MAY 2020

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THE ORANGE STANDARD

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

REMEMBER 1690 FOUNDED 1973

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORANGE ORDER



Platform: Jim Allister MLA

See page 4



Twelfth of July parades cancelled

See page 5



Messages from International Orangeism

See pages 12-13

Cometh the hour, Cometh the man!

Institution gives its full support to Health Minister

He has become one of the most recognisable faces during the Covid-19 crisis, yet those who know Health Minister Robin Swann will tell you that he would never seek the kind of profile that has been thrust upon him.
The quiet, humble, Co Antrim family man is undoubtedly doing his best for the people of Northern Ireland.
And has the full backing of the Orange Institution - of which he is a member - as he carries out what is surely the most difficult job in local government at this time.
He has conducted himself with dignity and measured assurance as he implements measures driven by science and medical advice, rather than any kind of political agenda.
To many in the Orange Family, Robin Swann is known as a loyal and dedicated member of Fernisky LOL 115.
Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson said: "Health Minister Robin Swann can rely on the full support of the Orange Institution and wider Orange Family as he plays this central role in battling Covid-19.
"I would ask all members and their families to remeber Robin and his family in their prayers. We pray that God would bless him with wisdom and courage as he carries out his work."

Robin Swann platform

"Not for the first time in our history have Orangemen and Orangewomen come to the fore when their country and fellow citizens needed them ... seeing and hearing of all that the Loyal Orders have been doing, I've never been as proud to be associated with them as I am now.

See full article on page three



Drumming up support for the NHS and other key workers are Bro. Alan Stevenson, Goldsprings of Comber LOL 1037, and his son, Zach, a member of Goldsprings True Defenders flute Band. Inset, Bro. Davy Kerr, Ballyhalbert Coronation LOL 878, does his bit to raise support. See story on page five. Pictures: Graham Balhaam-Curry.

STAY at home
PROTECT the NHS
SAVE lives

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

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EDITORIAL

Orange Family spirit evident in the fight against Covid-19

In times of crisis there is often a great collective effort that brings everyone together.
It has been seen many times down the years, most notably during the war years when communities rallied to help one another and keep spirits up in difficult times.
When we look back in years to come and reflect on the devastation wreaked globally by Covid-19, we will do so humbly and with respect.
We will remember those who died as a result of the illness and the work of the NHS, the doctors, nurses and those in the front-line who battled to save lives.
We will also perhaps remember the restrictions that have been imposed and some of the terminology that has become common place, such as social distancing and self-isolation.
During this time we are seeing the very best of the Orange Institution - indeed the whole Orange Family.
From the moment Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson urged the membership to help out where possible, we have seen a wave of support.
Districts and Lodges went to work thinking of ways they could help everyone one in need in their communities, with no exceptions.
The delivery of food parcels, assistance with basic needs such as getting prescriptions, arranging calls with the elderly and sourcing supplies for medical and social care staff became the norm.
In the pages of this digital edition of the Orange Standard we have tried to highlight some of the work that is being done. However, such is the scale that it simply not possible to cover everything. But we have shared as much as possible through our social media channels and will continue to do so.
The distribution of a shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) complimented the work bring done by the membership and attracted positive media coverage.
Our Institution is working exceptionally hard, making a positive contribution and most importantly we are making a difference.
Another initiative which was incredibly encouraging was the 'Drum Up Support' for NHS and Keyworkers.
Thursday at 8pm is firmly established as the time each week that we set aside just a few minutes to recognise the National Health Service and all those workers who perform vital roles in keeping the country going in these difficult days.
A round of applause had been the norm, however we have seen pipers and lambeg drummers add their own twist to this. Grand Lodge decided to encourage all musicians to step out in their gardens, driveways, or doorsteps and play a tune or two for the NHS.
The response was magnificent with flutes, drums, lambegs, pipes and accordions to the fore.
There is great work being done but remember to stay safe at all times and respect the restrictions currently in place.

Institution distributes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In mid-April, The Orange Institution purchased a 'very significant' shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which was distributed across Northern Ireland and counties in the Republic of Ireland.
The shipment contained a large quantity of hand sanitizer along with tens of thousands of masks and aprons and was divided up around the 12 County Grand Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.
County Grand Lodge officers received the items which were then distributed via the Institution's 108 District Lodges.
Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson said: "It is our hope that this shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will make a real difference to local Doctors and nurses, who are at the front line of helping to fight Covid-19, and those providing care and essential services in the community.
"So much has been reported about the pressure on PPE supplies that we felt it was appropriate that the Orange Institution should try to assist in a practical way. Once a supplier had been sourced, an order was placed, and we were delighted to see it arrive in Northern Ireland.
"This shipment of products, which includes masks, aprons and hand sanitiser will be distributed as widely as possible by our membership, many of whom have already been very active themselves in raising money, sharing much-needed supplies and helping older people in their own communities."


Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning and Brother Chris Wallace unload part of the PPE consignment at Kilkeel Orange Hall.

This initiative compliments the purchasing and distribution of PPE equipment that has already been undertaken by some local Lodges and Districts, who were able to source supplies.
Mr Stevenson added: "The abundance of good work being done by lodges and the wider Orange family for the good of the entire community, illustrates that there is more to Orangeism than just our annual parades.
"The current crisis has highlighted the charitable, benevolent and fraternal elements of Order which although always important, are often unseen.
The Grand Master went on to pay tribute to the work of the health professionals and all essential workers at this time.
Mr Stevenson continued: "We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all key workers who are working so hard to tackle this dreadful disease.
"It enormously heartening to see the support they are being shown each Thursday evening and I commend everyone who is clapping, playing instruments or doing anything to show their appreciation to the NHS and its staff.
"While we look forward to the days when we can get out and about again, it is most important that everyone continues to adheres to the Government guidelines in relation to staying at home and, if you must go out, respect the social distancing advice."
Mr Stevenson added: "Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all those affected by Covid-19 and the health professionals as they work to tackle this awful virus."



Belfast County has donated PPE equipment to the NI Hospice. Pictured making the delivery are County Master Spencer Beattie and Deputy County Master Billy Hughes.

ORANGE NEWS

Health Minister Robin Swann MLA

In these unprecedented times the Orange Institution has come to the fore again

This has been an unprecedented period of uncertainty. Never before in Northern Ireland's 99 year history have we experienced such a serious and immediate public health challenge. We will never forget this time, and yet only in January the current scenes of empty streets, closed industries and people avoiding contact with one another have seemed so wholly unimaginable to us all.



As a country we are losing people – good people - who didn't deserve to pass away at this time or in these circumstances. That sadly includes a number of long-serving members of our Loyal Orders. As an organisation, like so many other membership based bodies, we are suffering the harrowing loss of good and faithful members.

People sometimes ask me as Health Minister what the most difficult part of the job is. Before the coronavirus struck I would have said it was knowing behind every patient waiting for an operation or hospital appointment was an individual in pain or distress. Now it's knowing that when every day we provide the update on the number of new deaths, behind each and every one of them are families and friends absolutely devastated.

That's why I keep saying that we must never view deaths as mere statistics, instead they were each someone who was loved and who will be missed.

From the very outset of this pandemic all options have been on the table when it came to protecting our citizens. Society has changed immeasurably with the multitude of social distancing measures, but they have worked in slowing the spread of the virus and for that I thank you.

I don't doubt for one moment though that this has been a difficult period for us all. People are understandably missing the old normality. Yet throughout this pandemic people haven't been complaining, or questioning the scientific or medical information that they are being given. Instead they're heeding the advice and they're staying at home. By doing so they've been saving lives.

I've been hugely impressed with how the people of Northern Ireland have come forward in this hour of need. Retired staff flocked back into the health and social care workforce, neighbours are looking out for one another and organisations are coming together like never before to support people in their localities.

I've been especially impressed by the actions of the Orange Order. From the moment this virus first appeared the Orange, right from Grand Lodge to individual private Lodges and bands, have been active and visible on the ground. Some have donated money, some have delivered essential food and medications to all in their local community, and an amazing number of Brethren have played an immensely important role in securing and delivering critical items of personal protective equipment.

Not for the first time in our history have Orangemen and Orangewomen come to the fore when their country and fellow citizens needed them. Similarly, when difficult decisions needed taking, such as cancelling the 2020 Twelfth of July Parades the Orange acted swiftly and responsibly. That can't have been an easy decision but as Health Minister, for the health and wellbeing of spectators and participants, I thank them for it.

Looking back over these last number of weeks and seeing and hearing of all that the Loyal Orders have been doing, I've never been as proud to be associated with them as I am now.

This virus is revealing many absolute heroes – none more so than the health care workers who are working and saving lives each and every day on the front line.

Only when this virus passes – and it will pass – will their bravery and selflessness be truly understood.

Finally, not as a politician but as a father and member of this society, I would like to pay tribute to all our key workers. From the staff keeping our power on and water flowing, our teachers, our shop workers, to our farmers keeping food on our shelves, they are all performing critical roles.

Together we are beating this virus and together the people of Northern Ireland are saving lives.

Whilst these remain difficult days, I know there are better days ahead. I would urge everyone to stay safe, to look after themselves and to look after each other.

2 Timothy 1:7

Raising the banner in support of the NHS and essential workers

Lodges have been raising the banner in support of the NHS in recent days. These are just four examples of the banners being placed on Orange Halls and our headquarters at Schomberg House. For more images, visit the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Facebook page.









ORANGE NEWS

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

Coronavirus
Isolate your household
Stay at home

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

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

  Calling your GP is only necessary if you have:
  - an existing health condition
  - problems with your immune system
  - very serious symptoms
- **Protect** older people and those with existing health conditions by avoiding contact.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF OTHERS & THE NHS

19/03/2020

Public Health Agency
COVID-19 (coronavirus)
Everyone in Northern Ireland should now be using social distancing
2 metres
6 feet
Stay at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people
The latest information and advice on coronavirus is available at www.pha.site/coronavirus

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

Coronavirus
Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds

Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:

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

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

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

19/03/2020

Platform: TUV Leader Jim Allister MLA

Sinn Fein continues to exploit pandemic

"Never waste a crisis, never waste a difficulty." These words of Gerry Adams in an interview with VICE News in 2016 neatly sum up how Republicans have approached the Coronavirus pandemic. While across the world politics has been put aside to fight an international emergency Sinn Fein has repeatedly exploited the pandemic to further its agenda, manufacturing crisis after crisis and demanding we needlessly align with the Republic.

O'Neill called for schools to close less than 24 hours after backing a collective decision to keep them open. No prizes for guessing who pulled her strings.

She announced on twitter that the Finance Minister had "placed an order for a significant amount of Personal Protection



Equipment... to protect our health workers". Then, to cover her own back and distract, she launched a vicious attack on the Health Minister the night before we learned that there never was any Chinese order - it was our sovereign government, of course, which came to the rescue with 5m pieces of PPE.

The Health Minister's request for military assistance to distribute medical equipment was immediately supported by all political parties except Sinn Fein. Having spent their entire existence trying to demonise the Army, Republicans again prioritised their vicious ideology above saving lives.

Then we have the scandal of Republican funerals flouting the laws which have been brought in to combat the spread of the virus. This is grossly offensive and insulting to the many law-abiding people who have made the huge sacrifice of foregoing a normal funeral as they said farewell to a family member who died recently, made all the worse by the PSNI's blind eye approach. This is an issue I have repeatedly raised with the Chief Constable and something which has been shamefully ignored by the broadcast media.

Though happy to scoop up billions of aid from the U.K., Sinn Féin's pervading approach has been endless calls for an all-Ireland response to the pandemic. None of this is driven by public safety, but by the politics of advancing an all-Ireland agenda at every turn.

Tragically, they can do this from a position they should never have been permitted to occupy - from the heart and top of government!

Because Northern Ireland is part of the UK we should naturally follow the UK.

The deep pockets of the U.K., in seeing us through this crisis, is a reminder in itself of the practical and tangible benefits of being part of the fifth biggest economy in the world.

Lodges and Districts get to work supporting their communities



The Brethren and Sir Knights of Killyman Orange and Black Districts, have been able to secure and source a quantity of PPE which they distributed locally.



Magherafelt District No 3 shared goods which were distriubted across the community by private lodge representatives.



The Officers and Members of Dromard LOL 284 and North Fermanagh Young Defenders Flute Band were delighted to sponsor nearly 50 Easter Eggs for some of the residents in the village of Kesh.



Jason McCourt WDM and William Leathem DDM attended Lisburn Care Home on the Hillsborough Road to deliver some much needed PPE. Also in the photo Bro. Stephen Law WDM Lisburn District No. 6.

ORANGE NEWS

Twelfth of July parades cancelled as Institution plays its part in battle against Coronavirus

At the beginning of April, The Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson confirmed that the Orange Institution would not hold its annual Twelfth of July demonstrations this year.

