and he is still fondly remembered by his surviving family and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.



PULPIT

by Rev. Ian McClean



The Two tokens

It was the 4th of August 1976. That evening the centre of Portrush was destroyed by a series of bombs. We were staying in a caravan park on the edge of the town. A crowd of us was gathered as we viewed the flames and the smoke with horror. Just then, another bomb exploded, first the sight of a massive ball of flame rising into the clear night air, then the sound of the explosion as the earth below us shook, and then the sound of falling glass and debris. The crowd stood silent for a few seconds, and then we could all hear the voice of a wee Scottish laddie. "Ah hope it's no Barrys, fer Ah hae twa toakens."

We can smile now, but wasn't that wee boy giving us a token of his own sense of values? Many millions of pounds went up in smoke, but his concern was for two tokens worth a few pence.

In 1 Kings chapter 8 we read of the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. When Elijah called on them "If the LORD be God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him." Their response? "And the people did not answer a word." They didn't want to make a choice. We can be sure that many of them knew what the right choice was. Was it that they didn't want to be identified with the minority? After all it was 450 to 1. Were they waiting to see what others would do? Did they need a clear sign? In response God gave them two clear signs. God showed them his hatred of sin, v40. "And Elijah said to them, 'Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.' And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there."

Now, of course some will say "but that's the God of the Old Testament. God's not really like that in these days. But they're wrong. God is a God of justice. God hates sin and he punishes the unrepentant sinner. Go, not to the Old Testament, but to the New Testament. Revelation 20:15 "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Not 450 false prophets, but millions of unrepentant sinners. Not simply physical death, but eternal destruction. What happened



at the brook Kishon was only a token of God's wrath against sin, against the unrepentant sinner.

But as we talk about a token, let's look at the other sign that God is displaying here – his acceptance of the sacrifice. Just imagine yourself there at Mount Carmel that day. See the spectacle of the prophets of Baal dancing around and frantically cutting themselves. Hear the noise, almost deafening. Then watch as Elijah, the sole prophet of the LORD, almost silently steps forward, "Answer me, O LORD, answer me that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." Suddenly the massive flame completely fills the sky. It comes, not from the earth, but from the sky. It utterly consumes the sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust and evaporates in a second the water that was in the trench. God has accepted the sacrifice!

What is this sacrifice? What does it mean? What does it represent? Dramatic, magnificent as it was, it was but a mere token of the real Sacrifice. Ephesians 5:2 Christ also has loved us, an offering and a sacrifice to God."

Did the people of Israel need proof of the wrath of God for sin, and of the mercy of God in providing an acceptable sacrifice for their sin? God gave them two signs, tokens of his wrath and his mercy.

But for us today, we who have the full revelation of God's Word, can see far more than they could ever have imagined. We have so often been told "for God so loved the world, that he gave his onlybegotten Son, that whosoever believes in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." Have you learned from the two tokens that God gave Israel? And have you learned anything from that wee lad with the two tokens. Clearly he had a wrong sense of values.

What about your sense of values? The Lord says: "For what does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36

Brethren celebrate major birthdays





In recent weeks, two members of the Orange Institution have celebrated some very significant birthdays! Pictured left with Deputy Grand Master Wor. Bro. Harold Henning is Wor. Bro. Stanley Beckett who recently turned 100 years old. Bro. Beckett is a member of LOL 237. Pictured right is Bro. Joe Graham. Staffordstown District LOL No.15 posted a special birthday message on Facebook for Bro. Graham who turned 102 years old.

Remembering the Reformation

Why should we remember an event which took place over 500 years ago? What relevance does it have in 2020?

The simple answer is that the Reformation of the 16th century was about rediscovering the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a gospel which still today is crucial for life and eternity.

The original desire of Martin Luther was to encourage the Roman Catholic Church back to gospel truth. That it led to the Protestant Reformation is a reminder that the Church is built on the gospel and not the other way round.

The Reformation shows us that God does not bless a church or denomination when faithlessness or a man-made approach to the Scriptures is followed. It reminds us that the wonderful gospel of grace can be effectively lost to a church which distorts and neglects the Scriptures.

The Reformation teaches us that the purity of the gospel matters and compromising on it will lead to destruction. The church ought to be built upon the good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and proclaim that good news - that is the treasure of the gospel which is still priceless today.

It was into a spiritual bleakness that the Reformers were born and we live today in an equally dark world. A world which glories in depraved behaviour which ought to make every person ashamed. But God is able to shine His light into even the darkest of places and there is a great need to recall what He did 500 years ago and how it still impacts on life and living in 2020.

The Reformation, therefore, is an important reminder of how God used - and still uses today - people to point others to the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

By Wor. Bro. Rev. John Noble, Grand Chaplain

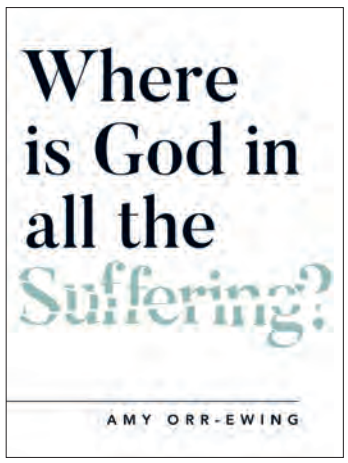
ORANGE NEWS

BOOKSHELF

by Robin Fairbairn
The Good Book Company

Where is God in all the Suffering?

Suffering and evil affect us all, both at a general level, as we look at a world filled with injustice, natural disasters and poverty, and at a personal level, as we experience grief, pain and unfairness. And how we think about and process the reality of pain is at the heart of why many people reject God.



Dr. Amy Orr-Ewing is no stranger to pain and gives a heartfelt yet academically rigorous examination of how different belief systems deal with the problem of pain. She explains the unique answer that is found in Christ and how he can give us hope in the reality of suffering.

This empathetic, easy-to-read and powerful evangelistic book is good for both unbelievers and believers alike. It will help those hoping to answer one of life's biggest questions as well as those who are either suffering personally or comforting others.

Many assume that suffering in the world proves that God is simply not real, especially when we consider severe suffering. Amy, in her candid, open-hearted, intellectually rigorous and beautifully written book, shows that the very opposite is true. She tackles some of the very worst forms of suffering that we face, and shows that even in the deepest, darkest, most depraved recesses of our world, the case for a loving God still stands.

Get it from www.thegoodbook.co.uk or via Robin Fairbairn - robin.fairbairn@thegoodbook.co.uk from Schomberg House or www.goli.org.uk/shop



thegoodbook COMPANY

This book is available in the shop at Schomberg House. Alternatively you can order the book through www.thegoodbook.co.uk or from Robin Fairbairn - robin fairbairn@thegoodbook.co.uk



Cullybackey LOL 696 recently welcomed the Mayor of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council to Cullybackey Orange Hall where he presented the lodge with a certificate of recognition for the work carried out by members in the community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Food parcels were sourced, made up and distributed throughout the community to those in need and parcels of much needed supplies were also donated to local nursing homes.

A spokesman for the lodge said: "It was a pleasure to welcome the Mayor to the village again and thank the MEA council again for their financial assistance towards purchasing the food parcels.

"Thanks also go to Cllr Timothy Gaston for nominating us for the award and to Cllr Matthew Armstrong for his assistance in sourcing supplies.

Unfortunately both were unable to attend the presentation due to other commitments.

"Missing from photo is Bro. Harold McCloy who we are grateful to for all his admin work and also PPE supplies."

David's an early winner in Fantasy Football League

Covid-19 and its associated restrictions has had a massive impact on life.

Throughout lockdown the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland worked hard to provide a number of initiatives which engaged with all ages.

One of the early successes was an online FIFA Football competition, organised by Youth Development Officer Gary McAllister.

The purpose of this was to provide an outlet through online sports gaming for the young - and perhaps not so young - during the long days of lockdown.

Running on both the Playstation 4 and X-Box platforms, the tournament attracted around 300 competitors.

Now, while lockdown may be behind us and return to work and education is in place, Gary has introduced a new competition in the form of a Fantasy Football GOLI Premiership.

Gary explains: "Fantasy football is a concept that many people will be familiar with. Players are given a budget to buy players from the English Premier League



and they score points based on their indivduals performances during the league matches throughout the season.

