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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORANGE ORDER



Order remembers

See pages 6-7



Picture special: Drew Nelson Gala Dinner

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Museum news

See page 20

Make your vote count!

All members of the Orange Institution have been urged to ensure they exercise their democratic right to vote in the General Election on Thursday, December 12.

Grand Master Edward Stevenson appealed to the membership to support pro-union candidates in a bid to ensure a strong Unionist voice was returned to Westminster.

Much has been made of the election being based on Brexit, however there is much more at stake - even Northern Ireland's future place in the Union.

In a platform article published in the Belfast Telegraph, the Grand Master highlighted the turbulent political times we currently find ourselves in.

"The result of the impending General Election will define the future of the United Kingdom – domestically and internationally," he said.

"Over the near one hundred years since the creation of Northern Ireland, there have been many political and constitutional crises in our country's history. In those times, past generations of Unionists stood together in the face of those challenges.

"Today, it is this generation who must stand up and be counted in order to maximise the political influence of Unionists in Westminster."

The Grand Master said it was vital that all members cast their vote and urged them to encourage family and friends to do the same.

Continued on page two



Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Julian Smith, visited the Museum of Orange Heritage at Schomberg House on Thursday, November 21. Mr Smith was greeted by Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Harold Henning, Chief Executive Iain Carlisle, and museum curator Dr Jonathan Mattison. See page 9.

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EDITORIAL

Large turnout a must for General Election

One of the most dangerous things in any democratic society is voter apathy.
It is something we often hear mentioned in the wider media, particularly at times when elections have been coming thick and fast.
People can easily become worn down by politics. Many feel that decisions taken in London rarely impact on their day-to-day lives.
The proximity to Christmas could also serve to cause some to lose interest as minds inevitably turn to the festive season.
For the Unionist community any level of apathy towards the General Election on Thursday, December 12, could have far-reaching ramifications.
Much has been made of the role Brexit will play in this vote, however there is much more at stake than that.
The very future of Northern Ireland's membership of the Union is at risk.
Northern Ireland must return a strong Unionist voice, as anything less will only serve to weaken our place in the Union.
Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal is of great concern.
It aligns Northern Ireland ever closer to the Republic of Ireland and manages to place an economic border right down the Irish Sea.
This is simply not acceptable.
With that in mind, Grand Master Edward Stevenson has urged the membership of the Orange Order to make sure they get out to the polls and vote for the Unionist candidate of their choice.
Many Unionist candidates face a different challenge in this election due to electoral pacts between other political parties. Unlikely and perhaps unexpected alliances have been put in place in some areas in the name of Brexit.
The message is clear. On December 12 get to the polls and cast your vote.

Parade frustration

The Parades Commission decision to deny Ravenhill Volunteers LOL 580 permission to parade their new banner along the Ravenhill Road only serves to cause further anger and frustration among the Protestant Community of East Belfast.
What would have been a short parade to celebrate 125 years of the lodge in its local area, instead became a denial of the right for members to express their cultural and religious identity. The suggested alternative route did not even include the lodge's own Ravenhill Road area.
The lodge is determined that it will fly the new banner, which was unfurled and dedicated on Saturday, November 16 in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall, along the Ravenhill Road before July 1, 2020.
Ravenhill Volunteers can be sure that they have the support of the entire Orange Family.

Every vote counts as Order is urged to turn out at polls

From front page

Mr Stevenson continued: "Whilst locally many will frame the current contest as being solely about Brexit and use that as a justification for previously unexpected political pacts, we must accept that this election has even higher stakes than the question of EU membership.
"Let's be clear, this election is about the Union – the Union of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
"Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom was underwritten by the sacrifice of our forefathers and it has been defended by generations of Orangemen serving alongside those from all creeds and none, who valued freedom. The cowardly and barbaric terrorist campaign, which saw thousands of innocent victims murdered, including 340 of our members, could not achieve the Republican goal of a united Ireland.
"Sadly, this proposed deal has the seeds of betrayal as it clearly sees the reorientation of our economic future towards the south rather than with the rest of the United Kingdom.
"This hard won - and hard defended - Union comes first and foremost before any other political consideration. All elections are important, but the result of this election will define the future shape of the United Kingdom for this generation and those who will follow."
The Grand Master was clear on what is required from the Unionist electorate come December 12.
He continued: "Unionism must work together in this election to maximise Unionist representation from this part of the United Kingdom when Parliament reconvenes. It is incumbent on our members and all unionists that they use their influence to encourage this co-operation and to ensure that the Unionist community make their united voice heard in constituencies across Northern Ireland.
"Of course, there are a number of key 'battle-grounds' where non-unionists are clearly conspiring to remove pro-Union representatives. In these areas especially, our members must use their upmost efforts to ensure that all those within their circle of influence turn out to vote for the Unionist candidate in that area."
The Grand Master highlighted the potential dangers of voter apathy.
He continued: "For many years, the biggest opponent Unionism has faced politically has not been Nationalism, but rather voter apathy. This is a critical juncture and every Unionist must realise that they no longer have the luxury of opting out of politics.
"Make no mistake – this is the election when the British people of Northern Ireland must make their vote count. Westminster needs to hear a clear message from Northern Ireland – we are an integral part of the United Kingdom – no ifs, no buts, no backstops or Boris deals.
"Northern Ireland must not be sacrificed for Brexit!"

Museum appeal

The Museum of Orange Heritage (Belfast) is appealing for anyone with stories about the experience of the Orange Family in the Republic of Ireland in the years after Partition.
In 2020, the Museum will be hosting an exhibition about the experience of the Orange Family in the Irish Free State and the Irish Republic. We are keen to give a platform to voices from within this section of the Orange Family and display any relevant artefacts as part of this exhibition. If you would like a story told as part of this project, please contact Jonathan Mattison on 02890 701122 or via jonathan@goli.org.uk.



ORANGE NEWS

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas ...

The countdown is well and truly underway to Christmas.

The shop at the Museum of Orange Heritage, at Schomberg House, is well stocked with items to make the Festive Season an even more memorable occasion.

A firm favourite in recent years has been the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland calendar. This is in stock now, however numbers are limited and it is advised to obtain your copy quickly to avoid disappointment.

Other items which are on everyone's list are the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's Christmas cards. Grand Master Edwards Stevenson made sure he got his cards in the post early to beat the usual festive rush. Available are a traditional card featuring the open Bible and collarette, a wonderfully seasonal image painted by Robert Anderson featuring Santa and his reindeer over Clifton Street Orange Hall, Belfast, and the ever-popular Orange Snowmen! These cards are available priced at 80p or 10 cards for £7 each.

The Orange Bobble hats have been proving extremely popular, while a stylish men's messenger bag featuring a 'WM' logo are also in stock.







Orders are being taken at Schomberg House for two new and exclusive Loyal Orange Institution watches.

The watches, pictured above right, are a two-toned stainless bracelet with Gold crest which is priced at £189.50 or a leather strap with matt silver crest, priced at £159.50.

Features include: Die-struck crest intricately highlighted in 24 carat gold or matt silver finish; Swiss High Precision Movement; Classic 40mm Case and Stainless Steel Bracelet or Anti-allergenic Leather Strap; Scratch resistant mineral crystal; and 30 metre water resistant.

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These watches are available by pre-order only.

Also available in the shop are a range of baubles for your Christmas tree, hand-turned wooden Orange Snowmen, t-shirts and jackets. To find out more, visit the Museum of Orange Heritage at Schomberg House, Belfast, call 028 90701122 or email info@goli.org.uk

University lodges launch Career Mentoring Scheme

The Institution's University Lodges - Rising Sons of William (Queen's) LOL 1845 and Ulster Covenant Memorial LOL 1984 - have jointly launched their most ambitious scheme to date.

The 'Helping Hands Mentor Scheme' will harness the wide range of professional experience the Institution's membership has to offer to help develop the careers of the Orange family. The scheme seeks to build on the successful careers events the Institution has rolled out across the country over the past number of years.

Every year students from the wider Orange family begin, continue and complete their university careers.

With the job market in Northern Ireland becoming increasingly competitive it is vital Orange students possess a competitive edge as they seek to enter the workplace. To this end the scheme will leverage the diverse range of knowledge and professions within the Institution to help support students from the Orange family in a practical manner. This will take the form of a student-mentor partnership facilitated by the University Lodges.

The concept of the scheme is straightforward. Students interested in a specific area of employment will be able to reach out to an experienced contact to gain an insight into the industry or profession they are interested in pursuing a career in. It is envisaged this will take the form of conversations providing an overview of an industry, tips on CV writing, guidance on filling out job applications, interview preparation etc. The scheme will also support those who are starting out in their careers and wish to avail of guidance from more experienced industry peers to continue their professional development.

Whatever the career path or profession you have in mind the scheme has a mentor for you.

The scheme is seeking both students, young professionals and mentors to join. If you are interested in joining, or know someone who would be, email orange-mentoring@gmail.com

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ORANGE NEWS



Countdown is on to Community Awards

The Orange Community Awards will be back in Lisburn next year.
It has been confirmed that the annual prize-giving will once again be held in the city's Lagan Valley Island on Saturday, March 14, 2020.
The purpose of the event is to recognise the excellent work and achievements of individuals, lodges and musicians.
Among the range of awards that will be presented are best new banner, recognition for community involvement, an individual musicians award and the popular band of the year.
Once again, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson will be presenting the Grand Master's Award. In 2019, that prestigious honour went to Sidney McIlldoon (pictured), a former prison officer, who played a key role in initiating new members of the Orange Institution.
No Surrender LOL 20, claimed the lodge community involvement award. Last year, members raised £21,000 for charity after participating in a 130km walk of remembrance on the Western Front.
One of the oldest Orange lodges in Ireland received the highly competitive best new banner award, Inch LOL 430, formed in 1797.
Tickets are now available directly from the Lagan Valley Island box office on 028 9250 9254.
Application forms for the various categories can be requested by emailing communityawards2020@goli.org.uk or by calling 028 9070 1122.