The decision was not an easy one, but was taken in light of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and follows consultation with the Grand Masters of England and Scotland, local County Masters and senior officers.

The decision is also in-line with the current Government health advice on restricting gatherings of people, self-isolation and social distancing.

The Grand Master said: "It is with regret that I must cancel the 2020 Boyne Anniversary Parades. In the face of the growing crisis surrounding Coronavirus it is in the best interests of our members, their families and the wider community that this decision has been made.

"In the current circumstances, the gathering of hundreds of thousands of Orangemen and women, together with their accompanying bands and spectators,



would not be responsible.

"I appreciate that our culture and traditions are very much a way of life for the Orange family, however in light of the current situation, we must prioritise the safety of not only our members, but of the entire community.

"For some, the coming days will be extremely painful. We must bear in mind that for many people there will be no return of normal life. They will have lost loved ones.

"The Orange Family has already lost members to this terrible virus whilst others are currently in hospital.

I would encourage you to pray for all those who have been or will be affected by the Coronavirus and for those in our health service and other essential jobs who are working so hard to fight it."

The cancellation of the Twelfth of July parades is not without precedent. Parades were not held for a time during the First and Second World Wars or during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. At these times, alternative ways to mark the occasion were found, such as flying flags and displays of Orange Lilies.

The Grand Master commented: "We will look at alternative ways the Twelfth of July can be appropriately marked in 2020, following the guidelines and restrictions applicable at that time.

"We look forward to the day that we can parade in celebration once again, however in the months ahead it is more important we work together to fight this terrible disease. The energies and resources of our Institution are focussed on the fight against Coronavirus. I pray that God will protect and lead us through the months ahead."

Toronto celebrations delayed to 2021

The County Grand Lodge of Toronto, Canada, has confirmed that its planned Annual Orange Parade in the City of Toronto, due to be held this July, has been postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Recording Secretary Rt. Wor. Bro. Donald Guy issued an open letter revealing that the plans, which included a full calendar of events, would not go ahead this year but a new date has been set.

The letter states: "It is with a heavy heart that on the recommendation of our 200th Committee, accepted by the County Lodge, that we announce the postponement of our Grand Celebrations planned for this July 16th to 19th 2020 until July 15th to 18th 2021. We will still continue to plan for our Glorious Twelfth on July 18th 2020 as much as we can depending of the limitations and conditions that occur."

While the cancellation of the 2020 plans come as no surprise given the restrictions placed on movement of people at this time, the new date will come as great encouragement to many.

There was a strong contingent of Brethren, Sisters and bands planning to make the trip from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to support the event in Toronto.

With a new date announced, no doubt plans will be re-scheduled and a good turnout of brethren and bands will be able to make the journey out to Canada in 2021!

How will we celebrate The Twelfth?

While Twelfth of July parades have been cancelled, it is still very much the intention of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to have suitable plans in place to mark the occasion.

Everything will of course depend on the restrictions in place at the time, however there are a number of ideas already being considered.

It is likely there will be a number of parts to any celebration, putting emphasis on our faith, tradition and culture.

There will be the need to embrace technology as we seek to include all members with the Orange Family.

If you have any ideas you would like to share with Grand Lodge, please get in touch by email: info@goli.org.uk or through our Facebook page.

Members 'Drum Up Support' for the NHS and key workers

The level of support shown for the NHS and all other essential workers at this time has been a real highlight of recent weeks.

Despite the challenges of lockdown restrictions, members of the public have gathered at the front doors of their homes to join their neighbours in applauding and cheering each Thursday evening.

This is a wonderful tribute to the unbelievable level of work that is being carried out every day in the most difficult of circumstances.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland wished to show its support and on April 16 it encouraged musicians to come out with pipes, flutes, accordions, lambegs, side drums, triangles or any other instrument.



The response to this call to action was overwhelming. Social media was awash with video footage of members of the bands community playing a selection of music.

Well done to all those who took part on the night and to those who have continued to do so each week.

Schomberg House also had a starring role as the building at the top of Belfast's Cregagh Road was illuminated blue, as show above.

No doubt this initiative - or something similar - will be repeated in the weeks ahead.



ORANGE NEWS

Castlewellan District LOL No 12



Castlewellan District LOL No. 12, comprising seven local Orange Lodges [Castlewellan, Newcastle, Bryansford, Maghera, Aughlisnafin, Ballywillwill and Dundrum], has mobilised its members to assist the local fight against Covid-19.

It has decided that its focus will be directed toward locally based health care staff, nursing homes etc. As a first step they have been able to purchase a quantity of hand sanitizer and the first batch of it was distributed to River House Residential home in Newcastle recently.

In a separate initiative Newcastle Temperance LOL 357 has made a substantial donation to the Pantry Foodbank to assist it in its important work within the community.

Castlewellan District LOL No 12 Treasurer David Scott presenting a consignment of sanitizer to Senior Care Assistant Ashleigh Edwards of River House Residential Home.



Rathfriland District LOL No 3

Rathfriland District LOL No 3 officers pictured with some of the PPE sourced by the District which will be distributed amongst local GP surgeries, care/nursing homes and local care workers. The District is encouraging any lodges or individuals who feel they would like to donate towards this cause should feel free to contact any officer in the district. Likewise if any member knows of anyone on the front line in need of PPE please pass on their details to any district officer.

Co Armagh response to Coronavirus pandemic

County Armagh Grand Secretary Bro. Roger Gardiner has collated a list of some of the initiatives being undertaken by the Districts and Lodges in Co Armagh during the current situation.



Above: Bessbrook Purple Star LOL 959 Treasurer George McKelvey, Past Master Harry McKelvey and Worshipful Master Derek Rantin getting ready to deliver food parcels to elderly members of their local community.

Right: Portadown District LOL No.1 along with Portadown Ladies District made a donation of food supplies to the Ambulance Service.



Above: Bessbrook Purple Star LOL 959 Treasurer George McKelvey, Past Master Harry McKelvey and Worshipful Master Derek Rantin getting ready to deliver food parcels to elderly members of their local community.



Portadown: District Lodge donated food to ICU at CAH and NIAS; several Lodges provided hampers and boxes of essentials to elderly and vulnerable members, also to some front-line services.

Richhill: District Lodge provided care parcels for elderly Brethren and widows of deceased Brethren.

Loughgall: District Lodge making a donation to the Southern Trust and Nursing Homes for use as deemed most appropriate.

Tandragee: District Lodge making a donation of £700 to Southern Area Hospice and Tannaghmore LOL 312B community group provided food boxes to those is need in local community.

Armagh: District Lodge purchased PPE face masks and gloves for the five nursing homes in the area; also provided care parcels for elderly and vulnerable Brethren.

Lurgan: District Lodge gave donation to Glenavon Community Initiative for support to those in need in the community, including Brethren.

Killylea: District Lodge making a donation to the Southern Trust for use as deemed most appropriate.

Keady: District Lodge prepared boxes of essentials for elderly and vulnerable members.

Newtownhamilton: District Lodge is proposing to make a donation of approximately £1,500 to the Southern Area Hospice as it is unable to fund-raise during the pandemic (equivalent to £5 per member).

Markethill: District Lodge provided a gazebo for local Health Centre to allow for testing outside, also a prescription delivery service for elderly brethren self-isolating, and is buying PPE; boxes of essentials for elderly brethren provided

Bessbrook: District Lodge provided contact numbers to all elderly Brethren for help if needed and prepared boxes of essentials for elderly and vulnerable members.

In addition, the County Grand Lodge made substantial monetary donations to the Southern Area Hospice.

See page 21 for pictures and more details.

ORANGE NEWS

Bushside LOL 923 food parcels

On Saturday 19th April 2020, Members of Bushside LOL 923 Ballycastle District No 23 ran a local food parcel initiative for the small rural area of Bushside (Clintyfinnan) in North Antrim.

Alongside Bushside Mitchelburne Club Apprentice Boys of Derry and the Bushside Accordion Band, each party made donations of £200 to acquire food for this initiative.

Raising £600, the Lodge was able to supply for all 48 houses in Bushside with a further 19 food parcels being delivered to the surrounding area.

Worshipful Master Bro William Johnston included a note along with the parcels: "Stay safe, God bless, Thanks for your support and we will all see you soon".

The lodge also made a £200 donation to Bro Harold McCloy of Village Blinds, Ballymena to go towards much needed PPE and Scrubs for Nursing Homes and Hospitals.

A special mention goes to Junior Orange member Will Christie of Bushmills who donated 30 boxes of eggs towards this food drive.





WDM Bro. Gordon McCrory, DDM Bro. Willard Logan, District Treasurer Bro. Matt Warwick and Foreman of Dist Committee Bro Matthew Armstrong pictured with 50 care packages of groceries and toiletries for the elderly and vulnerable members of Ballymena District and their families.



Dunseverick LOL 528 donated a selection of PPE and hand santiser valued at approximately £1,000 to the Marie Curie and Home Care Department to help the Local North Coast Community Staff.

Killyman District





Brethren from Killyman District pictured making further PPE donations to South Tyrone Hospital by Gary Black and to Craigavon Area Hospital by Barry Espie. Donations of PPE are ongoing. Thanks go to the loyal band of helpers working hard behind the scenes.



Special delivery by air freight. WM Bro Robert Cartmill drops off a food pack with 77 member (and pilot) Thomas Alderdice. The pack was gratefully received by his father, Bro Archie Alderdice, who lives in Kilkeel.



Brethren from Bangor District LOL No 18 delivering vital PPE to our frontline staff. The District would like to thank The Copeland Distillery for helping to supply the sanitiser.



Burt Faith Defenders LOL 1927 delivered some refreshments and treats to the wonderful staff of the Covid ward and ICU at Altnagelvin Hospital. Thanks to Stuart Ward from the Portering team for collecting and distributing the items.



Members of Ballykeel LOL 472 and Ballykeel RBP 250 spent yesterday and today delivering essential supplies to elderly members, those in self isolation and other members of the community in need.

ORANGE NEWS



Newtownards District LOL No 4

The District Master, Deputy District Master and District Secretary of Newtownards District LOL No 4 recently called at the Ulster Hospital to deliver PPE.
The substantial donation included over 300 face shields 100 pairs of safety glasses, 1000 pairs of surgical gloves, 200 face masks, 50 surgical gowns and over 20litres of hand sanitiser.
This donation was in planning for several weeks now but was enhanced by the District's share of a significant shipment of PPE purchased by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.
A further donation was made to St John's Ambulance.



Portadown District LOL No 1

Portadown District LOL No 1 made another donation of food supplies to the ICU ward at Craigavon Area Hospital. The donation was grateful appreciated by those pictured. The District Officers, on behalf of the membership, would like to place on record their thanks to all those on the frontline facing this crisis. They would like to thank Birches Apprentice Boys and Portadown Heritage Tours for their kind donations.

Carnmoney District LOL No 25



Bro. John Herron, District Secretary Carnmoney District LOL No 25, recently presented a cheque on behalf of Carnmoney District for £500 to the NI Hospice to assist in their work in the current crisis.

County Londonderry



Rt. Wor. Bro. Samuel Calvin, County Grand Master County Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge, and his Deputy Wor. Bro. James Evans preparing to deliver PPE equipment on behalf of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to the various districts within the County for distribution to front line workers and vulnerable persons.

Mourne District LOL No 6



Mourne District No.6 has been busy with the arrival of PPE into Kilkeel Orange Hall.
The district officers have now been able to distribute 4,500 surgical masks, hand sanitiser, face shields and aprons to various front line local services.
They were also pleased to assist in the distribution of PPE to all 12 counties by Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

ORANGE NEWS

Tobermore District LOL No 11



Members of Tobermore District No 11 have come together and worked hard preparing packages for the elderly within the Tobermore District Orange Family.
The stock for these packages was supplied by Spar Tobermore and Claire's Costcutter Tobermore. Any stock for this project that was purchased was done so through the District Lodge funds and the rest was kindly donated.
Thanks go to Richard Henderson at Spar and Claire Johnston at Claire's Costcutter for their generosity in supporting this project.
Members of LOL 131, 681 and 684 have been distributing 40 packages to the local Tobermore/Blackhill area.
Worshipful District Master Bro. Sam Mclean said: "With this project we as an Orange District have tried to reach out to the people within our District that are elderly, vulnerable or maybe someone we just wanted to reassure that we are thinking of them during these challenging times."



County Fermanagh

The Co Fermanagh Loyal Orders Front-Line Health Support Group has been very active, supporting the entire community in their area.
The group[has distributed significant quantities of Personal Protective Equipment, including, face visors, hand sanitiser, face masks, boxes of disposable gloves, hand wipes and paper towels.
This was along with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland share to Fermanagh County Orange Lodge.
The items were provided to a wide range of health centres, clinics, care in the community groups, District Nurses and the SWAH X-Ray Department.



