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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



First Minister Arlene Foster

See page 2



Grand Master Edward Stevenson

See page 3



Secretary of State Brandon Lewis MP

See page 4

Institution in lockdown

Lodge meetings and parades halted due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Two weeks ago, the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Rt. Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson, took the unprecedented decision of calling a halt to all Orange Order activities with immediate effect in response to the latest developments surrounding the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

A letter sent to members on March 17, which was issued in response to the Prime Minister's appeal to limit social interaction, instructed members that all meetings, Church services, events and parades of the Orange Institution should stop immediately and until further notice.

This action is indeed unprecedented but necessary given the scale of the current crisis.

Continued on page 2

At the time of going to print, the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has learned of the passing of two Brethren as a result of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). A number of others are seriously ill in hospital. This disease does not respect colour or creed, boundaries or borders. It is incredibly dangerous and we all must do everything we can to prevent it spreading. It is vital that we respect the Government's advice on self-isolation. If you must leave your home, remember to social distance yourself from others. Stay safe.



Districts and lodges have been working hard to help their communities. Pictured above are members of Magherafelt District preparing bottles of hand sanitizer for distribution. This picture was taken before the introduction of social distancing restrictions. See page 4 for full story.

STAY at home
PROTECT the NHS
SAVE lives

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

THE ORANGE STANDARD
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EDITORIAL

Coronavirus is having an impact on us all

What extraordinary times we are living in.
The spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) around the world has had a massive impact on how we live our lives, how we work, socialise and how we interact with each other.
In just a matter of weeks life has become virtually unrecognisable. In fact, since the March edition of the Orange Standard much of what we take for granted has been taken from us.
Many of our places of work are closed, so too schools and churches.
The Orange Institution is no different to the thousands of other businesses and organisations as it tries to come to terms with this unseen, yet deadly threat to our health.
Just a few weeks ago we were celebrating the Orange Community Awards in the Island Arts Centre, Lisburn.
A wonderful evening of entertainment, song, dance and music, as well as the presentation of awards.
A matter of days later it became clear that everything was going to change.
By the middle of the following week Grand Master Edward Stevenson had called a halt to all activities of the Orange Institution. The Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland and the Junior Grand Lodge of Ireland followed.
The Royal Black Institution and Apprentice Boys of Derry have taken the same approach.
This unprecedented step was absolutely vital as the Orange Institution plays its part in trying to halt the spread of COVID-19.
Lodge meetings, quizzes, musical evenings, charity fundraisers were quickly cancelled.
Social media pages were flooded with events planned for the coming weeks being called off - some permanently, others for dates later in the year.
It was great to see so many lodges and bands answer the Grand Master's call by springing into action and helping their elderly Brethren and other members of their communities.
Make no mistake, this is the sort of positive initiatives on which this Institution thrives.
Grand Lodge has tried to respond in a positive fashion at this very difficult time.
Indeed, COVID-19 (Coronavirus) placed significant challenges to all those involved in the production of the Orange Standard.
Our main distribution method through Lodges meant that any attempt at our normal print run would have been impossible due to the restrictions in place, including the closure of Schomberg House.
So the April 2020 Orange Standard will be the first ever produced in a digital-only format and will continue this way until this situation is resolved.
There is simply no way of putting a time-scale on when life may return to normal.
Grand Lodge staff will be watching carefully as the information is shared from Government, the Department of Health and the Public Health Agency.
The safety of all members of the Orange Family is of the utmost importance. Stay safe, follow the health advice and look out for your Brethren and everyone in your community.

First Minister of Northern Ireland Arlene Foster MLA

Let's remember the hope of Easter Sunday



Lent commenced on 26 February. Just around the same time when Covid-19 started to become very real in the minds of everyone in Northern Ireland.
Businesses have had to stop trading. It has brought employment uncertainty for people who thought they had long term security.
Indeed, even the support and companionship of organisations like the Orange Order and our churches has been massively impacted as no gatherings can take place.
At the core of lent is prayer and reflection. If ever there was a time when Northern Ireland needs minds focused on prayer, these days call for it. The Orange Institution, other loyal orders and the scores of bands are known across the country for parades but yet more central to many of those people is their faith in the Almighty. I am greatly encouraged by the WhatsApp groups for lodges where prayer is central.
I also commend lodges and bands across the country who are rallying to support their communities through helping the vulnerable with food parcels and also brilliant work in collecting Personal Protective Equipment to help care workers in the locality. Whilst Northern Ireland is known too often for division, I know in my area Covid-19 has brought everyone in the community together to help the local health staff.
The Orange Institution has been to the fore in promoting social distancing and postponing major events such as community breakfasts, parades and concerts. I commend the volunteers behind those events. Postponing and cancelling is very down-heartening when so much work has gone into the event.
All of us are making these changes to save lives by reducing the spread of the virus. We are in a crisis the scale of which none of us has experienced in our lifetime. My mother at 86 years of age never recalls a time when the churches had to close their doors. Major changes like this force all of us to hit the reset button, stop with the normal and reassess.
Amongst the gloom, remember the bright sunrise. We must always remember that after lent comes the 'joy in the morning' of Easter Sunday. The resurrection of our Saviour reminds us all that in the darkest hour, there is still hope.
Let's all work together to help our elderly friends and family who are finding the loneliness of self-isolation almost too much. Let's pick up the pen and write a short note or pick up the phone every morning to check how they are. Most of all, let's draw on the faith which is at the core of the hope within us.

Institution in lockdown

From front page
The Grand Master said: "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 all prioritise the safety of not only our members, but of the entire community. As an all island organisation, we ask all members to follow fully the individual health advice of their respective Governments.
"As this epidemic spreads and increases, the UK Government has indicated that they will be seeking volunteers for a "wholehearted national effort" to "help and support each other". Therefore, I would appeal to all able-bodied members, who are not deemed to be at risk, to volunteer to assist in this work. There are already many examples of local Lodges and Bands helping their local communities. I am greatly heartened by these stories and would encourage that such efforts are coordinated to maximise their impact."
He added: "We are a fraternal and charitable organisation and we must show support and benevolence not only to our members, but to all communities in the weeks and months ahead."
Lodges are being encouraged to maintain contact with all members, particularly older members, at this time and to pray diligently for each other, the wider Orange Family and the health professionals as they work to tackle the spread of the virus.
Most Worshipful Sister Joan Beggs, Grand Mistress of the Association of Loyal Orangewomen has also endorsed these actions, which will also apply to that organisation with immediate effect.
The Museums of Orange Heritage at Schomberg House and Sloan's House Loughgall as have Grand Lodge headquarters
The situation will be kept under constant review by Grand Lodge and the decisions regarding the resumption of the Institution's activities will be guided by advice from health professionals.

ORANGE NEWS

Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson

We all have a role to play in fighting Coronavirus

We find ourselves living through some of the most challenging times experienced for generations.

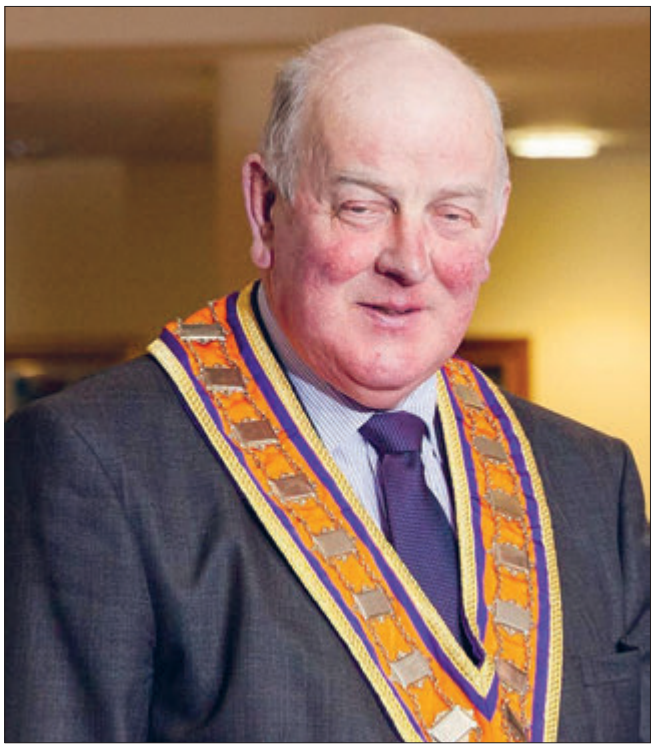
COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has created a global crisis which is affecting the way we live our lives.

This pandemic is putting our health service under extreme pressure and has led to the shutdown of all but the most essential businesses and services.

Just over a fortnight ago I took the decision to stop all activity associated with the Orange Institution. Meetings, services, events and parades have ceased and will not resume until it is deemed safe to do so. This was not a decision taken lightly, but I can confirm it was not a difficult decision either.

When the call came from the Prime Minister that social interaction should be limited and unnecessary interaction and travel avoided, our response was immediate.

The health and safety of our members, their families and all members of the wider community is of the utmost importance.



Our culture, heritage and traditions are a way of life for members of the Orange Family and having to put that on hold is not easy – but it is vitally important.

We as an Institution have a key role to play in the battle that is to be fought against this unseen enemy. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) must be defeated and it is only through extreme measures that this goal will be achieved.

This virus does not respect borders or boundaries, it is a common enemy that we must fight together regardless of our political allegiance or religious beliefs.

I would remind all Brethren, Sisters and their wider families of the importance of strictly following the guidance issued by Government and health agencies. It is a matter of life and death.

I would like to pay tribute to the members of the NHS who are working tirelessly at this time. We often take our health service for granted, but it is at times like this that we are truly grateful for the hardworking doctors, nurses and support staff who are dedicated to their professions.

I know that there are members of the Orange Family who are employed in key frontline roles and they, too, are due our thanks. They are working to support the health service such as ambulance drivers, in the PSNI, Fire and Rescue Service, driving lorries to transport essential supplies, working on farms and businesses ensuring food production continues, those fulfilling public services, our teachers and school staff, and transport workers.

The manpower and resources of the Orange Institution are at the disposal of the Government to defeat this common enemy. Every member of the Orange Family must be mobilised to fight this war; whether in front line services, volunteering in their local community or staying at home for the good of all - each one of us has a role to play.

Like our forefathers at the Boyne and our grandfathers at the Somme, this Institution will not be found wanting in this our country's hour of need.

At this time, I look to the core values of our Institution. We are a Christian, fraternal and charitable organisation and we must show support and benevolence not only to our members, but to all people in the weeks and months ahead.

