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# Orange Institution heralds start of the CentenNial year

## But Coronavirus restrictions are back in force!

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland heralded the beginning of Northern Ireland’s centenary year with a fanfare of bugles, the thundering sound of the Lambeg drum and raising the CentenNial flag at Schomberg House.

However the celebrations were much more low key than anticipated, as new Covid-19 restrictions which started on Boxing Day quickly moved into a lockdown situation as the battle against the deadly pandemic continues. And so the Institution’s celebrations on New Year’s Eve began online. The appeal for Lambeg drummers and pipers to signal the start of the Centenary year saw many taking part, while the CentenNial Challenge has also been taken up with enthusiasm as many lodges are sharing details of events which are currently being planned.

The Museum of Orange Heritage has a special CentenNial exhibition which will open to the public when it is safe to do so.

More CentenNial news inside



Grand Master Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson pictured with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland’s Lambeg Drum, which is very appropriately named ‘The CentenNial’.



**WE ALL  
MUST DO IT  
TO GET  
THROUGH IT**



[goli.org.uk/covid](http://goli.org.uk/covid)

**Orange Family:  
we’re in this together**

## EDITORIAL

# Tough start to such an important year - but the Orange Family will continue to play its part

It's hard to believe that we have been living Covid-10 – or Coronavirus – for almost a year now. In February 2000 we were just beginning to hear of this deadly disease. Little did we know then of the major impact this awful illness would have on our everyday lives through lockdowns and restrictions; the loss it would bring to so many families and the unbearable strain it would place on the doctors, nurses and other key workers.

Many of you will be aware of the hard work undertaken by the Orange Family in helping those in greatest need during this pandemic. Regular readers of the Orange Standard will have seen the many pictures of care packages being presented to the elderly and frontline workers right across the jurisdiction of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. That work continued over the Christmas period as lodges remembered those most living in isolation throughout their communities.

Indeed, the work of Grand Lodge continues.

In recent days Chief Executive Iain Carlisle has written to Health Minister Robin Swann and formally offered the use of our halls for the roll out of the vaccination.

The offer has yet to be accepted but our halls, so often the hub of the communities in which they stand, are ready and available should the need arise in the weeks and months ahead.

It is the vaccines, combined with the hard work and sacrifice of all those who are following the tough restrictions that are currently in place, which is giving a glimmer of hope at what can only be described as a very dark time. Turn on your television or radio or lift a newspaper and you cannot fail to be gripped by the number of deaths occurring on a daily basis and the level of the spread of infection.

At the time of writing, we are seeing a decline in both these statistics, but we are warned that our health service remains under massive pressure.

Therefore, we continue to encourage all members of the Orange Family – young and old – to play their part to the full in fighting this awful disease. Wear face masks, respect the social distancing guidelines and wash your hands regularly.

It is important to remember your fellow Brethren at this time and ensure to keep in regular contact with older or isolated members

Stay safe.

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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Tell us your story!



Imagery for the new 100 Years 100 Images exhibition in reception at Schomberg House

# Official opening of 2021 museum exhibition delayed

Covid-19 has brought a halt to plans to open the special exhibition on Northern Ireland's Centenary in the Museum of Orange Heritage at Schomberg House. Dr. Jonathan Mattison, assisted by Grand Lodge staff and volunteers, had worked extremely hard throughout the final months of 2020 to ensure that the exhibition - entitled '100 Years, 100 Images' - was ready to

open at the beginning of January.

However, in line with ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the museum remains closed to the public at this time.

Dr. Mattison said: "While disappointing, it is understandable that museums and other visitor attractions are closed at this very difficult time.

"The Orange Family has

worked extremely hard in the battle with Covid-19 and this is another sacrifice that must be made for the health and well-being of our members and the wider community."

Dr. Mattison added: "The good news is that the exhibition is very nearly complete and we look forward to welcoming many visitors to the museum as soon as it is safe to do so."

# First CentenNial service attracts a global audience

The first CentenNial Church Service of 2021 was held on Sunday, 17th of January, and streamed live on social media.

In line with the current Covid-19 restrictions, the planned service could not take place as intended.

However, making the most of the technology available, Grand Lodge Grand Chaplains Wor. Bro. Rev. Ron Johnstone and Wor. Bro. Rev. Alistair Smyth lead the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's first online CentenNial Service of 2021, which was recorded at Union College in Belfast. This venue was chosen due to historic links with



Grand Chaplain, Wor. Bro. Rev. Alistair Smyth.

Northern Ireland, particularly as it was the seat of the first government prior to the building of Stormont. The video attracted a strong audience with hundreds tuning in to watch live and many more taking the opportunity to catch-up in the following days. Viewers posted details of

their location and their lodge membership. It was very encouraging to see so many viewers from right across the United Kingdom as well as those who tuned in from Australia and Canada. Further initiatives of this nature will take place throughout the year.

**ORANGE NEWS**

# CentenNial celebrations held online due to Covid restrictions

The unfortunate rise in Covid-19 across Northern Ireland meant renewed restrictions which came into force from Boxing Day.

The timing couldn't have been worse as it meant the proposed events to herald the start of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's CentenNial celebrations had to be moved online. This led to major changes, however the fanfare which welcomed 2021 was still very well received by the digital audience both locally and across the world.

The pre-recorded video, which went live just before midnight on Thursday, 31st of December, began with a message from Chief Executive Iain Carlisle who while looking ahead to the year of celebrations, also reflected on the efforts of the Orange Family during 2020 to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. The video featured a bugle fanfare which was recorded at Schomberg House, followed by the first appearance and performance of the new CentenNial Lambeg Drum.

The fantastic instrument, which was made by Jordan Sterritt and painted by artist Andy Young, will play an important role in the year-long celebrations. Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson



then wished every citizen of Northern Ireland and around the world a happy new year before handing over to Bro. Raymond Speirs, chair of the CentenNial Committee, who raised

the CentenNial flag. The New Gate Arts and Culture Centre marked the start of 2021 with a digital feast of dancing, singing and music - featuring the Grand Orange Lodge of

Ireland lambeg drum - from Londonderry and Brownlow House in Lurgan. This included a spectacular light display. Georgina McKee-McCarter presented the video which was shared across social media on Friday, 1st of January.

Again these were pre-recorded to meet the restrictions on gatherings of people. Grand Lodge encouraged pipers and Lambeg drummers to mark the start of the CentenNial year by playing in their areas. Despite some poor weather

conditions on the day, this was done by right across the province. CentenNial flag was proudly raised at the Museum of Orange Heritage, Sloan's House, Loughgall, to mark the commencement of the 100th Anniversary Year of Northern Ireland. The flag was raised by Rt Wor Bro Denis Watson, County Armagh Grand Master, who was accompanied by some of his County Grand Lodge Officers, and also Wor. Bro. Mervyn Walker with the "Champion of Loughgall" Lambeg Drum. Orange Halls across Northern Ireland repeated this, with dozens sharing images of the CentenNial flag on social media. See pictures on pages 8 and 9.



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## ORANGE NEWS

# Brethren 'honoured' to have worked on the CentenNial Lambeg Drum

Few musical instruments if any can compete with the Lambeg Drum when it comes to scale of size and sound.

They are truly impressive and hearing one played is an experience you'll never forget.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland decided that it would be a great idea to commission its own Lambeg drum as part of Northern Ireland's centenary celebrations. The drum would be named 'The CentenNial'.

The drum, which was made by Jordan Sterritt, from Markethill, would be adorned with the CentenNial crest.

This design incorporates many key elements associated with Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom and Orangeism.

Central to the design is a shield bearing the Red Hand of Ulster which is the same shape as the original government of Northern Ireland crest. The Queen's crown symbolises our Monarch and Head of the Union. A floral display

represents the United Kingdom featuring the Tudor Rose of England and Wales, the Thistle of Scotland, and Shamrocks, Flax Flower and Lily for Northern Ireland.

The Shamrock is representative of our strong Christian heritage with the three leaves representing the Holy Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Orange Lily represents our proud culture and the Glorious Revolution, and the Flax flower representing the Linen trade where it is said Northern Ireland was at one time the Linen Capital of the world.

The scrolls on each side hold the names of the six counties that make up Northern Ireland with the bottom scroll highlighting the 100-year anniversary. Finally, on the bottom corner of the flag is the purple star representing the Orange Institution.

A key element of the Lambeg Drum is the artwork, which helps to give each drum its individual identity.