Hillsborough District LOL No 19

The Worshipful District Master and Deputy District Master of Hillsborough District No 19 have been delivering essential PPE to some of those on the front line. With help from Grand Lodge and district funds they were able to provide Patterson's and Reaney's chemists, Hillsborough Medical Practice, Anahilt and Lisadian Care Homes with much needed PPE.

Ballynahinch District LOL No 17



Ballynahinch District LOL No 17 distributed PPE to health workers in their area.



Coleraine District LOL No 2

Worshipful District Master Wor. Bro. Derek Cauley and District Lay Chaplain Wor. Bro. John Sproule went to the Causeway Hospital to hand over PPE equipment donated by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. It was gratefully received by Ashley Steele, manager

Limavady District LOL No 6



Limavady District LOL No.6 raised £5,000 through the Loyal Orders and Bands Fraternity within the District Area. The funds will be used to purchase essential PPE for care homes in the District and to support charities providing food to the vulnerable.

News from the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland

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

The community work of Loyal Orange Institution of Scotland recognised by Justice Secretary

Brother Jim McHarg, Grand Master, was delighted to receive a letter from Scotland's Justice Secretary Humza Yusaf MSP offering his thanks and appreciation for the Loyal Orange Institution of Scotland's community work.

Mr Yusaf stated: "I would like to thank you for all of the work that the Orange Lodge is taking forward to provide that support, and for cancelling your marches in the immediate future. As you are aware, the strain on public resources at this time of crisis is immense and acts of good citizenship like this are greatly appreciated.

I sincerely hope that we will pass through this period of adversity soon so that we can rebuild our lives and communities having played our part in overcoming the worst emergency we have experienced in the 21st century."

Orange Aid Scotland



On Saturday the 9th March in Airdrie Orange Hall, Liz Johnston, the wife of Brother Les Johnston, a member of Glenmavis Derry Defenders LOL276, held a fundraiser on behalf of Maggies Cancer charity. Liz has recently been undergoing treatment for cancer. Liz and Les would like to thank the many Brothers, Sisters, family and friends who supported their efforts to make this a most successful day. The sum of £2300 was raised. A fantastic effort from the Airdrie ladies.

Following an initiative by LOL 133 Pride of Whiflett Coatbridge District LOL 22 under the leadership of Worthy District Master John Armour began fundraising in order to support the local NHS. A large donation of food and toiletries were donated and distributed to Coatbridge ambulance station and Monklands General Hospital staff and patients.

Craigneuk Ladies Orange Lodge dig deep to provide food parcels during lockdown



Members of a ladies Orange lodge have dug deep to help families dealing with self-isolation during the coronavirus crisis.

Daughters of the Somme LLOL 1916 Craigneuk raised £600 at a recent prize bingo but with the lodge not due to reopen anytime soon they decided to do their bit to help those in need.

The ladies sourced a few car loads of essential items that were necessary for a lot of vulnerable people who were unable to go out and shop for themselves.

The lodge's Worthy Mistress Helen Logan said: "Charity is one of our main causes within the lodge so we were delighted to play a small part in helping out.

In the past eight years we have raised approximately £20,000 for good causes.

"We managed to get a few essentials for each person. In the end we had around 60 bags which we donated.

"The bags have been delivered or picked up in Motherwell, Craigneuk, Wishaw and went to a lot of very grateful people."

Following the break-up of the schools, the ladies also donated a series of snack-packs for youngsters.

However, one meeting in particular really brought home the level of the crisis to Helen.

She added: "I was in Farmfoods in Craigneuk when I noticed a young couple with a baby trying to source items they needed and were really stressed.

"I waited outside until they came out and explained who I was and we had bags available in the orange hall and offered then a few bags from the car.

"The young mum responded with the reply that she could use every one of the items. I felt very humbled.

"We are all in a crisis and we have to be here to help anyone that is in need."

Govan District LOL 42



Members of Govan District No. 42 have been extremely busy putting together packs of toiletries and supplies which will be distributed locally to four Care Homes, 32 Wards at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and the Sick Children's Hospital. The massive haul of goods is the result of donations from all the district lodges including the two juvenile lodges. Further donations were received from the Blue Star Social Club, a holiday fund from a postponed trip to the Somme and the Grapes Bar Rangers Supporters Club. Harry Singh Hardware Shop also donating colouring in books and pencils for the children's wards. The packs will go towards supporting the health and wellbeing of all concerned.

Havlins Royal Brigade LOL 265



Havlins Royal Brigade LOL 265, Fifeshire District LOL 45 sent some Easter cheer to the sick kids in the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy Brother Mark Johnston stated today I had the pleasure of delivering a car full of Easter eggs to the sick kids in the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, on behalf of the lodge and all those who kindly donated. A big thank you to everyone who helped put a smile on the kids' faces

The Officers and Brethren of Armadale Purple Star LOL 111 held a video conference call to discuss what the lodge could contribute to assist the local community during the current pandemic.

It was agreed to offer support to Tom in TeaJs who assists the elderly and vulnerable in our local community.

A generous donation was extended by the lodge and Tom offers his sincere thanks to the members.

AROUND THE LODGES



Articlave LOL 1017

Members of Articlave LOL 1017 and Articlave Flute Band are pictured here helping with the delivery of wash bags to some of the nurses who work at the Causeway Hospital in Coleraine. The wash bags are for use by patients or staff.
This was a joined up venture between the Band and Lodge along with Articlave & Castlerock Community Support Group and Articlave Football Club.



PPE delivered by Castlecaulfield

Officers of Castlecaulfield District delivered the PPE supplied by Grand Lodge to Glenview Nursing Home. In the photograph are the WDM Wor. Bro. Cecil McFarland, seen handing over the box of PPE to Mr. Mervyn Gregg, Glenview Nursing Home.

Lower Iveagh District No 1



Donation of PPE to Drombane Nursing Home by Lower Iveagh District No 1.



Deliveries to nursing homes in Portadown

District Worshipful Master Bro. John Ramsey, Register Bro. Ian Freeburn and Treasurer Bro. Nigel Magee of Portadown Royal Arch Purple Chapter No 1 recently visited the five nursing homes in the town to deliver goods.
After speaking to some of the homes they requested drinks (supported by JP Takeaway), moisturing cream (supported by Partridge's Chemist) and baskets of fruit (supported by Home Grown fruit and vegetable). They were also distributing some face masks which are being manufactured by a group of ladies in Craigavon, NHS Faceshields Lurgan. All five homes were thankful for the donations.

Armagh District Loyal Orange Lodge No.5

Lodge members from Armagh district have been working behind the scenes in recent weeks to source and buy much-needed PPE for Residential Homes.
After the news came out that there was a shortage of PPE, especially in care homes, Armagh District members got in contact via Whatsapp and phone calls to try and do something to help. Members sourced and bought items to donate as soon as they came available.
The homes in Armagh area include: Greenpark Care Home; Sunnymead Care Home; Hockley Care Home; Orchard Care Home; Hamilton Court Care Home; and Apple Blossom Care Home.
Much sought after items including hand sanitser, protective overalls, anti-bacterial hand soap, disposable aprons, gloves, shoe covers and hand cream have been delivered.
Also this week, a number of the Lodges from Armagh District have bought put up and delivered significant food parcels to the older members, widows and members of the community who are currently in isolation or unable to leave the house.





Above right: Killycopple LOL 345 also donated a cheque for £1000. Pictured is Bro Paul McCrea and Flo McCall.

Below right: Members of Killeen LOL 1249 also donated a Cheque for £1000 to Southren Area Hospice in Newry. Bro. Uel Megarity is pictured with the cheque.

Left: Armagh District Master Roy Pillow pictured with Bro. Adrian Faulkner LOL 353 and Bro. Geoff Boyce LOL 347 with some of the PPE that was Bought and distributedin the community.



Messages of support from our Brethren around the world

‘We must give strength to our members and those less fortunate than ourselves’



We are living through difficult times. A period that I don’t think anyone would have envisaged six months ago. The disruption to our daily lives as individuals, and as the Orange Institution, has affected us all. Who would ever have expected that we would be making decisions cancelling meetings and parades (especially the 12th July). But this pandemic, which is so deadly, has to be dealt with and the sooner we can get back to some sort of normality the better for us all.
As Orangemen and women we all must stay strong and loyal to our obligations. Also we must give strength to our members who are less fortunate than ourselves, and when the time is right for us all to resume to our duties, put extra efforts into going forward and endeavour to raise the profile of the Institution. None of us know how long this will last but our forefathers endured times during the world wars when the end was unsure but when it arrived the membership at that time railed around. We must all keep this in our hearts and minds
To all who are suffering, or have lost loved ones at this time, please keep them in your prayers and with God’s help and blessing we will come through this terrible time.

Bro W R Bather
MWGM England

‘In times of need the Orange membership has never been found wanting’



As a nation we find ourselves in unprecedented and challenging times as we face up to this horrendous Coronavirus Pandemic.
Our Institution is coming to terms with many of our members being struck down with this Covid-19 virus and indeed a sizeable number have sadly lost their lives. My thoughts and prayers are with those members, families and friends. I trust God’s comforting hands will touch all who are grieving at this time.
Of course as history has shown, in times of need the Orange membership has never been found wanting. It never ceases to amaze me that in times of adversity how Orange lodges and members step up to the plate by assisting those less fortunate than themselves in what ever way we can. Indeed in the last few weeks by providing essential supplies to hospitals, care homes, sheltered housing, neighbours etc. I am grateful to the GOLI in granting us a page in the Standard to share our messages and stories from Scotland with our extended Orange family.
We may not have our main parades this year but we still have each other. We still have our faith, we still have our hope and we still share our love.
May God bless you all in these darkest of times.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,
Jim McHarg Most Worthy Grand Master GOLS



‘The Orange Institution has survived many trials - this will be no different’

What was unimaginable only a few short months ago has now come to pass and the whole world finds itself trying to cope with the consequences of this terrible Pandemic.
Around the world, members of the Orange Institution are working day after day on the front line, putting their own lives at risk, to try and save the lives of others; “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” has never been so apt.
For those who have lost loved ones or are ill, may God grant you his peace and sustain you in your faith, at this terrible time.
We will get through this. The Orange Institution has had many trials throughout its history and survived each and every one; this will be no different. One has only to look at the commitment by Orange Members to communities great and small around the world, to see their faith and love in practice, not only in word but also in deed.
On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Imperial Orange Council, may I wish sincere good wishes, good health and steadfast faith to each and everyone in the Orange Family and your communities throughout the world.

John R Morrow
Imperial Grand Master

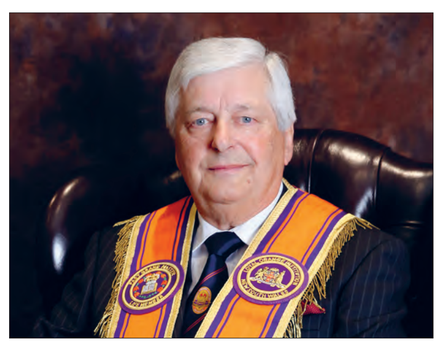
‘This is the time for our fraternal values and ideals to shine through’



To the members of the Grand Orange Lodge of Northern Ireland and all jurisdictions in the Orange World.
I bring greetings from your Brothers and Sisters across the waters in Canada. In these trying times, being diligent in social distancing and self-isolation have become the new common phrases in our vocabulary. Our association like everyone else is no exception. Grand Orange Lodge of Canada has cancelled all meetings and functions until the national and provincial health authorities have deemed it safe to resume meeting.
We are all missing our lodge meetings which are a very important factor in our everyday life, and I cannot stress enough the need to reach out to our members, especially those who are elderly, by a telephone call or a video conversation and always keeping a safe distance.
This is the time for our fraternal values and ideals to shine through, within our great order and outside, supporting in any way possible our communities.
On behalf of all members of the Canadian Orange Association, I wish all our Brother’s and Sister’s the best. God Bless and stay safe.

Fraternally.
M.W. Brother Donald Wilson,
Grand Master and Sovereign of the Grand Orange Lodge of Canada

‘With God’s help the bond between members will become stronger’



Fraternal Greetings and God’s Blessing from the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Orange Lodge of Australia (GOLA) to all members of the World Wide Orange Family in these unprecedented times. In Australia we appear to have nothing but calamities in recent times. Firstly it was the never-ending drought, up to four years in some areas, then the devastating bushfires and now the Coronavirus Pandemic. As we head into another period of self-isolation it is not that unusual for the Australian Institution as distance has always been a factor. The Grand Master and Grand Secretary of GOLA reside 950 kilometres apart. The NSW and Western Australian jurisdictions are separated by 3,200 kilometres, actually New Zealand is closer at 2,150, Adelaide 1,300 and so on. However it is at the local level, Primary, District and State levels the cancellations of gatherings/meetings has the most effect. But it will pass and with God’s help the bond between the members will remain and become stronger with some self-reflection on what is important in life.