Careers in focus at Brownlow House

More than 30 representatives from a range of careers took part in an information evening at Brownlow House, Lurgan, on Wednesday, October 23.
Approximately 200 students and their parents attended the event, which was promoted and supported by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland in partnership with the respective Orange Societies at Queen's and the Ulster of University.
The evening provided an opportunity for students (Years 10 to 14) to speak directly to people who are actively engaged in specific careers on a daily basis.
Information was also available on third level education and Orange bursaries. Representatives of the Student Orange Societies were in attendance.
The event was also supported by the Drew Nelson Legacy Project.
Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Youth Development Officer, Gary McAllister said the event had been a success and offered those who attended a useful insight into real jobs from those who were actively involved.
"We were delighted to attract such a strong number of representatives from careers and for a great turnout of young people who came along on the night," said Bro McAllister.
"For students who are approaching some very important decisions in their education to have the chance to get advice and guidance from people actively engaged in specific jobs is a great boost."
He added: "I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to ensure this event was a great success and to those who came along and supported us on the evening."



Grand Lodge staff and visitors pictured at the Careers Information Evening

Remembrance Garden wins again

The Garden of Remembrance at the Museum of Orange Heritage, Sloan's House, Loughgall, has again won the Shield for the Best Community Floral Display in the annual competition organised by the Loughgall and District Improvement Committee.
This is the third time the museum has won the award since it opened in 2015.
The other years being 2015 and 2018.
The photograph shows Gilly Faulkner, from the Committee, presenting the shield to Roger Gardiner, Museum Director, at the recent awards evening in the village.
The Museum Directors wish to express their thanks and appreciation to Mervyn Walker, who looks after and maintains the garden.



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At its election of officers, the Boyne Obelisk LOL 1690 presented a cheque for £7,400 as a dontation towards the Drew Nelson Legacy Appeal. The amount was raised by filling 'Smarties' sweet tubes with £1 coins and personal donations. Pictured receiving the cheque on behalf of the Drew Nelson Legacy Project is Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Secretary Wor. Bro. Rev. Mervyn Gibson, the Worshipful Master Bro. Jim Martin and the fundraining organiser, Bro. Trevor McIntyre.

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ORANGE NEWS

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Grand Secretary Rev Mervyn Gibson lays a wreath with Past Grand Master Robert Saulters.



Grand Mistress Joan Beggs lays a wreath on behalf of the Ladies Association accompanied by Assistant Deputy Grand Secretary Gillian McIntyre.

Order remembers service and sacrifice on Armistice Day

The Orange Institution fell silent on Monday, November 11, at 11am, for the annual Remembrance Day Service.

Following a short parade along the Cregagh Road in East Belfast, Brethren, Sisters and members of the public gathered in the Memorial Garden at Schomberg House.

Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, laid a wreath on behalf of the Institution during the service, which was conducted by Grand Chaplin Wor. Bro. Rev. Stanley Gamble.

In his opening remarks, Grand Master Stevenson paid tribute to all those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Mr Stevenson said: "It is always with a heavy heart that we gather on 11 November each year to remember the sacrifice of so many during the two World Wars and other conflicts.

"In this centennial year of the 1919 Armistice and 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, we especially pause to remember those Brethren and Sisters who gave so much in defence of freedom and democracy during two World Wars.

"Since the establishment of our Institution, our members have been to the forefront of defending liberty, often paying the supreme sacrifice. We know this only too well in our beloved Ulster, where 340 members of the Institution were murdered by Terrorists with many more left to bear the trauma and scars of over 40 years of terrorist action against a free people.

"Everyone gathered here today will have their own thoughts and memories about events of the past and loved ones lost. It is important that we remember those who gave so much in various theatres of war, and in defence of Northern Ireland. As Grand Master, and an Institution, we pledge that such sacrifice will not be air brushed from the pages of history.

"As members of the Loyal Orange Institution, we must also remember and cherish the greatest sacrifice made for us – that of the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary.

"As we remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice this morning, I appeal to everyone to also turn their thoughts towards the Cross and the importance of that event - a sacrifice made that all who believe might have eternal life."

Also in attendance were Grand Secretary Rev Mervyn Gibson, Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning, Grand Lecturer Robert Barr and Past Grand Master Robert Saulters.

Among those present to pay their respects were Wor. Grand Mistress of the Ladies Association, Joan Beggs; Roy Nixon, Junior Grand Master; David Hart, Acting Worshipful Master of Thiepval Memorial Lodge and visiting Brethren and Sisters from around the province.

Additional wreaths were laid by Cregagh Defenders LOL and pupils from Cregagh Primary School.

In a separate ceremony, a wreath was laid at the Memorial Window in memory of the Orange Brethren and Sister who were murdered during the Troubles.

Accompanying Bro. Bobby Rainey, from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Murdered Brethren Memorial Committee, were Bros. Bobby and Alexander McCready, from Annahinchago Temperance LOL 580. Bobby's brother Thomas John McCready was murdered on November 16, 1974.

The annual wreath-laying event is organised in partnership with Thiepval Memorial Lodge.



Grand Master Edward Stevenson pictured with Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning and Grand Lecturer Robert Barr.



Pupils from Cregagh Primary School lay a wreath at Schomberg House. Pictures: Graham Baalham-Curry



Grand Master Edward Stevenson, Junior Grand Master Roy Nixon and Grand Mistress Joan Beggs. Back, from left, Bro. Bobby McCready, Bro. Bobby Rainey, Murdered Brethren Memorial Committee; and Bro. Alexander McCready.

ORANGE NEWS

Co Armagh Grand Lodge remembers

A large number of Brethren and members of the public attended this year's Service of Remembrance on Saturday, November 9, at the Museum of Orange Heritage, Sloan's House, Loughgall. This was organised by County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge. Due to the inclement weather the event was held inside. All those Brethren from the county who gave their lives in the two World Wars, all other conflicts and the 68 brethren murdered during The Troubles, were remembered.

The poignant service was led by Wor. Bro. Rev. William Anderson, Deputy County Grand Chaplain and Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, who also gave the Address. Members of Portadown Ex-Servicemen's LOL 608 provided the Colour Party, while the Act of Remembrance was carried out by Wor. Bro. Mervyn Walker. The County Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, placed the wreath at the Tommie silhouette. The collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal amounted to £400.





County Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson lays the wreath at the Tommie silouette. Below: Brethren gathered in Sloan's House for the remembrance service.



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To Greet My Glasgow Brethren ...

A new book examining the history of Orangeism in Glasgow has been added to the shop at Schomberg House.

Written by Jonathan Macdonald, To Greet My Glasgow Brethren... offers a glimpse at some aspects of Glasgow Orangeism that up to this point few have been privy to.

With unrestricted access to Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland archives, Jonathan, a member of Lily of the Valley LOL 131, shines a light on areas which had for many decades remained unseen.

The book offers a wonderful blend of written history with a superb array of pictures and illustrations, covering some of the most significant milestone moments for the Orange Order in Glasgow.

While providing an important historical tool for researchers and historians alike, To Greet My Glasgow Brethren... also holds great interest for the casual reader, particularly those with links or close family associations to that bustling Scottish city.



This history of the Orange Order in Glasgow allows you to peer into some hidden and hitherto unknown aspects of Glasgow Orangeism. The 98 page A4 size book, is lavishly illustrated throughout in full colour, with previously unseen photographs as well as first-hand insider anecdotal recollections since the Institution's origins in Glasgow back in 1813.

"… this is an important contribution to our understanding of a movement that has played a significant part in the shaping of modern Scotland".
Emeritus Professor Elaine MacFarland, Glasgow Caledonian University.

"… a valuable historical account of the Orange Order's development in Glasgow and should prove to be an indispensable tool especially for historians of Orangeism".
Professor Graham Walker, Queen's University Belfast.

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GLASGOW SINCE 1813

ORANGE NEWS

Obituary: Bro. Ian Wilson

It was with much sadness that the Grand Orange Lodgeof Ireland learned of the sudden passing of Ian Wilson, Past Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland.



Ian, who died suddenly on October 13, was a major and respected figure within the Orange Institution in not only his native Scotland but across the British Isles. A former Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland, he brought a vision and positive expression to Orangeism which won him many friends outside the traditional parameters of the Order.
Grand Master Edward Stevenson and Mervyn Bishop, Imperial Secretary of the Imperial Orange Council, paid tribute to Ian's contribution to Orangeism.
"I was shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Ian Wilson, past Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland," said Mr Stevenson.
"There is no doubt Ian was fully dedicated to the Orange Order and his contribution to the work of the Order in Scotland cannot be overstated. He was a gentleman and his sudden passing comes as a big loss."
Mervyn Bishop, Imperial Grand Secretary, added: "Ian was held in great affection by the Brethren and Sisters within the nine jurisdictions. He devoted a lot of his time and energy in promoting the principles of the Orange Institution, which was carried out in his quiet-spoken and gracious manner."
Ian had been a member of the Orange Order for over 50 years, joining Whitburn Bible and Crown LOL 203 on its formation half a century ago as a founder member. Prior to this he had been a junior member, belonging to the West Benhar Junior LOL No. 6 in the adjoining village of Harthill.
He served a two-year term as Worthy Master of LOL 203 and was, in fact, presented with his 50-year service commemorative jewel at a ceremony on September 28 ('Ulster Day') 2019. A large delegation of members of Kellswater LOL were in attendance. When the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland decided to relaunch its monthly magazine "The Vigilant" in 1973, Ian Wilson was head-hunted to be the first editor. He insisted on a relaunch and renamed it "The Orange Torch", remaining editor until his death.
Never having held office in district or county lodge, his first senior office was that of Junior Deputy Grand Master, to which he was elected in 1974. He was elected as Grand Master of the Order in Scotland in 1995, serving for 15 years, which was the longest for a Grand Master in the postwar years to date.
He was also well-known within world Orangeism, having been elected Imperial President of the Imperial Orange Council at its triennial meeting in Liverpool in 2000 and Imperial Grand Master, the first time a Scottish representative had been elected to both positions.
Scottish Grand Master, Jim McHarg, said that the news of his predecessor's death was "heart-breaking".
An elder in Brucefield Parish Church in Whitburn, Ian was also church organist, having started playing in the church aged 14. He also often played during religious services at Imperial Orange Council meetings.
Mr Wilson died surrounded by his family on October 13. A private family cremation took place on Tuesday, October 22, with a thanksgiving service at Brucefield Church.