The man tasked with recreating the crest on



Jordan Sterritt pictured with drums featuring his late father Richard Sterritt and his late Grandfather Ernest Sterritt - three generations of Lambeg Drum makers/repairs

the shell on the new drum was Richhill drum painter, Andy Young.

A member of Drumna-huncheon LOL 371, Andy explained that it was a 'huge honour' to have been

asked by Grand Lodge to paint the CentenNial drum. "I thought the idea of having a Lambeg drum specifically to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of Northern Ireland was a great idea," said Andy.

"As a member of the Institution for nearly 30 years, I considered it a privilege to have been asked to paint the drum.

"It's going to be seen by so many people over the course of the next 12 months and beyond. And let's be honest, 100 years is a great milestone event."

Commenting on the design, Andy said he believed the crest really lent itself to featuring on the drum. He continued: "The CentenNial crest is a fairly intricate design and it was not without its challenges, but it worked out well. I am pleased with how it has turned out."

He added: "I look forward to seeing - and hearing - the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland CentenNial Lambeg Drum when it appears at events throughout the centenary year."

Andy's sentiments were echoed by drum builder,

Jordan Sterritt, who said he was 'over the moon' to have been asked to build the drum.

He also agreed it was a great idea that the drum would be going to events around the country during the CentenNial year.

A member of Ballylane True Blues LOL 479, Jordan explained that the process of making the drum had taken around eight months.

"It is a long process to make a drum," said Jordan. "But when you see the finished drum it is very impressive. "When Andy collected the shell from me and explained what was planned I thought it would look well - but when he brought it back it really was even better than I expected."

Jordan is from a very well known family which is steeped in the culture of Lambeg drums.

Both his late father Richard and late grandfather, Ernest, were heavily involved in making and repairing drums.

He has followed in their footsteps.

He pointed out that while he was delighted to have built the drum, it was perhaps a smaller detail which meant the most to him.

He explained: "Whenever people see the CentenNial drum, sitting perhaps in the Museum of Orange Heritage maybe years from now, it will have my father's stamp on the skins - that's something very special to me!"



Drum painter Andy Young pictured working on a drum featuring Lord Craigavon.

ORANGE NEWS

Platform

Grand Lodge Officers recently met with First Minister Arlene Foster MLA, Health Minister Robin Swann MLA and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael McBride to discuss the ongoing health crisis. At that meeting the Grand Master offered the co-operation and assistance of the Orange family in the ongoing efforts to beat Coronavirus – including the use of our extensive network of community halls as potential vaccination centres. The First Minister and Health Minister have written exclusively to the Orange family.

Vaccines are the way out of this - when you're called, please come forward!

It is almost a year from Northern Ireland identified its first positive Covid-19 test. I remember the day well – I was at a drugs summit in Glasgow with fellow Ministers from across the UK. Within minutes the Chief Medical Officer and I were on our way to the airport to catch an earlier flight back to Belfast. From that day the situation has had many difficult twists and turns. An awful lot has happened since. There have been many dark days and sadly we've lost many good people. Workers, not just in health but across all professions, have experienced scenes that previously would have been wholly unimaginable. What I remember most vividly however was the palpable sense of fear that was in the air last March. People across the UK were watching the scenes



Health Minister Robin Swann

from Italy – we knew this invisible virus was coming but no one really knew for sure how it would unfold. We just knew the weeks that followed were going to be difficult and so they were. People responded by making huge sacrifices to slow the transmission of the virus and institutions such as the Orange Order came to the fore. As I've said before - watching the generosity and enthusiasm of local Lodges sourcing PPE, distributing food parcels and checking in on vulnerable members

of the community – I was immensely proud and humbled to be a member of this institution. Thankfully as time passed we learnt more about the virus and our clinicians developed new techniques and treatments to better respond to it. Whilst we sadly are still losing people to the cruelty of this virus, and serious concerns remain in relation to new variants, there are real reasons to be optimistic. We have vaccines that are proven to be safe and effective. They are our opportunity to return to normality and which should be a source of enormous pride for us all - the United Kingdom is leading the way. So I would encourage all Brethren and all members of this community to take the vaccine when it's your turn. When you're called please do come forward. It's our way out of this.

Loyal Orders have set an unwavering example throughout pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll on society. There are few figures more sobering than the number of families who have had a loved one taken from them. Alongside that we may never properly quantify the economic impact of restrictions, but there are the intangible and unmeasurable impacts too, including isolation and loneliness. I know how important regular Lodge meetings are for many in our community. It is about far more than the business conducted in the meeting. It is catching up on news and sustaining lifelong friendships. Alongside their church, for many the Orange Hall is their main social hub; something I know is certainly the case in rural communities such as my own. During the last year the Institution has not only reached out to its own



First Minister Arlene Foster

members, delivering meals and support to older and self-isolating members, but to the wider community. Once again I would commend the leadership displayed by Grand Lodge Officers and the wider Institution. I would also highlight again that this positive example has not gone unnoticed outside the normal confines of the Institution. The Orange family has been scarred by the impact of Covid-19, but in contrast to the actions of others, there has been an unwaver-

ing and positive example coming from the Orange Institution and indeed all the Loyal Orders. The support and practical assistance by Lodges provided light to many people during a dark time. There is also light provided for us all by the prospect of the vaccination programme currently underway. Those of us fortunate enough to live within the United Kingdom have enjoyed the benefits of the UK's worldwide lead on vaccination. The success of the vaccine programme and its full protection however depend upon maximum uptake. I know the Orange Institution will again be central to that wider community effort. Indeed, the Institution provides not just an unrivalled community network, but has facilities across every area which I believe could play a role in the delivery of this vaccine.

**2021 Centennial Competitions**  
**Music, Song & Poetry**  
 For more details email [2021@goli.org.uk](mailto:2021@goli.org.uk)

**NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENNIAL 2021**

New deadline set for entries

Owing to the current restrictions and ongoing issues around travel and meeting with others, it has been agreed to extend the deadline for the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's Poetry/Song/Music competitions until Friday, 30th of April 2021. We hope that this extension will allow some time for musicians to come together and record material - which is proving difficult at present. It's also a great opportunity for even

more people to get involved and put some of their spare time in lockdown to good use composing or writing! For more details, including the specifications for each section of the competition, email [2021@goli.org.uk](mailto:2021@goli.org.uk) or telephone 028 9070 1122. Remember! The new deadline for submitting entries is 4pm on Friday, 30th of April 2021. Entries received after this date will not be judged.

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# Is your lodge up for the Centennial Challenge?

 NORTHERN IRELAND  
CENTENNIAL  
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Challenge

Covid-19 and the restrictions have made for a very difficult start to 2021. However, with this being Northern Ireland's Centennial year, many lodges are working away behind the scenes preparing events which will take place later in the year.

To mark this most wonderful year, Grand Lodge issued the Northern Ireland 2021 Centennial Challenge.

The message to lodges, which went out in December, read: "We are asking every Private, District and County Lodge to take on a project to celebrate the Centenary. We would encourage you to be innovative in your approach. Think about celebrating local history, talent and heroes; consider partnering with other Loyal Orders, bands, schools or community groups. The goal is to make 2021 a year to remember!"

We're delighted to report that many lodges have already stepped up and are planning events of all kinds for 2021.

Grand Lodge has in place plans for a major parade to be held from Stormont Estate and is organising a family day to be hosted at the Cultra Folk and Transport Museum. Now we can reveal that sport, so often a highlight of Northern Ireland life over the years, will also play a part in the form of football and golf competitions. More details of these will be released in

the coming weeks.

Many lodges have notified Grand Lodge of their events and here is just a flavour of what they're doing!

In Belfast, the County Lodge is planning to hold a dinner, while Star of the North LOL 1053, Ballyhackamore, has announced plans for a family fun day in August and a Christmas event in December. In County Down, Rathfriland Temperance Guiding Star LOL 976 has a wonderful initiative to mark the Centennial celebrations in 2021.

The Brethren have come up with "100 Trees for 100 Years" which involves distributing 100 trees to be planted by individuals, community groups, schools, private and district lodges across Northern Ireland and beyond.

County Armagh has a number of events planned, including a Service of Thanksgiving in the Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh.

Parades of banners and a Tattoo are also set to feature.

County Antrim Grand Lodge is organising a special Centennial dinner, while Carrickfergus

Temperance LOL 1537 is also planning a dinner to be held in Carrickfergus Town Hall.

In Limavady, plans are underway for a District Anniversary parade and church service. Similar plans are also in place for Coleraine District.