Wor. Bro. Ian Kells,
Grand Secretary

Orange Family VE Day programme

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland is planning a special programme of virtual events to mark VE Day.
The programme, entitled Celebrate the Victory - Commemorate the Sacrifice, will begin on Monday, May 4 with the launch of Heritage at Home 'Service and Sacrifice – the Orange Contribution to World War II' online via the Museum of Orange Heritage website.
On Friday, May 8 there will be a number of special events. Some are national, such as the BBC's television programmes and a message from The Queen.
11am - Two Minutes silence.
2.45pm - VE Day Special Tribute BBC 1
3pm - Join the whole nation in raising a glass or cup of tea to our nation's heroes.
8pm - Ulster Bands special Live You-Tube
8pm - VE Day 75 Special BBC 1
9pm VE Day Message from HM Queen Elizabeth ll followed by a UK-wide sing-along of Dame Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again'.
On Saturday, May 9, members are being encouraged to get involved in family activities.
Plan a VE party at home - an afternoon tea or barbecue. Why not dress up for the occasion and share pictures from your event on Facebook?
Sunday, May 10, will see a Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland VE Thanksgiving Service take place at 3pm. Join together with Sisters and Brethren as our VE weekend celebrations and commemoration draw to a close with a Service of Thanksgiving conducted by our Grand Chaplains, which will be broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.
To help, a selection of VE Resources will be made available on Museum of Orange Heritage website - www.orangeheritge.co.uk. They include recipes, activities for children, such as colouring and craft ideas, and stories of the Orange Instution's contribution to the war.
*Please note times are right at time of publication.



Lodges marked Victory in Europe 75 years ago

The 75th Anniversary of VE Day will be marked on Friday, May 8.

Museum of Orange Heritage Curator, Dr Jonathan Mattison takes a look at how the news was received in Northern Ireland all those years ago.

Mirroring the reactions of thousands of others, the Orange Family greeted the ending of War in Europe with a mixture of joy, relief, sadness and apprehension for the fighting still continuing in the Far East.
One example was that of Eldon LOL No 7 in Belfast.
In the margin beside the minutes of their 14 May 1945 meeting is noted the following, "Victory in Europe".
The pages go on to read "Bro. Allen proposed that as this was our first meeting after the cessation of hostilities in Europe the Secretary should note in the minutes our thankfulness for Victory, and should record our sincere appreciation of Mr. Winston Churchill's leadership throughout the struggle. This was seconded by Bro. W.M. May and passed unanimously."
Many Orange homes and lodges felt the pain of loss and the relief of deliverance. Thousands of Orangemen and Women had responded to the call of liberty and served in the armed forces, gone to the factory floor or joined in the endeavour to feed the Nation. Rolls of honour began to appear and Services of Thanksgiving were held as the Orange Family counted the cost of the war. It was the simplicity of many of actions that thundered a great significance.
In October 1945, at their first District meeting since the end of the War, the Worshipful District Master, rose to his feet and "... spoke on the finish of the war and asked the brethren to stand and sing the doxology."

Contribution of Orange Brethren during WWII

Members of the Orange Institution served with distinction during the Second World War - with some receiving honours for their bravery and courage.


Major Frederick Hynds MC


Cecil Newell. Image courtesy of the family.

D-Day
Major Frederick Robert Armstrong Hynds MC

Served with: 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles
Awards: Military Cross; Mentioned in Despatches
Lodge: Blue Banner LOL No. 1942; Fernhill Temperance LOL No. 1388; Star of the East LOL No. 802; Cross of St. Patrick LOL No. 688; Deputy Grand Master, Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

Frederick Robert Armstrong Hynds was born in Belfast on 26 January 1903. At the age of 20 he joined the 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles. He progressed through the ranks quickly going from Lance Corporal to Sergeant in a few years and was variously stationed in Germany, Egypt and Hong Kong. At the outbreak of WWII in 1939, Hynds received his commission, which was a Lieutenancy 'at sea' and by 1941 he had been promoted to Captain, further being promoted to Major in 1944.
Major Hynds was dropped behind enemy lines on the 5 June 1944 to pave the way for the D-Day landings of the 6 June 1944. After the D-Day landing, with little regard to his personal safety, he exposed himself to artillery fire to encourage his men and to aid in the evacuation of the wounded.
Further, on the 7 June, Hynds assisted in the evacuation of wounded men from an aid post at Longueval.
He did not seek safety until all his men and wounded had been evacuated. For his actions, Hynds received the Military Cross and was Mentioned in Despatches in 1944.
Prior to his military service, Hynds had been a member of Blue Banner LOL No. 1942, Belfast District No. 1, and later of Fernhill Temperance LOL No. 1338 in Belfast District LOL No. 2.
During his service in Hong Kong he was a member of Star of the East LOL No. 802 and was Worshipful Master for a period.
After the end of WWII, Hynds returned to Ulster and was a founding member of Cross of St. Patrick LOL No. 688. In due course, Hynds became a Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. He died on 16 July 1983.

A Bridge Too Far!
Cecil Newell
Served with: 40th Artillery and 2nd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment.
Awards: Recommended for Military Medal

Lodge: Brunswick LOL No. 1702, Founder member Brunswick Accordion Band.

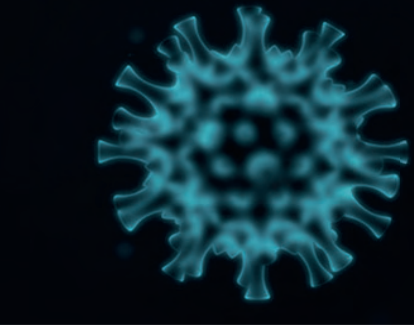
Cecil Newell from Annalong enlisted in the army in 1940, initially being attached to the Artillery before his move to the Parachute Regiment. His war would be an eventful one as part of this new Airborne arm of the British Army.
Over the next few years he saw action in North Africa, Sicily, and Normandy.
In 1944 he was part of the 2nd Parachute Regiment that was deployed to Arnhem as part of Operation Market Garden. Cecil was part of a small number of men who made it through the German lines and captured one end of Arnhem bridge, the finale of Montgomery's masterplan to outflank the Germans in northern Europe and invade the Rhine, thus shortening the war.
For four days this small group of brave soldiers held off much superior German forces. Cecil described the scene; "I was exposed nearly all the time, and the bullets were flying everywhere."
Cecil and his fellow paratroopers held out as long as possible, using machine guns, rifles and a small number of handheld anti-tank weapons against an armoured German Division. Eventually, they were forced to surrender. One of Cecil's most abiding memories was scampering up and down the embankment beside the bridge to supply machine guns with ammunition.
He was under constant fire from the enemy and was considered for a Military Medal for his actions.
Cecil became a prisoner of war in Czechoslovakia until his camp was liberated in 1945. After the war he continued to serve in the Ulster Special Constabulary and, upon its stand down, joined the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Northern Ireland Executive

CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING

STAY AT HOME TO SAVE LIVES

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT



For advice, visit **nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus**

PULPIT

by Rev. Ian McClean



"Come, my people, enter your rooms and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury is past."

These words above could well have been written yesterday by one of our leading politicians, or by a senior medical adviser.
The advice is sound. The Covid-19 pandemic is out there. It is raging. It has proved fatal to thousands throughout the whole world. It is very easily contracted. And so the plea has gone out – Stay at home! Don't let anyone in!
It is good to see that the vast majority of our people are heeding the warning, and already there are signs that the 'self-isolating' policy is succeeding.
But this wasn't written just yesterday. It was written two thousand seven hundred years ago by the prophet Isaiah (chapter 26:20).
It refers, not to the Coronavirus danger, but to a far greater danger. Isaiah is writing about the last judgement.
He continues "For behold, the LORD is coming from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity."
In these verses the Word of God speaks to us of 5 things.

1. "the iniquity of the inhabitants of the earth." He reminds us, if we need to be reminded, that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

2. "the LORD is coming out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth." On that day, the LORD will come from heaven. " the LORD Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction." (2 Thessalonians 1: 7-9) "For behold the LORD will come in flaming fire and his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger in fury" (Isaiah 66:15)

3. Nevertheless, there is a way of escape. "Come" he says. He invites us to come with him, to be with him. "Come to me; hear that your soul may live." (Isaiah 55:3). He says to his disciples "that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3) "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." (Matthew 25:34)

4. Where is that place of safety, that place to which he invites us to come? "enter your rooms" You don't have to go far. Go into the quiet place where you can meet with the Saviour. "go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father" (Matthew 6:6) "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down) or 'Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).
But what does it say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is the word of faith which we proclaim) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:6-8)

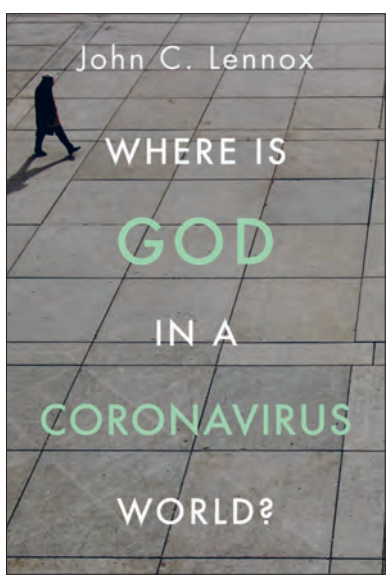
5. And the result? "hide yourself for a little while until the fury is past".
"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." (Psalm 91:1-3)
Today, many many people are heeding the government's plea. How many are heeding the Lord's plea?

BOOKSHELF

by Robin Fairbairn
The Good Book Company

Where is God in a Coronavirus World?

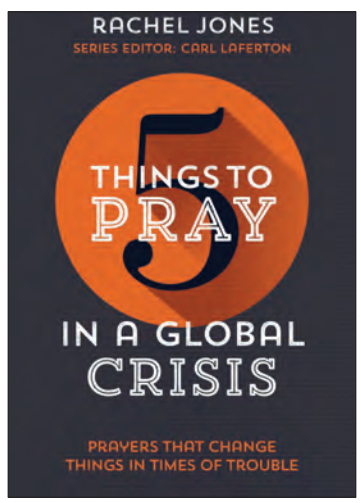
We are living through a unique, era-defining period. Many of our old certainties have gone, whatever our view of the world and whatever our beliefs. The coronavirus pandemic and its effects are perplexing and unsettling for all of us. How do we begin to think it through and cope with it?



In this short yet profound book, Oxford mathematics professor John Lennox examines the coronavirus in light of various belief systems and shows how the Christian worldview not only helps us to make sense of it, but also offers us a sure and certain hope to cling to.
Which of us hasn't been confronted with urgent and deep questions as we have faced the threat of the coronavirus? John Lennox's engaging and profound book will help both committed Christians and the open-minded of any faith or none find answers from the Christian faith that provide both perspective and hope.
Warm, thoughtful, and engaging without ducking the issues, John Lennox puts in far better words what so many of us would want to say.

5 Things to Pray in a Global Crisis

The coronavirus pandemic has left most of us feeling unsettled, concerned and very aware of human frailty. It has driven many of us to our knees, but it is such an overwhelming problem that many of us are unsure how to pray, or what for.
This little book has been written specifically to help Christians in this season. Each spread takes a passage of Scripture and suggests 5 things to pray from it so that we can pray in line with God's will. When we pray in line with God's priorities, we know that our prayers will be powerful—they really will change things.
These prayer prompts will help you to pray for such things as comfort in loneliness, peace in anxiousness, patience in frustration, wisdom in uncertainty and hope in grief. They will also help you to pray for family who you cannot visit, those who are sick and those looking after them, the vulnerable members of your community, your church, your government and the opportunities that this crisis presents for God's kingdom to grow.





thegoodbook COMPANY

Get these books at www.tthegoodbook.co.uk or via Robin Fairbairn - robin.fairbairn@thegoodbook.co.uk

ORANGE NEWS

Grand Lodge makes submission to Hate Crime Review Consultation

Representatives of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland have made a formal written submission to the Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland. Led by Judge Desmond Marrinan, the review is currently considering the current law in Northern Ireland concerning Hate Crime incidents and will make formal recommendations and commentary on improvements which could be made to Legislation in this regard. A new definition of Hate Crime, sentencing and the creation of new categories of hate crime is also being considered.

As an Organisation with members and property who are regularly the target of hate crime incidents, the Orange Institution has ensured its voice is heard by the Review.

Since 1969, 62 of our Halls have been completely destroyed in hate crime attacks and there have been almost 700 recorded hate crime incidents on our properties, many since the ceasefires of the 1990s. Sadly, these numbers pale in comparison to the true numbers of attacks on the Institution, due to widescale under-reporting of attacks and also how these incidents are being recorded and categorised on official statistics which are derived from the Police database.