"Once again this is an example of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland working hard to reach people on a popular platform.

"Fantasy Football is hugely popular and I am delighted that we have more than 330 people entered for our league."

An early winner in the competition was David Saunders Jnr, who collected a prize for best team name.

David's 'KingBilly'sontheball' found favour with the judges and he received a woolly hat.

David commented: "This will come in very handy and I'll proudly wear on LOL 710's Slieve Donard trek on October 10. It's a fundraiser for East Belfast survivor of suicide.

"From July around 25 Brethren have completed five different challenging hikes around the Mournes as warm up to our Donard.

"We started this to get Brethren out and get them to try something a bit different with our traditional routes canceled due to Covid.

"All brethren taking part are benefiting from the physical exercise, interaction with Brethren outside friendship groups and really getting to know other brother.

He added: "It's benefiting everyone's mental health and the craic is definitely 90."

Sir George A. Clark Bart Memorial Bursary Trust Fund

Applications Now Invited.

This Trust was founded in 1993 and supports students who have family connections with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

The Fund provides assistance under four categories:-

- To enable those in industry, business or commerce to travel to increase their expertise in their field and develop the economic strength of our country.
- To help those in low income families to pursue a tertiary level education course.
- To assist in post graduate research in fields which can promote our Protestant Faith, Heritage and Culture.
- To enable those with learning difficulties to attend courses which would aid them to be more independent.

The fund is particularly keen to assist young people in low income situations and operates on an application basis each year.

Closing date for applications is Friday 2nd October 2020 at 4pm.

This Fund gives preference to students studying in Northern Ireland.

Forms are available now by contacting

Schomberg House, 368 Cregagh Road, Belfast, BT6 9EY.

or by phone on 028 9070 1122
or email
info@goli.org.uk

SGC MBF





Schomberg letter donated to Museum of Orange Heritage

The Museum of Orange Heritage received a wonderful new item during Orange Heritage Week.
Museum Curator Dr Jonathan Mattison and Grand Secretary Rev. Mervyn Gibson met with Sean Collins and Joe Woods who visited Schomberg House on Wednesday, 23rd of September.
Mr Woods generously presented the museum with a letter written and signed by Marshal Schomberg. The item will be going on display in the coming weeks.



Carson's Blackthorn stick goes on display at Belfast City Hall

Ahead of Orange Heritage Week, Wor. Bro. Spencer Beattie, Grand Master of Belfast County, was joined by Curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage, Dr Jonathan Mattison, on a visit to Belfast City Hall.
The purpose of the trip was to present the Lord Mayor of Belfast Alderman Frank McCoubrey with Lord Carson's Blackthorn Stick.
The artefact will be on display in the Mayor's Parlour for the rest of Alderman McCoubrey's term as Lord Mayor of Belfast.



Bro. Jack McKee recently donated a collection of Orange-related newspaper scans and copies that he has collected over the past 30 years. They cover a variety of newspapers and date from early nineteenth century to the modern era. Jack is pictured looking through the material with Curator Dr Jonathan Mattison.

Diamond Day Lecture at Sloan's House

As part of Orange Heritage Week, the Annual Diamond Day Lecture, organised by the Friends of Sloan's House, was held in the Museum of Orange Heritage, Loughgall, on Monday evening, 21 September - the 225th anniversary of the Battle of the Diamond.
The lecture was given by Wor. Bro. Richard Edgar, from Tandragee, and a small number of the Friends were able to attend, socially distanced, in the Meeting Room.
Richard's topic was the 50th Anniversary of the Formation of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR).
As always, Richard gave a very detailed and extensively researched talk, illustrated with slides, which was well received by an attentive audience. He reflected on several local members who were murdered during The Troubles.
At the conclusion, Richard was presented with Honorary Membership of the Friends group by Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Grand Master and Museum Director.
Many thanks to Richard for his extremely interesting and informative lecture.



Richard Edgar being presented with his Honorary Membership Certificate of the Friends of Sloan's House by Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Grand Master and Museum Director; with fellow Directors, Wor. Bro. Jim Copeland, County Grand Treasurer; and Roger Gardiner, County Grand Secretary.



Richard displayed the standard of the Regimental Association of the Ulster Defence Regiment, Portadown Branch.









Secretary of State takes a tour of the Museum of Orange Heritage during visit to Schomberg House

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland was delighted to welcome Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis MP to the Museum of Orange Heritage.
The Secretary of State's visit, which included a meeting with senior Orange Order officers, featured a tour of the museum which was conducted by Curator Dr. Jonathan Mattison.
Dr Mattison commented: "We were delighted to welcome the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis MP, to the Museum of Orange Heritage this afternoon.
"The Secretary of State's visit was timely as it came during our annual Orange Heritage Week and we were able to show him many of the items we have on display which tell the story of King William III and the history of the Orange Institution.
"Mr Lewis showed a great interest in our museum and was complimentary about the facility and the important work we do here."



Roll of Honour presentation by UDR Association

The Museum of Orange Heritage hosted a small group of representatives from of the Ballymena Branch of The Regimental Association of The Ulster Defence Regiment at Schomberg House recently.
The purpose of the visit was to present a Roll of Honour to the Museum which was received by Deputy Grand Master Wor. Bro. Harold Henning and Museum Board member Gordon Kinloch.
The Roll of Honour contains the names of members and former members of the UDR who were murdered by terrorists.
Welcoming those in attendance, Bro. Henning thanked the Ballymena Branch for their kind presentation and paid tribute to all the men and women who served.
Bro. Henning said: "One of the first announcements made by the Grand Master and his current team, when taking office, was that the Institution would not allow the truth about what happened during the past 50 years to be swept under the carpet or obscured by a twisted narrative that seeks to justify the acts of evil men and women. We have been true to our word and ensured that the innocent victims of the past 50 years have been to the fore in terms of the true narrative



surrounding the story of the Troubles.
"As part of this endeavour it is both an honour and a humbling experience to receive your presentation tonight. This Roll of Honour, highlighting the service and sacrifice of members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, is part of the wider story that needs to be told both to the outside world and future generations in our own land.
"Much of what you experienced, achieved, and crucially prevented, will never be known by ordinary citizens, but thousands of us, and indeed generations to come, owe their liberty and their lives to your selfless action.
"It is therefore a great pleasure to receive this Roll of Honour in memory of those members of the Ulster Defence Regiment who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Troubles. It is a credit to you as members of the UDR Association, especially the Ballymena Branch, that you have created this piece, which will find a place here in the museum."
Representatives of the Ballymena Branch voiced their gratitude that the museum has accepted the Roll of Honour and paid tribute to the Orange Institution for its dedication and determination in ensuring that history should not be re-written by those seeking to put forward their own agenda.

Arlene's recipes

Deep filled apple pie



Theres nothing like a homemade apple tart to evoke childhood memories of Sunday dinner at grannies house.
Have a go at this old time favourite, that everyone still enjoys today.
The sweet shortcrust pastry is light and crisp and is complemented perfectly with lots of juicy apples which have that little bit of tang we all love.

375g plain flour
75g ground almonds
180g hard margarine eg stork cubed and chilled
80g cookeen or lard or trex, cubed and chilled
40g caster sugar
2 egg yolks
1 tablespoon cold water
6 bramley apples, peeled cored and finely sliced.
75 g caster sugar plus extra for sprinkling
juice of 1 lemon
8-10 cloves
1 egg white

1. Sieve the flour into a large bowl and rub in the two fats until the mix resembles fine bread crumbs. Alternatively place all the dry ingredients in a processor and pulse to resemble fine crumbs.
2. Remove from the processor (if using) into a large bowl. Add the sugar and almonds, and stir in. Add the egg yolks and cold water and cut through the mix using a knife until it clumps together. Bring the mix together with your floured hands and gently knead to form a ball of dough. Cover with cling film and allow to rest in the fridge for 15 minutes.
3. Place the apples in a dish and sprinkle with the lemon juice, cloves and sugar. Leave to sit for 10 minutes.
4. Remove the pastry from the fridge and divide in two. Roll each piece to about a quarter of an inch thick, to fit a 23cm deep ovenproof dish or tin (with a rim).
5. Lightly grease the dish and carefully place on one piece of the pastry, trimming off any overlapping edges. Add the apples, discarding any excess juice. Press down gently to pack the apples into the deep tin.
6. Brush the rim with cold water and place on the 2nd round of pastry. Crimp the pastry with a fork to ensure the pie is sealed all round the edges. Make a slit on the top to let steam escape. Brush with beaten egg white, sprinkle with caster if desired, place on a baking tray and bake in a preheated oven 200C, Fan 180 for 35-40 minutes, until light golden.