These are just a selection of ideas that Brethren are working on and it is anticipated that details of many more events will follow in the coming weeks and months. If your lodge or district has yet to plan a Centennial event don't panic – there is plenty of time. Utilise technology to create a What's App group or organise a Zoom call to get the ball rolling. Remember this is 2021 – Northern Ireland's Centenary Year – It's time to show that your lodge is up to the Challenge!

To assist with the collation of a database, all planned events should be submitted to Grand Lodge by emailing info@goli.org.uk



Rathfriland Temperance Guiding Star launching their "100 trees for 100 Years" project. Lodge members led by Connell Jackson, WM; and Joseph Dodds DM were joined by Mark Graham, Deputy District Master; Samuel Walker, County Grand Master; Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master; and Joseph Moorhead District Master; to mark the occasion and plant the first commemorative tree.

ORANGE NEWS



# Start of the CentenNial year in County Armagh

The Orange Institution's CentenNial flag was proudly raised at the Museum of Orange Heritage, Sloan's House, Loughgall, to mark the commencement of the 100th Anniversary Year of Northern Ireland. The flag was raised by Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Armagh Grand Master, who was accompanied by some of his County Grand Lodge Officers, and also Wor. Bro. Mervyn Walker with the "Champion of Loughgall" Lambeg Drum. County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge and the Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House look forward to celebrating this very important milestone during 2021.



Members of Spa Wells LOL 620 raised the CentenNial standard on the summit of Slieve Croob.



Goldsprings True Defenders Flute Band and Goldsprings True Defenders LOL 1037 member, Alan Stevenson, with daughter, Honor Stevenson; Derrick Ervine, Past Master RBP 229; James Watson, President of the Apprentice Boys of Derry Comber Branch; Geoff Dempster, Boyne Obelisk LOL 1690; Ivan Dempster, Primrose Temperance Royal Arch Purple LOL 1203; Trevor McIntyre, WM Whitewell LOL 533.

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## ORANGE NEWS



Tobermore Orange Hall flying the Centennial flag.



Bangor Orange Hall and Helen's Tower, right.



# Centennial flags a prominent feature on many Orange halls



The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Official Northern Ireland Centenary Flag now flying from Clotworthy LOL 965 Orange Hall.



Ardinariff Orange Heroes



Cullion LOL 636 Strabane District No. 14



Templepatrick War Memorial Orange Hall has had an addition for this Centennial year. A new flag pole has been added to the front of the hall and will fly the beautiful Grand Lodge Centennial flag throughout 2021.



Culnady, Co. Londonderry, LOL 479.



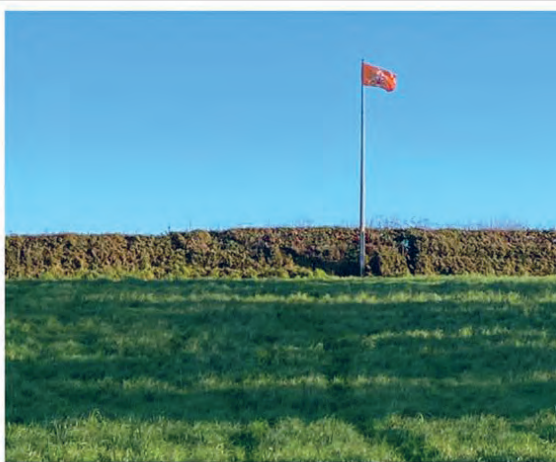
ORANGE NEWS



Happy Birthday Northern Ireland from Bellarena LOL 984 pictures on Benone beach.



Ballyquin LOL 645



McCalmont Memorial Orange Hall Ballyclare proudly flying the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Centennial flag.



As dawn broke on this the Centennial year, many of the Halls within Saintfield District 5 proudly displayed the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Centennial flag, and other banners celebrating Northern Ireland's centenary.



Aghanloo True Blues LOL 656.

## ORANGE NEWS



# Treating All Children of the Nation Equally... well, almost!

In our third instalment of a series of articles exploring the experience of the Southern Orange Family after Partition, Dr Jonathan Mattison examines 'An Entire People "Behind the Glass" - Partition and the Orange Response'.

On two occasions Eamon De Valera used a famous phrase when confronted by events he could not control. Firstly, during the Irish Civil War, and then at the outbreak of World War II. He remarked that he felt "like a man behind a glass wall witnessing the destruction of everything he held dear, but absolutely paralysed and impotent to take any action to avert universal destruction". In the years after Partition, this phrase would have been more accurately employed to describe the situation of the Orange and Protestant family in the Irish Free State. They could be seen, but not heard; witnessed but ignored. The drive to achieve a separate and nationalist Ireland meant that, too often, the blinds were closed on this forgotten people.

## ORANGE OUTRAGE – OURSELVES ALONE!

In an extraordinary expression of anger and frustration, at being left out of the new State of Northern Ireland, County Monaghan Grand Orange Lodge tabled a motion at the December 1920 meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, the Institution's ruling body. This motion argued that, since Ireland was now Partitioned, it naturally followed that a Grand Orange Lodge of the Irish Free State should be established. In a surprise to some, the motion was endorsed by Col. R H Wallace and passed. The ease at which Grand Lodge endorsed such a move continued to add to southern Orange frustration. As the dust from Partition settled, Southern Orangeism, like its political unionist counterpart, began to acquiesce in their position in the new Irish Free State. A Grand Orange Lodge of the Free State was never created, with Donegal, Cavan and Leitrim refusing to back the proposal. As emotions

calmed, the decision to create a southern Grand Lodge was quietly repealed.

One concession was made in 1922. The Constitution and Rules of the Loyal Orange Institution meant that Orangemen in Ireland gave allegiance to the Monarch, as Head of State, and endorsed the legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland. To overcome difficulties for southern brethren, a new form of words was adopted which referred to allegiance to the "Realm" and the Monarch as being "defender of the faith". This allowed for the new political circumstances in which Southern brethren now found themselves but also gave voice to an aspect of their cultural Britishness. Despite difficulties, Orangeism did not disappear on the southern side of the border. Orange life was too integral to the Protestant community. They may have lost a formal political connection to a wider British and unionist block, but they were prepared to be a positive citizenry in the new Free State. In private, the lodge room still offered an opportunity for confidence and a freedom to mix and chat with those of a similar outlook and faith. The Orange Star may have been dimmed but not it was not veiled.

## HOME RULE DOES MEAN ROME RULE! – THE ROLE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Orangemen had always feared that the granting of Home Rule for Ireland would result in a Dublin Parliament heavily influenced by the Roman Catholic Church. The early years of the Irish Free State appeared to run contrary to this fear. Of course, Roman Catholicism played a significant role, but that was only natural, and reflected the religious demographics of the new country. After the atrocities of the Anglo-Irish War and the Irish Civil War, relations between the Roman Catholic community and their Protestant neighbours began to settle back into relative normality. In our previous article we noted how significant figures, like Wor. Bro. Michael E. Knight of County Monaghan publicly stated that, if



Loyal Order procession in rural County Monaghan, 1930s.

treated fairly and equitably, the Orange Family would be positive stakeholders. Such public hope quickly evaporated, especially as successive Fianna Fail Governments, after 1932, eroded the Treaty settlement and elevated the influence of the Roman Catholic Church.

Local problems and incidents also fed Orange and Protestant fears.

## THE MAYO LIBRARIAN CASE

In 1930, Mayo County Council's Library Board refused to confirm the appointment of a Protestant Librarian. The prevailing local view was that a Protestant could not possibly understand the views of the majority of the population. This attitude was reinforced by the Roman Catholic Dean of Tuam, Monsignor D'Alton. Cosgrave's Government dismissed the Council's approach and ordered that the appointment be confirmed. There followed a period of boycotting of the libraries which were under the control of the Protestant staff member. She was subsequently moved to a different post. When they came to power in 1932, the new Fianna Fail Government would side with the Council.

## THE PUPPET AND THE PUPPET

## MASTER. WHO WAS WHO?

In March 1932 the population of Eire held its breath. Moderates in the form of Cumann na nGaedheal, who had been in power since partition, were about to be replaced by Fianna Fail – the Republican Party. The next decade would see the Irish Free State move away from any semblance of being in the British Commonwealth and lay the foundations of an Irish Republic.