Imperial Grand Chaplin goes Down Under

Report by Bro. Rev Alistair Smyth, Most Worshipful Imperial Grand Chaplain.

On Saturday, July 13, my wife, Lesley, and I set off for Australia. We stopped in Bangkok for two nights en-route. We arrived in Melbourne on Wednesday, July 17, to be welcomed by Most Worshipful Bro. Jeffrey Hardy (Grand Master of the Loyal Orange Institution of Victoria - L.O.I.V.) and his wife Janine (Grand Secretary of L.O.I.V.). They had urged us to come and stay with them in Ballarat and we availed of their kind invitation. They treated us royally.
On two Sundays we attended worship in Grace Presbyterian Church where Jeff is one of the elders, and Janine is on the rota of organists. They live on the doorstep of Sovereign Hill outdoor museum (a bit like the Ulster Folk and Transport museum) featuring the events of the Gold Rush in the 1850s. There was a "Winter Festival" (a bit like a snowy Christmas festival) being staged at it while we were there - which was fascinating to experience in July! They also took us on trips westward along the Great Ocean Road, with wonderful coastal scenery, and northwards to Echuca on the Murray River where we had a ride on a paddle steamer boat.
The highlight of our time in Victoria was attending the Boyne Celebration Dinner of the L.O.I.V. in the IBIS Hotel in Melbourne on Saturday, July 20. At this dinner various bursaries and prizes were awarded to children and young people within or connected to the Institution who had undertaken various kinds of projects on Protestant Christian matters. Donations were also given to a number of Christian and charitable causes. I had been invited by the officers of the L.O.I.V. to give the address at the dinner. So I spoke on "The Principles of Orangeism" concentrating on faith, freedom and fraternity. On behalf of the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland I presented gifts to Bro. Jeff and Sister Janine Hardy. In return they very kindly presented me with gifts as well.
On Monday 22nd we travelled to Melbourne again where we met up with representatives from the Grand Lodge of New Zealand who had also attended the Boyne Celebration Dinner in Melbourne. While there Bro. Jeff Hardy showed us the Orange Headquarters in Melbourne and informed us about plans to renovate and open an Orange Heritage and Cultural Centre in the city.
After a week-and-a-half in Ballarat we flew to Brisbane, capital of Queensland.
While there we were taken on a day trip by Bro. David and Sister Janice McMichael (David is the Grand Master of Queensland) along the Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane. The Grand Master of Australia, and Imperial Grand Master, Bro. John Morrow also took us on a trip along the Gold Coast, south of Brisbane.
Needless to say, the scenery in all of these places was attractive and the conversation was stimulating, often about all things "orange".
After Brisbane we flew to Cairns on the north east coast, where we were left to our own devices. We went on excursions on the Kuranda train and sky rail, to Daintree National Park, the Daintree river, and the famous Coral Reef, off the coastline.
Our final destination in Australia was Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory. Here we enjoyed the hospitality of Sister Joanne Rheinberger for nine days. She is the daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sister Janine Hardy and head of the Primary School at Marrara Christian College. Jeff and Janine flew up from Melbourne to join us in Darwin. While there we took a three-day trip into Litchfield and Kakadu National Parks. This gave us some insight into life in the Bush, and into Aboriginal culture, and we got close up and personal with crocs and various other creatures. A trip to the Wildlife Park was another highlight of our time in the Northern Territory.
On the way back home we stopped for two days and one night in Singapore.
Lesley and I thoroughly enjoyed our time in Australia. We want to thank all who hosted us, helped us, fed us and taxied us to various places. We greatly appreciated the hospitality shown to us by various members of the Hardy family and for the tremendous generosity shown to us by The Loyal Orange Institution of Victoria. We got some insight into the vast distances travelled by Sisters and Brethren to attend Lodge meetings and Orange functions. Some of the difficulties facing them are similar to our own - namely dealing with the challenges of an increasingly secular and multi-cultural society as well as maintaining Australia's place within the Commonwealth.
We pay tribute to all who are still holding high the Orange flag down under.
Let us encourage our brethren and sisters in Christ within the Orange Family in Australia with the words of the Apostle Paul in 1st Corinthians 15: 57, 58: "But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."



Bro the Rev Alistair Smyth, Imperial Grand Chaplain, with Most Wor. Bro Jeff Hardy, Grand Master of Loyal Orange Institution of Victoria.



Bro the Rev Alistair Smyth, Imperial Grand Chaplain, and Lesley Smyth with David McMichael, Grand Master of Queensland, and Janice McMichael.



Bro the Rev Alistair Smyth (Imperial Grand Chaplain) with Most Wor. Bro John Morrow (Grand Master of Australia and Imperial Grand Master.



Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Julian Smith, arrives at Schomberg House with Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning.



Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Julian Smith, learns about the Boyne Obelisk from curator Dr Jonathan Mattison.

Secretary of State pays a visit to Schomberg House

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Julian Smith, paid a visit to Schomberg House on Thursday, November 21. Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Wor. Bro. Harold Henning, greeted Mr Smith who was then introduced to Chief Executive Iain Carlisle and curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage, Dr Jonathan Mattison.

Mr Smith was taken on a tour of the museum by Dr Mattison and was very complementary about the exhibits, particularly those featuring interactive elements. Mr Smith even took time to have ago at drumming before paying a visit to the Memorial Window which honours the Institution's murdered members. Following the tour, Mr Smith held a meeting with Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland representatives during which a number of key issues were discussed.



Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Julian Smith, tries his hand at drumming with Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning offering some tips and advice.



Curator Dr Jonathan Mattison shows the Secretary of State the Memorial Window in the Lodge Room at Schomberg House. Below and right: The Secretary of State took time to view a number of exhibits and had plenty of questions during his tour.







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ORANGE NEWS

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Advertorial







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Mark McCloy, of Marks of Distinction, has nearly 40 years of engraving experience and has been tasked with completing some very important and prestigious pieces of work.
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"Over the years I have engraved many logos and emblems, including lots of military insignia and, of course, the crests of Loyal Orders and bands."
Mark has strong links to Northern Ireland and indeed to the Loyal Orders. He is originally from Coleraine and a member of LOL 930.
No matter what the occasion, Mark can help make it special for the recipient.
He continued: "All items are engraved or sandblasted and not printed. I work to customer requests with a view to producing bespoke items which can easily be personalized with name or any other item, such as band names, lodge number or family crests.
"Prices are very sensible and I do a variety of gifts, including cuff links, plaques, hip flasks, pocket watches, lighters, trinket boxes and service recognition awards."
To find out more about Marks of Distinction, email Bro. Mark McCloy on marksofdistinction66@yahoo.co.uk or call 07986779211.

Dress to impress with help from the Harris Kilt Company

Advertorial

Times may change and fashions come and go, but one thing remains absolutely certain - nothing comes close to the sense of pride felt when wearing a kilt! Whether you are going to a wedding or a formal dinner all eyes will be on you when you walk through the door!
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There are 18 tartans to choose from and all the kilts are made in Scotland from 13oz Pure New Wool. Add to this a choice of modern Tweed Jackets or classic Argyll and Prince Charlie Jackets with a compliment of colourful accessories and you'll definitely find the perfect look.
You'll also find everything you need to complete your outfit, from sporrans and sgian dubhs to shirts and shoes.
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All of our custom-made kilts take between two and six weeks to be made, depending on stock tartan availability (woven to order tartan has a 12-week lead time on cloth alone). Kilts are made to strict traditional handcraft manufacturing methods involving hand-pleating and full hand sewing, using the best of materials in canvas, lining and threads.
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At some times of the year a seven-day turnaround is available for stock tartans.
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A perfect kilt will last a lifetime and should become a much coveted heirloom. Pop in and introduce yourself, we offer 10% discount for all lodge members.



Your chance to purchase a virtual plot at the Boyne

Advertorial

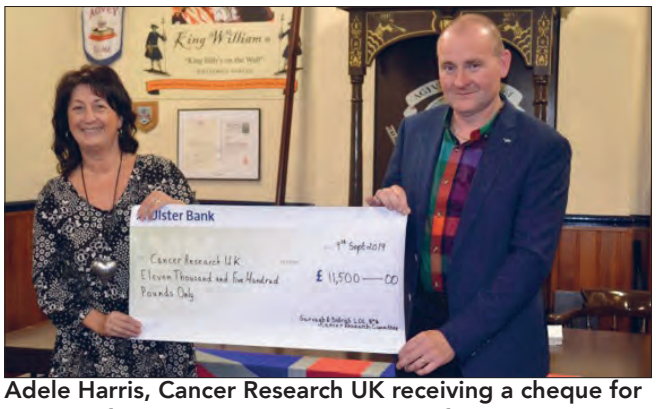
The Boyne Foundation is offering individuals, Loyal Orders and associations the opportunity to purchase a virtual plot of the Boyne.
For the price of £100 (inc VAT) the purchaser can have the name of an individual(s) or a lodge inscribed on a virtual plot of the Boyne.
The plot allows for a symbol and an inscription of up to 125 words. A certificate concerning the plot details will be issued to the purchaser. For details visit website www.theboynefoundation.com



ORANGE NEWS

Cheque presentation to Cancer Research UK at Garvagh

Another successful year has come to an end for Garvagh District No 4 Cancer Research Committee, with the presentation of a cheque of £11,500 for the year's work.
The presentation was made to Adele Harris, Local Fundraising Manager Northern Ireland, by David McFetridge, treasurer of the committee.
Committee chairman Robert Glass thanked all of the committee members and collectors who put in a lot of work during the year to raise such a magnificent amount of money. Robert also thanked the sponsors who kindly supported the Big Breakfast; Garvagh Primary School, Lynas Foods, McQuillan Cars, Rain Drain, Farlow Fruit and Veg, Carhill Eggs, John McFetridge Eggs, Boreland Building Contractors, Linda's Sports Café Coleraine, Nicola's Salon, Sainsbury's Coleraine and Karro Food Group.