Cooks tip. Use any trimmings to make little jam tarts or mince pies.



Gardener's Corner

by Beth Lunney

All of a sudden we are into autumn – where has this year gone even with all the problems this year has brought. However if you want to forget about all that is going on you couldn't escape to a better place than your garden. Autumn is a great time of the year for planting trees and hedges, the ground is still warm and the weather is usually reasonable. Our Ornamental Crab Apples are covered in fruit this autumn – probably due to such a lovely spring. Although these small apples can be eaten raw they are very sour but are great for making apple jelly. They are also very high in pectin and acid so they are great for setting jellies and jams.
The fruits from the ornamental crab apple 'John Downie' are said to be some of the best to cook with and the tree the finest of crab apples. This tree has slightly larger fruits than others which are oval in shape and are coloured orange and scarlet – it is also a good pollinator for other apple trees. Malus 'John Downie' was bred in Lichfield, England in 1875 by a nurseryman named Mr. E. Holmes who named it after his friend John Downie a fellow nurseryman from Scotland. This ornamental crab apple tree is considered a small tree and makes a great addition to any garden and is great for smaller, urban gardens. In May it is covered in an abundance of pale pink buds which open to single white flowers which are loved by pollinators. The leaves are green turning to shades of lemony-yellows and burnt oranges in autumn before falling. Other varieties of crab apples that we stock are 'Everest' which has yellow-orange apples flushed with red, 'Red Sentinel' has bright red apples and





'Gorgeous' has cherry red apples. These trees are easy to grow requiring fertile, well-drained soil in sun or partial shade. Another lovely tree we have on the Nursery Centre is Acer platanoides 'Crimson King' – common name Purple Norway Maple. This is a great tree for creating shade in a garden or for screening an unsightly building or view as it has a dense, rounded head. This variety of Acer was found as a seedling from Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri' in Belgium in 1937. In spring very small, yellow flowers tinged with red appear on bare branches followed by beautiful, ruby red, five lobed, maple shaped leaves which deepen to dark purple-red. The leaves turn red, brown and orange in autumn before falling. Acer 'Crimson King' is happy in sun or partial shade and prefers fertile, moist but well-drained soil. It will tolerate wind and pollution. You will often see 'Crimson King' planted alongside Acer platanoides 'Drummondii' which is another Norway maple and has large, green, maple leaves with a cream border.



ORANGE NEWS

Obituaries:

Wor. Bro. Donald Eakin



It was with profound sadness that the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland learnt of the passing of City Grand Master of the City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge Wor. Bro. Donald Eakin on Monday, 7th of September.
He had bravely battled illness over the past 12 months.
Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson paid tribute to Bro. Eakin, highlighting his dedication to the Orange Institution.
He said: "Donald Eakin was a loyal and dedicated member of the Orange Institution and his loss will be felt deeply among his Brethren in the City of Londonderry Grand Lodge and his many friends across the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.
"As the City Grand Master of the City of Londonderry Grand Lodge, Donald was held in the highest regard.
"I tender the deepest sympathies of the Orange Institution to the Eakin family circle at this very sad time. They are in our thoughts and prayers."
Donald was born in Claudy, Co. Londonderry, the eldest son of the late Samuel [Uel] and Mildred Eakin. The family had nine children, six boys and three girls
In the early 1960s the family moved to live in Lodge Road, Coleraine.
However, Donald's ties to his home county remained strong as he was initiated into the Orange Order in August 1966, as a member of Tullintrain Purple Star LOL No. 1969.
Donald married Norma and they resided at Newal Road, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim. Despite the distance, he faithfully made an 80-mile return journey from Ballymoney to Tullintrain each month for the Lodge meeting. He rarely missed a meeting.
Donald's dedication to the Orange Institution was unswerving. He served as a committee member of his private lodge for many years and held the positions of Deputy Master (2002 -2005); Worshipful Master (2005-2010) and Worshipful District Master of Cumber-Claudy No. 2 District Orange Lodge (2014 -2016).
He was the current City Grandmaster of the City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge having taken up the position in 2019.
Previously he had been the Deputy City Grandmaster - City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge and the Assistant Treasurer - City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge. Donald was also the Current Worshipful Master of Tullintrain Royal Arch Purple Chapter No. 1969.
Donald served for 22 years in the Ulster Defence Regiment, leaving with the rank of Lance-Corporal.
In later years he worked in the Motor Licencing Department in County Hall, Coleraine, until his retirement.
Donald was Chairman of the Ulster Defence Regiment Association - Co. Londonderry branch for a number of years and held that office in 2016, when he visited the 100th Anniversary Commemoration at the Ulster Tower in France. He also edited a Book on the Claudy World War 1 War Dead and was involved in having an Orange Section within the WW 1 Memorial Wood at Killaloo, Claudy, which was created by the Woodland Trust.
Indeed he had the honour of meeting Her Royal Highness Princess Ann, when she opened the Woods a number of years ago.
Donald is survived by 4 Brothers and 3 Sisters, Mother Mildred, Nieces and Nephews, Uncle Jack and Cousins.

Wor. Bro. W.H.L. (Harry) Whiteside



It was with much sadness that the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland learnt of the passing of Wor. Bro. W.H.L. (Harry) Whiteside.
He died peacefully on Sunday, 6th of September, following a short illness.
Harry was a long-serving member of the Orange Institution with roles at District level and also within the Junior Grand Orange Lodge.
A member of Young Men's Christian Total Abstinence LOL 747 for more than 50 years, Harry served as lodge secretary for many years and for the past 18 years was also District Secretary for Ballymacarrett LOL No. 6. Harry also voluntarily managed Ballymacarrett Credit Union for over 20 years.
The current District Master Ballymacarrett District Master, Wor. Bro. Sammy Sharkie said: "Harry will be greatly missed by all, especially within Number 6 District. He gave a lot of his time to Junior Orangeism and will leave a massive gap within the movement."
Harry played a key role within the Junior Orange Institution, he was currently Junior Grand Lodge Secretary for the past eight years, having served as Deputy Junior Grand Secretary for the previous 15 years; Belfast Junior County Master – a role he held for 20 years; Master of Ballymacarrett Junior District No. 3; Treasurer of Young Men's Christian Total Abstinence JLOL 76 and administrator of The McCrea Memorial Trust Fund.
Harry's commitment to the Orange family was known worldwide and lodges and individuals from Scotland, England and Canada took to social media to express sympathies and pay their respects to a man who many simply referred to as a gentleman, commenting on his helpful, patient approach and his willingness to assist all.
Former Assistant Grand Master and No. 6 District Master Raymond Spiers, who served with Harry for 16 years, commented: "The Loyal Orders have lost a faithful servant, who was quietly committed to using his talents to further the cause."
He added: "Harry was a true friend to many, he will be sadly missed, our sympathies and prayers are with his family."
Harry was an active member of the Royal Black Institution in East Belfast serving as Deputy District Master of Ballymacarrett Black No. 4. He also held office in the Royal Arch Purple Chapter. Harry played an active role within his church, St. Mark's Church of Ireland, Dundela, where he was verger for almost 30 years.
Harry was pre-deceased by his wife Geraldine in 2017 and is survived by his daughter Rachael and family and son Aaron.



Bro. Edward Rainey

Edward 'Eddie' Rainey passed away after a short illness on 23rd of July.
He was a member of the Orange Institution for over 60 years. A member of Ulster Defenders LOL 667, No. 5 District, Eddie followed in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and many family relations. He was also Superintendent and founding member of the Joseph Smyth JLOL 30, which originated in the Belvoir area in the Queen's silver jubilee year of 1977.He was very passionate about his culture and the Orange Institution making many lifelong friends throughhis involvement.
Eddie had along connection with the Millar Memorial Flute Band and was vice-president for over 40 years, a role which he was so proud of.
Over the years a great friendship was formed with his lodge band Pride o' the Grange Volunteers from Scotland.
He will be missed by many but has left a legacy on many through his Orange beliefs and principles.