A nervousness was in the air as the heirs to the Anti-Treaty forces arrived at Leinster House. Some even carried revolvers, with others fearing that the army would launch a coup. No one knew how the British Government would act. In the end the transition was seamless. If this was the feeling of the political establishment, one can only imagine what the Protestant minority were thinking. There was a huge fear that the Roman Catholic hierarchy were now influencing the direction of government.

## HOW DID THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH BECOME SO INFLUENTIAL?

During the 1920s the influence of the Roman Catholic Church had slowly grown. Cosgrave ensured protections for minorities but

was also inclined to move the new Irish Free State towards a decidedly Roman Catholic ethos.

In 1929, the centennial anniversary of the granting of Roman Catholic emancipation, Roman Catholic lobby groups renewed their pressure on the Government. In that year the Irish Free State appointed a Minister to the Holy See in Rome, a few months later, the first papal nuncio for 300 years arrived in Dublin, and a Censorship Act was introduced. Coupled with the failure to allow legalised divorce, in the face of huge opposition from the Roman Catholic Archbishop in Dublin, and the renewed declaration by the church that Roman Catholics should not attend Trinity College, Dublin, Protestants began to fear that the protections offered by the Treaty and the Free State constitution, were being dissolved. The mood in Southern Orange circles was increasingly down beat. In 1930, when the Church of Ireland had the audacity to claim St. Patrick as one of their own, Roman Catholic Cardinal MacRory hit back in public, claiming that the Protestant Church "...was not even part of the Church of Christ."

Continued on page 11

ORANGE NEWS

# Treating All Children of the Nation Equally... well, almost!

From page 10

A war of words erupted between ecclesiastical and political bodies North and South, above the heads of the minority Protestant population of the Free State. Accusations were made as to which State was treating its minority better! Such views were reflected in a resolution publicly read at Orange demonstrations that year. Circulated in June of 1932, it was directed in its push back against the RC hierarchy in Ireland.

"We emphatically protest against the arrogant, intolerant and un-Christian pretensions fulminated by Cardinal MacRory and other Clerical and Lay spokesmen of the Church of Rome against the Protestant Churches of Ireland; and we repudiate with all indignation his, and their, attacks on Protestantism, which we hold is the essence

of civil and religious liberty."

When De Valera became premier in 1932 he placed huge stock in the formal and informal utterances of Archbishop John Charles McQuaid of Dublin. The deference shown

him, and the Roman Catholic Church in general, was remarkable. This adherence moved successive southern administrations onto a decidedly authoritarian and Catholic footing for the next 30 years. The rhetoric of 'Orange Ulster', in response to this

## "Ours is a Protestant Government, and I am an Orangeman" Sir Basil Brooke

Catholicisation was predictable. On the Twelfth of July Sir Basil Brooke stated "...ours is a Protestant Government, and I am an Orangeman."

In 1937 Article 44 of the new Constitution, initiated by De Valera, recognised the "special position" of the Roman Catholic Church. Some colleagues were appalled at early drafts of this religious clause of the Constitution - "...It acknowledges...that the Church of Christ is the Catholic Church." Minister of Lands, Gerry Boland stated: "If this clause gets through as now worded it would be equivalent to the expulsion from our history of great Irishmen....under such a sectarian constitution.... And I would not live under it either...I would take my wife and children and put myself out of it." The clause was watered down and acknowledged the existence

of other churches and faiths but still retained the "...special position (of the Roman Catholic Church) as the guardian of the faith professed by the great majority of the citizens." The clause was not overturned until 1973.

Commentator Brian Feeney has pointed out that "...the greatest triumph of the Catholic Church in Ireland after partition was to be able to dictate the social and

moral content of the 1937 constitution." Such was their position.

### A MINORITY UNDER SIEGE IN DE VALERA'S IRELAND

One by-product of De Valera's drive to revoke the terms of the Treaty, and expunge the Irish Free State Constitution, was to continually expose and isolate the minority Orange Family in the South. The protections offered by the Free State's membership of the Commonwealth, and the recourse to the British Court system, were all repealed as De Valera strove to achieve his ideal Irish Republic. This was not a surprise to many. He had been part of the Anti-Treaty campaign and released IRA prisoners upon Fianna Fail gaining power in 1932. If Irish identity in the first 10 years of the IFS was defined in terms of a Gaelic outlook, then it became a Catholicised, Nationalist and Gaelic Irish Identity under Eamon De Valera. The moves did, however, alienate further a nervous minority protestant community.

### INTRIGUE, INTIMIDATION AND INFAMY

The arrival of the Fianna Fail Government of 1932 had effectively spelt the end of the Irish Free State Constitution. De Valera's appointments reflected that real political republicanism had arrived. Frank Aiken, the man



behind the Alt-naveigh Massacre, was appointed Minister of Defence. It was clear that the Orange Family would simply 'have to keep their heads down' and

quietly get on with life.

What was the position of the Southern Orange and Protestant family in the face of such radical political and societal change? It has played the part of a quietly melancholy child, perhaps from a second cousin's broken marriage - tolerated but not accepted by its familial hosts. Of course, there were the creaking, attic floorboards, or the fleeting glimpse in the yard - when the family have been entertaining guests - but there has never an invitation to join the party or sit at the table. "Sure, this is wee Sammy" inquisitive callers would be told "we kept him on after his parents went through that difficult divorce a while back. Wasn't that Christian

of us? Now, on about your work Sammy."

Never asking for much, "wee Sammy" could never be one of the close family, he was 'the spectre at the feast', a reminder of previous relationships. This ghost may cause guests to initially gasp but it could then be ignored. It could be argued that in the view of nationalist Ireland, Southern Protestants were a people there... but not there.

Through successive pieces of legislation, the State tried to confine the Orange and Protestant minority into the pages of an unwanted history.

One Cavan Orangeman recounted an incident to his family, that took place when he was at primary school in the early 1940s - "Our primary school was taking part in the local fheis and I was taught to sing a song in Irish. The song was Boolavogue. In later life I learned this was a song associated with the 1798 United Irish Rebellion and eulogised a leader of the rebels in Wexford, Father John Murphy. They probably thought it was a joke to get the Protestant orphan boy to stand up and sing a rebel song in Irish."

It was not until the 1990s that the Orange Family in the Republic of Ireland began to feel confident enough to speak out about their own position and community experience.

**In our next article we will examine how the Orange Family found its voice in the late 1990s and how a confident community is finding its place within a changing Republic of Ireland.**

## Presentation at Sloan's House



The Directors of the Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House were recently presented with an Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council plaque by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Wor Bro Councillor Kyle Savage, who was accompanied by Wor. Bro. Councillor Sam Nicholson. The plaque was received by Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Grand Master, who thanked Bro. Savage and indicated that it would be displayed prominently in the Museum.

PULPIT



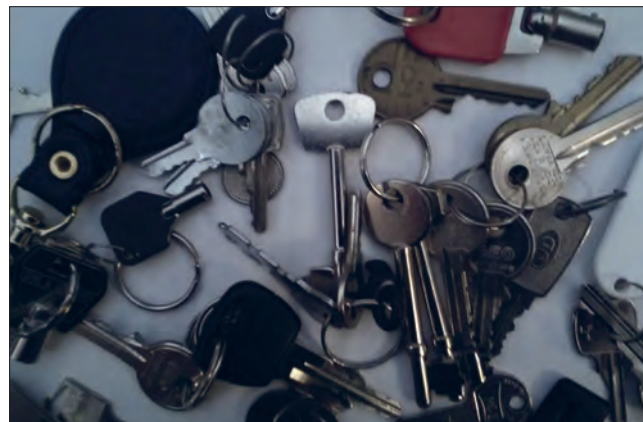
by Rev. Ian McClean

# The right key

I have just discovered an envelope with 44 keys in it. I don't know where it came from or how long it has been there. No doubt if I looked further I could find more old keys hiding in some drawer or cupboard. In this lot there are different types. Some of them look like car keys, some are Yale-types, some of the mortise deadlock variety, but most of them are smaller, maybe from a suitcase or padlock. I doubt if any of them are of any use now. Should I throw them all out? Maybe that would be the sensible thing to do. On the other hand, some day one of them might just. Who knows? One thing I do know - not one of them unlocks the front door. I've tried! Thinking of this reminds me of unlocking the door to heaven. Lots of people are convinced that they have the key - but do they have the right one? Probably the most popular kind is the key of 'good

works.' This is a variety that comes in all shapes and sizes. 'I'm really very good.' 'I do my best.' 'I haven't done anybody any harm.' 'I do a lot of good things.' 'I'm better than most people.' are among the most common. Yet not one of them, or even a combination of the 'good works' genre will open that door. Why not? Because the Bible says "not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8) "God who saves us... not because of our works." (2 Timothy 1:9) Right, but what about Church membership? Again, this is a key with a wide class of patterns. Surely one of them must work - 'a sound theology,' 'baptism and communion,' 'regular attendance and support,' 'leadership or office,' even 'pastor or clergy.' But that won't work either, not according to the Bible. (Matthew 7:22) "On that day many will say to me ' Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and

cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then I will declare to them 'I never knew you, depart from me!'" Getting to heaven by our church membership or office? Isn't that the very thing that Jesus was speaking about when he told Nicodemus (John 3:3) "Truly, truly, I say to you' unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." So, the Bible makes it clear that the key to heaven is not our good works, nor in church membership. We have often been told that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Let's look and see what the Bible says about that type of key, the 'key of faith.' "The righteous shall live by faith." Now that sounds more promising, and we find it four times in the Bible (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38.) Add to that