Look out for the older members of your lodges and communities. Make sure they have everything they need. It may be as simple as a bag of groceries or a telephone call to ensure they are ok.

The leadership exhibited by our political representatives at this time has been of the highest order. They have a very difficult task but they are tackling it as best they can. They need our trust and support.

Health Minister Robin Swann, a member of our Institution, is at the forefront of this and our thoughts and prayers are with him, and all leaders, as they take decisions of huge significance in the coming days and weeks.

Our faith is extremely important and I ask that you all continue to pray.

Pray for the doctors, nurses and health professionals, pray for those affected by this awful virus, pray for those who have lost loved ones, pray for those in positions of power as they take important decisions, pray for those in isolation as they face the challenges that brings, pray that God guides us through this epidemic.

May God watch over all communities in the weeks and months ahead.

Message from the Grand Mistress of the Association of Loyal Orangewomen

The Grand Mistress of the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland (ALOI), Most Wor. Sister Joan Beggs, and her fellow Grand Lodge Officers have urged all Sisters and their families to pay close attention to the Government's health advice in relation to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The Grand Mistress said:

"The health and well-being of our members, their families and the entire community is of the highest priority at this very difficult time.

"The guidelines issued by Government and health officials must be adhered to by us all.

"I would encourage all members of the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland to ensure they and their families follow the guidelines and stay safely



in their homes and do not journey out unless it is absolutely necessary."

The Grand Mistress also urged the ALOI membership to stay in regular contact with their lodge members and neighbours, particularly those who are elderly.

She also highlighted the opportunity to draw strength from faith in the days and weeks ahead.

The Grand Mistress added: "Try to enjoy the Easter period as best you can and draw strength from the Christian message of hope that it brings

"Easter is a time of hope and a time of renewal and we need to look forward to better times.

"We're extremely grateful to all those involved in fighting the Coronavirus and thankful for all the work involved in keeping us as safe as possible."



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

1903/2020



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

1903/2020

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis CBE

Working together we can beat Coronavirus

There can be no doubt that we are living in truly extraordinary and unprecedented times. I understand that members of the Orange Institution and their families, like everyone in Northern Ireland, are rightly concerned about the Coronavirus pandemic.

Which is why my focus as Secretary of State is on working closely with the Northern Ireland Executive to provide the support needed as we face the challenges of Covid-19, working together to shield the most vulnerable, support incomes and businesses and protect communities.

None of us should be in any doubt about the seriousness of this crisis, and the economic measures the Government has put in place are on a scale not seen since the Second World War.



Undoubtedly, this is the biggest public health emergency we have faced in a generation, and it calls for decisive action, at home and abroad, of the kind not normally seen in peacetime.

As a Government, we promise to do whatever it takes to get through this together. We remain committed to bolstering support for Northern Ireland, and the whole of the rest of the UK, and are doing everything in our power to tackle the pandemic and mitigate its impact.

The Chancellor has already announced that Northern Ireland will receive over £900m as part of an initial package of measures to support its response to the outbreak. And for the first time in history, the British Government is going to step in and help pay people's wages.

Last week, we also announced an additional special funding package to help the self-employed, the Self-Employment Income Support scheme.

The sheer scale of such interventions highlight the Government's commitment to protecting public services, people and businesses through this period of uncertainty and disruption.

People in Northern Ireland have been pulling together in the most amazing ways over the last few weeks, including many members of the Orange Institution, who are supporting older relatives, neighbours and friends across the community at their time of need.

I also wish to acknowledge the responsible leadership shown by Grand Lodge in the temporary cessation of all meetings, services, events and parades as a result of the pandemic.

If the last few weeks have proved anything - it is the strength of human spirit. And in our efforts to beat this virus we will leave no one behind, we are all in this together. In the meantime, the best thing we can all do to protect the NHS and save lives is to stay at home and stay well.

Lodges and bands deliver for their communites

Lodges, Districts, individual Brethren and Sisters have all been playing their part in helping local communities.

As thousands of elderly and high-risk people are self-isolating to protect themselves from COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and others stay at home to reduce the spread, volunteers have been doing their best to ensure they have everything they need.

The Grand Master issued a call to action, for all able-bodied members to help in whatever way they can.

Grand Lodge has been made aware of many instances where lodges are delivering bags of groceries and necessities to all members of their local communities. Donations have been made to local charities and food banks.

Other lodges have taken to social media to share important contact information, both from the Institution and also the wider health advice.

This is just a fraction of what is going on. If your lodge is taking part in the huge effort to help communities share it with the Grand Lodge Facebook page or send details by email info@goli.org.uk

The bands community - many of whom would be stepping out on parade at this time of year - have been stepping up and supporting their communities. Our bands correspondent Quincey Dougan has a report on one such band in Co Antrim. See page 5.

Every edition of the Orange Standard carries a Pulpit message. On page 5, Grand Chaplain Rev. Ian McClean looks at Coronavirus and draws comparison with the only thing worse - sin!



Anne Sinton Memorial WLOL 105 In Markethill have been giving out food parcels/ essentials to the elderly and a sister in the lodge who is pregnant and advised not to go out.



West Belfast's Hon. Treas. Bro. William Johnston, presented a cheque to local MLA, Bro. William Humphrey, on behalf of the Officers and Members of West Belfast Orange Hall's Management Committee. The money is to be used to help and assist the elderly and the vulnerable.

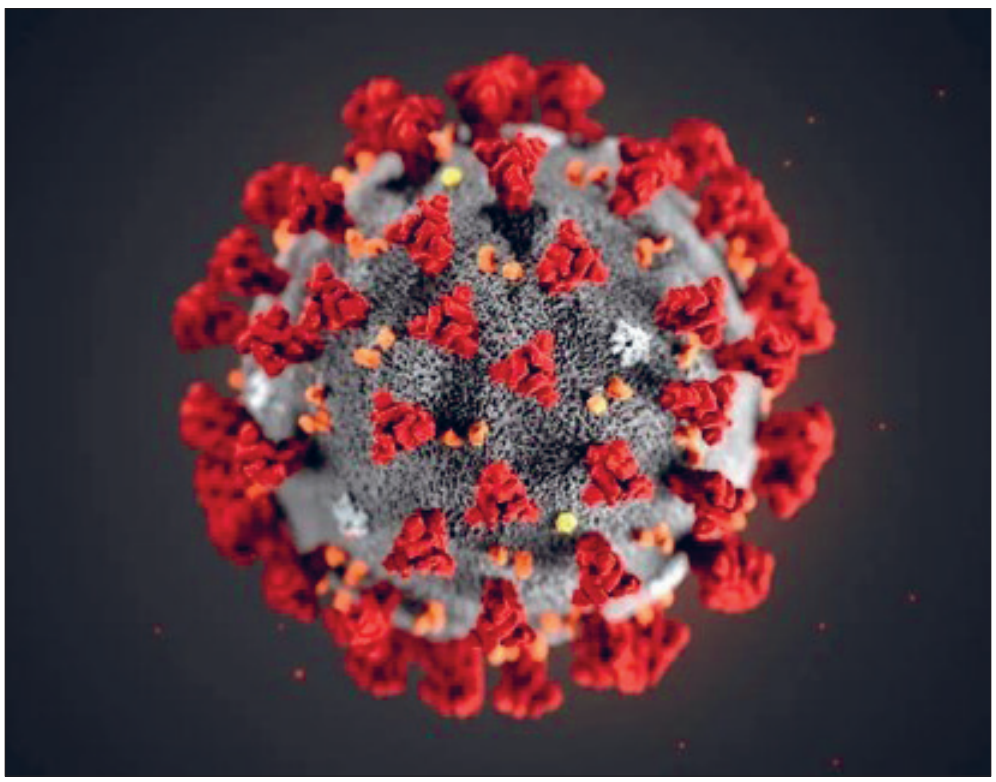
PULPIT

by Rev. Ian McClean



All who know the Great Cure

Who would have believed only a few weeks ago that a pandemic of this magnitude would affect all our lives to this extent? At the time of writing it is estimated that, if the virus isn't halted, it could affect 60% of the world's population and kill around 50 million people. Nothing like this has happened before in our lifetime.
Can you think of anything worse? The vast majority of people will say – no! After all, what could be worse? The answer is - Sin! Let's look at the comparison.



Coronavirus
You hear about it from the media. Can you always believe what you hear?

Sin
You learn about it in the Word of God
• John 17:17 your word is truth
• Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
• Psalm 119:30 The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Coronavirus
It will probably affect 60% of the world's population.

Sin
It affects everyone
• Ecclesiastes 7:20 Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.
• Proverbs 20:9 Who can say 'I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin?'
• Romans 6:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Coronavirus
It is estimated that between 1% and 3.4% of those who contract it will die.

Sin
All will die
• Genesis 3:19 for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
• Hebrews 9:27 it is appointed for man to die
• Romans 6:23 for the wages of sin is death.

Coronavirus
Everyone is talking about it and many are terrified.

Sin
Few ever talk about it, but many will be terrified.
• John 3:19 for men loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.
• Matthew 13:31 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth
• Revelation 20;12 And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

Coronavirus
There is no known cure.

Sin
There is a cure
• Psalm 32:5 I said 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
• Romans 4:7 Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.
• 1 John 1:7 the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.
• John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

All who know the Great Cure, the Lord Jesus Christ, can rest in His assurance.
Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid
Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your father's good will to give you the kingdom.

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Bands play their part to help communities

The current health crisis has saw much positive emerge across the community, not least within the banding sector, writes Quincey Dougan.

Across Ulster, bands have been rallying around the vulnerable in their local communities, with almost daily new initiatives emerging on social media. One of the first to arise came from East Antrim, via the Carrickfergus Defenders Flute Band. Beginning with some private conversations between band members suggesting that they do something to help out, social media appeals resulted in enough supplies to deliver about twenty bags of shopping across the area to those most in need. A few days later however that had increased substantially, and they had brought essential items to over one hundred homes!
Band secretary and local DUP Councillor Marc Collins explained: "After the call went out we went in on Sunday morning with enough stuff to do about 18 to 20 bags of essentials like toilet roll and milk and that. It was going to be a small scale thing, but people kept arrived at the hall with more stuff and before we knew there were 100 bags filled. We dropped them around the pensioners bungalows and it was really well received."
Mark confirms that the band will not be resting on its laurels, and as this edition of the Orange Standard was being prepared, a committee meeting had been scheduled.
Marc added: "We will sit down together and decide our next steps. Chances are this situation we find ourselves in will get worse before it gets better and we want to make sure we can continue to give back to the community here in Carrickfergus.'"



Carrickfergus Defenders pictured with some of the supplies they delivered around the local area.