OBSERVER

Significant Orange Covid-19 sacrifice

The Orange Order, like many other organisations, has had to sacrifice a lot in its compliance with the need to combat the spread of Covid-19.
From the start of the pandemic crisis, the Loyal Orders have made it clear that they would support the authorities and the brave NHS staff in doing their utmost to bring this terrible virus under control.
The Loyal Orders not only called off their great demonstration and parading days like the 12th July, Scarva Day, Londonderry Day, and the Black Saturday, but it has postponed lodge and preceptory meetings.
The annual church services organised by the Loyal Orders have also been casualties of the epidemic, and at these services, substantial amounts of money have been raised for the various charities supported by the Orange and Black Institutions.
We miss our meetings and get-togethers, and I would not attempt to disguise this fact.
Like other members of my lodge who fall into the veteran category, the monthly meeting of my Orange lodge and Royal Black preceptory mean a lot.



We meet our fellow brethren, enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie, the 'craic' and banter, as well as the more solemn aspects of lodge meetings.
My lodge often has a cup of tea at the end of meetings, and there is a great opportunity to relax and share the experiences of the past month with my friends.
I miss these meetings, and I know that my fellow members of the lodge feel the same. We keep in touch with one another by the phone, and our District Lodge also contacts veteran members to offer support.
While I make no secret of my regret that our parades, church services, and lodge meetings have been put into cold storage, I completely recognise the necessity for these measures, and support them.
I admire the firm action on the part of Grand Lodge of Ireland, and its Royal Black and Apprentice Boys equivalents, and fully support them.
But I have to say that it has been far from easy at times, and the biggest sacrifice I had to make since this crisis began, was to admit that it was impossible for me to attend the funeral of a friend, because of the restriction on numbers attending funerals.
He was an Orangeman, not a member of my own lodge, but a man who I considered it a privilege to be his friend.
I know that many other Orangemen have also had to forgo the opportunity of attending the funerals of other brethren who have died since this Pandemic began.
The Loyal Orders have contributed a lot of PPE equipment to hospitals, and also substantial sums of money to the various health-orientated organisations.
The Orders do not seek special praise for these, which is considered an essential and regular aspect of their contribution to society.
Hopefully, there will soon be a vaccine to defeat the virus, but until that happens, the Loyal Order will continue to play their full part in coping with the widespread effects of this dreadful coronavirus pandemic.
In the meantime, lodge officers should keep in touch with their members, and let them know that they are still very much in their thoughts.
I know from my own personal experience that this really means a lot.

Republican bid to rewrite history continues!

Republicans continue to pursue their strategy of re-writing the history and reasons for The Troubles, and to attempt to identify the security forces as the principle perpetrators of the violence.
This has been underlined once again by the recent debate on Legacy, and what it means in Northern Ireland.
To blame the army and police for the conflict which cost thousands of lives, and tens of thousands of people injured both in mind and body is simply ridiculous, and yet that has been the republican mantra for decades.
The statistics show that 60 per cent of the deaths in Northern Ireland were caused by the Provisional IRA and other republican terror groups. Thirty per cent were killed by loyalist paramilitary groups, and 10 per cent as a result of army and police action.
Most of those killed by the security forces took place in actions resulting from attacks by the IRA. There were a number of deaths caused by illegal actions on the part of individual members of the security forces, but these were a very small percentage.
When taken into account the extent of the Troubles during a 30-year period, and the fact that the IRA was one of the most ruthless and well organised terrorist organisations in Europe, the discipline and restraint on the part of most members of the security forces was outstanding.
However, with the passing of time, the revisionists of history, especially in the republican sphere, are seeking to make the security forces the scapegoats, and to pretend that they were the real problem.
One of the reasons why actions taken by the army and police to defeat terrorism tend to he put under the spotlight is that controversial incidents in which the security forces were concerned, were highly publicised.
Bloody Sunday in Londonderry is one example, and there are others, in which the army in particular was accused of over-reaction and for the deaths of civilians.
There were innocent people who lost their lives in the terrible years of strife, and these necessitated inquiries, and attempts to identify any security force personnel who stepped outside the permitted limit in protecting the lives of the law-abiding people of Northern Ireland.
There is a possibility of army veterans being prosecuted because of alleged offences committed decades ago, and it is accepted that the law must take its course in investigating these allegations.
However, what really angers the Unionist population in Northern Ireland, and also the many men and women who served in the RUC and the British Army, is that very few of the atrocities carried out by the Provisional IRA and other paramilitary groups are being investigated.
Dreadful atrocities like Bloody Friday in Belfast, the Remembrance Day carnage in Enniskillen, La Mon House, Tullyvallen Orange Hall, and the Gospel Hall murders in Darkley have been consigned to history, without extensive investigation and no likelihood of people being charged for these, and so many other murders.
I remember, when a reporter with a weekly newspaper, interviewing the mother and sister of a bus driver who had been killed in the IRA bombs at the Oxford Street bus station on Bloody Friday. He was a hard-working good citizen, a husband and father, and had been a member of the Orange Order, and he, like the other victims of Bloody Friday, did not deserve to be murdered on that terrible day.
I could not offer more than words of sympathy to his relatives in their grief, and I could not encourage their hopes that the perpetrators would be brought to justice. There has been no public inquiry into Bloody Friday, and no Legacy inquiry into who master-minded this IRA atrocity.
It has been a one-sided approach to Legacy, and the failure to give the same attention to the murders carried out by the terrorists that causes such offence and annoyance to the law-abiding population of Northern Ireland, and that must be borne in mind at all times when the terrible events of the Troubles are put under the spotlight.

Attempt to stem the 'brain drain'

We have heard about it for years – the so-called 'brain drain' from Northern Ireland each year, as thousands of students opt to continue their education at universities in England and Scotland, but until now, little has been done about it.
Statistics show that each year an average of 18,000 Northern Ireland students go across the water to attend universities, and it is estimated that only about one-third return home when they have graduated.
It is also widely claimed that the majority of those who attend cross-channel universities are from the Protestant community, and there has been concern on the part of Unionist politicians who claim that this is a huge loss, as these are people that Northern Ireland can ill afford to lose.
It is also accepted that the problem is a cross-community one, and that it matters little what religious denomination belong to, and it is in the interests of Northern Ireland that young people should be encouraged to study in the province, irrespective of their religion.
What has happened this year is that action is being taken to try and stem the annual brain drain, and most people will welcome the decision to look closely at the issue, with Education Minister Peter Weir promising to set up a commission to investigate the issue.
It is known that a significant number of these brain-drain students are reluctant leavers, who would prefer to continue their education in Belfast or Coleraine, rather than in Liverpool or Dundee, and Mr Weir wants the new study to closely investigate the reasons for their decision to cross the Irish Sea.
Mr Weir told the Assembly that the cross-channel migration of Ulster students had been recognised for decades, and he felt a more in-depth study into the matter was needed. He also said a new skills strategy for Northern Ireland was to be launched shortly, and one of the main reasons is the need to meet the growing need for skilled workers in the province.
The Minister highlighted the need for urgent training for more than 14,000 to plug the gap in managerial and core technical staff.
Northern Ireland is seeking to attract more industry to the province, and this means plugging the current and anticipated skills imbalance in the local labour market – a key priority for our economy.

MUSEUM NEWS

Duty and Sacrifce – Orangemen and their role in the Merchant Navy

A Merchant Navy became an important lifeline for many European countries during the war.



Above: Crew of the SS Castlebar, with William Henry Ryding, of LOL No. 1161 (Centre). The ship was lost on 14 March 1918. Right: John McGowan, a member of LOL No. 145, was lost with the sinking of SS Gretaston in 1917.