Adele Harris, Cancer Research UK receiving a cheque for £11,500 from Bro. David McFetridge of Garvagh District LOL No 4 Cancer Research Committee.

"The committee would like to thank everyone who kindly donated and helped us to reach this amount of money," said Robert.
Thanks was also expressed to the following: Coleraine Football Club for allowing the committee to sell raffle tickets at a recent match; the mass pipe band who lead the Garvagh Cancer Parade and for all other bands who turned up to support this worthy cause.
A special thank you goes to Adele Harris for all of her help and support throughout the years.
The Garvagh Cancer Research Committee has been active since 1960 and next year is our 60th anniversary and it hopes to break the £250,000 barrier and raise more money for this very worthwhile cause.
They are makeing a special plea to bands to support their 60th anniversary parade next year on 25th July 2020.


At a recent meeting of Caheney LOL 271, Garvagh District, Wor. Bro. Rev Dr Warren Porter (past Assistant Grand Master) was presented with a 70 year service bar and certificate and Brother Robert Lyttle was presented with his 50 year jewel and certificate. Pictured are, front row from left; John Pudney, Deputy Master LOL 271; James Evans, Londonderry Deputy County Grand Master, Brother Robert Lyttle; Wor. Bro. Rev Dr. Warren Porter; Samuel Calvin, Londonderry County Grand Master; John Davis, Worshipful Master LOL 271. Back row, Colin Kennedy, Worshipful District Master Garvagh District No 4; and Uel Dougherty, Deputy District Master Garvagh District.


Pictured at the presentation of a 60-year Bar to Brother Howard Pollock, of Ballymacanallen LOL 2013, are Stanley Fee, Carrickawilkin LOL 1162; Howard Pollock, Ballymacanallen LOL 2013; Jonathon Pollock (Son) Ballymacanallen LOL 2013; and Colin McKinley (son-in-law) Dollingstown LOL 62. Left: Howard Pollock with Norman Wylie, Worshipful Master of Ballymacanallen LOL 2013.

Inch members hit the road to retrace steps of founders

On the weekend of 21st and 22nd September, members of Inch LOL 430 took part in a fundraising sponsored walk from Dan Winter's House in Loughgall, the birth place of the Orange Institution in 1795, to their own hall at Inch, outside Downpatrick - a total of around 40 miles.
In 1797, men from Inch went to Sloan's House in Loughgall to collect their warrant. Inch's oldest available warrant is dated 1812 and members carried it with them back to Inch.
This was a poignant date as it marked the 224th anniversary of the Battle of the Diamond, which occurred on 21st September 1795 and led to the formation of the Orange Institution and the issue of the first Orange lodge warrants.



On their return to Inch, the warrant was presented to the Worshipful Master of the lodge, Bro Stephen Kennedy.
A lodge spokesman said: "Thanks go to all the Brethren who took part in the walk, especially Bro. Brian Alexander for his planning skills, Bro. Norman Casement for his invaluable support over the weekend, and to Mrs Sandra Lennon for providing a very welcome tea on the return to Inch.
"The purpose of the walk was to raise funds to assist in making repairs and upgrades to the Orange hall.
"The biggest thank you goes to all those people who have supported lol financially. It is greatly appreciated by the Brethren."


Pictured are members of Thornhill LOL 294, County Tyrone, who recently enjoyed a visit to the Museum of Orange Heritage at Schomberg House, Belfast.

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Adrian and Andrea Pearson



Joe and Shirley Moorehead



Stephen and Samara McCann



Grand Master Edward Stevenson pictured with Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning and Master of Ceremonies Gary Wilson



Gary McAllister, Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Youth Development Officer; with Coleen Large and Billy Thompson, Co Antrim Grand Secretary



Judith Latimer and Steven Rae

Gala dinner provides boost to legacy project



Brethren and Sisters from Lisnamulligan, Co Down

The Orange Institution hosted a gala dinner in County Fermanagh as part of its ongoing commitment to the Drew Nelson Legacy Project.

The flagship event, which was held at the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, on Friday, November 1, attracted more than 350 guests.

Family, friends and peers of the former senior Orangeman, including Grand Master Edward Stevenson, were among those in attendance.

It is now two years since the Institution announced an ambitious £1 million initiative to permanently recognise the contribution of one of its most high-profile members, all with the aim of benefiting the next generation of community leaders.

The Orange Order has set the goal of significantly expanding its current student provision in the university area of Belfast. It is now over a year since the Institution employed a full-time youth development officer, Gary McAllister, who is available to provide relevant training and guidance to young people across Northern Ireland and the border counties.

This year's gala dinner was the latest in a series of annual fundraising events which have been hosted by individual lodges, districts, and other community groups. At the end of September, the Institution held its popular 'Brew for Drew' coffee morning fundraiser.

Speaking at the gala dinner, Mr Stevenson said: "Tonight's event marks a renewal of our commitment to ensure that Drew's legacy is not forgotten. This project seeks to ensure that the future leaders of Orangeism are equipped and developed so that they can best face the many challenges which no doubt lie ahead for our Institution and our community."



Diane McBride, Yvonne McBride, Rebekah McBride and Paula Leitch. Back: Reuben Clarke, James McBride, Brian McBride, Neil McCracken, Nathan McBride and Jim Leitch.



Robert and Margaret Cummings with Errol and Elaine Thompson and Frances and Nigel Henry from Mountjoy LOL 750



Steven Mitchell and Gemma Gibson with William and Jaqueline Mitchell and Geoffrey and Judith Mitchell



Stewart and Veronica McLean



Robert and Hilda Dane



Stuart Brooker, Assistant Grand Master; with Caroline Brooker, Helen Brooker and David Brooker.



John and Alison Murray with Allison and Mark Graham



Worshipful Grand Mistress of the Ladies Association Joan Beggs and Noel Burrows



David and Evelyn Brown

MOTOR MOUTH

with Graham Baalham-Curry



Ford's Tourneo can cope with all the demands of transporting a big family, with a lifetime of lifestyles

Ford has room for all the family

With cars getting bigger, so too are the needs of expanding families, with many opting for van derived people carriers such as this, the Ford Tourneo.

More commonly recognised as a Ford Transit van, the Tourneo offers fully glazed side and rear panels as well as variable seating options to accommodate nine people with enough room in the boot area for all of their luggage.

Coming as standard in Frozen White, nine colour options are available across five different trim levels, starting with 'Shuttle Bus' which is priced from £38,363 and comes with body colour front and rear bumpers, full-size spare wheel, cruise control, parking sensors, daytime running lights, auto stop-start and a Bluetooth audio system with USB connectivity.

Next in the line-up and starting from £39,419 is the 'Zetec' as pictured and tested some time ago now. This model receives 16-inch alloy wheels, body-color door handles, rear privacy glass, lockable glove box and front air conditioning.

A 'Titanium' model comes next in the pecking order and is priced from £40,985 and adds body-color side mouldings, 17-inch alloy wheels, sun blinds for rear seating, rear air conditioning and an 8-inch infotainment hub with remote audio controls, voice control and Applink.

A staggering jump in price will afford you a 'Titanium X' model which includes a rear-view camera. Bi-Xenon headlights with static cornering lights and satellite navigation, priced from £45,611. I really don't see value for money in this particular model when the 'Sport' model, priced the same, offers more substance.







Despite removal of the satellite navigation, it adds a full body kit as well as twin racing stripes and visibility pack premium which includes lane keeping alert, auto high beam assist and driver impairment monitor. Depending on the model selected, you can choose from either short wheelbase or long wheelbase with a choice of three 2.0L diesel engines starting with 105ps, this engine comes only with a 6-speed manual gearbox. A popular choice among buyers is the 130ps engine which can be chosen with either a 6-speed manual or 6-speed automatic gearbox. Finally, a range topping 170ps engine is available, again equipped with either a 6-speed manual or 6-speed automatic gearbox.

Thanks to Ford UK, we managed to get ourselves a long wheelbase 'Zetec' model equipped with the 130 PS engine and 6-speed manual gearbox for a week long review and I'll admit it was put to work almost immediately to see how it would cope with family life. With three month old twins at the time, we decided to head off to Cavan to stay for a few nights in a hotel and as you can imagine, no car or SUV was ever going to cope with all that we had to bring with us for such a trip, especially with four adults on-board.

The Ford Tourneo coped with great ease as you would expect, but to my surprise offered a decent amount of ISOFIX bases ensuring the most precious and youngest of cargo, travel safely. It was also noted along our journey that a suitable amount of USB ports are available to charge devices on the go.

With sliding doors on each side, access in and out of the rear seating could not be simpler whilst the boot is large enough that I don't ever think you would find out its true capacity. One thing I feel would help the luggage area would be to have a partition halfway up allowing a top half and lower half.

When sitting comfortably in the driving position it becomes clear that this really is only an 8-seater as with a middle passenger in the front row, things would become very cramped over a long journey. This model had an upgraded audio system, at a cost of £396, which provided everything you needed. However, I could not get Android auto to work with this system, and perhaps my Huawei phone isn't compatible.

As said before, this test vehicle is equipped with the 130ps engine mated to a 6-speed manual gearbox which returned a respectable 40mpg. Though to be fair I did actually think it could well have been a 1.6L engine as it was, when fully loaded with people and luggage, a little sluggish on the meandering and undulating road that crosses the Irish border more times than the Brexiteers dare to think.

Driving wise you know you're in a van, a capable van at that and one which drove and handled surprisingly well, if a little crashy for those travelling in the rear, along a bumpy stretch of road.

Overall, I was very impressed with what the Tourneo offers and, what's the higher powered engine than what I got to experience, can really see the appeal has a vehicle you would never outgrow and one which can cope with a lifetime of lifestyles.

Fact File for model tested:
Make: Ford
Model: Tourneo Custom
Trim: Zetec
Engine: 2.0 turbocharged diesel
Gearbox: 6-speed manual
Cost Circa: £41.000.