ORANGE NEWS

Tell us your story!

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

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Magherafelt District stands up to COVID-19

Magherafelt District No 3 is being pro-active in addressing this health crisis which threatens everyone in Ulster.

Deputy District Master Bro. John Whyte explained: "The District has been getting busier and more energetic since we decided to form our Junior Lodge two-and half-year-years ago. We have always felt part of the wider Orange family and introducing young blood started us on a more proactive course in the community in general."

John said it was natural that the Magherafelt District would act pro-actively as community leaders during this health crisis.

He continued: "The Orange Order was set up in the form of a network with different levels of responsibility and during this health crisis and we simply did what our forefathers would have done and galvanize at private lodge and district level.

"Pre-government restrictions, we called all local



WMs and lodge officers to meet and ensure they had contacts for all members, especially those in the at-risk category reasons. We requested that lodges unite in helping the community so that every member who has a need may request and receive help or be signposted to a source of help.

"We further suggested that each continued to monitor the local townland situation and keep fellow brethren updated. This included our Juniors, who were anxious on their grandparent's behalf.

"We reminded lodge officers that our Orange halls were the original community halls and, if the situation demanded, should be used them as such, though obviously the current situation precludes this. "

Bro. Whyte said that in event of advice or help being needed which cannot be supplied at private lodge level, it was requested that District officers be informed.

"Our first action has been to organize a bulk purchase of sanitizer," said John. "With the assistance of the Juniors and WLOL, we decanted and distributed this equally amongst those lodges who attended, including the Juniors. This was self-funded.

"We applied for further assistance from The Community Foundation NI, but unfortunately were turned down on the grounds that the Orange Order promotes religion - perhaps we were not clear enough that our charitable efforts were inclusive of all in the community."

The District Master Norman Shannon and DDM John Whyte intend keeping Brethren, Sisters and all Juniors updated on the situation and they will continue to discuss ideas and volunteering with members and contributing to the whole community.

John added: "We are re-activating the old adage: United we stand, divided we fall."

Tribute

Wor. Bro. Rev. Canon Mark Watson

A man loyal to the cause, to whatever cause he was involved with – his Christianity, his Church, to the Orange Order, the Royal Black Institution, his Congregation and most importantly to his Family. A great example of a loyal, family man.

It was with great shock and sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of Wor. Bro. Revd. Canon Mark Watson. He was brought up in Omagh and the family also lived for a time in Kesh. He worked as an accountant before answering his vocation in God's Service. A Minister with the Church of Ireland for the past 25 years, he was ordained in 1995 and served as a Curate in the grouped Parishes of Ballymoney, Finvoy and Rasharkin in the Diocese of Connor until 1998. He later served as Rector of Brackaville, Donaghendry and Ballyclog (Coalisland) in Armagh Diocese between 1998 and 2001. In 2001 Canon Watson was appointed Rector of Killesher (Florencecourt)



in Fermanagh and in the Diocese of Kilmore, a position he held until being appointed Rector of Trory and Killadeas in Clogher Diocese in 2006. He remained there until his appointment to the Parishes of Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk, also Clogher Diocese, in 2018.

Mark was a committed member of the Orange Institution, to his Private Lodge Trory LOL 647, to Enniskillen District where he served as District Chaplain and as a former County Grand Chaplain of County Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge, a role he carried out with great dignity and commitment. He always strove to play an active role in the Institution and to raise awareness of its community and charitable work. A regular preacher at many Parade Services, he was well thought of and popular amongst his fellow Brethren. He gave generously of his time, helping to create a wider understanding of who and what we are and always up for the challenge of taking the organisation forward.

During his time as County Grand Chaplain he was a valued member of the team that delivered the County Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan in 2015. His membership of the Orange Institution was very special to him, something he cherished with all his heart and something that was real in his life.

He was very proud to have seen both his sons follow him into the Institution, in itself now a lasting legacy.

He was a man of integrity and often quick-witted humour, a true and faithful friend to so many and will be sadly missed by all within the Orange community, but more so by his wife Rona, sons Samuel and Peter, his mother, and the wider family circle.

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell gave the address at his funeral service, describing him as a "big man who loved God from the beginning of his life and was loved by God until the end of his life. He was a big presence in the Parishes where he served and a big influence in the many organisations to which he belonged. He was a true Christian also, in the sense that when he committed himself to something he didn't give up. The Orange Order of which he was a loyal and critical and constructive member and Senior Office holder. Similarly, with the Royal Black Institution", where he was currently County Grand Chaplain.

The full address can be found on the Clogher Diocesan Website at www.clogher.anglican.org in the news section.

Assistant Grand Master Bro. Stuart Brooker.

ORANGE NEWS

Grand Orange Lodge welcomes new victims led proposals



The Grand Orange Lodge has welcomed the publication of new proposals by victim's coalition 'Innocent Victims United'. The Institution's Chief Executive Iain Carlisle made the comments in response to the recent document produced as an alternative way forward for the controversial legacy proposals contained in the Stormont House document.

"The position of the Orange Institution is well documented regarding our concerns around the legacy proposals contained in the 2014 Stormont House Agreement," said Mr Carlisle (pictured).

"The structures and mechanisms outlined in that document are, in our view, unworkable, unjust and unlikely to deliver justice for the families of those murdered by terrorists. They do however provide a range of opportunities for those determined to castigate the name of our security forces, many of whom paid a high price in their efforts to defend all sections of our community.

"The recent commitment to 'fast track' these unsavoury proposals in the New Decade, New Approach document further highlights the lack of meaningful engagement with, or empathy for, innocent victims and families. Therefore, the new initiatives produced by Innocent Victims United must be welcomed and we would appeal to the UK and Irish Governments to give the proposals their utmost consideration as a measured and equitable alternative way forward."

Mr Carlisle added: "Recent suggestions to permanently close over 2000 cases effectively introduces an amnesty which offers protection for perpetrators but extinguishes any hope of truth and justice for those who have been wronged."

The Institution notes and welcomes the fact that Unionist politicians are united in their support for the serious consideration of these alternative proposals.

The SEFF Family - Making a Difference

Kenny Donaldson gives Orange Standard readers an update on the work of SEFF.

South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF) was founded on 15th August 1998 to provide practical and emotional support for those who had been through traumatic experiences as a consequence of the terrorist campaign.

SEFF has developed over the years from a group representing victims/survivors within the south eastern corner of Fermanagh to become a National and also International-based Network.

SEFF became the first group supporting victims/survivors of 'The Troubles' to receive the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, back in 2009 (the group equivalent of an MBE).

The organisation directly supports over 1,400 individuals and their families providing services such as; Counselling, Complementary Therapies, Health and Wellbeing Caseworker's support service, Befriending, Welfare/Benefits Advice + Tribunal representation, Youth/Transgenerational and Legacy work, Social support, Personal and Professional development including volunteering opportunities.

The group's core work remains justice, truth and accountability advanced through our Advocacy Support service which covers N.I, R.o.I, GB and mainland Europe.

SEFF is also heavily involved in lobbying and policy-themed work and advances such efforts within The Innocent Victims United Umbrella organisation (23 groups from across N.I, R.o.I and GB who support a collective membership of 11,500 individual victims/survivors of terrorism and other Troubles related criminal violence). SEFF's Director of Services Kenny Donaldson is Spokesman for Innocent Victims United.

SEFF's unique selling point is that it publicly and consistently states that all criminal violence was wrong and unjustified whether committed by republican or loyalist terrorists or individual members of the security forces who have been evidentially found to have committed a criminal act and because of this the organisation has an increasingly diverse membership which breaks through sectarian and ethnic divisions.

The group works in partnership with organisations across the UK and Republic of Ireland but also internationally with established partnerships in Spain with victim's groups supporting innocents of ETA and also Al-Qaeda terrorism.

Currently SEFF has five hubs for service delivery; Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh. Newtownstewart, County Tyrone. Rathfriland, County Down, Bessbrook, South Armagh and London servicing GB-based victims/survivors. We also provide outreach support to victims/survivors located across the Republic of Ireland

SEFF's Mission Statement is: 'Supporting Victims and Survivors, Strengthening Communities.' And our work is all carried out under the premise; The Living, Not Existing Project which illustrates the core objective of the group; to advance the quality of life enjoyed by individual victims/survivors of terrorism and other Troubles related criminal violence.

Victims Payments Scheme

Over the coming months SEFF will have in place Welfare advisors who will assist individuals to apply for the Victims Payments Scheme (also known as Pension for the Seriously injured)

IVU fought a tireless campaign to ensure that terrorists/perpetrators would not be eligible for the support, that battle was won and for the first time there exists some clear blue water between that position taken by a UK Government and the iniquitous definition of victim laid out in the 2006 N.I Order.

The support scheme is due to open in late May, in the intervening period SEFF's Advocacy and Welfare teams are on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Please contact the SEFF office on: 028 677 23884 or ring Kenny Donaldson (SEFF's Director of Services) on: 07900882770 and we'll do our best to support your queries.

Tamlaght O'Crilly District



Installation of Officers for Tamlaght O'Crilly District No. 9 Co. Londonderry. Front row, Wor. Bro. Samual Calvin C.G.M; Bro. Derek Bolton, WDM; Wor. Bro. David Montgomery DDM; and Wor. Bro. James Evans D.C.G.M. Back row, Bro. Henry Armstrong, Chaplain;Bro. Gary McDonald, Secretary, Bro. Noel Stewart, PDM; and Bro. George Richardson, Treasurer.



District Secretary Bro. Gary McDonald presenting a cheque for £2,600 for Drew Nelson Legacy to Wor. Bro. Samuel Calvin, County Grand Master.