John 3:16 "...that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," Acts 10: 43 "... that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name," Acts 16:31 "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved," Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes," Romans 10:10 "with the heart one believes and is justified," Ephesians 2:8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith," and many other places. There is no shortage of evidence. Clearly the 'key of faith' or 'believing' is the right sort of key we are looking for,

but within this category there are a number of different keys. Which one are we looking for? What about the key of 'factual faith?' The problem is that almost everyone believes that Jesus did exist, and among them there are clearly many who don't even care about him. In fact (James 2:19) "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder!" We can discard that one. There's another one - the key of 'temporal faith.'" How about it? Again, the vast majority of people, when in difficulty exercise some kind of faith in God and will offer up a prayer. They are about to have an

operation, sit an exam, board a plane - they pray, and then forget about God till the next crisis. Their relationship with God, their sins, their eternity have really little place in their lives, they simply treat the Lord as a safety net - wrong key.

But then there's the key of 'saving faith.' How much better can we put it than the Shorter Catechism "Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel." Or the 39 Articles: "We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and not of our own works or deservings." 'Saving faith' is the key we all need. I know now what I'm going to do with all those keys. I'm going to throw them all away and simply rely on the key that opens the door to my home. And I would encourage you, too - discard those keys that just don't work, and ask the Lord to give you the key that opens the door to the Lord Jesus Christ and to your eternal home with him.

## Lecturing examination passed through Zoom

During the pandemic, the work of the Institution still carried on through new mediums. A first and unique event was on December 2nd, 2020 when the Grand Lecturer, Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert Barr and his Deputy Grand Lecturer, Rt. Wor. Bro. Norman Henry, held an examination for the Orange and Purple Lecturers' certificate through Zoom. The examination was unique for two brethren whose main memberships are held in foreign Grand Lodges and hold affiliate membership in the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. The brethren who took and passed their examination on December 2nd was first, Bro John Stewart, the Deputy Grand Lecturer of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland who is an affiliate member of Pride of Glenavy LOL No. 618 in Glenavy District No. 4, County Antrim. Second was Rt. Wor. Bro. Michael Thomas, the Provincial Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West (Canada) who is an affiliate member of Banner of the Cross LOL No. 1310 in Saintfield



Banners of the lodges to which the new qualified lecturers are affiliated, namely Pride of Glenavy LOL No. 618 and Banner of the Cross LOL No. 1310.

District No. 5, County Down. The two brethren were taught in the lectures and addresses of the Orange and Purple degrees of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland by Wor Bro Christopher Cunningham, Grand Lecturer of

the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast. Utilizing the modern technology, teaching was accomplished through a virtual means across both the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Also a help in polishing what



was learned and further teaching and give chance of practice was the two brethren taking part in an online lecture class which was run weekly by County Down. The classes commenced in April and have been a weekly occurrence for

most of the year. The lecturers of County Down who appear each week take time to encourage and help one another develop their skill or practice for their examination. A credit to County Down Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Sam Walker and County Lecturer, Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert Barr. Bro. Stewart and Rt. Wor. Bro. Thomas took their examination before the Grand Lecturer and Deputy Grand Lecturer of Ireland and their passing and qualification is a credit to the teaching and instruction received by Wor. Bro. Christopher Cunningham and the lecturers of the County Down zoom lecture class. Both have received their certificates by post and now are a part of the lecturing fraternity of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Michael Thomas, Provincial Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West affiliate to Banner of the Cross L.O.L. No. 1310 (Saintfield D.L.O.L. No. 5, Co. Down GOL)

## Obituary: Wor. Bro. David Brewster

It was with profound sadness that the officers and members of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland learned of the sudden and untimely passing of Wor. Bro. David Brewster LLB. David died on Wednesday, 20th of January, from a suspected heart attack. He was 56 years old.

Mr Brewster's sudden death stunned the local community in Limavady, particularly his many friends throughout the Loyal Orders and those who shared his work, historical and sporting interests.

Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson expressed his sympathies and those of the Orange Institution.

He said: "It was with great shock that we learned the sudden death of Wor. Bro. David Brewster, Master of Aghanloo True Blues LOL 656.

"David was a dedicated Orangeman and played a very active role in building and developing the Orange Order in the Limavady District.

"David used his many talents to help the Orange Institution, not least Grand Lodge which benefited from his legal expertise to assist the Institution in the role of legal advisor. He was also an honorary Deputy Grand Master.

"On behalf of the Orange Institution, I tender my deepest sympathies to David's family



and friends and assure them that they will remain in our thoughts and prayers."

Worshipful District Master of Limavady District, Wor. Bro. Mark Smyth, also paid tribute to David.

"The Officers and Members of Limavady District were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our esteemed Bro. David R. Brewster LLB.

"David was the current Worshipful Master of Aghanloo True Blues LOL 656 and worked tirelessly for his own private lodge.

"David was also an active member within Limavady District and just before Christmas 2020 launched his latest publication on the history of

Limavady District during the 19th century.

"Little did we know then that, for many, this would be the last time we would be in David's company.

He added: "David will be sadly missed by all in Limavady District LOL No. 6."

David had a great devotion to the Loyal Orders and served as secretary of the Bellarena No Surrender Apprentice Boys of Derry Club.

Growing up, David attended Limavady Grammar School before going to Queen's University where he graduated with a degree in Law.

It was at Queen's where he became heavily involved in politics, becoming Chairman of the Young Unionists.

In his working life, David was admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in September 1988. He set up his own firm in 1992, a solicitor's office from which he undertook conveyancing, matrimonial and criminal work. Away from work he had a great interest in sport, particularly football. His local club, Limavady United was a firm favourite.

David was a familiar figure at The Showgrounds, where he was a life member of the club and had served as vice-chairman previously.

Limavady United secretary Jonathan McCunn said:

"David's love for the club did not only extend to watching the games but also to compiling stats on player appearances and goals going back to when the club was first formed.

"So much so that three years ago David published a book called 'Up The Lims' which told the story of our club and contained all the knowledge and information he had thoroughly researched over the years."

David could certainly be described as a keen historian and was a member of the Roe Valley Historical Society.

He had also recently accepted a role as historical advisor on the Northern Ireland Centenary Committee for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Mr Brewster's many friends from the Loyal Orders, sporting groups, legal colleagues and political groups took to social media to express their condolences.

Before burial at Magilligan Presbyterian Church - where David was an elder - the funeral cortège passed Aghanloo Orange Hall, where Brethren stood to pay their respects with the lodge banner on display.

We offer our prayers and sympathies to David's family and his many friends at this very sad time.

## Obituary: Wor. Bro. Thomas Ross

It is with sadness that the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland noted the passing of Rt. Wor. Bro. Thomas (Tommy) Ross.

Tommy was a loyal Orangemen giving of his time freely to both the senior Institution and the Juniors.

Within the senior organisation, Tommy was a member of Rising Sons of William LOL 314 and held offices within his lodge and also Glenavy District, where he was a Past District Master and Past District Secretary.

He was a member of Grand Lodge and also served as the Chair and Convenor of the Grand Lodge Committee for Educational Affairs for many years.

Tommy was also active in the Royal Arch Purple Chapter.

He was Honorary Deputy Grand Master of the Junior Grand Lodge of Ireland and had served Junior Orangeism for many years while his health permitted.

He had always been a dedicated advocate for Junior organisation.

Tommy served as Grand Secretary for 15 years (1997-2012), and also served as Deputy Grand Master for five years (2012-2017), after illness in 2017 he was appointed Honorary Deputy Grand Master, a position he held until his passing.