Arlene's recipes

Sausage roll Christmas wreath



Have you ever wondered why we put wreaths on our doors at Christmas? I discovered that the tradition has Christian origins, as the circular shape and the evergreens symbolize eternity and everlasting life. I love this Christmas sausage roll wreath which tastes as good as it looks and makes a great centrepiece or "showstopper".
Happy Christmas everyone!

Sausage roll Christmas wreath
1 onion finely chopped
1 tbsp vegetable oil
2 tbsp finely chopped sage
50g breadcrumbs
1 tsp ground cloves
1 tsp ground mace
a sprinkle of plain flour, for dusting
1 large egg, beaten
1 x 500g pack British pork sausage meat
1 x 500g block puff pastry
Rosemary sprigs and sage leaves to garnish
For the relish
1 x 250ml jar cranberry sauce
zest of 1 orange, pared
3 tbsp red wine (or port)
1 cinnamon stick
1 star anise
1. Reserve four tablespoons of cranberry sauce for later, then put the rest into a small pan with the remaining relish ingredients. Bring to a simmer and cook for 2-3 minutes, then leave to cool. Remove the pastry from the fridge about 10 minutes before you need to roll it out.
2. Heat the oil and cook the onion in a covered pan until softened. Add the chopped sage and cook for one more minute. Mix the sausage meat, ground cloves, mace, and some salt and pepper with your hands in a bowl and add the cooled onion, mixing well. Preheat the oven to 200oC, fan 180oC, gas 6.
3. On a floured surface, roll the pastry to a long rectangle, about 30cm x 45cm. Spread the reserved 4 tablespoons of cranberry sauce lengthways down the middle of the pastry, in a line about 5cm wide. Mould the sausage meat into a long log and lay it on top of the cranberry sauce.
4. Use the beaten egg to brush down one side of the pastry. Fold the other side over the meat, then the egg washed side over this to seal. Turn over, so the seal is at the bottom, to look like a giant sausage roll. Transfer to a baking sheet lined with baking paper.
5. Cut two-thirds of the way though the sausage roll roughly every 3.5-4cm, to make 10 to 12 sections, then join the two ends (uncut side in the middle) together with a little more egg wash, to form a wreath.
6. Gently twist each piece of sausage roll over, without tearing it from the main body, so it is filling-side up. Brush any exposed pastry with the remaining egg wash.
7. Bake for 40-50 minutes until the pastry is golden and puffed, and the sausage meat is cooked through. Serve with the relish in a small bowl in the centre for dipping (remove the whole spices and zest first, if you like), and tuck in the herbs for presentation, if using.

GET AHEAD
Make the relish up to three days ahead and keep in the fridge. Prepare the wreath up to the end of step 6 a few hours ahead, cover and chill, or freeze for up to one month. Bake from frozen, for 55 minutes.



Gardener's Corner

by Beth Lunney

It has been a beautiful autumn, I know it has been wet but the colours of the leaves on the trees have been magnificent and our lovely countryside with those fabulous colours could rival anything New England has to offer. However we are into winter and most of the colour is gone.
There are not many evergreen trees. Some of the Cotoneasters for example Cotoneaster 'Cornubia' will hold many of its leaves during winter only shedding them in a severe winter. A tree that will hold its leaves is Eucalyptus and the variety that will do best in the British Isles is Eucalyptus 'Gunnii'.
Eucalyptus is native to Australia, New Guinea and Indonesia with between 600 and 700 varieties. They were first formally identified in the late 18th century with the first specimens being brought to London after Captain Cook's third voyage to the region.
The wood and leaves of the Eucalyptus have many uses. The Australian Aboriginals use the wood to make their Didgeridoos, the wood also makes excellent pulpwood which is used to make fine paper or tissue paper. The oil



Eucalyptus 'Gunnii'

which is extracted from the leaves is used for cleaning, as an antiseptic, in decongestants and cough sweets, as an insect repellent and much more besides. Because of all these uses and the fact that it grows very fast, Eucalyptus was widely planted in plantations across the temperate regions of the world. However due to the fact that Eucalyptus is flammable and that because they grow so fast they need quite a bit of water many countries are removing them and replanting with native species of trees which will also be more conducive to the wildlife. Countries which are prone to wildfires are also starting to remove Eucalyptus.
In the UK the variety of Eucalyptus that is most widely planted is 'Gunnii'. It is a hardy variety which will withstand temperatures to -14c and makes a beautiful, evergreen, specimen tree, a bushy shrub or excellent screen. The common name for this tree is 'Cider Gum' and it is a native of Tasmania being first collected there by the botanist Ronald Campbell Gunn in 1853 – hence the name 'Gunnii'. The young stems of this tree have a reddish tone with the young leaves a lovely silvery blue colour and of a more rounded shape. These stems are widely used by florists and make a lovely addition to any vase of cut flowers. As the foliage ages it becomes more greeny-blue and lance shaped. From June to August small, pretty, white flowers appear amongst the foliage. As the tree ages the peeling brown and cream bark will reveal snake-skin like markings underneath. Plant Eucalyptus 'Gunnii' in full sun and in well drained but moist soil. As this tree will grow very fast and tall it must be pruned to keep the shape. Prune in February or March. Eucalyptus will naturally drop their lower branches if not pruned. An amazing fact about Eucalyptus is that even if they burn down in the wildfires of Australia or else where they will regenerate from their root and in some varieties the seed pods are fire proof.

Happy Christmas!

Wordsearch

D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	Y	R	A	M
R	Q	H	W	W	R	E	A	T	H	T	I
E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	H	I	N
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V	B	N	M	D	Q	W	E	R	U	T	Y
W	I	S	E	M	E	N	O	P	S	A	S

DECEMBER	JESUS	TURKEY	SLEIGH
CHRISTMAS	COLD	PUDDING	REINDEER
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OBSERVER

Is Unionist unity a possibility?

Is there a realistic chance that the hope of many grassroots unionist voters will be realised, and the two main political parties which represent this great tradition will merge?
There are undoubtedly people within the ranks of the Democratic Unionist Party and the Ulster Unionist Party who will reject such a move, and their views have to be respected. The world of politics can be one of no holds barred, especially at election time.
In recent decades the DUP has overtaken the once mighty Ulster Unionist Party as the strongest party in terms of membership and winning seats in elections. But the Ulster Unionist Party, which opposed Home Rule, and whose leaders Carson and Craig, succeeded in creating Northern Ireland, separate from the Irish Free State, and still within membership of the United Kingdom, still has a sizeable number of members, and is capable of winning seats.
Both main unionist parties have co-operated in this vital General Election, and from talking to many rank-and-file supporters, and voters, I have found that they completely support this, and most of them told me that they hoped this would eventually lead to a single Unionist Party.
As an Orangeman, who does not belong to either Unionist party but is firmly pro-Union, I too would love that situation to come about.
I wouldn't attempt to minimise the problems associated with seeking to bring about a single Unionist party, or to ignore the feelings of deeply committed members of either the DUP or the UUP, and it will be a formidable challenge to bring this about.
What is clearly obvious is that the sort of co-operation which has taken place between the two Unionist parties in North Belfast and Fermanagh-South Tyrone is certain to become a reality of Northern Ireland elections. The so-called demographic trends so often stressed by nationalists and republicans has underlined the determination of so many within the minority community to use this weapon as a means of bringing about their dream of a united Ireland.
They believe that when Roman Catholics constitute 51 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, that will be the moment when a united Ireland becomes a probability, and that should increase the belief among the Unionist people that it does not make sense to have two large Unionist political parties seeking votes in what is said to be a declining pro-Union population.
Those among the nationalist parties who feel that a united Ireland is just down the line may be deluding themselves, because they overlook a very important factor, that a substantial number of Roman Catholics are happy to remain in the United Kingdom.
It is vital that all Unionist political parties concentrate on proving to people in the Roman Catholic population that they are valued citizens within Northern Ireland, and have the full rights of British citizens, with their religion and traditions respected in full.
Northern Ireland will be celebrating its centenary in 2021, and it should be the objective of all who value our membership of the United Kingdom to convince those of goodwill towards our country, from all religions and traditions, including our ethnic communities, that they are equal citizens, something which would go a long way to cementing our British identity.

Reflections on a year of progress

As this is the last issue of the Orange Standard for the year 2019, and the first of the New Year, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the progress or otherwise of the past 12 months, and the challenges which the Orange Order may face in the year ahead.
By any standard, I believe the past year has been one of continued progress by the Order, at every level, not least at Grand Lodge, where the Grand Master, Bro Edward Stevenson, and his fellow officers have provided great leadership, and have rightly stressed the Christian ethos of our great organisation.
Of course, we are a Protestant organisation, and make no apology for that, but that is not a case of being anti-Roman Catholic.
We continue to spotlight the errors of the Roman Catholic Church in regard to theological issues of great importance to people of the Reformed Faith, and will continue to pray that those errors, spotlighted by the great Reformers from Martin Luther onwards, will be discarded by the Church.
But we are acutely aware that the greatest threats to Protestantism in these uncertain times come from an aggressive secularism, determined to eradicate the Christian traditions of our United Kingdom, and to discourage public witness by street preachers, and to do away with prayers at morning assembly in schools.
Our Order has also opposed the introduction of same sex civil marriages, and the imposition of the most liberal Abortion laws in the UK and Europe on our Province.
As an Order, we are also aware of the decline in church attendances at many Protestant places of worship, and the apathy on the part of parents who do not send their children to Sunday School, or set an example by regular attendance themselves at church.
Sunday shopping and attendance at places of entertainment has, in many cases, replaced the regular attendance at church each week.
Church attendance was a feature of Northern Ireland in the 1950s and 60s, and made the Ulster Sabbath a special feature of life in Northern Ireland.
We would encourage all our Orange members to continue their dedicated service to the Reformed Faith, by their regular attendance at their church services, reading their Bible, and sending their children to Sunday School.
In regard to our own domestic Loyal Order issues, Orangemen should do their best to attend the monthly meetings, and the same with members of the Royal Black Institution at their preceptory meetings.
It will support and encourage the officers who give so much of their time and talents, and who do it without seeking any plaudits.
Lecturers are absolutely essential in the success of the Loyal Orders. I was recently talking to a District lecturers who told me that his sizeable District is really in need of new lecturers.
He asked me to mention this in the Orange Standard, and I do so willingly, as I know the amount of time he, and his colleagues, spend each month travelling to Orange halls throughout their part of the country, to ensure that new members can be initiated.
A happy and peaceful Christmas, and also New Year to all our readers, and to the members of our Loyal Orders.