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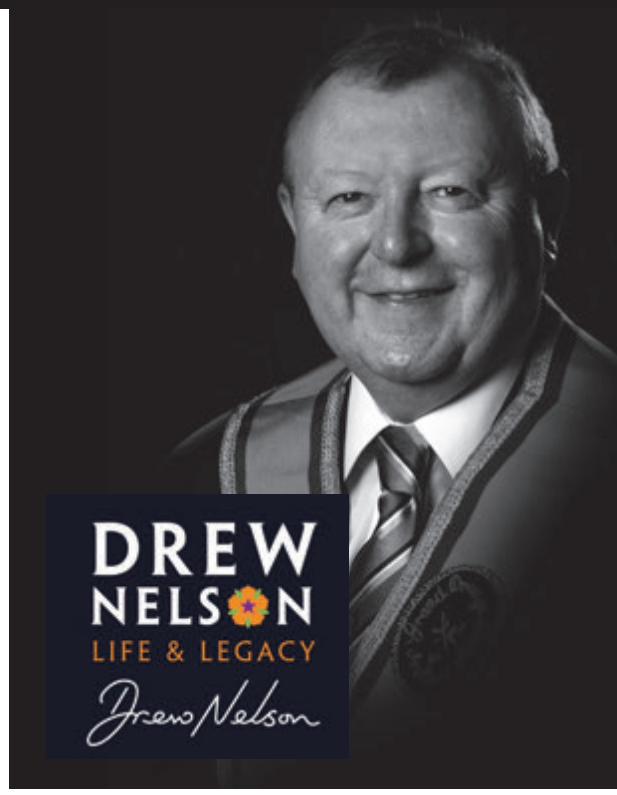
Contact: Mrs. Hilda Winter
Tel: 028 3885 1344 Mobile: 07762 605 169

or Bro. Geoffrey Daniel Winter
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DREW NELSON LEGACY





UDR remembered at event in Ahoghill

An evening of historical reflection commemorating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Ulster Defence Regiment was held at Glebe Orange Hall, Ahoghill on Friday, 28th February.

The event was organised by Scott Harris who is a member of Glebe Temperance LOL 231 and a participant in the Future Leaders Initiative.

The evening began with a short Act of Remembrance followed by a brief history of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

This was followed by a panel discussion which consisted of four UDR veterans sharing their own stories and experiences with the crowd. UDR memorabilia was on display which was of great interest to everyone in attendance.

Supper was served and the ladies and gentlemen present had the opportunity to mingle and chat one to one with the veterans who had come along on the night. Before the night was brought to a close, Gary McAllister the Grand Orage Lodge of Ireland Youth Development Officer congratulated Scott on a well-organised event and informed those in attendance of the work of the Future Leaders Initiative. A retiring collection was lifted in aid of the UDR benevolent fund which raised £350.

The evening drew in a big crowd which included County and District Officers as well as former high ranking members of the UDR. Rodney Stewart (Assistant County Grand Treasurer) also commended Bro Harris for putting the evening together and congratulated him on behalf of County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge and Ahoghill District Number 12. The event was enjoyed by all.





Four participants of the Future Leaders Initiative were on hand to provide assistance at the recent Orange Community Awards. The participants are pictured with Grand Master Edward Stevenson, Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning, Grand Secretary Rev. Mervyn Gibson and Youth Development Officer Gary McAllister.
Picture: Graham Balhaam-Curry

ORANGE NEWS



Gareth Deazley and Mandi Wallace from Blacksessiagh LOL 226



Aaron and Glenda Rutledge from Killycurragh LOL 200



Ryan Hughes and Samantha Phair from Killycurragh LOL 200



Champions of the Omagh District Strictly, are Denise and Keith McKinley of Fireagh LOL 468

Couples take to the dancefloor as Omagh District does Strictly Come Dancing!

More than 700 people gathered in the Silverbirch Hotel for the Omagh District LOL No. 11 does Strictly Come Dancing event which was held recently. Ten couples took part from various lodges in the district all in the name of charity.
Three charties, AWARE NI, Alzheimer's Society and Palliative Care, Omagh Hospital, were beneficiaries as well funds for the Omagh District lodge.



Dance tutor Ruby Rankin pictured with the dancers who took part in a sell out event in the Silverbirch hotel, Omagh supporting three charties, AWARE, Alzheimer's Society, and Pallative Care Ward, Omagh Hospital.





Left: William Smyth and Ruth Dickson dancing for Gillygooley LOL 339, who where the 'People's Winners', receiving their trophies from , WDM of Omagh District LOL No 11, Robert Cummings and his wife Margaret.

Right: The oldest dancer Sammy McGonigle and the youngest dancer Zara Preston presenting dabce tutor Ruby Rankin with flowers.

Below Left: Keith and Denise McKinley dacning for Fireagh LOL 468, who where crowned the Omagh District LOL No 11, Champions receiving their trophies from WDM of Omagh District LOL No 11, Robert Cummings and his wife Margaret at a sell out event in the Silverbirch Hotel.

Below right: The Judges on the night, Deputy Grand Master, of The Grand Orange Lodge Of Ireland, Harold Henning, Caylee O'Leary, Andy Lowry, and Georgina Kee-McCarter.





AROUND THE LODGES



Co Antrim Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter

County Antrim Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter held their half yearly meeting in Carnlea Orange Hall, Ballymena.
It was also the Installation of Officers for 2020. The Installation was presided over by Most Worshipful Brother R. John Clarke, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter of Ireland assisted by Right Worshipful Brother Robin Kyle, Senior Deputy Grand Master.
Installed as Right Worshipful County Grand Master was Right Worshipful Brother Reverend David McCarthy and Deputy County Grand Master Worshipful Brother Wesley Craig.
Other County Officers Installed were: County Grand Chaplin - Worshipful Brother Reverend Nicholas Cooper; Deputy County Grand Chaplin - Worshipful Brother Reverend Paul Reid; County Grand Registrar - Worshipful Brother Vaughan Hendron; County Grand Treasurer - Worshipful Brother David Boyd; 1st County Grand Lecturer - Worshipful Brother Alex McClintock; 2nd County Grand Lecturer - Worshipful Brother Robin Matthews; County Grand Inner Guard - Worshipful Brother John Armstrong; County Grand Outer Guard - Worshipful Brother David Gordon; County Grand Lay Chaplin - Worshipful Brother Brian Montgomery; County Grand Director of Ceremonies - Worship Brother Francis Beckett.

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East Belfast Installation in Macosquin

LOL 1980 St Martin's Church Defenders held their annual installation of officers meeting in Macosquin Orange Hall near Coleraine.
The East Belfast lodge always visits a different Orange Hall or historic site for their installation meeting.
Fred Nixon Junior was installed as Master and Thomas Kelly as Deputy Master. Alfie Blackmore stood down as Secretary after over 20 years of service in the post and was replaced by Alan Crommie.
The remaining officers were reinstalled in their existing posts.
The District Officer installation team consisted of Ryan McDowell, who chaired the installation ceremony, with Kirk McDowell in the Deputy chair and Maurice Roulston acting as Deacon.
The local lodge and District Officers were extremely welcoming showing the visitors many historic artefacts which are displayed within their hall.
The pictures above show the local District Master presented 1980's outgoing Master Matthew Nixon with his past Master's service jewel.
The Master of LOL 310 presented their visitors with a lodge tie and Thorn Stick.
LOL 1980 in return presented LOL 310 with a lodge Bible to thank them for hosting LOL 1980.





Time capsule placed at Maghera LOL 209

During recent renovations of Maghera Orange Hall when the hall floor was being replaced, Bro. Rev. Rhys Jones, Chaplain of Maghera Sons of William LOL 209, suggested that the lodge should place a time capsule under the floor for future generations to view.
Placed in the capsule were among many items, including a picture of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, a picture of our Grand Master Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson, pictures of Maghera LOL 209, Maghera RBP 1138, Maghera JLOL 191, Maghera Flute Band, Maghera Fife and Drum club, a list of current lodge members, and a price list of items such as banners, collarettes, etc. a copy of the News Letter and, of course, a copy of the Orange Standard.
The original floor dates back more than 80 year to 1937 when the Orange Hall was built.



Wor. Master Stephen Montgomery and Dep. Master Gavin Selfridge with the time capsule

AROUND THE LODGES

Installation and presentations at Tildarg True Blues LOL 632



Brother John Crothers (left) and Brother Errol Crowe (right) are pictured being presented with their 50 year Membership Jewel by Brother Colin Scott, Deputy District Master, Sixmilewater District LOL No.10.



Bro. Hamilton McConnell (right) being presented with his 25 year Membership Jewel by Brother Colin Scott, Deputy District Master, Sixmilewater District LOL No.10.



Brethren of Tildarg True Blues LOL 632 and visiting Brethren at their Installation of Officers for 2020 which was held in Tildarg Orange Hall, Ballyclare.

Air Ambulance donation from LOL 450

Maguiresbridge Advance Guard LOL 450 presented a donation of £600.00 to The Air Ambulance at the District 14 Annual Carol Service which was held in Maguiresbridge Orange Hall.

This sum was raised at a Coffee Morning and Raffle organised by the Lodge with the first prize sponsored by Mr Darren McCormick, pictured left presenting the cheque to Mr Rodney Connor. Right: Maguiresbridge Advance Guard LOL 450 presented a donation of £600.00 to The Air Ambulance. This sum was raised at a Coffee Morning and Raffle organised by the Lodge with the first prize sponsored by DM Wor. Bro. Darren McCormick.





Bro. George Farrell pictured with Mr Rodney Connor from Air Ambulance and WM Wor. Bro. David Glass.

The Air Ambulance Charity was chosen to receive this donation as a way of saying thank you to them for coming to the aid of a member of the lodge when he had a recent accident.

Mulnahunch LOL 96 welcomes new members





Above: Mulnahunch LOL 96, Annahoe District, Co Tyrone recently welcomed some new members to the lodge. Pictured above are Jack Robinson, Joshua Condy, Jonathan Sharkey, Mark Willis, Ben Robinson, Scott Sharkey, David Stinson and Andrew Stinson. Also joining the lodge is James Lockhart, who is pictured, right, with his father Bro. Esdale Lockhart, Lodge Treasurer.

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Roughan Silver Band were the recipients of the Band of the Year Award 2020 at the recent Orange Community Awards. Pictured are, from left; Bro. Jim Patton, Deputy District Master Annahoe District LOL No 6, Bro. Allister Erskine and Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning.



The Best Banner Award was won by Aghanloo True Blues LOL 656.



Bro. Lewis Singleton presents the Lodge Membership Increase Award to Bro. John White, Annalong LOL 342, Mourne District.



Members of Rev. Ussher Greer Memorial, Banbridge, WLOL 41, join Wor. Mistress Margaret Heslip as she receives the WLOL Lodge Membership Increase Award from Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland Grand Secretary Julie Dodd.



Bro. Robert Irvine, Legananny True Blues LOL1455, receives the Individual Musician's Merit Award from Bro. Andrew Kells, of award sponsor SD Kells.

Individuals and lodges honoured at Community Awards

A prominent journalist and author who has served the Orange Institution in a number of roles for more than 50 years, has been publicly recognised by the loyal order.

Bro. Billy Kennedy was the recipient of a special lifetime achievement award at this year's Orange Community Awards, held in Lisburn on Saturday, March 14.

The Co Armagh Orangeman was just one of the many individuals, as well as lodges and musicians, to be formally acknowledged by the loyal order for their community work and achievements over the past 12 months at the annual showpiece event.