The British Isles relied heavily on imports of food and raw material from the Empire, Dominions, and other countries. As the war economy grew so did demand for more resources. The British Navy was the largest in the World and was augmented by the Merchant Navy. Many Orangemen from commercial seaports like Larne, served in that vital arm of the war effort. Two examples were Lieutenant James Canning and Stoker Hugh Purdy from LOL No. 22.

Thousands served aboard ships that brought vital cargo to the factories and tables of the country. Germany recognised the importance of trying to stem this flow of supplies and quickly embarked on an unrestrained U-boat campaign. Thousands of tons of shipping were lost. Like other restricted jobs, many Orangemen were among the ranks of the Merchant Navy. William Henry Ryding of Strandtown, Belfast, was Master of the SS Castlebar and member of LOL No. 1161. SS Castlebar was a cargo and transport ship that operated between Scotland and Ireland. On 14 March while heading for Limerick, she was lost; hit by either a torpedo or an enemy mine. It was equally dangerous for those 'civilian ships' requisitioned for war service. At the beginning of the war SS Minneapolis was requisitioned to take some of the BEF to France. She continued as a transport and supply ship until being sunk on 24 March 1916 near Malta. Amongst those who perished was Matthew Weir, a member of Deramore Purple Star LOL No. 819 in Belfast.

Another example was that of Bro. John McGowan of LOL No. 745 in Portrush. Bro. McGowan had retired from the sea and settled in Glasgow. With the outbreak of war, he felt it important to use his skills to assist with the war effort. He rejoined the Merchant Navy, serving onboard the SS Gretaston. Sadly, the ship struck an enemy mine while travelling between Glasgow and Ireland on 4 November 1917 with the loss of all hands.

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ORANGE NEWS



LOL 1984 raises £500 for St John Ambulance

Ulster Covenant Memorial LOL 1984 (Lodge of Limited Purpose for Staff, Students and Graduates of Ulster University) have raised £500 for St John Ambulance through their online '20 Push-Up Challenge". This initiative challenged members and friends of the lodge to perform 20 push-ups, make a donation via Just Giving and nominate a number of their friends to get involved.

St John Ambulance NI was chosen as the recipient for the donations to thank them for the great service that they have provided to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic and also for their support for loyal order parades and events throughout the province. The officers and members of the lodge would like to thank all who donated and helped them to raise this brilliant total all for a worthwhile cause.

Pictured above are Worshipful Master of LOL 1984, Bro. Matthew Hawthorne and Secretary, Bro. Scott Mann, pictured presenting the cheque to a St John Ambulance NI Portadown Division representative.

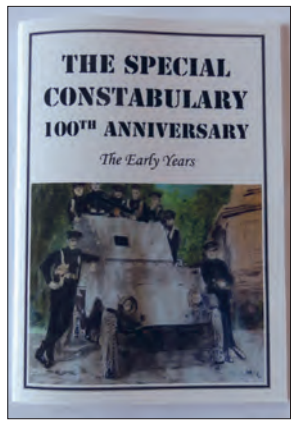
100th Anniversary of the Special Constabulary

The end of October 2020 marks one hundred years since the creation of what would later become the Ulster Special Constabulary. It was an organisation that was exceptionally effective in combating the IRA.

Glassdrummond LOL 660 has produced a booklet to commemorate the vital role that the Special Constabulary played in the early years of Northern Ireland's history.

More than two pages are devoted to the important events in Lisbellaw of the early hours of 9th June 1920 when the men of that village took action to prevent the sort of arson by militant Republicans that had become endemic.

The tactics employed in Northern Ireland to deal with the IRA are compared to those of the Free State and there is information relating to what happened to Protestants when the IRA were allowed to gain the upper hand in the South.



In the summer of 1922, there was a mass attack on the Western border of Northern Ireland focusing on the Belleek-Pettigo triangle in County Fermanagh. It is difficult to get exact numbers but it is possible that as many as several thousand IRA were involved with additional feints towards Western Tyrone. More than three pages are dedicated to these events.

The booklet compares the attacks on the postal service that took place in Ireland to those going on in the USA and describes the brave actions of Pat Kirke, a Catholic postman from Crossmaglen, murdered by the IRA.

The attempt by the IRA to kidnap "one hundred prominent Orangemen" is set in its proper context and the booklet reveals the truth about relations between ordinary Catholics and Special Constabulary.

If you want to learn about the IRA boycott on Belfast goods or the kidnap of the County Grand Master of Tyrone, buy the booklet. Copies are £3 and profits are to help fund a new banner for the lodge. Please make cheques payable to Glassdrummond Orange Lodge and send an A5 sized SAE with an ordinary stamp to our secretary: Mr G McCoubrey, 7 Blacks Lane, Ballynahinch, County Down, BT24 8UT.

Glassdrummond Orange Lodge would like to publicly thank the officers of Ballynahinch District for the enthusiastic support they have already given this project.



Castlewellan District delivers more food parcels

On Friday, 28th of August 2020, members of Castlewellan District distributed another wave of fresh food and produce boxes to elderly and vulnerable members of the their local community.

Thanks once again goes to Castle Farm Home Produce, Dundrum, for supplying the food parcels that were distributed.

Thanks also to the CDRCN grant money that once again assisted with the financial end of providing these parcels.

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STEPPING OUT
Supporting our Marching Bands
by Quincey Dougan

Friendship cemented in the East

The strong connections and relationships between our bands and lodges is a sometimes overlooked feature of the band world.
A great example came on Saturday, the 19th of September. That day Witherow Memorial LOL 1337 held a sponsored walk in conjunction with the East Belfast Protestant Boys to raise funds jointly for a new lodge banner and for band reserves. The lodge and band had intended to do a parade around East Belfast on this date to mark the lodge's centenary, plans obviously having to be cancelled due to current restrictions. Instead they completed a sponsored walk with a difference. Starting at Westbourne Presbyterian Church, from which LOL 1337 formed, noting the 3371 people who signed the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant there, they made their way up the Newtownards Road laying poppy crosses at various memorials. These included Carson's Statue, before also laying a wreath at Lord Craigavon's Tomb and visiting Craigavon House and Sydenham. Only six people were allowed to enter Lord Craigavon's Tomb, not usually open to the public, with the lodge and band each allocating three representatives. Lodge Secretary Bro. Kirk McDowell addressed the attendees on the history of Westbourne Presbyterian Church and Craigavon House with senior band member John Keenan (also a former 1337 member in the 1970s) addressing the group relating to several memorials along the Newtownards Road, many of which were connected to the area's troubled past including one to his own father in Sydenham. The group stopped at the Union Jack shop on the Newtownards Road where the band made a presentation to the lodge of a framed copy of their Lodge centenary flag to mark the 100th anniversary. While the walk was a joint venture, it was largely a band initiative and the lodge is extremely grateful for the various aspects of assistance that were provided by the band to ensure the lodge anniversary was not overlooked due to lockdown. An enjoyable day was had by all and both lodge and band are grateful for the support received by wider public and to Robin Newton MLA for assisting in accessing Lord Craigavon's grave.



Champion drum major tragedy

Tributes from across the banding community and far beyond flooded in following the tragic death of a popular young Co Armagh drum major at the end of September. Rachael Lowry, from outside Markethill, was just 17 when she lost her life in car accident near her home. Hailing from a family immersed in the piping tradition, Rachael followed in their footsteps and joined Armaghbreague Pipe from Newtownhamilton District. Via its ranks she honed exemplary drum major skills, and alongside the Quinn Memorial Pipe had already reached the pinnacle of success possible for her young years. A short family statement reflected: "Rachael had grown into a beautiful young 17 year old girl



with great gifts in music and creativity. The family were so proud of Rachael when in 2017 she won the Junior World Drum Major Championship, and again in 2019 when she was runner-up in the Juvenile World Drum Major competition. With excellent GCSE results this year and beginning a Health and Social Care course at the SRC in Armagh, Rachael had a bright future ahead of her however the family's joy in Rachael's achievements were turned into tears of overwhelming grief yesterday afternoon."

Uniforms unveiled in Castlederg

At the outset of the 2020 Band Season, it had been the intention of Castlederg Young Loyalists Flute to unveil their new uniform on Easter Monday. Little did they know what obstacles would be placed in their way to celebrate that occasion. The plans were delayed in the hope of changing circumstances, however in their absence the band decided to go ahead and dedicate their new outfits, drums and flutes on the 29th of August. At noon on 'Black Saturday', band members and supporters from across all the Loyal Orders and beyond, gathered at the town's Orange Hall, all the while conforming to the requisite guidelines.