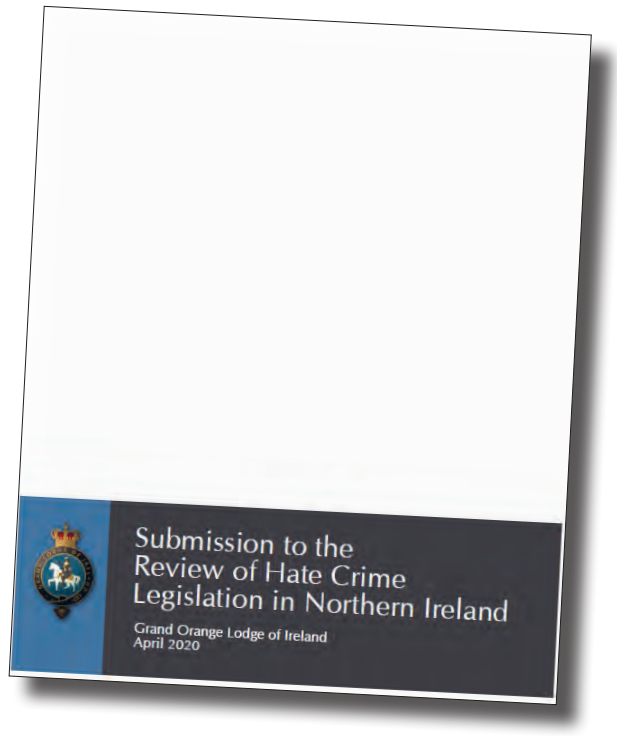
Many Orange Lodges choose not to report minor or moderate hate crime incidents on their people or halls in order to prevent any further escalation in attacks and a desire to 'keep their heads down' and this is a characteristic of many hate crime incidents across society.

It has also transpired that there are deficiencies in how hate crimes perpetrated against the Orange Institution are being recorded – some are being characterised as sectarian, some as anti-social behaviour, some as criminal damage etc. and this has prevented the true extent and scale of attacks on our people and properties being accurately represented.

The remit of the Review was expanded in late 2019 to include online and social media incidents, and again – sadly - the Institution is regularly subjected to threats and abuse received by email, on social media and on the Web. It is clear that the issue of hate crimes in the virtual world requires just as much regulation and scrutiny as those which exist in the physical domain.

In November, the Grand Secretary Mervyn Gibson and Chief Executive Iain Carlisle met with Judge Marrinan and formally presented the Institution's written submission to him. They also used the opportunity to brief him on the important work which the Orange Institution does within local communities and the negative impact which hate crimes have had in those areas.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland would like to take this opportunity to remind our members that the safety and security of members and Halls is paramount. If a member or property is attacked, or receives physical threats online or otherwise, these should be reported immediately to Police and then to GOLI Headquarters at 'Schomberg House'.



The Grand Orange Lodge's formal written submission to the Hate Crime Review is available to download from the GOLI website which can be accessed at goli.org.uk/publications



Long service at Loughgall

A very special presentation took place at the recent quarterly meeting of Loughgall District LOL No. 3. A suitably engraved wall clock was presented to Wor. Bro. Derek Greenaway as a token of thanks for having served 31 years as District Secretary (1988 – 2019) before taking on the role of Deputy District Master. The presentation was performed by Wor. Bro. Denis Watson JP County Grand Master.

Derrycorry Purple Guards Temperance LOL 52

Derrycorry Purple Guards Temperance LOL 52 held its Installation of Officers meeting on Thursday, February 6. Bro. Sammy Buckley was installed as Deputy Master and Wor. Bro. Roger Gardiner was installed as committee member. Bro. Buckley is possibly one of the youngest Deputy Masters at 19 years of age, and it is encouraging to see younger members taking a keen interest. The installation was carried out by Wor. Bro. T. D. Forbes, District Master, Loughgall District No. 3, assisted by Wor. Bro. Barry McQueen, District Secretary.



DAN WINTER'S HOUSE

Birthplace of Orangeism



This 300-year-old Ancestral Home is situated in the farmyard, 240 yards from The Diamond Crossroads

Open 10.30a.m. to 5.30p.m. Monday to Saturday
Open 2.00p.m. to 5.30p.m. Sunday
Summer months open to 8.30 p.m.

Grand Lodge of Ireland educational books and memorabilia on sale

FOR LODGE MEETINGS PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE

Contact: Mrs. Hilda Winter
Tel: 028 3885 1344 Mobile: 07762 605 169

or Bro. Geoffrey Daniel Winter
Mobile 07710 112 823

9 Derryloughan Road, The Diamond, Loughgall BT61 8PH
e-mail hildawinter@btinternet.com

ORANGE NEWS

Sixmilewater District Royal Arch Purple Chapter







Above: Newly installed and re-installed Officers after Dedication of new Officers Collarettes by Right Worshipful Brother Reverend David McCarthy, Right Worshipful County Grand Master, County Antrim G.R.A.P.C.

Above left: Brother Laurence McClintock PDM (right) receiving his Past Master's Certificate, Jewel and Collarette from Right Worshipful Brother Reverend David McCarthy, Right Worshipful County Grand Master, County Antrim G.R.A.P.C.

Left: District Officers and visiting County Grand Officers.



Newly installed Worshipful District Master, Worshipful Brother Thomas McFarlane (Right) pictured with his father, Brother Alex McFarlane.



DO YOU NEED TO USE THE PUBLIC ROAD FOR AN

EVENT

(PARADE, SPORTING, CHARITY ETC)

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Dunseverick Lodge installation with WM Wor. Bro. C. Elliott, Grand Lodge Officers, County Grand Lodge Officers, District Lodge Officers and Lodge Brethren. Following the Installation, the assembled Brethren were treated to a delightful supper which included the WM's now world famous wheaten bread.



Gloonan LOL 504, Ahoghill, recently visited the Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House, Loughgall, for lunch, a tour and a Lodge meeting. They also initiated a candidate, Cameron Middleton, in Sloan's Parlour, being the first Lodge from Co Antrim to do so.

AROUND THE LODGES

Installation and presentation at special meeting for members of Devenish Star of Freedom LOL 1598

Monday 3rd February, was a special meeting in the life of Devenish Star of Freedom LOL 1598.
The outgoing Worshipful Master, Bro. George Kilpatrick, welcomed everyone to the installation and presentation evening and especially Wor. Bro. Rev. Rodney Beacom, County Grand Chaplain, and Wor. Bro. Alan Hassard, District Master.
With the routine business of the Lodge concluded, Bro. Kilpatrick thanked the Officers and members of the Lodge for all their help and support during his term as Worshipful Master. He had certainly enjoyed his time and counted it an honour and a privilege to have served the Lodge in this way.
He wished the Lodge every blessing and success for the future and then asked the County Grand Chaplain to take the chair, the District Master to take the Deputy Chair and conduct the installation of Officers.
With the installation complete, the new WM Bro. Reggie Ferguson asked the County Grand Chaplain to present Bro. William Elliott with his 50 year certificate and jewel.
He did so, thanking him for his long and dedicated service of which he could be justly proud, also mentioning the fact that he was both a Past Master and Secretary of the Lodge.
The Hon Secretary read the minutes from December 1969 and January 1970 when Bro. Elliott was proposed and initiated respectively. This was in itself an interesting insight into a little bit of Lodge history.
The District Master then presented a Past Masters certificate and jewel to Bro. Kilpatrick, describing him as a man who when you asked him today, to do something tomorrow, had already done it yesterday.
A valued and trustworthy member.
The newly installed Deputy Master Bro. Scott Fallis proposed a vote of thanks to all concerned and asked Wor. Bro. John Gowan to make a presentation to Rev. Beacom. This he did, thanking him once again for his attendance with us at this special meeting and for displaying clear leadership in his role.
He described him also as a man always true to the principles of the Orange Order.
Rev. Beacom replied with sincere thanks and appreciation. He then delivered a most interesting address on the subject of "Making yourself available for use to our Lord and Saviour" likening our service in and to the Orange Institution to serving our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
The District Master brought proceedings to a close by thanking LOL 1598 for their ongoing support of the District and mentioning their "uniqueness" in having now produced two County Grand Masters.
He also thanked Wor. Bro. Rev. Rodney Beacom for being a very "unique" County Grand Chaplain.
The newly installed and re-installed principal Officers for 2020 are as follows: WM: Bro. Reggie Ferguson; DM: Bro. Scott Fallis; Chap: Bro. George Gray; Sec: Bro. Stuart Brooker; Treas: Bro. Joe Reilly.
The evening concluded with supper, fellowship and much reminiscing.







Above: Wor. Bro. Alan Hassard presents a Past Master's certificate and jewel to Bro. George Kilpatrick

Above left: Wor. Bro. Rev. Beacom presents a 50 year certificate and jewel to Bro. Willie Elliott.

Left: Members of LOL 1598. The new WM Bro. Reggie Ferguson is pictured centre, front row, with the new DM Bro Scott Fallis, to the right.

PPE distributed by lodges in the Republic of Ireland



Leitrim Brethren working hard to help their community. David Morton and Elvis Curran handed over some PPE from County Leitrim Orangemen to Councillor Paddy O'Rourke for distribution to health workers in the Carrigallen area.



Brethren from Co Cavan delivering PPE to Oak View Nursing Home in Belturbet.

MUSEUM NEWS

‘In the Name of the Sisterhood’ exhibition available on website

The ‘In the Name of the Sisterhood’ exhibition has now been shared for viewing on the Museum of Orange Heritage website - www.orangeheritage.co.uk - as part of a new initiative entitled Heritage at Home. As part of this first exhibition to go live, we look at the contributions made by some of the women.
Here we focus on the contribution of Edith Martin.

Edith Martin (neé Sinclair) was born in 1871, the eldest child of Fanny Coit (neé Bunker) and John Sinclair, an Ulster businessman.
John Sinclair was originally from Belfast but had emigrated to New York, where Edith was born.
Edith married Robert Thomas Martin, a well-known Belfast solicitor, in a wedding ceremony in New York in 1892, and the couple would go on to have three children, a son and two daughters. They lived at College Gardens in Belfast.
On the death of her son John, who was Killed in Action in France in May 1915 aged 19, Edith decided to return to education and attended Queen’s University of Belfast where she attained a BSc. In 1919 she accepted nomination to the Senate of Queen’s University, citing as a reason that it was “time that the women members of Convocation had a Representative on the Senate.” She also felt that British industry depended on scientific research, and, as a holder of a science degree, she was particularly well placed to form opinions on such matters. She did not succeed in the election for the Senate, but remained at Queen’s University to complete her MSc.
1919 was a year of further tragedy for Edith when her husband died as a result of a motorcycle accident on 27 October.
Edith had an interest in Unionist politics, giving talks and lectures about the same, and was a member of the Ulster Unionist Council. In 1928 her lecture to the Ulster Unionist Summer School was on “Woman’s Place in Politics and Industry.” In it she called for women to be “given every chance to be well trained in whatever occupation they might wish to follow,” and asserted that women should be “paid on the basis of work done and not on a sex basis.”
In 1925 she was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace for County Armagh, and seems to have spent much of her time at her home at Laurel Hill in Mount Norris, where her late husband’s family



was from.
Edith was a member of the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland. She was Worshipful Mistress of both St Anne’s WLOL No. 37 in District 5, Belfast, and of Laurel Hill WLOL No. 49 in County Armagh. She was Worshipful District Mistress of District No. 5, Belfast, was elected Grand Secretary in 1923, and was Deputy Grand Mistress of Ireland in the 1930s.
Edith returned to studies after completing her MSc, this time to study Theology. She had the distinction of being the first woman to graduate with a Bachelor of Divinity from Queen’s University, Belfast. Although her studies had meant that she was accepted as a student in the Presbytery of Newry, and later assisted at Sinclair Seamen’s Church in Belfast, she posed a problem for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Church had only recently, in 1927, permitted women to act as Elders, and there was ongoing debate about whether they should be allowed to become Ministers. The meeting of the General Assembly in 1929 could not reach a decision on the matter, but allowed Edith to continue her studies.
The Presbyterian Church in Ireland continued to bar women from becoming ministers, and so Edith was licensed in 1930 by the United Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and ordained on 19 June 1931 to become the first woman to be ordained by any Presbyterian Church.
Rev. Martin was moved in 1934 to the congregation of Balbeggie and Collace, where she ministered until 1938, when she retired from her charge. During her time there she was Moderator of the Presbytery of Perth. She returned to Northern Ireland, where she spent her time between her home at Harberton Park, Belfast and Laurel Hill, Mountnorris. She continued to lead services in Presbyterian churches across the country and took a strong interest in the Presbyterian Orphan Society. She was also the honorary assistant librarian at the Presbyterian College in Belfast.
Edith had a continuing concern for social welfare, and during the Second World War was a member of the VAD, driving a motor ambulance during the Belfast Blitz.
Rev. Edith Sinclair Martin, MSc, BD died on 23 September 1948 at her home at Laurel Hill.