For Mr Kennedy, who lives in Tandragee but is originally from Bessbrook, involvement in the Orange Order has been a way of life.

He served as Secretary of Bessbrook Junior LOL No 202 for three years from 1956-59; Secretary of Bessbrook Purple Star LOL 959 for 52 years from 1962-2018; Secretary of Bessbrook District LOL No 11 for 52 years from 1967-2019; and was a Member of Co. Armagh Grand Orange Lodge for 52 years from 1967-2019.

Congratulating Mr Kennedy, Grand Master Edward Stevenson said: "Billy personifies the many qualities of an Orangeman; his loyalty to the Institution and his willingness to play an active part in the running and life of his lodge and district are an inspiration to others. By setting such a fine example, Billy is a role model to his peers.

"The role of a secretary within a lodge and district has changed greatly over the years, but Billy kept pace with over 50 years' service as secretary of his lodge – Bessbrook Purple Star LOL 959 – and also as secretary of Bessbrook District No. 11."

Mr Stevenson added: "Billy's dedication extends beyond the Loyal Orders. He has been a journalist for 50 years, 46 of those years spent with the News Letter. He also has a long association with Linfield Football Club and has served the club as a director for many years and is now Honorary Vice-President."

Receiving the award, Mr Kennedy said that for him, Orangeism was all about family tradition.

"My grandfather William John Kennedy was a prominent Newry Orangeman, a newspaper printer who was born on the Twelfth of July. My father Trevor was a member of Bessbrook Purple Star LOL 959 when I was growing up and he was District Treasurer in Bessbrook.

"LOL 959, with 50 members, is a family lodge with about four or five families making up the majority of the membership. At present, there are nine members of the Kennedy clan in the lodge."

He added: "Our meetings are on the first Friday in the month are very much family reunions."

Other winners at 'The Grands' included Moneyrea Old Standard LOL 783, who claimed the lodge community involvement award. Last year, members took part in the Comber Soapbox Derby to raise money for Moneyrea Primary School. Their car was designed by a pupil of the school and was shaped and styled like the iconic Staedtler yellow and black pencil.

The highly competitive best new banner award went to Aghanloo True Blues LOL 656. They won the prize for their detailed banner showcasing the RAF at Limavady.

The Orangewoman of the Year award went to Ann Dickson, of South Belfast Women's WLOL 17, in recognition of her work in the local community.

The Christian Outreach Award was claimed by Ballynahinch District LOL NO. 17 in recognition of their Gospel Mission in their local area.

Meanwhile, Roughan Silver Band, struck the right note with the judges by winning the band of the year award.

Mr Stevenson paid tribute to the winners and nominees in each of the respective categories.

He said: "I would like to personally congratulate each and every one of the winners for being standard bearers for the Institution, as well as in their own communities."

Entertainment at this year's event, held at the city's Island Arts Centre, included Sollus Highland Dancers, Lisburn Young Defenders Flute Band, Coleraine Fife and Drum and soloist Stephen Anderson.



Grand Master Edward Stevenson presents Bro. Billy Kennedy with the Grand Master's Award.



Grand Mistress Most Worshipful Sister Joan Beggs presents the Orangewoman of the Year Award to Sister Ann Dickson, South Belfast Women's WLOL 17.



Bro. Paul Clydedale, Gospel Goal, presents the Christian Outreach Award to Bro. John Coulter, who collected the award on behalf of Ballynahinch District LOL No 17.



Representatives of Castlederg JLOL 243, Manorcunningham JLOL 17, Hillsborough JLOL 55, and Ballyronan District JLOL 81 who received their certificates for new or reformed junior lodges from Assistant Grand Master Wor. Bro. Stuart Brooker.



Junior Grand Master Wor. Bro. Roy Nixon presents the inaugural Junior Grand Lodge Award to Wor. Bro. James Martin, Superintendent of Star of Lurgan JLOL 149.



Lodge Community Involvement Award was won by Moneyrea Old Standard LOL 783. Pictured are Wor. Master Wallace Douglas and Deputy Master David Adams with Steven James, of sponsor TL Dallas.



Bro. Bobby Hayes, Leslie Memorial LOL 206, receives the Individual Community Involvement Award from Wor. Bro. Mervyn Bishop, Grand Secretary of the Imperial Grand Lodge. Pictures: Graham Balhaam-Curry.



Bro. Gareth Armstrong, Spa LOL 620, receives the Sporting Achievement Award from Wor. Bro. Henry Latimer, Co. Cavan Grand Master.

FULL LIST OF WINNERS 2020

Band of the Year 2020
Roughan Silver Band

Best New Banner Award 2020
Aghanloo True Blues LOL 656

Sporting Achievement Award 2020
Bro. Gareth Armstrong - Spa LOL 620

Individual Community Involvement Award 2020
Bro. Robert J. (Bobby) Hayes – Leslie Memorial LOL 206

Lodge Community Involvement Award 2020
Moneyrea Old Standard LOL 783

Lodge Membership Increase Award 2020
Annalong LOL 342 – Mourne District LOL No. 6

Individual Musicians Merit Award 2020
Bro. Robert Irvine – Legananny True Blues LOL 1455

Youth Development Award 2020
Bro. Alan Ross – Slatt LOL 475

Christian Outreach Award 2020
Ballynahinch District LOL No.17

Junior Grand Lodge Award 2020
Star of Lurgan JLOL 149

Junior Grand Lodge certificates
Castlederg JLOL 243
Manorcunningham JLOL 17
Hillsborough JLOL 55
Ballyronan District JLOL 81

Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland - Orangewoman of the Year 2020
Sister Ann Dickson – South Belfast Women's WLOL 17

Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland – Lodge Membership Increase Award 2020
Rev. Ussher Greer Memorial WLOL 41 - Banbridge

Grand Masters Award 2020
Worshipful Brother William (Billy) Kennedy – Bessbrook Purple Star LOL 959

● **Visit www.goli.org.uk for more pictures from the Orange Community Awards taken by Photographer Graham Balhaam-Curry.**

MOTOR MOUTH

with Graham Baalham-Curry



Latest D-Max is sure to be a winner with those seeking versatility for family and fun!

ISUZU'S 'XTR'EME PICK-UP...

It is well documented that the Isuzu D-Max pick-up truck is one of the most capable and practical commercial vehicles on the market today and its accolades seem to be never-ending.

I am confident this latest D-Max model, named the XTR, will add yet more trophies to the overflowing cabinet at Isuzu headquarters in Solihull, England.

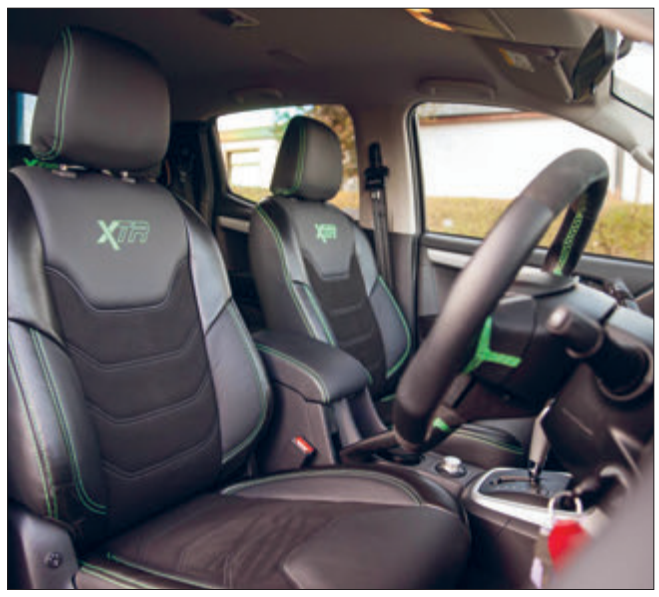
Aimed not so much at the farming community to whom Isuzu have been a leader for many years, but rather those who require a commercial vehicle for light work that enjoy an adventurous lifestyle.

Those who require the versatility of a family vehicle, the towing capacity and load-ability of a workhorse, as well as the capability of an adventurous off-road vehicle.

Not only does the XTR provide all of the above in abundance, but it also adds a huge amount of style. A style some may not find too attractive but one for those who like to think outside the box and don't wish to conform to the norm.

I can see the D-Max XTR suiting an owner who requires a commercial vehicle for work, that person perhaps enjoys some downhill mountain biking and needs a little help to get the bikes across rough terrain or maybe even to the top of a mountain, before a speedy descent on two wheels.

That same person may have a decent sized RIBB, Jet Ski, or most likely a quad and a few scramblers, that need towing around with the end destination being one which would either be wet and sandy, or wet and mucky.





Both surfaces which the XTR will cope with, without even creating a fuss, thanks to the 17-inch alloy wheels wrapped in 32-inch Pirelli Scorpion all-terrain tyres.

Coming in the model range above the D-Max Blade, the XTR isn't quite as bonkers as the Arctic Trucks version of the D-Max. It provides a happy medium with a plethora of creature comforts and still at a cost much less than many of its less attractive, less capable rivals.

Externally, the major difference from a D-Max Blade would be the full XTR body-kit which is custom designed and comprises of front bumper, bonnet bra, rear bumper, rear spoiler, light surrounds and wheel-arch extensions as well as angular side-steps and raptor-coated under-body protection.

Available in just four colours, the XTR comes with distinctive badges and the option of a full livery scheme, finished in charcoal satin. These details contrast against the day-glo green badge on the front grill which matches the Pedders suspension and brake upgrade perfectly.

Pedders have developed the suspension for the XTR, lifting it to have a more purposeful 250mm of ground clearance without any detriment to the on-road agility the D-Max is known for.

The rear shocks, front springs and brake calipers are all finished in this same day-glo green. Pedders have even provided Geomet coated brake discs, which, when combined with Kevlar ceramic brake pads, provide up to 10% more stopping power with enhanced prolonged performance.

Powered by a 1.9L turbo diesel engine, the XTR produces 163bhp with 360nM of torque which, when combined with the automatic transmission as fitted to this test vehicle, produces more than enough get-up-and-go for even the heaviest of jobs, yet when being used as a family vehicle will never leave you late on the school run.

Permanent rear-wheel-drive can be changed on the move to four-wheel-drive at speeds of up to 60 mph, with the option of four-wheel-drive low-gearing when at low speeds and things get a little sticky under foot.

Despite looking a little overweight, the XTR doesn't feel that huge when on the road and parking is made a little easier with a rear-view camera when reversing.