There they revealed their sharp and smart new green ensemble along with the instruments, the military demeanour of the entire band a homage to the past heroes of the Ulster Special Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment. A dedication ceremony was jointly conducted the by the District Master of Killen DLOL 12 and the WM of Bridgetown LOL 379, underlining the bands very proud Orange heritage. Shortly after they held a short procession through their home town, finishing back at the hall where there was a range of outdoor activities for families, alongside live music. If this was not enough for the busy north Tyrone band, on the 19th of September being unable to host their annual band parade, they instead put on an open air concert of marching bands! From 7.30pm the town vibrated to the sounds of flute and drums, as a range of bands performed in the hall car park including Omagh Protestant Boys Flute and Pride of William Auld Boys, Donemana.

Band Podcast

Following the launch of his first book 'Made to Parade', author Glenn Millar has entered a new arena in his continued efforts to promote the banding community and world. The Made to Parade podcast aims to tell the many positive stories about the marching band scene in Northern Ireland and indeed the rest of the United Kingdom. Already (as of 28th September) four episodes are available, these include a chapter reading from his book and interviews with members of Pride of the Raven, Shankill Road Defenders and East Belfast Protestant Boys. The podcast aims to reach a wider, in fact worldwide, audience through the popular medium, and can be listened to via all the most popular podcast services. Alternatively you can access it by visiting madetoparade.com.

Raven fundraising

One of the most prolific charity fundraisers within the band movement, East Belfast's Pride of the Raven Flute, were unable to hold their normal charity procession this year on the 12th September.
However they were determined not to let it place a barrier in the way of their overall plans. Via a socially distanced collection and very successful online appeal, the band still managed to gather the hugely impressive amount of £2,395.57 for their 2020 nominated charity, NI Chest Heart & Stroke.
Band master Nigel Booth said of the effort: "We would thank all those who have so kindly donated to our Just Giving page. The disappointment of 2020 is abundant but clearly it is more important to demonstrate a level of responsibility in the face of such unprecedented times. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the very worthwhile cause dedicated to the memory of Aleiha Dodson."

If you would like to publicise your band or event, or indeed submit images for publication, please contact Stepping Out on 07835 624 221 or via email at qdougan01@qub.ac.uk. Submissions for ALL of our marching band genres are welcome including flute, accordion, silver and pipe

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)

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

The proposed Scottish Hate Crime Bill is a dangerous assault on Scottish Freedom of Expression and could potentially criminalise what has previously been regarded as a basic human right.

Over 2,000 submissions have been received by the Scottish Government in response to the bill.

The Orange Order has been joined in our objections by many other organisations and individuals including the Catholic Church and secular society. When the SNP Government have united so many in opposing their dangerous proposals, we sincerely hope they will take these on board and provide appropriate amendments to protect the basic human right of free speech.

A short summary of the lengthy submission from the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland has been included below.

Our objections and concerns to the Bill may be briefly summarized thus:

- The new stirring up hatred offences could be unwittingly committed by someone who did not intend to stir up hatred or even realise that their words could be considered abusive.
- Political and religious beliefs and views on morality are matters on which people can have vigorous debate and change their minds. A free society must protect this.
- Existing criminal law already covers threatening or abusive behaviour likely to cause fear or alarm. No new law is needed.
- Church services are not excluded. A Sunday sermon where Christ is preached as the only Saviour and all other religions are said to be false, could see the preacher prosecuted for stirring up hatred.
- Offences of stirring up hatred threaten freedom of religion and belief. They may stop people giving an account of what they believe. This is as true for atheists as for religious people.
- Any new stirring up hatred offences should only cover conduct that is intended to stir up hatred. Just because something is likely to stir up hatred does not mean the person was aware of this. It is profoundly serious to accuse someone of stirring up hatred, so it must be clear they were doing so deliberately.
- The free speech clause on religion must be stronger to protect more than mere discussion or criticism. People should be free to vigorously challenge religious beliefs.
- There is a serious risk that politically motivated complainants will label disagreement as hatred to try to silence their opponents. Police Scotland has said that free speech clauses are important to prevent it being inundated with vexatious reports.
- The mere threat of prosecution for stirring up hatred may cause many to keep quiet. This is a more subtle but equally dangerous threat to freedom of speech and undermines a free society.
- Lord Bracadale's Independent Review on Hate Crime report, which led to the Bill, stressed the need for a clear distinction between legitimate debate and rabble-rousing.

The Bill does not come close to reflecting this.

It is important to bear in mind that our existing laws on the protection of free speech are fit for purpose as threatening and abusive behaviour is already covered by the criminal law.

Genuine criminal behaviour in this area can already be prosecuted under the 'threatening and abusive behaviour' offence in Section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010.

Restoration of King William III statue is now complete

Earlier this summer using the Black Lives Matter protests as cover, republicans vandalised the statue of King William III.

The majestic statue of King William III sits proudly in the historical area of Glasgow at Cathedral Square.

The lead equestrian statue in Roman dress has sat there since 1926, after being moved from the Trongate in the city centre due to it being a traffic obstruction concerning its size in such a narrow location.

It is now situated at the most appropriate setting for such a monument of historical significance in one of the oldest parts of the city at the top of High Street, in an area that thousands of tourists flock to each year, with many taking photographs of what is regarded as Glasgow's oldest remaining statue of prominence, since being donated to the city in 1735 by James Macrae of Orangefield in Ayrshire.



When the statue was originally vandalised the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland contacted Police Scotland demanding they increase security to prevent further attacks on this important piece of Glasgow's heritage. Grand Lodge also contacted the city council to request appropriate restoration at the earliest opportunity.

Due to the significance of the statue it required several months of specialist restoration to return King William's statue to its former condition.

As reader's can observe from the picture the restoration works have been successful and this famous Glasgow landmark has been returned to its former glory.

Grand Master Jim McHarg stated: "We are delighted to see King William's statue has been fully restored.

A special thanks to the Glasgow City Council and everyone involved in the restoration works. The Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland has been in regular dialogue with the city council to ensure a swift and appropriate conclusion. Glasgow's citizens and visitors can once again enjoy a fantastic statue of architectural merit."



Scottish Orange Home Fund Charity Cycle and Walk

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in September Scotland's only Orange Charity held it's annual sponsored cycle and walk. The venue this year was Strathclyde Country Park near Motherwell in North Lanarkshire with approximately 30 people taking part. Following Government Covid 19 guidelines the participants leisurely made their way along the 4 miles route around the loch participating in a treasure hunt. An added benefit to this years event was those present were delighted to be able to meet up with friends and familiar faces they had not seen for some time due to the current Pandemic. Whilst the current crisis strengthens its grip on society the Scottish Orange Home Fund continues to provide for our members. The Home Fund committee sincerely thank the participants and supporters who ensure they can continue to assist our elderly our sick and those who require our support.

Donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/scottishornagehomefund

Few pennies for 'the Guy' but Ulster's bonfire tradition remains strong

History Lessons
with Dr David Hume MBE

There's more to the bonfire tradition in Ulster than the Eleventh Night!