Orangemen must support District church services

The Orange Order, and its sister organisation, the Royal Black Institution, rightly puts regular attendance at places of worship as a high priority, and the leaders have been consistent in their support for the church-going ethos.
That feeling was uppermost in my mind recently, when I attended a Reformation service organised by one of our Orange Districts, and I certainly wasn't the only person who attended the service who was very disappointed at the extent of the turnout of brethren.
It was a lovely service, the minister who conducted it was very impressive, the music was top quality, and the Orange folk were told they were most welcome in the church for their service.
The message from the pulpit was in keeping with the occasion, as the minister reminded us of the courage of the great Reformers, who defied the might of the Roman Catholic Church at the time to expose the way the Church had departed from the great truth of the gospel, and leaving the people in darkness.
There was a full attendance of District Officers, and they had pulled out all the stops in the weeks before the service, reminding Brethren and appealing for a maximum attendance.
A very talented band played its part, not only in the excellent hymns it played on parade, but its members helped to boost what was an overall poor attendance.
Unfortunately, the many empty pews in the church, reflected the fact that only a fraction of an Orange District with a large membership had felt it worthwhile to take a few hours off on a Sunday afternoon and support the service.
In the week following the service, I spoke to several District Officers, and other rank-and-file Brethren, and they admitted that the poor attendance had been not only disappointing, but also an embarrassment.
Too often in the past we have had opponents of our Loyal Orders accusing them of being more political than religious. They were wrong, of course, and in recent decades the Orange Order has ended its link with political parties, and the emphasis from the leadership has been firm and positive in placing the emphasis on the all-important Christian and religious ethos of our organisation.
Sadly, the poor attendance at the service I attended was mirrored by the size of the Orange contingent at a neighbouring District service, and this was also noticed by members of the public who turned up to see the parade to the church.
We had a great year in Orangeism as far as our traditional parades are concerned, and this applied to the Twelfth of July, the mini-Twelfth parades, and a sizeable number of annual Orange church parades in the summer.
It's only right to mention that fact, but we cannot ignore the evidence of a sharp decline in the numbers attending Reformation Sunday services, and I hope that the rank-and-file brethren who have stayed away, make it their business to turn out for future services.
In doing so they will honour the memory of brave Protestant reformers like Luther, Calvin, Knox and Huss, as well as the Protestant martyrs burned at the stake in England during the reign of some of the Stewart monarchs. They will also be supporting the District officers who put so much effort into trying to make Reformation Sunday something special in the Orange calendar.



STEPPING OUT
Supporting our Marching Bands

by Quincey Dougan

Kilcluney celebrates

One of Ulster's most-well known Blood and Thunder bands held a massive dinner on Saturday, November 2, to celebrate a major milestone in its existence. Almost 150 gathered in Kilcluney Orange Hall to mark the 70th anniversary of the band which was reformed after World War Two. The occasion generated huge interest, with members from right across its seven decades in attendance to mark the occasion, alongside representatives from several of the loyal orders with whom the band has a close relationship. Officers and members came along from its 'home' lodge Kilcluney Temperance Volunteers LOL 132, Sons of Elijah RBP 314 Ballymore, Tullymore Truth Defenders RBP 990 Hillsborough and Markethill branch Apprentice Boys of Derry. A specially commissioned cake for the evening was symbolically cut by the bands youngest member, drum major Danny Greer, and two original band members back in 1949, Dessie West and David McCullough. An impressive three course meal and entertainment from 'Orange' funny-man Gary Wilson combined to make the night special, with all guests also able to view an exhibition of all of the bands uniforms over the decades and a display of photos from past events and occasions. Kilcluney ended their anniversary celebrations this year by hosting an exhibition and memorabilia display in Kilcluney Orange Hall from 7pm to 10pm on Friday, November 29, and from 10am to 7pm on Saturday November 30. The band is currently preparing for the 2020 marching season and all new members are very welcome. The band meets at 8pm on Monday evenings at Kilcluney Hall, Mowhan Road, Markethill.



Original band members Dessie West and David McCullough cut the Kilcluney Anniveresary cake with young band member Danny Greer.

Musical variety display for Lisbellaw

A hugely enjoyable band concert took place in Enniskillen's imposing Unionist Hall on Friday, November 15. Bands from across the marching band genres came together to provide a diverse night of musical entertainment to fund raise for popular Fermanagh band Lisbellaw Accordion. Lisbellaw Accordion kicked off proceedings, followed by Florencecourt Old Gate Flute bedecked in garb and 'uniform' of yesteryear. The silver instruments of Kilskeery were next, filling the large hall with their rich sound. Then Trillick Pipe Band brought the distinct sounds, their newest piper aged just five stealing the show. The night was brought to a conclusion by the always quality performance of Dunloy Accordion, with their vocal accompaniment particularly well received.



Lisbellaw Accordion perform at their band concert.

Clogher climb for charity

On November 9, Clogher Protestant Boys Flute handed over the impressive amount of £3,000 to local Cancer charities, Charis Cancer Care and Daisy Lodge.
The two charities were chosen because of the vital support and care they provide for those suffering from cancer. Among several fundraising exercises, the band carried their bass drum to the top of the highest peak in Northern Ireland, Slieve Donard. A tough climb even without having to carry the iconic instrument!



Clogher Protestant Boys pictured at the top of Slieve Donard.

Funding for instruments

Opportunity still exists until December 9 for the latest round of musical instrument for bands funding. The NI Lottery scheme offers grants of between £500 and £10,000 in order to purchase replacement instruments belonging to marching bands that have become worn out or are perhaps considered obsolete in an environment of ever increasing quality and standard of instrumentation. The scheme is open to all marching bands in Northern Ireland irrespective of genre, including melody and blood and thunder flute, accordion, brass/silver and pipe bands. Your band must be constituted and demonstrate a high standard of tuition, quality musicianship, and the desire to build on existing repertoire and technical standards. No applications can be received from any band who has received a grant between January 2014 and March 2019. The application process can be largely completed online (visit artscouncil-ni.org). For guidance in the application process Stepping Out advises bands to contact their local political representative, or alternatively all of our local marching band suppliers are happy to offer assistance.

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

PULPIT

by Rev. Ian McClean



The ticket

You wouldn't have known that he was a football supporter, or even that he was seriously interested in the game. But if you talked to him he would have told you that when he was a boy his father took him to all the matches, even the big ones. However, after his father passed away he seemed to lose interest.

These days he didn't talk much about it, but if he found himself among football supporters he would have talked about an incident that happened in his teens.

It was at a time when most of his friends were enthusiastic footballers. He went along too, and enjoyed it. Then one day he met a man who offered him a ticket. This ticket, he was told, would get him into the Big Match when that day eventually came. He still had that ticket. He had folded it up and kept it in his wallet. Throughout the years you would have thought he had forgotten about it, for other things had taken the place of football in his life. Yet when the subject came up, as it occasionally did, he was adamant that he would be there at the Big Match. After all, he had been given his ticket many years before.

That day did come. As he approached the gate, some who had tickets were going in. They were overjoyed to be there. He noticed too that some were coming away disappointed. They didn't have a ticket. But he confidently took the folded up piece of paper out of his wallet and produced it to the man at the turnstile. The man unfolded it, examined it and then showed it to him. The paper was blank!

You could argue from now until doomsday as to whether it was ever a real ticket or if it had been real and the writing had faded away over the years because it had been neglected. It doesn't matter either way. The important thing is that he didn't have the necessary ticket and he was turned away.

But this is no game. It is all much more serious than that. Can you look back to a time in your life when you 'made a decision'?

Or could you produce a decision card that you filled in years ago? Or do you have a Testament with something like 'I met Christ' written in the fly-leaf? Where are you today – spiritually? I have often told my people that I could paper the walls of the meeting-house with the decision cards of people who, to all outward appearances, are spiritually nowhere.

Many in our society today admit to being a 'backslider' but use the term glibly, like owning up to being a minor league player.

In his Word, the Lord speaks of backsliding as a term of shame, of utter disobedience, of rebellion. While there are a number of instances in the bible that describe backsliders as those who are saved but have fallen away for a time, that is certainly not always the case. In the passage in Jeremiah where God uses the term 'backsliding', (2:19) it is clear that the people never were saved, for He says of them (v22) "the stain of your guilt is still before me".

In Jeremiah chapter 8, it is those who are described as backsliding who have to confess (v20) "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

The Lord Jesus himself deals with this subject in Matthew 7: 22 & 23. Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers.'

Again, the Saviour issues a stark warning in the parable of the sower. (Luke 8:13) 'Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.'

Wouldn't it have been better for the one-time football supporter to have had a good look at his ticket long before he got to the turnstile?

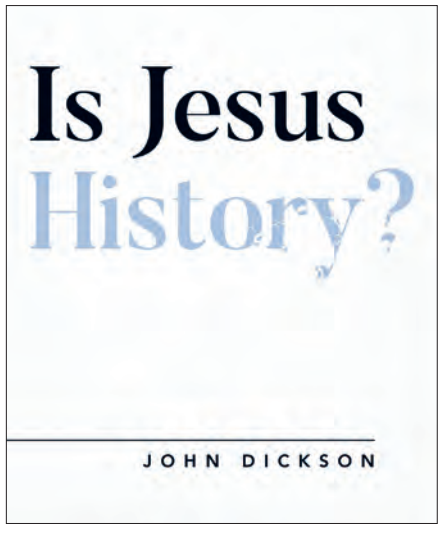
Would it not be wiser for us all, regardless of any past experience, to examine our present relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and follow the advice the Lord gives us in 2 Peter 1: 10 & 11. "Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

BOOKSHELF

by Robin Fairbairn
The Good Book Company



Is Jesus History?