Tommy also had held many other offices within junior Orangeism, holding many offices within Co. Antrim Junior Orange Lodge, and before its formation Belfast Junior County.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Joseph Magill, Acting Grand Master of Junior Grand Lodge, and Rt. Wor. Bro. Andrew McKee, Acting Grand Secretary, said: "We express our heartfelt condolences to Tommy's wife and immediate family, as well as his extended family, and assure them of our prayers and thoughts at this time and in the days ahead."

## Obituary: Wor. Bro. Cecil Allen

It was with great sadness that the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland learned of the passing of Wor. Bro. Cecil Allen.

Mr Allen, who was a member of Portadown Orange District LOL 1 and had been installed as Honorary District Lay-Chaplain, died peacefully at Craigavon Hospital.

Portadown Orange District LOL 1 in an online statement described Mr Allen as 'a great friend and Brother to many in our District and further afield in the Institution'.

District Master of Portadown District LOL No 1 Darryl Hewitt also paid tribute to Cecil's life and service not only to the District Lodge but Co Armagh Grand Lodge and the wider institution.

Wor. Bro. Hewitt said: "He provided spiritual, pastoral care and leadership across the Order and was welcomed



into many Orange Halls and churches across the province as he conducted church services and Banner unfurling's. He was a true Servant of God and will be sorely missed by his immediate family and the wider Orange family."

Worshipful Master Kyle Branryan from Kilmoriarty LOL 31, where Cecil was a member for many years, added: "Cecil Allen was a very faithful member of

his Lodge and had received his 50 year service medal. He was our current Chaplain having held this important office for many years alongside his roll as District Chaplain. He was also Master of the Lodge on two separate occasions firstly 2005-2007 and again in 2015-2017. He was a true gentleman, always there to encourage the younger members of the lodge."

Worshipful Master Sir Knight Leslie Geary of RBP 267 Portadown Royal Black District Chapter No.5 said Cecil was the Preceptory and District Chaplain for many years. "He was one that we all looked to for spiritual guidance. His sad passing will leave a massive hole, not only in the institution, but also in the lives of those who loved him."

A former postman, Mr Allen was widely known across the

Portadown area, and on his retirement he devoted most of his spare time to the Church. He was also a lay preacher at St Columba's Church in Portadown regularly helping at Sunday services.

In 2014 the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland honoured him with the title Chaplain of the Year at the Orange Community Awards.

He was very much a spiritual man who provided pastoral care for the Portadown District for generations. He arranged and conducted the services at many Banner unfurlings across Co Armagh and further afield. Mr Allen also helped the Rev Pickering conduct services at Drumcree Parish Church.

We tender are deepest and Sincere Condolences and Sympathies to his Daughter Judith, Son Rodney and entire family circle.

## Elizabeth Kells

It was with much sadness that the officers of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland learned of the passing of Elizabeth, wife of Wor. Bro. Ian Kells, Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Australia.

In a message, Ian wrote: "On behalf of myself, my daughter Ainslee and son James I wish to thank all the members of the "Orange Family" for the heartfelt messages of comfort and support extended to us on the passing of a wonderful wife and mother, Elizabeth.

"In times of great sadness, it does soothe the soul to know that very caring people from Australia and around the world are thinking and praying for us. My dearest one has gone to a much better place with no more pain and suffering for which we thank our Lord and Saviour."

At this very sad time, we keep Ian and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

## ORANGE NEWS

# Obituary: Wor. Bro. Robert Donaldson

It was with great sadness that the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland noted the death of Wor. Bro. Robert Donaldson.

Robert, from Enniskillen, passed away peacefully on January 22, 2021 at the South West Acute Hospital after experiencing complications from a stomach issue related to Polio. He was 81 years old.

Robert served the Orange Institution, particularly in Co Fermanagh, with great dedication over many years.

He was a Past Master of Inniskilling LOL 622, Past District Master of Enniskillen DLOL 5, an honorary member of County Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge and a District representative to the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Robert was a loving husband to his wife Esther, whom he married in May 1965, and father to sons David and Paul.

From a very young age, Robert faced many challenges, first losing his father when he was just two years old and later contracting Polio at the age of five after an outbreak with the American soldiers that were stationed at Ely Lodge near his home place of Blaney.

However, Robert never let his ill health hold him back. Rather he developed a drive and determination that was evident throughout his life.

Robert had a varied working life, leading to a number of entrepreneurial endeavours, including



building a successful business in the insurance industry, opening a photo developing lab, a TV rental business and a video library, a snooker promoter, and a property developer - amongst many other things.

He was also a major figure in the amusement and leisure business sitting as Chairman of the Northern Ireland trade body for more than 25 years.

For a time, Robert was a local councillor and served a period as deputy mayor of Enniskillen. Ever grateful for the care he received from the National Health Service throughout his life, Robert was very active in voluntary charity work which included the National Hospital Service Reserve and the Red Cross. He was also Chairman of the Polio Fellowship and Chairman of the local Shop Mobility.

His Christian faith was very important and Robert faithfully served on Cleenish Select Vestry where his quiet but valuable wisdom was much appreciated.

He was also a regular member of Cleenish Parish Church which he attended until illness prevented him from doing so.

Robert was a dedicated and loyal Orangeman.

One of his greatest achievements in more than 50 years of membership for the part he has played in the purchase of Enniskillen District Orange Hall.

The District Hall was purchased in 2000, with Robert the main driver in the project. The hall was the former Independent Methodist Church, and cost more than £225,000.00.

Robert led from the front in the drive to pay off the cost, which was cleared within six years.

It was a result of this great work that Robert was put forward for the Special Merit Award at the 2014 Orange Community Awards. Robert was successful and received the award from the late Grand Secretary Wor. Bro. Drew Nelson.

Robert was made an Honorary Life Member of the County Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge in February 2017.

At the ceremony, County Grand Master Wor. Bro. Stuart Brooker said of Robert: "He has served this County well, as WM of his Private Lodge Inniskilling LOL 622, a District Master of Enniskillen District LOL No. 5, Chair of various committees in the County and further afield, a Hall Trustee, a Grand Lodge Representative for his District, Voluntary work for Charity ... the list is endless.

"And, despite not enjoying the best of health throughout his life, he has carried on his work with great patience and fortitude. He has been a tower of strength and support in the work of this County Grand Lodge, and has proved himself more than capable in anything that he set out to do." In relation to the District Hall project, Wor. Bro. Brooker added: "With Wor. Bro. Robert Donaldson at the helm, this project has seen a very useful facility put in place. It has proved, and will continue to prove, a very valuable asset. In fact, the County would be much the poorer without it."

Robert was also a member of the

Royal Black Institution and the Masonic.

Robert's funeral service took place on Sunday, January 24. In the address, the Rev. Geoff Bridle reflected: "Whenever I visited Robert and Esther I always left uplifted, having been in the presence of a man who didn't focus on his own pain and suffering but reached out in love and support to others.

"Robert had a fatherly presence about him so that no matter who you were, you felt that you were in a safe place with Robert as he listened to you and gave sound advice without judgement."

The family have taken great comfort in the many messages with stories and kind words they have received following Robert's passing.

"One word has been used over and over again: 'Gentleman', for that is what he was to everyone who knew him. Always someone who was keen to help others, always someone who would do you a favour or good turn in any way he could, always someone with whom you could have a laugh and enjoy his amazing sense of humour and mischievous personality, but always someone upon whom you could rely, no matter what. Always a gentleman," said David.

We offer our prayers and deepest sympathy to Robert's wife Esther, sons David and Paul and the entire family circle at this very sad time.

## Brethren recognised in New Year's Honours

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland was delighted to see that a number of Brethren received recognition in the Queen's New Year's Honours.

It was announced late in December that Bro. Paul Bell, Bro. Tom Robinson, Bro. William Humphrey and Bro. Stephen Weir were among those honoured.

Bro. Paul Bell, of Crilly LOL 677 in Annahoe District, received the British Empire Medal for service to education in Northern Ireland.

Bro. Bell is also District Treasurer in Annahoe District.

Bro. Thomas Robinson, Glenarm LOL 1121, received an MBE for services to education in Larne, Co.

Antrim.

Two of the recipients of honours were recognised specifically for their work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bro. William Humphrey, who is the DUP MLA for North Belfast, has been awarded an MBE for public service.