When we mention bonfires, of course, in the context of the Protestant community it is generally the summer that comes to mind.
Collecting for and building bonfires, which originate in the fires which once blazed around the hills of Antrim and Down to welcome William, Prince of Orange, and announce his arrival, form a generational rite of passage for many young people in Protestant communities.
But bonfires were not only seen as special in July in the past.
In common with communities in England and Scotland, Guy Fawkes came to be associated with bonfires in November.
The discovery of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, prevented Fawkes and others blowing up parliament, and replacing King James I with a Roman Catholic monarchy.
It came to be celebrated across the United Kingdom as a deliverance of the Protestant cause.
And in England and Scotland, Guy Fawkes is still the focus of celebrations each November.
One of the stated observances of the Orange Order is the commemoration of the Gunpowder Plot and in bygone years this took on a variety of forms – including bonfires.
In Dungannon in November 1897, there is an account of a celebration of the discovery of the Plot and also the anniversary of the landing of William of Orange in England in 1688.
"An effigy of Guy Fawkes mounted on a donkey-chaise was drawn through the streets and afterwards burned in Market Square," the Belfast Weekly News informed readers.
The report detailed that lodges present at the event were Killyquin True Blues LOL 364, Moygashel LOL 708, Derrycreevy LOL 856, and Holdfast LOL 1620.
The members of Dungannon Conservative Flute Band afterwards held a social tea and reunion in the band room at Market Square, with bandmaster J. H. Fitzsimmons presiding.
However it would appear that there were few other Guy Fawkes bonfires at that time, suggesting a decline in the tradition.
Other accounts of events include from Coalisland, where the local Orange Lodge celebrated discovery of the Gunpowder Plot with a parade to a considerable distance outside the town, led by fifes and drums playing loyal airs. Brethren then returned to the lodge room for a routine meeting.
Other commemorations that year included a supper for LOL 730 at Dromore, where Br. Rev. Canon Harding hosted the lodge, which he had helped to form on total abstinence principles.
An anniversary supper was also held at Lisburn for members of LOL 195 in the Cathedral schoolhouse, when Br. George H. Clarke chaired proceedings.
Holywood Royal Standard LOL 1906 had an annual ball, which appeared to be their usual means of marking the anniversary. It was reported that dancing started at 11pm and continued until the early hours.
Lodges which held parades included brethren in Keady, while Kildress Parish Church held a special anniversary sermon on the anniversary of the discovery of the Gunpowder plot for Cookstown District lodges.
Reports of other commemorations that year came from Magherafelt, Markethill, Moy, Portrush, Sandholes and Strabane.
The nearest tradition to the burning of an effigy of Guy Fawkes in loyal circles in modern times probably concerns the burning of the effigy of Governor Lundy in Londonderry, something which was also more widespread outside the city in the past.
But the tradition of bonfires goes back much further than modern commemorations, of course.
The term bone-fire, which is the correct one, is believed to go back to ancient times in Scandinavia where, following battles, the victors would build a funeral pyre of the dead, something which helped celebrate the victory and also protect against the spread of disease.
Bonfires also connect to an ancient pre-Christian past, where they were seen to signal the beginning of different seasons and also a means of warding off evil.
As time went on, the bonfire periods were subsumed by the Church, however, which is how Halloween became an amalgam of ancient Celtic festival marking the beginning of the winter season (Samhain), and All Saint's Day, a Christian festival.
They were also used for a very practical purpose of signalling and sending messages.
In medieval times, the MacDonnells of the Glens of Antrim would light bonfires on the headlands to summon help from their clansmen in Kintyre, just a short distance across the North Channel.
In 1588 a chain of bonfires was used to convey the news that the Spanish Armada was in the English Channel, and in June 1690 it was said that a string of bonfires were lit in Belfast and around Antrim and Down to announce the arrival of the Prince of Orange.
In the medieval period in the Scots and English Borders, fires were lit at night to warn if the 'Reivers' or Riding Clans had crossed to rustle sheep or cattle, or attack settlements.
Even into the 19th century a system of beacons, based on the old Borders tradition, remained and was intended to warn of a Napoleonic invasion.
One was lit in 1804 by mistake at Hume Castle near Coldstream, leading to others following. This brought about the rousing of the Borders with the intention of repelling the French invaders; in fact a fire at a colliery on the English side of the border near Berwick had been mistaken and let to the false alarm.



Bute Street bonfire, July 1938

Bonfires, of course, were also lit to mark the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne and we can trace this in written record back to at least 1837, when the Waterford Chronicle mentions (with no degree of sympathy) bonfires being lit in Armagh and responded to by others in Tyrone and Fermanagh.
The paper described those responsible as "savages disrupting the peace of the night" but at least the reference exists.
In 1845 tar barrels were lighted at Rathfriland and Katesbridge to mark the Boyne anniversary and replaced, owing to a wet summer, the normal sight of whins and brush being set alight on the hillsides.
Many generations of Ulster Protestants have been involved in this summer cultural tradition, among them playwright Graham Reid, who recounts that "June was the start of our collecting material for the 11th July bonfires...We always strived to have the biggest bonfire in the district. We mounted raids on other streets' material and fiercely defended our own.
It was common practice to build a hut in the middle of our pile, so that we could mount guard overnight."
Building a hut in the middle of the bonfire would certainly not be encouraged today from a health and safety point of view!
But what Graham Reid was doing was helping maintain a long-lived tradition among the Protestant community.
Bonfires are not the preserve of any one community, of course, and St. John's Eve bonfires in County Fermanagh, which were a religious tradition of the Roman Catholic community is another example of bonfire traditions in Ulster.
By the 1830s, however, the tradition had died out in many parishes and even in locations which still hosted it, local people were unclear as to its origins and why they were having the bonfire.
There are lots of other examples, including in September 1912 after the signing of the Ulster Covenant.
Sir Edward Carson set sail from Belfast on the steamer Patriotic the evening of the Covenant signing, scheduled to deliver speeches in Liverpool and elsewhere over the next few days.
As the vessel sailed out of Belfast Lough, bonfires on both sides of the lough blazed encouragement, a silent signal to Carson from his followers in Antrim and Down.
And bonfires have also been used to mark royal events, such as the 1911 Coronation of George V and Queen Mary, when over 2,000 official bonfires were lit across the United Kingdom from 10pm, an official booklet advising on construction and materials to ensure the fires burned until after midnight.
Some 160 of these bonfires were in Ireland including one on the top of Slemish Mountain, Bessy Bell Hill near Baronscourt, St. Johnston, Ramore Head, Downhill, Kilpatrick Hill in Westmeath, Loughbrickland, Knockagh and Carrickfergus, Ballygally Head outside Larne, Cootehill, Killeshandra, Cork, Hill of Howth at Dublin, Enniskillen, Warrenpoint, and many more locations.
There were 30 in County Antrim alone, 29 in Cavan, 22 in Fermanagh, 12 in Londonderry and 10 in County Down.
The official booklet of the 1911 Bonfire Movement associated with the celebrations noted that "the fact remains that nothing seems to kindle such enthusiasm as the sight of a great body of flame, and the fiery response of far-off hills, with the knowledge that wherever these points of light are seen, there too is a rejoicing multitude in brotherly union of loyalty to a great occasion,"
Such a comment probably sums up pretty well the sense of the Eleventh Night in Ulster and its thousands of bonfires that dot the landscape.

MOTOR MOUTH

with Graham Baalham-Curry



Renault's popular hatchback remains to the fore

Clio is a lockdown delight!

When it comes to buying a small hatchback, the Renault Clio is one model that would appear on most buyer's radars and this latest example is no exception.
When I started driving some 20-years ago, the Renault Clio was a firm favourite with friends, mainly due to attractive insurance deals that were offered when buying a new model. The price you paid for the car and its free insurance, wasn't far away from the price of two-year's insurance alone, for a 17-year old.
Back then, it was one of the more practical hatchbacks available, featuring what was most certainly the most supportive and comfortable seats around, as well as what was a new concept back then with its plastic front wings. It was far from the best car in its class, featuring an interior that felt cheap and it wasn't terribly well put together.
As with all things motoring, things have changed drastically over the years for the Renault Clio as it has not only provided some of the most frugal diesel models available in its class, but it has also given many petrol-heads the chance to get on track with an array of potent Renault Sport (R.S.) models, over the years.
As is common with most manufacturers now, there is a model that suits the want for sporting pedigree, without the need for a fire-breathing engine, nor requiring pockets deep enough for the ultimate performance model. This most certainly applies with the latest Clio, thanks to its 'R.S. Line' trim which I spent the vast majority of lockdown with.