Inside the XTR is a mix of leather, suede, and hard-wearing materials, with day-glo green stitching throughout. Offering plenty of room and comfort, it wasn't until I was about to return the vehicle to John Barr Cars in Antrim that I realised it was fitted with heated seats.

The controls for which are fitted in the daftest place possible, pretty much behind your derriere so you can barely find the switch, never-mind seeing which of the three heat settings the chairs are on, without careering over a hedge.

I never thought of a pick up as the most practical family vehicle but to my surprise a pair of children's 360 swivel ISOFIX seats fitted with ease, and comfort, for even the front occupants.

Several buggies could be fitted in the loading bay along with everything else that young children tend to need for any sort of journey and the mountain top roller cover keep things safe and out of sight when not in use.

A tonne of sand or stones could also be easily accommodated in the back, along with a quad, a few bikes, or a clay pigeon trap that needs moved to a different field.

A Pioneer seven-inch touchscreen is the home of entertainment on the XTR and provides a CD player, a few USB ports, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, along with Bluetooth and Sat Nav on the model tested.

Pricing seems pretty good for what you get, with an XTR manual starting from £33,999 (commercial vehicle on the road price) and a Nav+ manual starting from £35,149 (cvotr).

Opt for an automatic and the price increases by just £1,000, meaning this model tested comes in at £36,149 or if you are not VAT registered, but want to cruise about in unique style, it's £43,315.80.

The D-Max XTR is one vehicle my family and I have enjoyed incredibly, it turns heads around every corner and returned 25mpg. And with a five-year – 125,000 mile warranty, along with five-years roadside assistance, it really does add up to be the ultimate package.

Fact File for model tested:
Make: Isuzu
Model: D-Max
Trim: XTR
Engine: 1.9 turbocharged diesel
Gearbox: 6-speed automatic
Cost Circa : £36,149 (CVOTR).

Arlene's recipes

Chocolate Muffins with chocolate ganache

These moist and light Chocolate Muffins are an indulgent treat for Easter and ideal to bring on a picnic, thats if the weather holds up! They are also delicious as a Sunday dessert- just warm them up (very gently) in the microwave and serve with ice cream and lots of the warmed chocolate ganache!

Chocolate Muffins with chocolate ganache
Makes: 12
250g plain flour
200g caster sugar
125g chocolate chips
45g cocoa powder
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 eggs
200g plain yoghurt
120ml milk
120ml vegetable oil
40g chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 200 C / Gas 6. Line a muffin tray with paper cases.
2. Combine flour, caster sugar, 125g chocolate chips, cocoa powder and bicarbonate of soda in a large bowl. Whisk egg, yoghurt, milk and vegetable oil in another bowl until smooth; pour into chocolate mixture and stir until mixture is just mixed. Fill paper muffin cases 3/4 full and sprinkle with remaining chocolate chips.
3. Bake in preheated oven until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Cool in the tray for 5 minutes before removing to cool completely on a wire cooling rack.
For the chocolate ganache:
150ml double cream
150g plain chocolate, broken into pieces
To make the icing: measure the cream and chocolate into a bowl and carefully melt over a pan of hot water over a low heat. Stir until glossy and fully melted, then set aside to cool and thicken up. Place in a piping back and pipe onto the muffins. (Gently warm the ganache if you wish to use it as a chocolate sauce).



Cooks Tip: Decorate with chocolate shapes or try topping with chopped pistachio nuts.



Gardener's Corner

by Beth Lunney

April is a lovely time of the year, everything is bursting into colour and the days should, thankfully, be getting warmer. However this April is not like any other April I have known – we are in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and there is a lot of gloom and despair. We don't know how it will affect us on the Nursery Centre; plants will continue to grow virus or no virus so I think we will just have to take things day by day.
A couple of slightly different looking plants we have at the moment are Hebe ochracea 'James Stirling' (pictured right) and Andromeda polifolia 'Blue Ice' both of these plants would be perfect for the front of a border.
There are many varieties of Hebe and I'm sure nearly every garden has at least one variety planted in it. Hebe ochracea 'James Stirling' does not look like your usual Hebe. This Hebe is grown for its foliage and is often mistaken for a conifer. The foliage is arranged in sprays giving a star-like appearance and each stem has leaves which look more like scales giving each stem a whipcord look. Now that doesn't sound all that attractive however it has this lovely golden-green colour in summer which becomes more honey-golden in winter. In late spring or early summer small white flowers appear at the tips of the branches although this does not happen every year. 'James Stirling' forms a dense hummock of around 12inches high and 24inches wide and looks great when planted in groups on a bank or even to edge a path. This Hebe does not need pruning just remove any damaged branches in late spring. Grow in full sun or slight shade in well-drained but moist soil and although this Hebe is very hardy do not plant on a site which is exposed to cold winds. This shrub is also suitable for pots. Hebe 'James Stirling' received the Award of Garden Merit in 1984.
Andromeda polifolia 'Blue Ice' is another unusual, tough little plant. This lovely plant is a hybrid of Andromeda polifolia which was discovered by Carl Linnaeus when on and expedition to Lapland in 1732. Linnaeus compared the plant to Andromeda in Greek mythology who was the beautiful daughter of King Cepheus and Queen Cassiope of Joppa in Palestine. Its common name is 'Bog Rosemary' as it is often found in bogs. It is a rare native plant and can sometimes be found in central Britain and central Irish peat bogs however it does occur in County Tyrone. The variety 'Blue Ice' is a beautiful, hardy, evergreen plant which has a low mounding habit growing to around 18inches high with a 30inch spread. The striking, evergreen foliage is silvery-blue with the leaves looking very much like Rosemary leaves although they are not related. In spring the foliage is topped by clusters of soft-pink bell shaped flowers which almost cover the plant and look very attractive against the foliage. This plant prefers moist, well-drained, acid soil in sun or dappled shade and would be equally happy to grow in a pot.



Andromeda polifolia 'Blue Ice'



OBSERVER

Visit to Republic of Ireland by Royals should have included ceremony at Islandbridge

The recent visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to the Republic of Ireland didn't really generate much excitement. However, the lovely young couple, William and Kate delighted those who turned out to see them or met them at the functions they attended, especially in Galway, writes Brian Courtney.

From a Northern Ireland point of view, there was one glaring omission from the itinerary of the visit, and that was no fault of the young Royals, who rightly earned the admiration of most people for their pleasant and relaxed attitude.

It was the first item in the three-day itinerary for the Royal visit which caused offence to many loyal people, especially those who have a military tradition.

The visit began with William and Kate honouring the memory of those who fought on the side of the IRA during the Easter Rebellion in Dublin in 1916, and others who lost their lives in the guerrilla campaign of the early 1920s, which resulted in a Treaty in 1921, and he withdrawal of the British Army from the 26 Southern counties.

It is fair to say that The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge would have had no influence in the decision to attend the Garden of Remembrance which honours the IRA dead. But at the same time, the Commonwealth Department of the UK Government must have had prior knowledge of the ceremony and obviously agreed to it.

Her Majesty the Queen attended a similar ceremony on her visit to Dublin some years ago, but the big difference this time was that there was no similar ceremony at Islandbridge, where the Queen honoured the memory of the 49,000 Irishmen who died while serving with the British Forces in the 1914-18 War.

Republicans are skilled in the art of re-writing history, and this has resulted in generations of Southern Irish people growing up being unaware of the long and honourable service of many Southern Irishmen in the ranks of the British Army.

Their heroism down the centuries was awesome. For example, the special contribution of Irish regiments in the South African (Boer War) was such that it moved Queen Victoria to pay a very successful three week visit to Ireland.

It also resulted in the Monarch ordering that shamrock should be distributed to Irish soldiers each year on St Patrick's Day, and the formation of the Irish Guards.

Sadly, there is little knowledge of this in today's Irish Republic, because the huge contribution of Irish soldiers to the British Empire has been written out of history, to be replaced by honouring the rebels who were a small number in the Easter Rebellion compared to the estimated quarter of a million Irishmen who fought on the British side in the Great War.

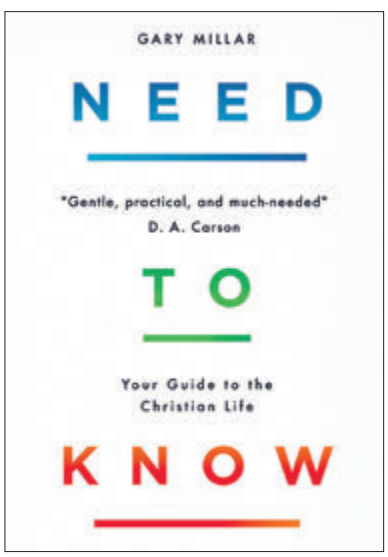
The bigoted and one-sided attitude towards historical events in the Republic was also underlined recently when moves to hold a modest event honouring the memory of those who served in the Royal Irish Constabulary was scrapped.

The RIC was an honourable Force, which was 80 per cent Roman Catholic in membership, but that made no difference to the narrow-minded and one-sided attitude of Republicans who hate anything which has a link with the long links which Southern Ireland had with the United Kingdom.

BOOKSHELF

by Robin Fairbairn
The Good Book Company

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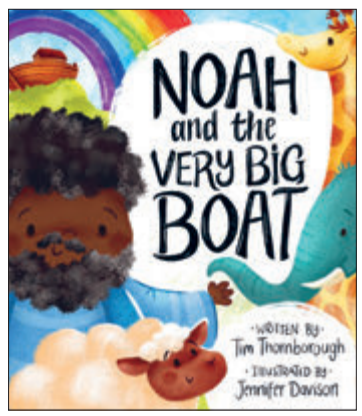
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STEPPING OUT
Supporting our Marching Bands

by Quincey Dougan

Our bands, our families, our stories...

The Zacchaeus Outreach Project has been a regular sight now at band processions across Ulster for several years. Formed by the Church Army back in 2011, the Church of Ireland initiative sought to reach out to what it felt was a group marginalised by many parts of society, Ulster's bands. The 'ZOP' bus attends numerous parades, and alongside offering free tea and coffee, also provides a listening ear, and indeed any other help that its volunteers can reasonably provide. Under the guidance of Church Army evangelist Valerie Thom, herself a one-time band member for many years, the initiative works closely with the Armagh Bands Forum and a broad range of other connected organisations.
As part of the project's fifth anniversary celebrations in 2016, it released a booklet entitled 'Praise Him on the big bass drum- our stories', having realised that the stories of Christian band members showed that they were just normal people whose faith was important to them. Alongside many band members having some very good stories to tell, it was also a great medium to spread the message and purpose of the Zacchaeus Outreach Project.
It was the popularity of this first booklet that led to discussions on a further publication, and the process of gathering and collating more stories began. From this 'Our bands, our families, our stories' emerged. Covering every genre of bands, all ages and from various parts of the country, the stories show the diversity of people involved in the band community and what an important part bands play in their lives.
There was no money in the Zacchaeus Outreach Project kitty for printing the booklet but as the finishing touches were being made, the Lord provided a donation which met the need. A large crowd gathered on the 10th of March in Aghavilly Orange Hall to launch the booklet, and already more stories have been received for the production of a third booklet! The band community is full of people who have amazing stories that need to be told and preserved for future generations.
If you would like a copy of the booklet please contact Valerie Thom of the Zacchaeus Outreach Project on 07736 644051 or any member of the Armagh Bands Forum.