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MUSEUM NEWS

Sloan's House displays support for the NHS

The Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House, Loughgall, is prominently displaying the Grand Lodge banner showing support for the NHS and all frontline workers.

Meanwhile, pictured to the right, County Grand Lodge Officers are preparing the Grand Lodge PPE packs for distribution to the 11 District Lodges within Co Armagh. Pictured (left to right) are: Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Lawson, Deputy County Grand Secretary; Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Grand Master; Wor. Bro. Roger Gardiner, County Grand Secretary; and Wor. Bro. Clarence Livingstone, Deputy County Grand Treasurer.





Cheques presented to Southern Area Hospice

Cheques to the value of almost £8,500 were presented at the Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House to Anne Dalzell from the Southern Area Hospice by Co Armagh Grand Orange Lodge Officers and representatives of Loughgall, Tandragee and Newtownhamilton Districts. As the largest community-based organisation within Co Armagh, the County Grand Lodge and these District Lodges were very aware that the Hospice is unable to fundraise in these uncertain times and agreed to try to assist with the running costs. The pictures show some of the County Grand Lodge Officers, Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Lawson, Deputy County Grand Secretary; Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Grand Master; Wor. Bro. Clarence Livingstone, Deputy County Grand Treasurer; and Wor. Bro. Roger Gardiner, County Grand Secretary, presenting a cheque for £5,000 to Ann Dalzell. Also pictured are Wor. Bro. Barry McQueen, District Secretary, Loughgall District LOL No 3; Wor. Bro. Mervyn Adair, Worshipful District Master, Tandragee District LOL No 4; and Wor. Bro. David Smyth, Newtownhamiltoin District LOL No 9 presenting their cheques.









MOTOR MOUTH

with Graham Baalham-Curry



Will electrification prove the way to go for this popular Japanese manufacturer?

SUBARU FORESTER GOES GREEN!

We get to grips with the Subaru Forester which recently received a hybrid system and find out if electrification is the way forward for the Japanese maker.

Regular readers will know that I have a huge affection for the Subaru brand, which stems from my time following and competing in rallying. It's a brand that has always produced cars based around performance, agility and a rugged ability.

In recent years, however, the performance aspect has been lacking.

This latest model from Subaru is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to a lack of performance, and has, without doubt, put me off any potential future ownership, if this is the way Subaru see their future.

Strong words coming from someone who has always longed to own a Subaru Forester.

Subaru have mostly used a 'boxer' engine, which keeps the centre of gravity low and it's an engine type that isn't too common these days as in general, they can be quite uneconomical and with tighter restrictions on emissions, high costs of tax ensued.

It's a wonder that Subaru even still use such an engine, with the likes of Greta and her vast array of environmental followers.

Perhaps the combined reasons mentioned, is why Subaru has developed the e-BOXER, a self-charging hybrid, to work towards the goal of a better carbon footprint. Let's be realistic,





until recently, they haven't done a great deal other than produce fuel guzzlers.

This latest Forester, the e-BOXER, retains as you might have guessed from its name, a boxer engine.

This time in 2L guise, with a lack of turbocharger, but with an added battery in the boot.

Retaining the symmetrical all-wheel-drive system is a good thing, and combined with the award-winning 'eyesight' technology, it keeps the Forester in contention for one of the most practical and safe cars in its class.

When it comes to people carriers, there are many around, but when it comes to people carriers that add extra purpose for those living in rural areas, or that enjoy some extreme sports, few can add up to what the Forester can deliver both on-road and off-road.

Inside, this model tested is awash of black leather and durable plastics that are far removed from Subaru's of old. The Forester is actually quite a nice place to be when driving or as a passenger, for which there is plenty of room no matter which seat you opt to sit in.

Comfort on this model helped with heated seats front and rear.

An electric open-close tailgate adds a lot of convenience, whilst a suitably sized colour touch-screen on the dash is the home of the infotainment which provides AM/FM/DAB radio, satellite navigation, app connectivity, Bluetooth and streaming.

Above this, on top of the dash and in its own housing, is a second colour screen which displays the climate control settings as well as the status of the engine and hybrid system and shows the transition of power from petrol or battery. The regeneration status of the battery can be viewed on this along with other car settings.

Whilst at press launches in the past, when Subaru's eyesight technology was first demonstrated, I experienced it in several clinical situations and it seemed to work well, so well in fact that many other brands are now incorporating the exact technology into their own vehicles.

It was only during my week long test of this Forester however, that I was able to see first-hand just how good a system it really is.

One example would be when I was scouting out a possible location for a photoshoot of a local artist.

I was on private land and whilst driving quite slowly I was looking around me to see if my idea would be achievable, when all of a sudden the car beeped and a message popped up to say something along the lines of pay attention and keep your eyes on the road.

Big brother is watching you!

Again, later in the week, I was helped by the eyesight technology when out chasing #StormDennis. The car in front of me decided to slow down rapidly without any warning and before I knew it, lights, sounds, mechanical assistance, and my own reactions soon saved me from an embarrassing phone call to Subaru UK.

These real-world scenarios on this system enlightened me as to just how great it is, something that can't be gained truly from a set-up, role-play, of potential road scenario.

An X-mode dial allows switching between normal, snow and dirt or deep snow and mud settings, which will alter how the car drives to best suit the train under you, meaning the Foresters capability off-road and agility on-road is never in doubt.

The symmetrical all-wheel-drive system is fantastic as I have experienced several times in the past and even the lineartronic CVT automatic gearbox is one that I warmed to the more miles I covered when I got used to its mannerisms.

Now to the power train, unfortunately.

I'll start by saying that on a long stretch of road close to home, where in my 12-year old turbocharged diesel Volkswagen Golf, I can overtake a car travelling at 40mph safely, I struggled to find the torque in this e-boxer Forester to pull out and pass in a way I felt safe.

The car did complete the manoeuvre, I'll attest, but I never tried to overtake for the rest of the week that I had the e-BOXER as I just didn't have the confidence in the engine's ability.

Whilst researching this article however, everything became apparent as to where Subaru are headed, as it has removed all diesel engines from its range, removed all turbochargers from its petrol engines and the XV and Forester now come with the hybrid self-charging power-train.

Subaru are now all about high specifications, comfort and with safety of paramount importance to the brand which, in this day and age where a mixture of technology and daydreaming can distract us so easily when driving, you'll always have confidence in motion with a Subaru.

The e-BOXER Forester produces around 145bhp with similar lb/ft of torque and is equipped only with the auto 'box which will see a combined return of about 35mpg.

Prices start from £35,995 for the XE model which provides as much as most would ever need from a vehicle in regards to specification. For those wanting a little more however, an XE Premium, as tested, can be bought from £38,995.

Subaru's Forester is covered by a five-year/100,000 mile warranty whilst the battery gets an extra three-years, proving the confidence the Japanese maker has in its product and, despite being best suited to city driving, with performance that is undermined by many 1.2L 3-cylinder turbocharged petrol cars on the market today.

It's a safe place to be, even if I don't feel that electrification as it is at present, is the way forward.

Fact File for model tested

Make: Subaru
Model: Forester e-BOXER
Trim: XE Premium
Engine: 2.0L Petrol & electric motor
Gearbox: Automatic CVT
Cost: £38,995.

Ulsterwoman was a contemporary of Florence Nightingale

History Lessons
with Dr David Hume MBE

FLORENCE Nightingale is far-famed as "The Lady with the Lamp", who came to prominence for her pioneering work during the Crimean War.
Her title comes from the fact that she was often seen making rounds of wounded soldiers at night, carrying her now famous lamp.
Born in May 1820, she is remembered as a British social reformer and the founder of modern nursing.
Among those who worked with her during the Crimean War was a County Down woman named Mary Francis Willock, who is all but forgotten in her native land.
Yet in a 1940 newspaper article, journalist Colin Johnston Robb described Willock as "an Ulster Florence Nightingale".
She was the daughter of a Rathfriland merchant named Henry Stafford Willock and was born on October 1, 1810.
Although there seems to be little information about Mary and her family, it is believed they were from the same family as the Willocks of Tullyquilly and Moneyslane outside Rathfriland.
There is a reference to the death of Miss Penelope Willock in Rathfriland on May 3, 1828 at the age of 85 years. Her death notice in the Belfast Commercial Chronicle said "The whole tenor of this amicable Lady's life was guided by virtue, religion and humble resignation to her Creator."
Some years later, in 1869, a report on the Newry Union Cattle Show records that Henry Willock of Tullyquilly House won first prize for a bull named Lord Nelson at the shore.


Florence Nightingale

What relationship might have existed to Mary Francis is not clear.
We do know that in 1850 she went to Genoa as a companion to a member of the Clanwilliam family, who had, through intermarriage with the Hawkins-Magill family, lands at Gill Hall at Dromore.
The third Earl Clanwilliam, who succeeded to the title in 1805, was a prominent diplomat, being private secretary and a close associate of Lord Castlereagh, who was Foreign Secretary. He was also Ambassador to Prussia.
When one of the Clanwilliams came to Europe, Mary Francis Willock was with them, and would spend the rest of her life on the continent.
Three years later, the Crimean War would break out, a major conflict between the Ottoman Empire, assisted by France and England, and the Russian Empire.
The war lasted from October 1853 to March 1856, and in 1855 Willock made her way to Scutari, now Uskudar, a municipality of Istanbul, where the British Expeditionary Force had a hospital.
She was accompanied by two Sardinian women and an English lady, and they were there as volunteers to assist Florence Nightingale.
The County Down woman assisted at Scutari barracks hospital and also a camp-hospital in the field.
While she probably got to know Florence Nightingale during this time, we know for certain that she did meet and fall in love with an officer called Lieutenant Millar, who was from the Banbridge area and was some years younger than Mary.
The romance was, sadly, brought to a premature end by his death, and after the war his distraught fiancée returned to Italy, taking up a post as governess for an Italian noble family in Rome.
She retained a strong interest in nursing and welfare and was planning to attend the first meeting of the Red Cross Society in Geneva, along with a member of the Pyffer Von Altishoffen family.
However, the Rathfriland woman became ill and had to cancel her plans.
Ironically, she died in Vienna on the date of the meeting of the Red Cross Society, which was February 9, 1863.
Commentators have suggested in more recent times that Nightingale's Crimean War achievements were exaggerated by media at the time. But critics agree on the importance of her later work in professionalising nursing roles for women.
And in the laying of those foundations, a little-known Rathfriland woman named Mary Francis Willock must also share some recognition for her courageous and caring efforts during the Crimean War.

Orangeism on the rise in Motherwell

THE PROGRESS of Orangeism in Motherwell was noted in a report of the annual Church Parade and Divine Service of Motherwell Orange and Purple District in July 1948.
The service was held on Sunday, June 27 at St. Mary's Church, Avon Street, when it was estimated that some 1,600 members took part.
The procession to the church was headed by the Worthy District Master, Bro. Samuel A. Boal and Bro. Rev. James Hamilton, Grand Chaplain, and was accompanied by Bothwellhaugh Thistle Prize Flute Band and Motherwell Old Comrades Prize Flute Band.
The Motherwell Times of July 2, 1948, reported that at the War Memorial in the Duchess of Hamilton Park, a wreath was laid in memory of those who had died in the service of their country.
The procession then made its way to the church, which, with its adjoining buildings was packed to its capacity.
The Rev. Bro. James Hamilton, G.C., who was in charge of the service, based his address on "Our duty to God, our duty to our church, and our duty to our country,"
the newspaper detailed.
On returning to the Hall, Worthy District Master, Bro. Samuel Boal intimated that it was a record attendance for an Orange Church Parade in Motherwell.
The Motherwell Times said this was due to the fact that this Order in Scotland "was growing stronger every day, und that Motherwell was not lagging behind in membership".
Within the past year, it was reported, the membership of the District had increased almost 100 per cent, indicating a renewed interest in the Institution in the area.

Orangemen in the dock for parading in Monaghan

FIFTY Orangemen appeared in the dock in Monaghan in 1833, charged with breaching the law on public processions.
Known colloquially as "the Boyne Water Act", the legislation was directed against 'party processions' and impacted directly on the Orange Institution.
Although directed by the Grand Lodge of Ireland not to breach the law, many Orangemen did.
And for fifty of them that resulted in the court appearance in August 1833, as reported in the Belfast News Letter that August.
The report says that "On Monday last, fifty Orangemen were put upon their trials for sundry breaches alleged to have been committed against the 'Boyne Water Act' by walking in processions, and otherwise exciting animosity in the minds of their friends and neighbours."
The jury consisted of one half Protestants and the other half Roman Catholics and the outcome, though unfortunately the report does not go into details of the evidence presented, was the acquittal of all those involved, who were discharged.