What can we really know for sure about the past? Can anything from ancient history be regarded as 'fact'? In particular, how seriously can we take the historical sources for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth? Did he really even live in first-century Galilee and Judaea, or is he a figure of legend?

In this timely book, historian Dr John Dickson unpacks how the field of history works, giving readers the tools to evaluate for themselves what we can confidently say about figures like the Emperor Tiberius, Alexander the Great, Pontius Pilate, and, of course, Jesus of Nazareth.

He presents the evidence, methods, and conclusions of mainstream scholars—both Christian and not—and asks some pertinent contemporary questions, without offering any pushy answers: If Jesus really did exist, what are we to make of his own claims and those of his followers, and what would any of it mean for us today?

John's accessible style and bang up to date sources make this a must read for anyone who is serious about investigating Jesus.

Best News Ever

A 100-day devotional for tweens aged 9-12



When was the last time you heard some really incredible news that you couldn't wait to share? The Gospel of Mark is that kind of good news! It's a life-changing announcement about who Jesus is, and what he's done.

Best News Ever is a devotional that takes tweens aged 9-12 on a 100-day journey through Mark's fast-paced, action-packed story—helping them to understand the confusing bits, showing them how it connects with their life, and bringing them face to face with Jesus: the one who changes everything.

Written in a pithy and engaging style, Best News Ever will help young people of all backgrounds to read the Bible for themselves, whether they know a little or a lot about Jesus already. It is also ideal to use as a family devotional. It's a great mix of detail, background and big picture, delivered in really manageable, day-by-day readings. The daily descriptive commentary on a short passage is chatty, readable and clear, and packed with helpful explanations and relevant illustrations.

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Get these books at www.tthegoodbook.co.uk or via Robin Fairbairn - robin.fairbairn@thegoodbook.co. In Amy Christian bookshop or from the gift shop in Schomberg House

ORANGE NEWS



Several members of Benraw LOL 334 were presented with long service jewels recently. They were Bro Billy Maxwell, 60 years; Bro. Joseph Gibson, 60 years; Bro. Warren Stevenson, 50 years; Bro Scott Stevenson, 60 years; Bro. Hugh John Stevenson, 25 years; Geoffrey Bradford, 25 years; and Bro Samuel McConnell, 60 years. Bro. John Herron, the eldest member of the Lodge, was presented with his 70 year Bar. The presentations were made by Deputy Grand Master Bro. Harold Henning.



Castlerobin funding

Castlerobin Guiding Star Loyal Orange Lodge is set to refurbish their existing Orange Hall at Mullaghglass Road, thanks to a £9,668 grant from the Whitemountain Programme.

The funding will be used to transform the interior and exterior of the hall, which will include accessible toilets, new floorboards and fencing. This upgrade is welcomed by current users of the hall, and the community in the surrounding area.



Magheramorne marks milestone

Magheramorne LOL 291 has marked its 190th anniversary with a reception hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Maureen Morrow.

Formed on October 1, 1829, the gathering was held almost exactly on the exact date of the lodge's milestone.

Magheramorne lodge built the current hall in 1878 thanks to a gift from Magheramorne Estate. So it was fitting to meet in the Town Hall which was also a gift from the estate residents. In 1882 lodge members required a band to lead them on parade and formed Magheramorne Silver Band.

The lodge has provided a Mayor of Larne, David Fleck; a Deputy Mayor, Dr Mark McKinty; the former Director of Services of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Dr David Hume MBE; many Loyal Order district officers, and leading figures in a range of business, volunteer, community, and charitable organisations.

Looking ahead to a year of celebrations, the lodge intends to hold further events for members, their families and friends.

Inch LOL 430 pay a visit to Schomberg House





On Wednesday, September 11, Inch LOL 430 held it's monthly meeting in Schomberg House. Inch Lodge's first connection with GOLI was on the 12th July 1798 when it was represented at the first ever meeting of Grand Lodge. So to be able to sit in Schomberg House, 221 years later is a magnificent achievement. Members were also able to put their new banner and old flag on display side by side for the first time.

We'd like to thank the cafe staff and especially Bro. Iain Carlisle for his very informative talk which made the evening more enjoyable.

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MUSEUM NEWS

William III Damask Linen tablecloth relaunched

One of the more unique items in the Museum of Orange Heritage has been given something of a new lease of life.

The William III Damask Linen tablecloth, which dates back to 1675, has been a feature of the museum at Schomberg House for the last four years. However, extensive work has taken place to improve its setting and lighting in a bid to enhance its appeal to visitors.

The tablecloth was commissioned as a gift to William of Orange after his victory at the Siege of Grave in 1674. It was essentially a gesture of thanks from the city leaders for ending the short period of French occupation.

Curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage, Dr Jonathan Mattison, said he was delighted with the new-look display.



Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Rev Mervyn Gibson, pictured with Dr Andrew Charles, of Friends of Schomberg House; Dr Jonathan Mattison, curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage; Sam Wilson and Desmond Brownlie, Friends of Schomberg House

He also highlighted that the importance of the Damask Linen Tablecloth both to the Orange Institution, through its links with William of Orange, and the fascinating story behind it.

"We are absolutely delighted with how our new display of the William of Orange Damask Linen Tablecloth has taken shape. The alterations to how the tablecloth is being displayed, along with vast improvements to the lighting, mean visitors will be given a vastly enhanced viewing experience," said Dr Mattison.

"This item, which dates back well over 300 years, is a fantastic part of Orange history. And the story of how it came to Belfast really adds to the overall impression of the exhibit.

"This is an item of vast historical appeal and we are privileged and delighted that we have it here, in the Museum of Orange Heritage."

Former owner of the tablecloth, Mr Sam Wilson, said he was very pleased with how the tablecloth was displayed, adding that it was a 'key part of European history and culture'.

Mr Wilson came across the item in a box of linen and other textiles he had purchased from the Panacea Society when it began selling a selection of items in 2000.

The Society came into ownership of the tablecloth after the First World War when it was part of a collection of items from the Sandringham Estate that were sold to benefit widows and orphans.

Mr Wilson has spent many years researching the rich history associated with the tablecloth, which he described as 'an item of unique cultural heritage'.

Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Rev Mervyn Gibson described the tablecloth as 'foundational' adding that it set the scene for visitors to the museum.

Rev Gibson said: "This is a world-class item that is here in our museum. We're batting well above our weight, other major museums only have napkins of this – but here, at the Museum of Orange Heritage, we have the full tablecloth."

The tablecloth was purchased for the museum with assistance from the Friends of Schomberg House, who were represented at the relaunch by Dr Andrew Charles and Desmond Brownlie.

Annual Cecil Kilpatrick lecture

The annual Cecil Kilpatrick Lecture was held in Ballynafeigh Orange Hall on Thursday, November 21.

The event, which followed the Friends of Schomberg House annual general meeting, featured an address by Bro Gilbert Cromie, from Newcastle Temperance LOL 357.

Bro. Cromie spoke on the link between the Orange Order and Northern Ireland's pipe bands.

The evening had a significant musical aspect with Ivor Chambers, from Upper Crossgare, playing a selection of tunes on the Highland Bagpipes, while Pipe Major Paul Kelly and Andrew Cromie, from Newcastle Crimson Arrow, played tunes on the Brian Boru Bagpipes.



Pictured at the lecture in Ballynafeigh are museum curator, Dr Jonathan Mattison, Dr Andrew Charles, FOSH, and Bro. Gilbert Cromie.

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Armagh True Blues donate banner to Sloan's House

The Brethren of Armagh True Blues LOL 109 recently presented their banner to the Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House, Loughgall.

Unfortunately, the lodge has gone dormant recently and the remaining members felt it appropriate that it be donated to the museum for display.

The banner features a portrait of Wor. Bro. Robert J Orr, who was County Grand Treasurer and Worshipful District Master of Armagh District LOL No 5, when he was murdered in Armagh by Republican terrorists on May 13, 1991.

On the reverse is a portrait of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in the city.

The photographs show the Lodge members presenting the banner to the County Grand Lodge Officers and the banner on display in the Museum. The picture above shows, from left to right: Bro. Ronnie Boyd; Bro. Sinclair Scott MBE; Wor. Bro. Sydney Roberts, WM; Wor. Bro. John Watson, Sec; Wor. Bro. George Lutton, Chap; Rt Wor Bro Denis Watson, CGM; Wor Bro Roger Gardiner, CGS; and Wor. Bro. Jeffery Lawson, DCGS.





The second picture shows LOL 109 Members - Bros. Sinclair Scott MBE; George Lutton; Sydney Roberts; John Watson; and Ronnie Boyd.

Exploring whether the south was a cold house for Protestants

History Lessons
with Dr David Hume MBE

IN 1925, 98 year-old Mrs. Annie Latourney left Ederney in Fermanagh bound for Boston in the United States.
She had been living alone for some time and was on her way to find a new home with her family across the Atlantic.
A newspaper article in April 1925 highlighted that she had experienced "some of the worst hardships that a couple of years ago befell the residents in the Border counties."
During fighting in June 1922 at Pettigo (a village divided by the border) her house had been in a no man's land separating Crown Forces from republicans and the doors and windows of her home were riddled with bullets.
Annie, however, refused to budge and at one stage watched republicans digging a trench in front of her door. She was eventually persuaded to leave the house for a time until the situation calmed down and peace was restored.
Annie was far from the only person who left Ireland because of the impact of the 1920s Troubles.
In fact, between 1920 and 1923 there was a movement of an estimated 40,000 Protestants from the south of Ireland.
In the 26 counties it has been estimated that between 1911 and 1926 there was a 33% decline in the Protestant population.
This emigration took place in the context of the republican campaign for separation from the rest of the United Kingdom, the Anglo-Irish War and establishment of the Irish Free State.
The Protestant population decline is often explained away as natural demographic development.
Firstly, many of the Protestant community were part of the army or the Dublin Castle administration, and they moved away when the new dispensation came in.