Despite not leaving the house much during my six weeks with this latest Renault, I did manage to burn-off the contents of its fuel tank, meaning I covered something in the region of 450 miles. This is much more than I would put on most test vehicles and allowed me to really bond with the car.
Starting from £15,295, the Clio range features five trim levels, the most expensive of which is actually the model tested, which starts from £18,495. Surprisingly, according to the Renault UK website, a Bose audio edition of the R.S. Line is actually £200 cheaper, so as someone who likes my music, I know which one I would be opting for.
Depending on which trim you choose from, there is the choice of petrol, hybrid, and even a diesel engine, as well as the option of a manual or automatic gearbox. With the Hybrid engine adding a premium of around £4,000 it is the 1.0-litre, turbocharged three-cylinder petrol engine that is likely to be most popular.
The most potent petrol engine is a 1.3-litre, turbocharged four-cylinder 'TCe' unit, which is paired only with a seven-speed 'EDC' dual-clutch automatic transmission. It is this combination fitted to the test car pictured, which, finished in Iron Blue along with two other options, is priced at £22,755.
One of the options, a 'Techno Pack' offers great value for money, £500 to per exact, with its auto-dimming rear-view mirror, Hand-free parking, wireless smartphone charging and a 360-degree camera.
Featuring 17-inch diamond cut alloy wheels, this model features bespoke R.S. badging, sports front bumper with gunmetal finish F1 blade, sports lower grille, R.S. chrome inserts for front wing, sports rear bumper, gunmetal finish rear spoiler, chrome finish oval exhaust pipe, and rear privacy glass.
The sporting theme continues inside with a red/grey striped fabric and contrasting red stitching on the super supportive, yet very comfortable seats. A perforated leather steering wheel also features contrasting stitching and an aluminium pedal set finish the sports touches alongside seat belts featuring red stripes.
Keyless entry and ambient interior lighting with the choice of eight colours, offers nice additional touches, whilst climate control keeps occupant as comfortable as possible. One feature I feel that should be on a Clio of this specification, that isn't, is heated front seating.
Infotainment comes in the form of a 9.3-inch touchscreen which features DAB and FM radio, Bluetooth smartphone integration, USB and auxiliary input, along with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, as well as Renault EASY CONNECT and services.
The Clio has never been bigger, nor more practical. I would go as far as saying that it is almost comparable to what my 10-year-old Volkswagen Golf offers in regards to cabin and boot space. The Clio's rear seating being a little less spacious, but mostly only noticeable with four adults during a long journey.
ISOFIX points not only feature on the rear outermost seats, but also on the passenger seat, too.
Other safety aids come in the form of an active emergency braking system, lane keep assist, lane departure warning, traffic sign recognition, and electronic stability control. This Clio also features cruise control with speed limiter, and enough airbags to keep all occupants safe if the worst may happen.
This little Renault offers a rewarding driving experience, perhaps a bit noisier than rivals though, with plenty of road noise apparent. That's something that may well be overcome with a switch to a different brand of tyre, down the line. It is sure-footed and agile, with brakes that could stop the Titanic.
Producing 130hp and 177lb/ft of torque, this R.S. Line model is equipped with ideal power for its chassis and is no slouch. Seeing 0-62mph in 9 seconds, a top speed of a 124mph can be expected with a staggering combined return of almost 50mpg.
The 7-speed dual-clutch 'box wasn't to my liking however, finding it somewhat indecisive and hesitant, which was frustratingly disappointing as on paper it looked promising. Other than that, it was a delightful experience.
Renault offer three-year, 60,000 mile warranty, whichever comes first.
Fact File for model tested
Make: Renault
Model: Clio
Trim: R.S. Line
Engine: 1.3-litre turbocharged petrol
Gearbox: 7-speed dual-clutch automatic
Cost: £22,755.

ORANGE NEWS

The Martyrdom of Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley

Bro. Nick Lawrence, Chaplain of Caddy LOL 1124, looks at the anniversary of the burning of Latimer and Ridley.

This month marks the 465th anniversary of the Burning of Bishops Latimer and Ridley, their martyrdom is carved into the pages of church history and their monumental sacrifice has been immortalised on many Lodge banners.
Between 1553 and 1558, the Church of Rome held England in the violent stranglehold of fearsome tyranny, enabled by Bloody Mary, a fanatical Roman Catholic who attempted to crush the Reformation. Shortly after she ascended the throne, Anglican Bishops Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley were arrested for treason and incarcerated in Oxford Prison.
Henry VIII had separated the Church of England from the See of Rome, although he hadn't reformed it. Latimer and Ridley dedicated their lives to reforming the Anglican Church and moving it towards Evangelical Christianity. Their witness for Christ shall never be forgotten!
At their examination, Latimer and Ridley stood firm for the Gospel and opposed the dangerously blasphemous idolatry of Roman Catholicism. Both men refused to accept the popish mass as a sacrifice of Christ, knowing it made shameless mockery of both Christ and Scripture! The tribunal tried in vain to force the two men to submit to the heathen falsehoods of the popish church, eventually they were found guilty of "heresy".
On 16th October 1555, Latimer and Ridley were brought to their place of execution in what is now Broad Street. As they were chained to two stakes, the Priests shoved popish idols



in their faces and urged them to recant, but to no avail. Latimer told Ridley, "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out".
The pyre was thick with gorse branches and faggots, more of which were piled on as the fire was lit. As it began to rage, Latimer was stifled by the smoke and died choking, however Ridley suffered one of the most hellishly excruciating deaths ever known to man! It wasn't long before the fire consumed him and he was viciously burnt alive, at one point crying in anguish, "I cannot burn!". Thomas Cranmer, another Protestant who would be burnt alive five months later, was forced to watch this nightmarish display! Years later, some bits of charred bone were discovered in Broad Street.
The Loyal Orders must never ever forget the sacrifice of these Martyrs and how they suffered for our faith, nor must we ever forget the barbaric deeds of the popish church!
"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).



Bro. Alan Roberts, the Worshipful Master of Stonepark LOL 607, is pictured with Bro. Willie Roberts, as he receives his 70 Year Membership Certificate from Bro. Willie Heaslip, Deputy County Grand Master of Co. Cavan Grand Orange Lodge. Also pictured are Bro. David Roberts, Chaplain, and Bro. Jim Beatty, Deputy Master.

Marquee boost for Sloan's House

The Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House recently acquired a new marquee.
This is to be used in the courtyard for outdoor events particularly during inclement weather.
It has already proved to be an asset for the Museum and was used during the recent Orange Victims' Day service.
The marquee was provided by the Museum Support Group who worked hard to obtain the necessary funding.



Banner supporting NHS stolen in Co Londonderry

The targeting of Orange property shows no sign of ceasing after a banner displayed on a hall in County Londonderry was targeted at the start of September.
Coming just a matter of weeks after no less than four instances of vandalism in August, the banner giving support to the NHS and key workers was stolen from Aghanloo Orange Hall.
The theft came to light as Brethren returned to the hall for their first monthly meeting since lockdown was imposed more than five months ago.
In a statement, a representative of Aghanloo true Blues LOL 656 voiced their disappointment, adding that the banner had been prominently displayed since April and had been the subject of much favourable comment from the local community.
A lodge spokesman said: "We are extremely disappointed that there are people who are so small minded that they cannot even tolerate a message of hope if it comes from the Orange Institution.
"Local Orangemen helped raise £5,000 to buy PPE for care home staff and provide food for the most vulnerable in our society, while these faceless people have contributed nothing but their own prejudices."
He added: "To tear down a banner under cover of darkness is a cowardly act, but it will not deter us in our support for our frontline workers."
Last month the Orange Standard reported on a number of acts of vandalism as flags were cut from flag poles and burned with banners also stolen.



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Fivemiletown District raises £900 at drive-in Twelfth service





The collection at the Fivemiletown District Drive-In service on Twelfth of July amounted to £900.
The District offers a huge 'thank you' to all for their generous giving!
All proceeds will be going to support AwareNI (mental health charity), St John Ambulance and our health workers.

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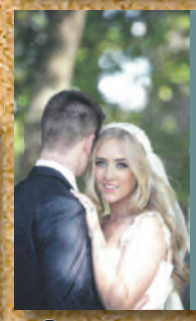
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ORANGE NEWS

Moneygore LOL 574 Tractor Run

Thirty five tractors assembled at Moneygore Orange Hall on the 16th of September for the Moneygore LOL 574 Rea Cantley Memorial Tractor Run. The participants proceeded to drive around the area for a nine-mile round trip. This was followed by hot-dogs, buns and tea - in a socially distanced manner. Some £600 was raised for Christian charities.