Pictured at the book launch are Ivan Walker, Valerie Thom and Honor Hawthorne from ZOP and Armagh Bands Forum


People gathered in Aghavilly Orange Hall for the ZOP book launch

Cormeen lead the way

Recent weeks have seen a close down of local social activity, primarily as events worsens and as a result of advice, necessity and compulsion.
One band however showed incredible foresight and leadership long before being compelled to do so.
On Sunday, March 8, the band chairman of Cormeen Rising Sons of William Flute Band, County Armagh, called an emergency meeting at which band officers, members and several local community representatives attended, and made the unanimous decision to cancel their 2020 St Patrick's evening parade.
The annual band procession in the Cathedral City, which was established in 2012, is one of the largest held on St Patrick's Day across the British Isles in terms of active participants, regularly including over 30 marching bands with over 1,000 members.
Mark outlined their motivation: "The band's annual parade in Armagh is incredibly important both as a general celebration of culture and tradition, and as our main fundraiser of the year. But given what was rapidly growing into a health crisis, the band could not insist on the event going ahead given the obvious risks that bringing large numbers of people together would create."
Generally the news was well received, however there was some incredibly disappointing reaction from community representatives in the Armagh locality who attempted to spread the nonsensical view that the Cormeen cancellation was done solely to get the day time parade cancelled! This came alongside other more malicious, and totally unfounded, allegations that the band will address in the coming months via legal channels.
Irrespective however, yet again an Ulster band was proactive and seen to responsibly lead in their community.

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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

ORANGE NEWS



Rev. David McIlveen conducts the service. Below: Pipe Major Francis Strain plays during the memorial service on Royal Avenue, Belfast.





The parade makes its way through the Belfast Streets. Pictures: Graham Balhaam-Curry

Anniversary parade remembers UDR soldiers

The annual memorial parade and service of remembrance to mark the murder of two young UDR soldiers who were also members of the Orange Institution took place in Belfast on Saturday, February 29.

The parade, organised by Ulster Defenders of the Realm LOL 710, which was formed 26 years ago, is regarded as the first major parade of the year.

The event saw a wreath-laying ceremony at the scene of the atrocity and a service of remembrance conducted by Rev. David McIlveen.

Relatives of the deceased were also present.

Frederick Starrett and James Cummings, both 22, were killed by an IRA booby-trap device as they arrived to close the security gates on Royal Avenue on February 24, 1988. Both soldiers were members of lodges in Ballymacarrett No 6 District; Banner of the Cross LOL 1310 and Johnston's Golden Star LOL 1934 respectively.

The parade made its way from Templemore Avenue to Royal Avenue.

Worshipful Master of LOL 710, David McGrath, said: "This memorial parade continues to be one of the most important parades in the lodge calendar. The large numbers present will be a fitting tribute to Fred and James and show their families that the sacrifice of these two young men is not forgotten, as we honour their memory."

Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Harold Henning; Grand Secretary Rev. Mervyn Gibson and Spencer Beattie, County Grand Master of the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast were in attendance.

The bands on parade included Pride of the Raven Flute, Millar Memorial Flute and Legananny Accordion.



Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning and Grand Secretary Rev. Mervyn Gibson pictured with relatives of the deceased at the memorial service in Belfast.



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AROUND THE LODGES



36th Ulster Division Memorial LOL 143



Above: The Installation of Officers of 36th Ulster Division Memorial LOL 143 - Ballymena District LOL No.8 took place in Cromkill Orange Hall, Ballymena.

Left: Brother Derrick Stewart receives his Past Master's Certificate and Collarette from Worshipful Brother Gordon McCrory, Worship District Master, Ballymena District LOL No.8 (left) and Right Worshipful Brother Robin Mathews, Right Worshipful County Grand Master, County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge (right). Brother Stewart served 14 Years as Worshipful Master.

Sixmilewater District LOL No. 10



Left: Templepatrick LOL 466. Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. Michael White (second left) and Deputy Master Bro. John Houston (fourth from left).
Below: Young's Temperance True Blues LOL 957. Front, Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. William Shannon (third left) and Deputy Master Bro. Colin Shaw (fifth from left).
The Installations were presided over by Worshipful Brother William John Strange W.D.M Sixmilewater District LOL No.10.



News from Cairncastle LOL 692



Bro. Edwin Steele, of Cairncastle LOL 692, receiving his Jewel for 25 years service to the Lodge. Presenting it is Reverend Bro. Paul Reid, Chaplin of Larne District LOL No1. Also pictured is Worshipful Master Brother Trevor Acheson.



On Saturday, January 25, members of Cairncastle LOL 692 went to Air Ambulance Northern Ireland HQ in the Maze, Lisburn. This was to present the proceeds of the collection taken at their Christmas Carol Service. £361 was collected and further money received allowed Brethren to present a cheque for £400. Lodge members are delighted that everyone who kindly donated is helping to keep this vital, life-saving Air Ambulance going.

50 year medals presented



Bro. David McConnell and Bro. Cardwell McClure were recently presented with 50 year medals for their service to Wingfield Verner's Crimson Star LOL 25. Also pictured is Bro. Darren Gracey, whose father, the late Harold Gracey, is pictured on the banner.

MUSEUM NEWS

‘In the Name of the Sisterhood’

A new exhibition was been launched at the Museum of Orange Heritage - Schomberg House focusing on the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland.
The exhibition, entitled ‘In the name of the Sisterhood’, was launched on Friday, 6 March, just ahead of International Women’s Day on March 8.
The history of Women’s Orangeism goes back to before the formal creation of the first Women’s Lodge in 1800.
This latest temporary exhibition at the Museum of Orange Heritage traces the history of the Women’s Orange lodges in Ireland and throughout the world. It highlights the opposition and support that women have had to have their voices heard and to achieve representation alongside their Orange brethren.
Museum staff member Sarah Cameron, who was part of the team which carried out the research, introduced the exhibition to guests, including senior officers of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland, and the Imperial Orange Council.
Sarah explained: “With a few notable exceptions, little has been done to highlight the contribution of women within the Orange family during the past 200 years. We hope that this exhibition will start a wider discussion about the important role played by this organisation and its continued contribution to the modern world, here in the British Isles and across the globe.
“Some wonderful women have left a remarkable legacy for the Ladies Association. Throughout its history, members of the Ladies’ Association have been to the forefront of activity, from politics to nursing, sport to benevolence, they have championed the cause of Orangeism and promoted the Reformed Faith.”
She added: “It is fitting, that on the cusp of this year’s International Women’s day, the Orange family takes this opportunity to celebrate the contribution of the Sisterhood.”
Speaking at the launch, Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Rev. Mervyn Gibson, who is also chair of the Museum of Orange Heritage Board, said the new exhibition had particular significance to him as his late mother had been a member of the Ladies Association for 70 years.
“It is important that we tell the story of the Ladies Association,” he said. “This exhibition is the product of guidance from Grand Master Edward Stevenson, who directed that we form closer links between the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland.
“This museum is for the entire Orange Family and we seek to tell the story of Orangesim that exists in every Orange Hall around the country and also in the hearts of every Brother and Sister. We are very proud of our history.”
Completing the formalities of cutting the ribbon to open the exhibition was Grand Mistress of the Loyal Association of Orangewomen of Ireland, Joan Beggs and Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson.
Grand Mistress Joan Beggs commented: “The Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland is honoured to be playing an active role in the Orange Family.
“I wish the exhibition every success and hope that many people, both within our Association and outside, come to see it and learn a bit about the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland.”
There are Women’s Orange Lodges in nine jurisdictions across the globe. In Ireland, where the movement originated, there are currently 90 women’s lodges.
This exhibition reveals the history of those associations and of some of the women whose ideals forged them. On display will be items representing women’s lodges around the world.
Note: The Museum of Orange Heritage is currently closed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). This exhibition is produced on pop-up stands and it is planned that they will be available for lodges and groups later in the year.



From left, Grand Master Edward Stevenson, Grand Secretary of the Association of Loyal Orange Women of Ireland Julie Dodd, Grand Mistress Joan Beggs, Grand Treasurer Anna Moffett, Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning and Mervyn Bishop, Imperial Grand Secretary.



Grand Master Edward Stevenson and Grand Mistress Joan Beegs open the exhibtion at Schomberg House. Pictures: Graham Baalham-Curry



Museum staff member Sarah Cameron, Grand Mistress Joan Beggs and Museum Curator Dr Jonathan Mattison.

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Scottish Orangeman went down with his ship off the Donegal coast

History Lessons
with Dr David Hume MBE

On January 13, 1915, a small armed merchant cruiser named HMS Viknor was operating off the Donegal coast when tragedy struck.
Built as a passenger liner in 1888, she had sailed between Britain and the West Indies and was a 421 foot long vessel, yacht-like in appearance and weighing 5,347 tons.
When the war broke out in 1914 the Admiralty requisitioned vessels for service and Viknor was one of these.
Formerly known as the Atrato and then the Viking, she was renamed for war service and had on board 291 sailors as well as a German national who had been taken off the neutral Norwegian vessel Bergensfjord, under suspicion of being a secret agent.
The main function of HMS Viknor, which was not well armed, was not to engage German naval vessels but to stop and search neutral ships suspected of taking war contraband bound for Germany.
In addition to the suspected spy, there were also six men described as "stowaways" on board.
The full story of these individuals would never be fully known, as they were all lost when the ship went down.
What precisely happened to HMS Viknor also remains unclear.
She had been in radio contact but disappeared in heavy weather close to Tory Island off the coast of Donegal without sending a distress signal.
Though the exact cause of the Viknor's loss cannot be established with certainty, some maritime historians speculate that it is very possible that she struck a German mine.
The German auxiliary cruiser Berlin had laid 200 mines in the general area and one of them had been responsible for sinking the British battleship HMS Audacious on October 27, 1914, thankfully with no loss of life involved. The Viknor's wreck was found by the Irish survey vessel Celtic Explorer in 2006 but the reason for her loss could still not be identified with absolute certainty after exploration.