Mr Humphrey, a member of the Duke of Manchester's Invincibles LOL 839, was recognised particularly for his work during the Covid-19 response.

Bro. Stephen Weir, a member of Bennett's Chosen Few LOL 553 in Carrickfergus District, was made an MBE for services to the Royal British Legion and to the community in Co Antrim during Covid-19.

### MBE for Co. Antrim Orangeman

Thomas Robinson received an MBE in the New Year's Honours.

Tom, a former Mayor of Larne, is a member and Past Master of Glenarm LOL 1121 and received his 50 Years Membership jewel in December 2017.

He has been guest speaker at the Braid District Twelfth in the past and received his Award for voluntary services to education.

Bro. Robinson has served as a school governor for over 35 years as well as holding other positions on housing and health bodies.

The Glenarm man is currently vice-chairman of Carnalbanagh Primary School Board of Governors, as well as a school governor at Cairncastle Primary School and Larne High School. He is a former governor of Glenarm Primary School and Carnlough Integrated Primary School. Mr. Robinson, who is a JP, served for 25 years on Larne Borough Council, and served two terms of Mayor, between 1983 and 1984, and from June 1995 to June 1996.

He was elected to the Northern Ireland Forum as

a representative from East Antrim in 1996 and was appointed by the Secretary of State to serve two terms on the Northern Ireland Local Government Organisation (NILGOS) Superannuation Committee in 1995. He currently serves as Northern Ireland chairman of Beneditan Health Care in a non-paid voluntary capacity.

"Obviously I am pleased to have been awarded the Honour but it is tinged with sadness when I think of all the lives that have been lost during the present pandemic, and my

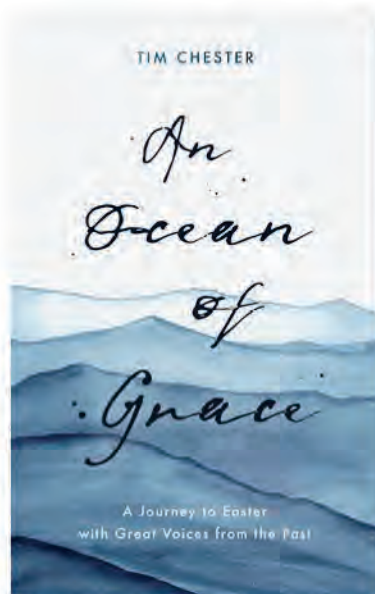
thoughts are with all those who have lost family members," he said.

Bro. Robinson said he was greatly looking forward to receiving his MBE: "I am a great supporter of the Monarchy and greatly admire Her Majesty the Queen as a born leader. I have only ever been to the Palace on one occasion - as a visitor taking a tour - and it was a marvellous experience so I am really looking forward to the Honours ceremony, whenever it takes place," he said.

**BOOKSHELF** by Robin Fairbairn  
The Good Book Company



## An Ocean of Grace By Tim Chester



An inspiring collection of daily devotions and prayers from great Christian writers of the past, including Augustine, Charles Spurgeon, John Bunyan, Catherine Parr and Martin Luther.

The heart-warming words of these saints of old exalt the grace and glory of Christ's work, and will encourage and inspire readers as much today as they did when they were first written.

Each daily reading has been selected, edited and introduced by Tim Chester to make these treasures accessible to every reader. They will help you reflect on Jesus in the run-up to Easter. Ideal to start at the beginning of Lent.

We live in an age of superficiality and 'chronological snobbery', which tends to treat the past with disdain. This series of Lent readings is a wonderful antidote to the spirit of our age. From Gregory of Nazianzus to Catherine

Parr and from George Herbert to Charles Spurgeon, we meet a galaxy of men and women whose lives were moulded by Scripture and lived out in fervent devotion to Christ.

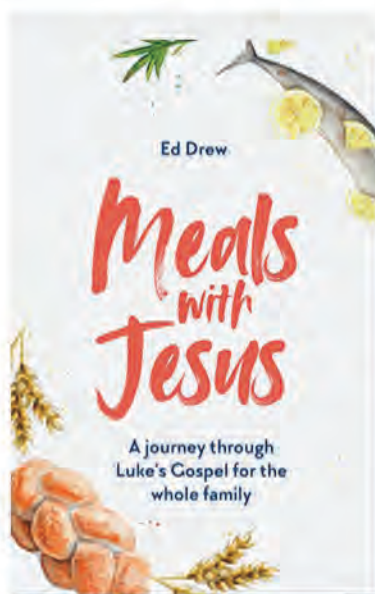
This collection of prayers from the past is a gift that stands out in a world of quick and casual words. Tim Chester has provided a profoundly beautiful way to help lead the church in prayer during the Lenten season.

The prayers of these men and women are not only saturated with biblical truth; they are also shaped with imagination that awakens us and love for Jesus that pierces our hearts.

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## Meals with Jesus By Ed Drew



These simple 10-minute family devotions in Luke's Gospel explore Jesus' character through nine meals that he shared with people.

The format is the same as The Wonder of Easter with different questions for 3-4s, 5-7s, 7-12s, teens and even parents, so the whole family can enjoy looking at the Bible together.

As you read these passages, your children will be transported to the dinner table alongside Jesus. They will see for themselves who Jesus really is and why they can trust him.

Designed to be easy to lead with no preparation required, these devotions are an achievable joy, not an unrealistic burden. They can be used at any time of year, including during the run-up to Easter

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# Family history search focuses on enigmatic James Wilson of the Dyan



Mention the origins and early years of the Orange Institution and the name of James Wilson will loom large.

James Wilson was a Presbyterian farmer and Freemason from Tyrone, and he had an existing group, the Orange Club of Dyan, or Orange Boys, who appear to have been present at the Battle of the Diamond in September 1795.

But delving deeper into the story of one of the founder members of the Orange Order is difficult. By 1798 the early founders had been replaced in what some historians see as a 'class action' – the replacing of the founding fathers by more upper class leaders, centred in Dublin. To a large extent, James Wilson, Dan Winter and James Sloan fade into the background.

However, a determined effort to find out more about James Wilson is currently underway, directed from Canada, where descendants of this leading Orange light were to settle.

Dr. J. Scott Wilson of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, a retired physician, is one of those descendants and he and others have formed the Wilsons of Dyan Hill research group to gather all the information they can.

Scott says that this particular journey of Wilson research began with a four-page family history on "The Wilsons of Dyan Hill, Caledon, Co. Tyrone", written in 1875 by the Rev. James Wilson BA, LLD. Rev. Wilson was, for over 50 years, the minister of First Rathfriland Presbyterian Church, and one of what we refer to as "the six brothers of Dyan Hill".

A copy of the 1875 document came to Scott in 1998, and so began the search. This family history begins: "It is believed that originally there were four brothers - Wilson - said to have come from Scotland who settled (1) one on Dyan Hill, Caledon, Co Tyrone, Ireland (2) one

in Enagh - near Caledon - now occupied by Uncle Moses and Aunt Jane Robinson (3) one in Wilson's Townland in Co Armagh (4) one not known where. During interviews with relatives in Ireland, he began to hear family stories of James Wilson of Dyan, and the events of the 1790s that resulted in the formation of the Orange Order. It had been suggested that this James Wilson may even have been one of his direct ancestors.

In the genealogical research so far only one James Wilson in the correct time frame has been found - James Wilson (of Dyan Hill), husband of Agnes "Nanny" Young, and whom the group refer to as the patriarch.

"We have had to estimate birth, marriage and death dates based on records from his children and grandchildren but roughly he would have been an older man, at least in his 60s or 70s at the time of the founding of the Orange Order. The 1875 Wilson family manuscript states this James Wilson "lived to be nearly 100 years of age," Scott says.

Initial research in written materials has turned up some interesting material. In the 1898 publication "The History of The Orange Order", William Banks writes: "On June 24, 1794, James Wilson, a Godly well-to-do farmer of Dian, a village of County Down [sic], attended his Masonic lodge." and later on the same page he says that Wilson was called Bauldra by his neighbours and friends.