A burned mansion in the south in 1922; the 'chain of bonfires' sent a clear message to Protestants



A War of Independence memorial to the IRA in County Roscommon; the course of Irish history was not kind to the southern Protestant community

Also the Protestant birth rate was naturally lower, brought about through smaller family numbers and also Protestants tending to marry later in life (or not marrying at all).
Protestants had, of course, been unionists and had lost the Home Rule debate in the south, resulting in many of them seeing no future, prompting thoughts of emigration north, or to England, Australia or Canada in particular.
These factors are strong ones. But they do not convey the full story.
The impact of the Anglo-Irish War resulted in many Protestants feeling extremely uncomfortable.
The Big Houses, which were Protestant and Unionist, were raided for arms, or because the IRA saw the occupants as a fifth column against Irish separatism.
The burning of many of these properties sent a powerful message, because the attacks were really about literally erasing the unionist identity from the landscape. It has been estimated that from 1920 until July 1921 when the Truce came about, 76 of the Big Houses were burned.
Between January 1922 and April 1923 a further 192 were added to the total, and in all around 500 mansions were targeted for arson, damaged or abandoned during the 20th century.
This led to what author Robin Bury describes as "a chain of bonfires."
There was, of course, more than burning. There were murders and attacks on unionist families. For at least some of the time these appeared to be carried out with impunity. It was small wonder that, given murderous attacks in places such as Bandon and Cork, Protestants would elect to quickly move out.
It is possible for republican apologists to excuse these events as part of the Anglo-Irish War in that Protestants were seen as passing on information to the authorities about republicans, or were part of the military and policing establishment.
However much later, in 1935, there was serious sectarian rioting in Limerick, targeting Protestant businesses and homes. The military had to be called in to assist the Gardai and it was some hours before calm was restored. Twenty people were later taken to court arising out of the incidents.
Historian Brian Hanley says "the most notable feature of the Limerick violence was that it was aimed exclusively against Protestant property..."
There were several attempts during the riot to enter and wreck the YMCA, Masonic Club and the Baptist Church, none of which succeeded. There was also an attempt to set the Presbyterian Church on fire, while two clergymen had their windows broken.
"During the night Gardai were detailed to protect not just business premises and churches but also Protestant houses in Limerick's suburbs. The sectarian aspect to the trouble was apparent from the start," Hanley says.
Even later, in 1953, the famous Fethard-on-Sea boycott of Protestant businesses took place after a dispute over a local woman sending her daughter to the Church of Ireland school.
Sheila Kelly was Protestant in a mixed marriage and under the terms of the Ne Temere decree of the Roman Catholic Church all children of mixed marriages had to be brought up as Catholic and educated similarly.
The end result of the family row over this outworked into the village itself and Sheila and her two children got on a train to Belfast.
The boycott followed because the local curate believed that her father had financially assisted Sheila, and it soon involved all the Protestant shops and businesses in Fethard.
The boycott even reached the extent where newsagent Betty Cooper declared she would not sell sweets to Protestant children. The whole sorry saga was eventually brought to an end; Eamon de Valeria intervening to calm things down.
But De Valeria had helped create the sense of Ireland being a Roman Catholic, rural and Gaelic society, so this sense of what it meant to be Irish did not appeal to Protestants and added to their alienation.
Overall, I still think the south was a cold house for Protestants. But I do acknowledge that there were probably different experiences, some of them dependent on economics and geography.
The Protestant experience in the metropolitan suburbs of Dublin, where there were many Protestant businesses, was probably different from that in rural areas such as Cavan or Monaghan.
The Free State government did make efforts to involve Protestants, including setting aside places for them in the Senate so that their voices would still be heard.
However, it is worthy of note that 37 houses of Senate members were burned in the 'chain of bonfires', so the reality was different than the expressed wish of the State.
An RIC Inspector in Cork wrote in May 1921: "Loyalists are being persecuted, their mansions and homes are being burned, and a huge number of them have cleared out of the country."
This was the reality on the ground.
Author Robin Bury, who now lives in Canada, has produced an important book on the Protestant experience in the south called "Buried Lives. The Protestants of Southern Ireland."
He says "I wouldn't say in my own personal life that I suffered from discrimination, but I suffered more from not really belonging, being a bit of an outsider,"
However his research for the book revealed a deeper problem; "There was intimidation, there was a fearfulness of what would happen once the Free State was established. There was a feeling of uncertainty and in some cases there were actual murders of Protestants, particularly in rural areas. There was a pretty nasty pogrom in west Cork but there were other incidents of violence."
"In 1911 there were about 300,000 native Irish Protestants in the 26 counties but there was a drop of 175,000 from 1911 to 2011, or about a 60% drop in the Protestant population," he details.
This decline is attested to by Fiona Murphy, whose Church of Ireland family were from County Mayo.
She says that the exodus of the Protestant community from 1919 in large numbers was "a polite form of ethnic cleansing."
It is, not, however, a straightforward subject (history seldom is), and in one of the programmes in the new series of The Long and the Short of it presented by comedian Tim McGarry and myself we will be asking "Was the south a cold house for Protestants?"
The new series will be aired on BBC Radio Ulster on Saturday mornings in February and March.

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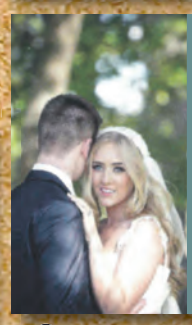
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Juniors from Stewartstown and Pomeroy pay a visit to war exhibits



Members of Pomeroy and Stewartstown Junior Lodges pictured during a recent visit to War Years Remembered in Ballyclare. This is an excellent resource of information and history on our door steps.



Juniors up for quiz challenge

Members of Tyrone Junior County Lodge pictured at a recent general knowledge quiz held in Aughintober. Glenageeragh took first place, Pomeroy were placed second with Aughintober third.

ORANGE NEWS

Presentation made in memory of the late Bro. Ernest Hamilton

A special dedication took place at a recent monthly lodge meeting of Kildoag LOL 1164 in memory of the late Brother Ernest Hamilton.

The Hamilton family, including Mrs Mary Hamilton and her daughter, Miriam, were in attendance and they presented gifts to the lodge which included a Bible Stand, A Welcome Plaque, A Past WM Board and a picture of Bro Hamilton which will be displayed in the Lodge Room.

A spokesperson for the lodge said they were "totally overwhelmed with the family's generosity".

Ernest Hamilton was a dedicated member of the Loyal Orders. He was a lifelong member of the Apprentice Boys of Derry Donemana Murray Club and Donemana RBP 260, in which he held positions in the local district and at County level.

Ernest Joined Kildoag LOL 1164 in 1950 and was a faithful member for 68 years. He was an inspiration to anyone who joined the Loyal Orders. He held many positions within the Orange Institution, including Worshipful Master, District Master, Treasurer, Member of City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge.

He was a loyal and dedicated member.

Ernest was an Ulster Unionist Councillor and Deputy Mayor on Londonderry City Council. He worked tirelessly for the local community and supported the community in all walks of life.

His funeral was attended by many members of the Loyal Orders from across the Province, including the then Ulster Unionist Party Leader, Robin Swann, who helped carry Ernest's coffin.

A guard of honour was formed as the cortège left the family home and at the church and graveside, where members of the Loyal Orders performed their final ritual.

His family, whom he adored, erected a plaque on his grave as a symbol and fitting tribute to someone who lived for his family and the organisation he held most dear.

The City Grand Master of Londonderry, Donald Eakin, and the W.M of Kildoag, Stuart Parkill, were delighted to welcome the late Brother Hamilton's wife Mary and daughter Miriam at the presentation.

Sincere thanks go to Mrs Mary Hamilton for her assistance in the preparation of this article.



The City Grand Master of Londonderry, Donald Eakin, and the W.M of Kildoag, Stuart Parkill, pictured with Mary Hamilton and her daughter, Miriam, at the presentation of a number of items in memory of Bro. Hamilton. Inset; Bro. Ernest Hamilton pictured with his wife, Mary.

Inver WLOL 203 Co Fermanagh

Inver WLOL 203 held their inaugural meeting in Inver Orange Hall on December 4, 1948. At their meeting on February 9, 1949 they had 18 members in attendance. By the 12th July that year they had 37 members on the books and took part in their first Twelfth parade.

Inver WLOL 203 were delighted to have Sister Dora Douglas, one of the founding members, at their recent 70th anniversary dinner that took place in Inver Orange Hall. She was presented with her 70 year medal by one of the younger members, Sister Naomi Dunwoody.

Sister Douglas continues to be a regular attendee at lodge meetings and is always ready to give her support to the lodge.





Boyd Memorial LOL 312

Presentation of 25 year membership Jewel of the Orange Institution in Burnside Orange Hall, Antrim. Pictured are Bro. George Rankin (left) and Bro. George Luney (right) being presented with their 25 Year Membership of the Orange Institution by the Worshipful Master of Boyd Memorial LOL 312, Worshipful Brother Michael Spiers, at the annual dinner of the Orange Lodge.



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Presentation of 50 year membership medal to Bro. Samuel Parker, Larne Harbour LOL 766, Larne District LOL No.1. Pictured are Bro. Harry Carter, District Secretary, Larne District LOL No.1; Bro. Samuel Parker, Lay Chaplin, Larne Harbour LOL 766; Bro. Norman Bell, Deputy County Grand Master, County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge; and Bro. Robert McCauley, District Lecturer, Larne District LOL No.1.

Lecturer's Conference in Co Antrim



The County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge Annual Lecturer's Conference was recently held in Burnside Orange Hall, Antrim. The host district was Sixmilewater District LOL No.10. Pictured, front from left, are Bro. Norman Montgomery, Deputy County Grand Lecturer; Bro. Samuel Parker, Lay Chaplin, Larne Harbour LOL 766; Wor. Bro. Robert Barr, Grand Lecturer, Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland; Bro. Norman Bell, Deputy County Grand Master, County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge; Bro. Alex McClintock, County Grand Lecturer, County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge; and Bro. Charles Hamilton, Lay Chaplin, Glenavy District LOL No.4. Middle and Back Row, are Brethren of Sixmilewater District LOL No.10 with Wor. Bro. William Strange, WDM.