HMS Viknor



Right: William Armour, from an article in the Greenock Telegraph.

Left: The funeral of HMS Viknor sailors in Larne; there was an uproar in the town after the men were interred without ceremony



A GREENOCK NAVAL HERO.

William Thomas Armour, who lost his life on board H.M.S. Viknor. He was connected with the R.N.V.R. for 12 years, and was at the defence of Antwerp. He resided with his mother at 25 John Street, Greenock.



Viknor sailors Cormick Duffy, Samuel Gourley and Samuel Mitchell photographed together during the War

The Scotsman of January 16, 1915, confirmed that "The armed merchant vessel HMS Viknor has been officially given up as lost with all officers and men. She is supposed to have foundered during the recent bad weather off the north coast of Ireland, or to have struck one of the mines which the Germans are known to have laid in those seas."
Among those on board her was at least one Orangeman, William Armour, a native of Greenock.
Armour was a member of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Clyde Division, and was called up in August 1914 and well-known in Greenock, where he was a member of the Orange Order and also a full time quartermaster sergeant of the Ulster Volunteers in Greenock.
The Greenock body extended its sympathy at the time to his mother, sister and brothers.
William Thomas Armour was an enginesmith and was born in 1882. He belonged to a group of naval volunteer reserves known as the Seafield Boys and he is commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, suggesting that he has no known grave.
Colleagues from the Inverclyde area who were lost with William were William Smith, Herbert Corker, Cormick Joseph Duffy, Samuel Gourlay/Gourley, David Scott Leavey, John McKenzie, Samuel Donaldson Mitchell and Neil Sinclair.
Most lived in Greenock, so the impact there would have been well-felt with so many young men not coming home.
One of them, Samuel Gourley, lived at Port Glasgow and was the son of James Gourley of Portglenone, County Antrim.
Greenock was a location which saw strong support for unionists in Ireland during the Third Home Rule period, with 856 men and women there signing the Ulster Covenant in 1912.
William Armour was just one of those identified with the unionist cause.
Although his body does not seem to have been recovered following the sinking of HMS Viknor, a few bodies of those who had been on the vessel that fateful day were washed up on the County Antrim coast.
At cemeteries in Ballycastle and Larne there are gravestones commemorating several, including Petty Officer J. R. Bowering and Lewis Ogle, a greaser, both of whom were buried in Larne town cemetery.
Initially the Viknor sailors washed up were given a pauper's burial and for two of them there were only two mourners to follow their coffins, the chairman of the Larne Urban Council, Samuel McMeekin being accompanied by Relieving Officer McWilliam.
At Islandmagee a local undertaker, Charles O'Boyle, sent his hearse to bring the coffin of a third man to Larne for burial.
Following the news there was an uproar in the town and the Admiralty was contacted about the lack of ceremony for the three sailors who had given their lives in service.
The end result was that the deceased sailors were exhumed and re-interred with full military honours, members of the Royal Naval Reserve lining the walk from the mortuary chapel to the graveside, the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles firing a volley of shots over the coffins and four clergymen taking part in a service, while hundreds turned up in tribute.
Further north at the Bonamargy cemetery outside Ballycastle, other Viknor graves are located, one named to Private J. Griffin, with two unknown.
In addition to their graves there is a large cross commemorating sailors from the Great War buried in the little plot near the medieval friary.
Another of those lost, Petty Officer E. Blackley, was found in Belfast Lough, and the body of J. R. Brownrigg, another crew member, was washed up near the Chaine Memorial at Larne. A body with a tattoo with the name W. Wagstaff was washed up on Kintyre as was wreckage identified as belonging to the Viknor.
In Tyneside, meanwhile, a great loss was felt as many of the crew belonged to South Shields and large crowds of people had gathered at the Milldam where the crew usually signed articles for peacetime cruises to Norway.
Following news of the bodies being washed up on the County Antrim shore, a poignant letter was published in the Larne Times from a schoolmistress in Burra Isle, Shetland, enquiring on behalf of Shetland families as to whether any information on Laurence Laurenson and James Laurenson might be had from locals.
One vessel operating from Larne, HM gunboat Colanthe, had the sad task of conveying the body of the captain of the Viknor, Commander E. O. Ballantyne, found floating off Castlebay, Barry Island, to Dalkeith for burial. But most of the sailors on board the Viknor, like the Orangeman William Armour, would sadly have no resting place.

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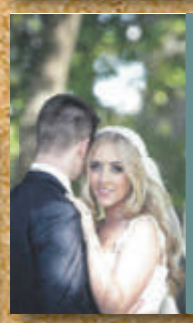
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Funding boost for Pomeroy

Members of Pomeroy District Sports and Cultural Association pictured viewing plans of the works to be carried out at their facility.

These will include a new electricity supply, drainage works, car park resurfacing and car park lighting. Chairperson of the Group, Keith Buchanan MLA explained: "This is another chapter of work for our group here in Pomeroy and we welcome this support. The package of funding to the group will be in access of £60k.

"Funding for this project was approved by Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership and is part-funded under Priority 6 (LEADER) of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Union".



Jewels presented



Worshipful Mistress of Sister Laura Hogarth Memorial WLOL 109 Noell Crawford (centre) presenting Past Mistress certificates and jewels to Sister Norma Gillespie, (left) and Sister Ann Hayes (right).

ORANGE NEWS



W.M Bro. Bert Wilson, Blossomhill L.O.L No 411 Fintona District No 8, presenting Bro. John Beattie with a 50 year certificate for service to Blossomhill Orange Lodge. Also pictured is Canon Bro. Alan Irwin, District Chaplin Sixmilecross District.



W.M Bro. Bert Wilson, Blossomhill L.O.L No 411 Fintona District No 8, presenting Bro. George Woods with a 50 year certificate for service to Blossomhill Orange Lodge. Also pictured is Canon Bro. Alan Irwin, District Chaplin Sixmilecross District.



W.M Bro. Bert Wilson, Blossomhill L.O.L No 411 Fintona District No 8, presenting Bro. Alan Cochrane with a 60 year certificate for service to Blossomhill Orange Lodge. Also pictured is Canon Bro. Alan Irwin District Chaplin Sixmilecross District.

Blossomhill hosts Installation dinner

Blossomhill LOL No 411 held their annual Installation dinner on Monday, January 13.
The Installation was conducted by Bro. Canon Allan Irwin, District Chaplin Sixmilecross, and Bro. Raymond Deazley, Fintona District Master.
Those re-installed were as follows: W.M Bro. Bert Wilson, D.M Bro. Brian Beattie, Chaplin Bro. Alymer McKinney, Sec. Bro. George Woods, Treasurer Bro. Winston Gilmore, Tyler Bro. John McKinney, Assistant Sec. Bro. David Cochrane.
Bro. Bert Wilson welcomed all to the Installation dinner, including a number of visiting Brethren, members of Blossomhill Junior Lodge, Blossomhill Pipe Band and other invited guests.
An excellent two-course meal was provided by Gordon and Barbara Moore, and the entertainment was by Bro. Winston Gilmore and his wife, Pearl.
The evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.



Bro. George Woods being presented with a photograph and a gift for 53 dedicated years of service to Blossomhill Pipe Band by Band Master Bro. John McKinney.



Worshipful Master Bro. Bert Wilson and his wife, Val, presenting flowers and a card to Mrs Evelyn Anderson, wife of the late Brother (Past Master) Louis Anderson, on behalf of the officers and members of Blossomhill L.O.L No 411 on her 100th birthday.

Members of Flowerhill LOL 328 pay tribute to two respected Brethren

The Brethren of Flowerhill LOL 328 were in a reflective mood on the morning of the 12th July 2019.
In the year that passed since the 12th 2018, the Loyal Orders in Lisburn and Flowerhill in particular had lost two of its most dedicated hard-working and well-known Brethren.
The sudden death of Sir Knight and Brother Tom McWatters shortly after the 12th 2018 came as a shock to all.
Bro. Tom was passionate about the Loyal Orders and Northern Ireland.
As well as the position of Worship Master, Tom was Treasurer of Flowerhill for many years. He always organised the catering for the lodge on the 12th. He always brought experience and a lot of common sense to all the debates in the Lodge room. He was also a Past Master and Registrar of McMichael Memorial RBP 338. He went on to become District Master Lisburn RBP No.1 in the years 1998/2000. He was also responsible for organising the County Antrim demonstration in Lisburn.
Tom was always available to other Lodges and districts to help them in organising demonstrations. At the height of the troubles Tom joined the UDR and served with distinction rising to the rank of Colour Sergeant. This shows the courage and love of his country that Tom joined the UDR at such a dangerous time in Northern Ireland. A true and Loyal Brother.
Just before the 12th 2019 the Brethren learnt of the death of Sir Knight and Brother Jim Ferguson. Although Jim had been through many illnesses his death was still a shock.
A Past Master and Treasurer of Flowerhill, he went on to become District Master Lisburn District LOL No. 6 in 1998/1999.
Jim was District Lay Chaplin for 40 years and sat on at least 10 committees being chairman of the Orange widows and hall management committees. Jim was heavily involved in the Junior Orange Lodge. He helped form a lodge in Lisburn which is still going strong today. He was well known throughout the Junior Orange Lodges as he became Deputy County Antrim Grand Master, sat on the Junior Grand Lodge Committee and became Honoury Deputy Grand Master.
He was also instrumental in starting a harvest service in Flowerhill Orange Hall on the last Sunday in September. He was able to bring some prominent speakers to the service including Wor. Bro. Rev. Mervyn Gibson. The service still goes strong to this day.
Both Brethren worshipped in Hillhall Presbyterian Church and it is testament to both that the church was full and overflowing for their funerals.
It is fitting that both Brethren are buried in Hillhall Church graveyard not a stones throw from their beloved Flowerhill Orange Hall.
It is their wives and families who will miss them most, but their deaths have left a void within the Lisburn District and Flowerhill in particular which may never be filled.



District Master of Bangor District No 18 Lee McDade presenting W.B. George Ennis (center) with an honorary membership certificate, along with treasurer W.B. Eric Capes and secretary W.B. Ted Slinger of LOL 769.



Rt. Wor. Bro. Rodney T Stewart PAGM presents a photograph of Rt. Wor. Bro. Joseph A Gaston M.B.E, J.P. leading the County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge at the parade to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in London to Wor. Bro. John Armstrong, W.D.M. of Cloughmills District No.14.

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