Keady man who became an Orange leader in Canada

A FORMER County Armagh man became prominent as an Orange leader in Ontario, establishing three Orange lodges and becoming a delegate to the Imperial Orange Council.
Alexander Hodge Gordon (pictured right) was born near Keady and attended the Darkley National School prior to emigrating to Canada as a teenager.
He settled north of Toronto in May 1870, but then crossed the border into the USA, remaining in Chicago for around 15 years.
Returning to Canada in November 1876, he became an Orangeman in LOL 928 in Huron County, Ontario, and transferred to Lord Rossmore LOL 142 when he moved to Toronto.
In 1877 he obtained a warrant to form LOL 154 and served as a time as Worshipful Master of the lodge, also establishing two other lodges – LOL 913 in 1889 and LOL 954 in 1908.
In both cases he also served in the office of WM and



he was made an honorary member of LOL 954.
He was selected by the lodges to become a representative to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ontario West.
He represented the Provincial Lodge as a delegate to the Imperial Grand Orange Council of the World and attended his first meeting at Dublin in 1903.
When an article appeared in the Weekly Telegraph about him in 1926, he had attended the Council meeting in London, then travelled to Scotland to take part in the Twelfth demonstration at Dalry and then the July parades in his native Ulster.
He had attended Imperial meetings in Toronto in 1906, Glasgow in 1912 and Winnipeg in 1923, as well as being a member of the Royal Scarlet Order, which is unique to Canada.
Gordon attended July anniversary services in Belfast before travelling as a guest of T. R. Lavery MP of Newtownards to the Twelfth at Kircubbin, where he took part in the platform proceedings.
On the following day he was among those who attended the Sham Fight at Scarva.
It was reported that he had served for 37 years in the civil service, and had also been a member of the 10th Royal Grenadiers of the Canadian Volunteers who helped put down the North West Rebellion under Louis Reel in 1885.

OBSERVER

Order plays part in helping to beat Coronavirus

The decision of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to cancel this year's 12th July parades and public demonstrations to support the battle to defeat the deadly Coronavirus pandemic received universal welcome and support, writes Brian Courtney.

It was a decision not taken lightly, as this is the biggest event of the year in Northern Ireland, with hundreds of thousands of people enjoying the spectacle of some 30,000 Orangemen and Orangewomen parading, accompanied by hundreds of bands.

It was a decisive step taken by Grand Lodge, and supported throughout the Institution by lodges and brethren.

Saving lives was uppermost in the thinking and actions of Grand Lodge, and the action has had the wholehearted support of brethren, and of the loyalist population.

Orangemen and Orangewomen are playing their part in support of the NHS, and large consignments of life-saving equipment have been delivered by the Orange Institution to the various hospitals in Northern Ireland.

The decision to cancel the Twelfth parades, and all other similar events like mini-Twelfths, and church service parades was taken in the cause of saving lives throughout Northern Ireland, and the Republic.

There have been precedents for such action by the Orange Order, including the cancellation of the 12th July parades in 1916 to respect the gallantry and huge loss of life of the men of the 36th (Ulster) Division in the Battle of the Somme. The Second World War saw the cancellation of all Orange parades from 1940 until 1945.

I was a schoolboy during the war, and I remember my father and grandfather chatting about Orange parades. Both were Orangemen, but to a boy who had never witnessed the spectacle, it meant very little at that time.

However, that all changed for me, on July 12, 1945, when a number of Orange districts in County Armagh, including Portadown and Lurgan, took part in the first Twelfth of July parade since 1939.

The huge procession passed the front of our house on the Armagh Road in Portadown, and I was fascinated and delighted by the sight of thousands of Orangemen parading behind their colourful flags and banners, to Shamrock Park, home of Portadown Football Club, venue for the demonstration.

The huge Lambeg drums, so long a feature of County Armagh Orangeism, thundered out the message of the Twelfth. The scores of smartly dressed flute, silver, pipe, brass, and accordion bands was a marvellous spectacle.

One of the things that stood out for me was the fact that many of the Orangemen in the parade were wearing sashes on top of their Army and RAF uniforms.

An uncle, who was serving with the Royal Air Force and was watching the parade, told me that although the war in Europe had ended on May 8, with the defeat of Germany, there was still a war in the Far East against Japan taking place.

That, he explained was why the Orangemen were still wearing their uniforms, serving in His Majesty's Forces, and indeed others were still on active service in India, Burma, Malaya, and other countries which had experienced Japanese aggression.

For me, that first Orange parade I had witnessed was something really special.

It represented colour, laughter, gaiety, and enjoyment, after so many years of austerity, hardship, food shortages, and rationing.

It was one of the things which influenced my decision to join the Orange Order as soon as I was old enough, and it represented all that was best in the organisation, with adult spectators smiling and relaxed, and I must stress, no aggression or anything which is these days called sectarian.

A few years later, I learned that while no Orange parades were held in Portadown, or any other part of Northern Ireland, services marking the Battle of the Boyne were held in local churches during World War Two.

My dad, along with his fellow brethren, would meet outside the church, adhering to the no parade order, and once inside the place of worship would don their Orange sashes for service.

After the singing of the National Anthem at the close of the service, they would take off their regalia, and leave the church to make their way home, again without a parade.

Later, as a reporter on the Portadown News, I was told how a few officers in the Royal Black Institution, observed the tradition of walking through Scarva on the Thirteenth.

Scarva has been hosting the Royal Black Institution demonstration and parade of preceptories and bands from counties Armagh and Down – along with visiting preceptories for many generations.

It's Sham Fight, a representation of the Battle of the Boyne is the last surviving replica of the 1690 battle, which was once held in other places in Ireland, notably Bandon in West Cork.

Scarva Day usually attracts over 100,000 people to the village, travelling by train, bus and car, but for the years of the Second World War the event wasn't held.

However, a small number of senior members of the Royal Black Institution met in Scarva on the morning of July 13 to keep the tradition going in a minuscule but important way.

Men like Sir Knights Joshua Bell, Alex Adair, and Alex Cushnie, all prominent in the Royal Black Institution, met with a few others at the bridge over the canal in Scarva on the morning of July 13.

They did not wear any Royal Black regalia or sashes, and they just strolled at leisure through the village and up through the demesne to the field where the annual Sham Fight is held.

There they sat, relaxed, and chatted for a short time, recalling pre-war Scarva parades and demonstrations, before strolling back to the village, where they took the train or bus back to their home towns.

No law was broken, no-one was offended, and a few Sir Knights ensured that the long tradition of Scarva Day on the Thirteenth of July would be observed.

Praise for 'positive aspects' of the Orange Order

A friend who is not an Orangeman sought me out recently to praise what he called "the positive aspects" of the Orange Order, writes Brian Courtney.

He had never criticised the Order in my presence, but now revealed that there had been issues which had disturbed him.

He mentioned Drumcree and Twaddell Avenue, what he felt were negative features associated with some parades, especially alcohol consumption, and of course he linked the Orange Order with Eleventh Night bonfires.

He accepted my argument that the Orange Order was not responsible for organising bonfires, although many Orangemen and their families enjoy attending the vast majority of bonfires which do not have anti-social side shows.

But what pleased me about the conversation I had with my friend revealed the transformation in his thinking about the Orange Order and Royal Black Institution.

He stressed how pleased he was with the decisive action of Grand Lodge in cancelling this year's Twelfth of July demonstration because of the Covid-19 virus.

"I realise this action was not taken lightly, as I know the Twelfth means a lot to Orangemen and their many supporters, and I must commend the senior officers for taking this decision, and the acceptance of the rank-and-file in supporting it," he declared.

My friend then admitted that he had not realised until lately how many "admirable sides" to the Order and its activities.

He had read in the newspapers that the Northern Ireland economy benefits to the tune of £4 million from the Twelfth demonstrations.

But what really impressed him were the stories he had read in a number of local papers about Orange Lodges and Black preceptories presenting cheques to organisations doing great work in the community.

"It is only lately that I learned about the substantial sums donated by Orange Lodges to a whole range of charities and worthy causes, and all on a cross-community basis," he said.

I was delighted with his change of attitude to the Loyal Orders, and I must say that his comment about the support given to life-saving departments in our hospitals rang so true.

Some years ago, the hard-hitting BBC commentator, The late David Dunseath showered praise on the Loyal Orders for their generous response to appeals for worthy causes. He said that few people seemed to realise that the Orange and Black financial support to health organisations and charity groups was up there among the top subscribers in the land.

It was a terrific endorsement from a man who did not hand out praise lightly, and who would not have been backward in criticising the less attractive aspects of loyalism.

We carried his comments in the Orange Standard at the time, and I can recall the favourable response there was from readers who appreciated David Dunseath's comments.

Arlene's recipes

Rhubarb cheesecake in a glass



Merry month of May! Make the most of tangy fresh rhubarb and try this tempting cheesecake in a glass! Crumbly shortbread, rich creamy filling and tangy poached rhubarb, all topped with a super intense and tasty rhubarb syrup. Totally irresistible!

Rhubarb cheesecake in a glass with rhubarb syrup

Makes 8 glasses

50g butter
200g shortbread biscuits
350ml double cream
150g caster sugar
250g mascarpone cheese
300g soft cream cheese
Finely grated zest of 1 orange plus 1 dessertspoon juice
1 capful vanilla extract
For the rhubarb topping:
450g rhubarb
150g caster sugar
Grated zest of 1 orange and 4 tablespoons juice

1. Melt the butter in a small pan. Crush the biscuits to fine crumbs and stir them into the melted butter and set aside to cool. (You want to keep the mixture crumbly).
2. Whisk the double cream with the caster sugar until thick, taking care not to overbeat.
3. Place the mascarpone, cream cheese, orange zest and vanilla in a bowl and beat together and add the whipped cream.
4. Add about 1 tablespoon of the cheese mixture to each glass and sprinkle over 1/3 of the crumbs. Repeat this twice, ending with a sprinkling of crumbs. Refrigerate for 1 hour. (cling film the glasses if refrigerating for longer.)
5. Cut the washed rhubarb into 3c.m lengths and place in a large shallow pan in a single layer with the sugar and orange zest and 4 tablespoons of orange juice. Poach very gently for about 20 minutes or until tender.
6. Drain the rhubarb from the syrup and set aside. Boil the remaining syrup over a high heat for 4-5 minutes until reduced and bubbling. When you have about 150 ml left, remove from the heat and set aside to cool.
7. Place a spoonful of rhubarb on top of each glass, then spoon over the rhubarb syrup. Garnish with a sprig of mint to serve.



Gardener's Corner

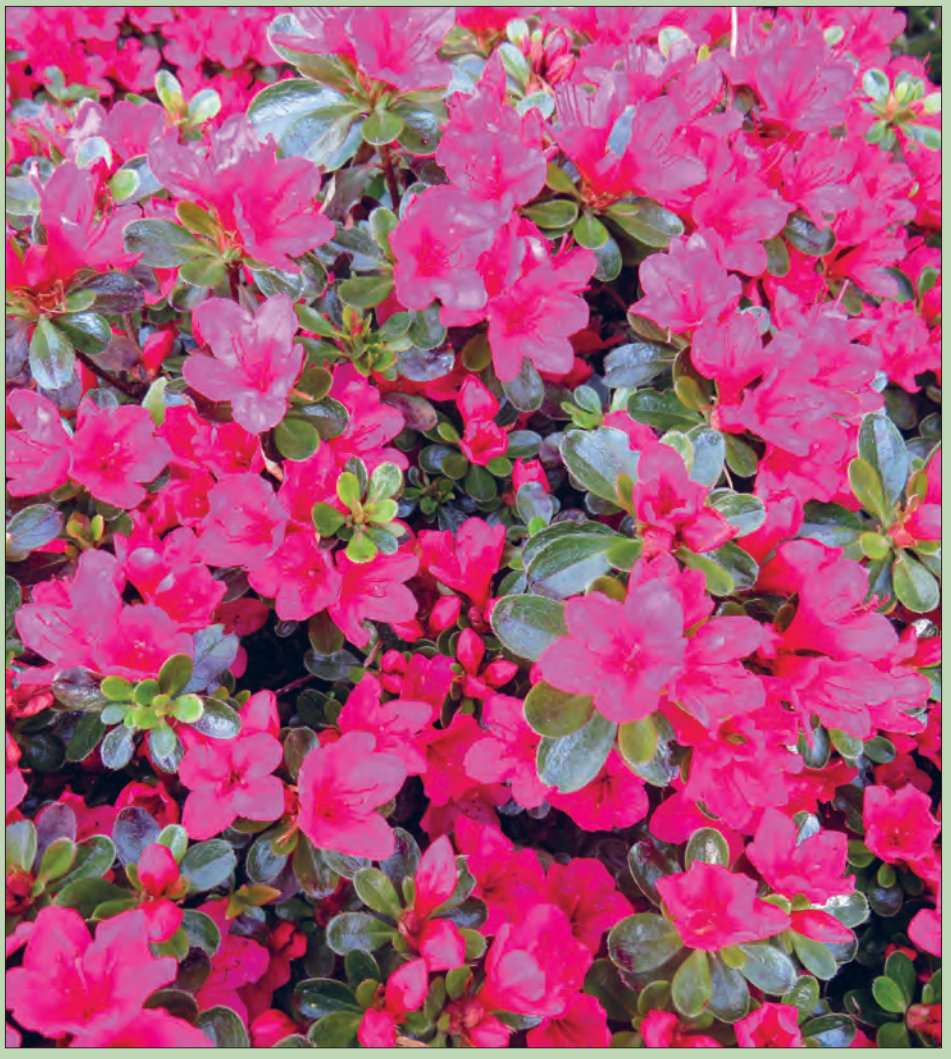
by Beth Lunney

When I was writing my article last month for April we were just into the Covid-19 pandemic and the first cases were being reported in Northern Ireland. We didn't know what was going to happen on the Nursery Centre never mind in the country as a whole. If someone had told us this time last year that there would be a pandemic in the UK and all those lives lost we would have told them to 'Catch Themselves On' as we say in this part of the UK.



Whins (Gorse)

Our Nursery Centre is completely closed – we closed on the 24th of March. All our staff have been furloughed with the hope that when we get the go ahead from the Government to open it will be full steam ahead. We are trying to keep the place ticking over with the help of our daughter and son – having the Nursery Centre is a bit like having a farm, you can't just turn the lock on the door and walk away. Plants like animals are living and need to be looked after and watered. We have set up a delivery service where people can email in an order and they can collect it at our gate or we will deliver, if it is in our locality and this has proved to be very popular. With all the doom and gloom that is around and every time you turn on the television it is easy to forget just how lucky we are in Northern Ireland. The countryside at the moment is beautiful. Nature keeps on going virus or no virus. There are the most wonderful hedges of Whins, or Gorse to some, around us at the moment with masses of flowers, more than I think there has been in years. I don't think we appreciate those vibrant yellow flowers they carry at this time of the year but somehow they look better than ever this year.



With the roads having less traffic, everywhere is quieter now so we can hear the birdsong better. The dawn chorus is fantastic to listen to early in the morning but even through the day you can hear a blackbird of robin chattering away in the trees.

We have three Japanese Azaleas planted at the bottom of our garden. Now many times I have thought we should pull them out as they didn't seem to be doing too well, they must be planted ten years or so but I just noticed them again yesterday. All three look so good. Their foliage is beautiful and shiny and they are covered in flowers and buds. The variety is 'Hino Crimson' which is an old variety but a good one.

Perhaps with so much bad news around we appreciate the wonder of nature more and perhaps that is what we should do all the time – look closer at things and listen more. So keep safe, keep social distancing and please keep saying those prayers.

ORANGE NEWS

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Pomeroy installation

On Thursday, February 27, the new officers of Pomeroy District were installed in office. Ian Hayes becomes District Master and Raphael Burnside is the new Deputy District Master. The installation ceremony was carried out by Co Tyrone Grand Master Perry Reid, who was asisted by the Deputy County Grand Master Robert Abernethy. Also present were visitors from Castle-caulfield and Coagh Districts. Tributes were paid to Bertie Kelso for 42 years service in District Office, with 29 years as District Secretary and 13 years as District Master.



Worshipful Master Bro. Paul Wilson presents 50 year Certificates to Bro. Alan Williamson and Bro. Harold Williamson at a Lodge Dinner for Cavanalack LOL 623 in Clogher Valley Golf Club, Fivemiletown.

Sloans cheque presentation



The retiring collection, in the sum of £100, from the recent lecture by Quincey Dougan in Sloan's House was presented by museum volunteer, Leslie Bell, to staff at the Kidney Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital.



Pictured are Bro. Len McCavery; Bro. James Curlett; Rt. Wor. Bro. Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland; Wor. Bro. James McIntosh, WM; Bro. Robin Imrie; Bro. Brian Cummins; Bro. Gary Taylor, and Bro. John Taylor along with members of Downshire Memorial LOL 1725 and guests.

Downshire Memorial LOL 1725 presentation of long service jewels

Downshire LOL 1725, Dundrum, held a special meeting to present a number of long service jewels in February 2020.

The presentation was carried out by Rt. Wor. Bro. Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, assisted by Wor. Bro. James McIntosh, Worshipful Master, and Wor. Bro. Neil Holmes, Secretary.

Brethren receiving their long service jewels were Wor. Bro. Robin Imrie, Wor. Bro. Thomas Curlett, Wor. Bro. James Curlett receiving 60 year service jewels; Wor. Bro. Brian Cummins, Wor. Bro. Montgomery Taylor, Wor. Bro. Len McCavery receiving 50 year service jewels; Wor. Bro. John Taylor receiving a Treasurer's jewel and Wor. Bro. James McIntosh, Wor. Bro. Gary Taylor receiving Honourary Membership Certificates.

ORANGE NEWS



Recently installed County Grand Officers with Right Worshipful Brother Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.



Brother Desmond Gray, Deputy County Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, and Right Worshipful Brother Maurice Kirkwood, County Grand Master.

Installation of Officers at County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge

The Installation of Officers for County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge was held in Lambeg Parish Church Hall hosted by Derriaghy District LOL No. 11. Right Worship Brother Maurice Kirkwood (Derriaghy District LOL No.11) was installed as Right Worshipful County Grand Master and Brother Desmond Gray (Braid District LOL No.18) as Deputy County Grand Master. The Installation was carried out by Right Worshipful Brother Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master.



Brother Brian Graham, Chairman of County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge Cultural and Educational Committee presenting a Cheque for £500 to Right Worshipful Brother Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master GOLI and Chairman of the Drew Nelson Legacy Committee. The amount raised was the proceeds of the sale of our Annual Diary which for this year 2020 had the Drew Nelson Legacy Logo on the front cover. Thanks to all the Districts and Brethren who made this possible.



Right Worshipful Brother Maurice Kirkwood newly Installed County Grand Master with his sons, Brother Robert Kirkwood (Left) and Brother Stephen Kirkwood (Right).

Memorable evening at Brunswick LOL 1702, Annalong

Members of Brunswick LOL 1702, Annalong, enjoyed a memorable occasion on 4th March when seven of their members were presented with 50 year service medals and certificates in Annalong Orange Hall. The evening was particularly unique in that all the decorated Brethren had previously served with the Ulster Defence Regiment or Royal Ulster Constabulary. In recognition of this fact, Wor. Bro. Major John Fisher MBE, U.D (LOL 1456) attended and addressed the meeting sharing some recollections of the early days of the UDR, and paying a moving tribute to the large number of Annalong men who served locally under his command in the face of a severe local terrorist threat.
Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning presented the awards and expressed gratitude on behalf of LOL 1702, and the Institution as a whole, for over 350 years of service to Orangeism in Annalong. The evening was made all the more significant by the initiation of three new young members to the ranks of the Lodge. Brunswick LOL 1702 is one of the oldest Lodges in Mourne District tracing its history back almost 200 years and it is now amongst the largest Orange Lodges in the District and indeed County Down.



Recipients of 50 Year Jewels pictured along with officers and dignitaries of Brunswick LOL 1702 . Front Row (From left) Brothers Norman Chambers, Jim Hill, David Chambers, Graham McCartney, David Edgar, Jerry Edgar, John Kearney.
Back Row (from left) Wor. Bro. Brian Chambers (Worshipful Master), Wor. Bro. Neil Cousins (District Master), Wor. Bro. Harold Henning (Deputy Grand Master of Ireland), Bro. Iain Carlisle (Chief Executive, Grand Orange Lodge), Wor. Bro. William Baillie (Deputy District Master), Bro. David McComb (Deputy Master) and Bro. Jack Maybin (Secretary).

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Drum District hosts installation



Drum District LOL No 6 Co Monaghan installed it's new Officer team for 2020 in Kilafargue Protestant Hall on Monday, March 2, with Bro. Ian Jordan being installed as WDM by Bro. Alan Mackarel, CGS. Bro. Mervyn Reilly was presented with a PM certificate and jewel to mark his 28 years of service to the District. 33 Brethren were present for a very pleasant evening with a fine supper served. Drum District is made up of four lodges and three bands in west Monaghan, and remains vibrant and active travelling to Rossnowlagh every year and attends the Twelfth Demonstration in Co Fermanagh. Drum LOL 1555 also holds a very successful annual band parade and picnic in Drum village, the nearest Friday night after the Twelfth, with 25 bands attending.



Second from left Bro. Rev. George Speers, District Chaplain, Right of him Rev. Dr J. E. Hazlett Lynch, Special Preacher, accompanied by officers and members of Castlewellan District LOL No 12.

Successful Gospel Mission for Castlewellan District

A very successful Gospel Mission was recently held in Newcastle Orange Hall under the auspices of Castlewellan District LOL No 12. The special guest preacher for the mission was Rev. Dr J. E. Hazlett Lynch. Each night was very well attended and the crowd appreciated the strong message of gospel that was preached. A vote of thanks was proposed by Rev George Speers, Dist. Chap. of Castlewellan LOL No 12, to Newcastle LOL 357 for the generous supper and use of the hall for the mission.

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Jewels presented in Co Antrim

Cairncastle LOL 692 presented 25 year service Jewels to four Brethern recently. Larne District No 1 Chaplain, the Reverend Bro Paul Reid presented the Jewels at the lodge's Installation of Officers. Pictured receiving their jewels are Bro. Trevor Acheson, Worshipful Master; Bro. John Shaw Deputy Master; Bro. David Montgomery; and Bro. John Wharry.





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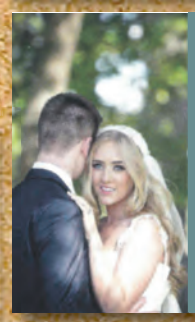
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STEPPING OUT
Supporting our Marching Bands

by Quincey Dougan

Bands coming to the fore to fight Covid-19

The past four weeks have turned 2020 upside down for the Ulster Bands movement. When the Cormeen Rising Sons of William Flute band cancelled their annual procession in Armagh in response to the emerging epidemic, few realised the events that would be following. Before the end of March many bands had already cancelled their annual parades for April and May, but then the cancellation of the Twelfth celebrations on the 6th April truly laid out the worst fears of our marching musicians - the 2020 Band Season was effectively cancelled.

For bandsmen and women it cannot be underestimated how monumental this turn of events is. From September last year bands have been practicing in preparation for the 2020 season, new music arranged, new instruments and uniforms purchased, new members recruited and in the process of being tutored. Our parades ceasing does not and did not do anything to change the fundamental reality that Ulster Bands are integral parts of their individual local communities. However, something that has come to the fore in an even more visible fashion than usual. The benevolent work of our bands is well documented, but it truly has been exceptional over the past few weeks, and seen in every City, town, village and hamlet; and the volume of good works make it impossible to list every single one. In Limavady the Star of the Roe Flute gave £1,000 towards PPE for local care homes; the Castlederg Young Loyalists Old Boys Flute and the Red Hand Defenders Flute Newtownstewart both separately passed on a supply of gloves, aprons and hand sanitiser to Care Plus; and Brookeborough Flute donated a batch of one thousand face masks to the South West Acute Hospital in Enniskillen. In Belfast the newly formed Shankill Old Boys Flute have not actually hit the road parading yet, but despite well into preparations for their first uniform, handed over a cheque for £1,100 from their uniform fund towards PPE for NHS staff. Treasurer Mark Harrison commented: "We've been fund-raising to complete our first uniform, but in discussion the other evening, members agreed that our NHS staff are more deserving at this time." Lisbellaw Accordion raised £670 for the Lisbellaw Veterans Group to buy essential items for the elderly and those in isolation; while in Ballyclare the Protestant Boys Flute delivered dozens of food parcels locally to the elderly and vulnerable. This is just a few examples of how our bands have been playing their part in the fight against Covid-19. Get in touch with Stepping Out to pass on your bands part in the battle.



Ballyclare Protestant Boys Flute Band members delivering food parcels to local elderly and vulnerable.



Gillian and Beatrice Graham of Tullyhappy Accordion playing for the NHS. Many musicians took the opportunity to show their support for our key workers in mid-April.

Competitions continue for drummers

The flexibility and ability to adapt to difficult circumstances by Ulstermen and women is famous, and well-illustrated these past weeks by the Lambeg fraternity. The Armagh Down Drumming Association has a substantial focus on youth development, recognising that the drumming tradition can only be kept alive through the younger generations. With no public gatherings permitted for the weekly drumming competitions that take place, to keep the young drummers interested the format has moved online! Video is taken of the young men drumming on the allotted dates, and submitted to their Facebook page where they are judged by Association officer bearers.

The next scheduled competition is for Saturday, May 2. You can follow the competitions by visiting the Armagh Down Drumming Association at fb.me/ArmaghdownDA



Kai Sterritt drumming in the first online junior competition Armagh Down Drumming Association competition

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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