Robert M. Sibbett wrote in "Orangeism in Ireland and Throughout the Empire": "Comfortable in his worldly circumstances, he was known to his neighbours as Buddra Wilson, and, in a communication from one of his early comrades, the evidence of his respectability, as an agriculturist, is stated to be that 'he turned out a good horse, and was a good horseman' – ortho-



A rare photograph of the Wilson homestead at Dyan Hill from the family archives.

dox credentials in rural districts at the time. Wilson was also a member of the Society of Freemasons, which fully qualified him for establishing a new Order of a secret character." In Kevin Haddick-Flynn's book "Orangeism: A Historical Profile 2019, he writes "There lived in the Blackwater Valley, near the village of Dyan in County Tyrone, a substantial farmer named James Wilson. He was a large, florid and bearded fellow, nicknamed 'Buddra' (or 'Bauldra'). His grandfather had fought on the Walls of Derry and another of his name had been with William at the Boyne. As a boy he had sat at feet of old men and listened to stories of the Orange victories and developed a pride in the Orange tradition. He was a Freemason and attended a meeting of his lodge in Benburb on St. John's Day, 14th June 1794."

Sibbett also claims that Wilson was a clandestine, or unwarranted Mason (which is denied by his family), but he certainly did attend a meeting of Masonic Lodges in Benburb on June 24, 1794, and was in the company of Isaac Jeffs and two brothers, John and Abraham Dilly. Sibbett describes

him as a young man at that time.

However, as Scott realised, a man having children in the 1750s-1760s (as James the patriarch was doing) could hardly be the "young man" mentioned above. James Wilson of Orange Order fame would be more likely a young middle-aged man in the 1790s, as he was described by several authors, and not a man of grandfatherly/patriarch age.

So this is one of the historical loose ends to be tied up.

In relation to James Wilson's family, the only reference so far unearthed by the research group is from R.M. Sibbett's book, (page 266): "Still, that date, 1794, is an epoch in Orangeism. In that year the Orange Boys Society was formed by James Wilson, and the account of it given here corresponds with the version supplied by his eldest son, who died at a ripe old age in Belfast over thirty years ago. A devout man, Mr. Abraham Wilson was intelligent and respectable, and his loss was felt very keenly.

An Abraham Wilson of Belfast died in 1878 at age 78 - a man of the right age to have been a son of James "Buddra" Wil-

son, and a man who was a church custodian and respected merchant. By building a biographical framework of James Wilson of Dyan based on Orange Order history Scott hoped to see if and where he might fit in to the Wilson lineages being researched.

"At this point it seems our James Wilson, the patriarch, is not the young compatriot of James Sloan and Dan Winter of Orange Order fame. However, because James "Buddra" Wilson was described by every Orange Order source as being from the Dyan, then he's almost certainly from the same ancestors as James Wilson the patriarch (my ancestor) and his family" Scott reveals. Also, our research has been unable to verify so far that Abraham Wilson of Belfast is a son of James "Buddra" Wilson.

This brings us to the topic of genetic genealogy, a very useful tool to complement traditional genealogical methods of research. Were a direct male descendant of this Abraham Wilson to have a Y-DNA test done the results would go a long way to establishing a connection between James "Buddra" Wilson and the Wilsons of Dyan Hill.

"As a direct patrilineal descendant of the Wilsons of Dyan Hill I have recently had both Y-DNA and autosomal DNA tests done and the results are archived with Family Tree DNA and Ancestry online," he detailed.

"For us, there remains work to be done reviewing valuation records, Tithe Applotment books, Caledon Estate leases, church records, Masonic Lodge membership lists from Dyan, Moy, Caledon, Loughgall and Benburb from the 1790s, and other records. We are hoping to verify the details of the older generations and unearth more family groups and descendant lines," Scott adds.

He is keen to hear from anyone who could add knowledge of the Wilsons of Dyan Hill and their possible connection to James "Buddra" Wilson of Dyan. The Wilsons of Dyan Hill research group is also happy to share any genealogical information they have and can be reached by email at [scott@kusawa.net](mailto:scott@kusawa.net).

The group consists of J. Scott Wilson, Canada; Ann Allen, Northern Ireland; Jim Rutherford, Northern Ireland, and Annie Crenshaw, United States.





# Brethren look forward to meeting once again

Over and over again I have been told by brethren belonging to my lodge how they really look forward to the day when lodge meetings can take place again, writes Brian Courtney. Indeed, several have said to me that one of their big regrets is that they did not attach the same priority to monthly lodge meetings as they should have done before the Coronavirus pandemic. They have assured me that this will not be the case once normality has returned, and realise the important contribution the lodge and its affairs can mean to their well-being. I know that this feeling of loss due to the pandemic is common among Orangemen throughout our country, and it is shared by friends who miss their Sunday services of worship. Other people also feel a sense of deprivation that they cannot support their Irish League team by attending matches, and the same applies to the followers of all other sports. Lodges are concerned that the long period without monthly meetings could lead to some brethren drifting away and losing touch altogether with the Order. I know of lodges who

keep in touch by phone or calling at houses to assure brethren they are not forgotten. I certainly greatly appreciate the regular phone calls from officers in my lodges, and for the gifts received just before Christmas as I fall into the category of long-serving member. I suspect it is the veterans like myself who head the list of members who have really missed the fellowship and friendships of lodge meetings. We really do pine for the days when we can conduct the business, and then relax over a cup of tea and sandwiches to chat about family and social affairs. I also know from personal experience how the Orange and Black parades are missed by so many members of the general public. I wish I had a fiver for each time a person has said they would love to be among those lining the pavements on the Twelfth, to watch the bands and lodges make their say to the demonstration field. Or those who look forward to other special days, like the Thirteenth of July at Scarva, the Derry Day experience in the Maiden city when the Apprentice Boys hold their great parade, or the climax of any year's parading

season, the 'Black Saturday' of the Royal Black Institution. Perhaps in the past many people took our parades, and even our lodges and preceptories for granted, and it has come as a shock when they were deprived of enjoying our Orange affairs because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Well, the good news is that when everyone in Northern Ireland has received the vaccine, and the danger of the disease has been greatly eroded, that the Orange Order, like so many organisations can resume normal service. We did not have Orange and Black parades from 1939 until 1945, but once victory for the Allies had been assured, the parades were back, and the interest in the loyal Orders was greater than ever, with record numbers of new members joining in the immediate post-war era. If everything goes according to plan, and the Almighty answers our prayers, then, in the not too distant future, it can be just like it was before the nightmare of Covid-19 arrived on the scene. We really do miss the brotherly friendships provided by the monthly meeting – meetings which all too often had been

taken for granted before the arrival of this terrible Pandemic. Sadly, when normality does eventually return again, we will be mourning the passing of many brethren, who were victims of the Coronavirus virus. I have had personal reason to feel strongly on this issue, as a brother Orangeman, who had gone through a heart bypass operation some years ago, was a great help to me. He had visited me in hospital before my bypass operation to assure me that there was nothing to fear, and that everything would be fine. Thankfully, he was quite right, and on my return home he kept in touch to help me with advice about my recovery. What a terrible shock and feeling of loss it was when my friend fell victim to the awful virus, and he passed away, leaving his dedicated wife and family mourning the passing of a lovely husband and father. We must never forget the loss of so many members of our Order to this terrible virus, and perhaps when the Pandemic is over, the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland will consider holding a memorial service to honour their dedicated service.

## Tree boost for Mourne

The Mourne Mountains are among the most breathtaking mountain ranges in the British Isles.

It is fitting that the Mourne should be one of the key areas selected to be crucial in the bid to provide Northern Ireland with a huge number of new trees, which will eventually end the reputation of this part of the United Kingdom to be one of the most treeless countries in Europe.

According to those who draw up such statistics, only Iceland has fewer trees than Northern Ireland, although that will surprise many people who can point to quite healthy forests and woods in several counties, especially Fermanagh. Whatever the claims and counter-claims surrounding this issue, it is an exciting project, and one which is being launched as Northern Ireland is about to celebrate its centenary.

Just before Christmas, the environment Minister for Agriculture and the Environment, Edwin Poots planted the first trees to form the first phase of the plan to provide many new trees in the Mourne, and most people will share his enthusiasm. The Mourne will not be the only part of Northern Ireland to benefit from the expansion of the forests and woods, and one of the most attractive is in the Faughan river valley area of Londonderry. Farmers have also been playing their part, setting aside portions of their lands for trees to be planted, and altogether this is a real potential success story for the province.

There was a suggestion a few years ago that Northern Ireland could establish the Mourne and also the awesome Sperrins as national parks, similar to those in England, Scotland and Wales. The idea was dropped after local people and groups expressed opposition. There were claims on behalf of the project that the Mourne and Sperrins could have benefitted from being classified as national parks, but it didn't happen.

That certainly doesn't mean that improvements and new facilities can't be provided to cater for the residents and the increasing number of tourists, so the plan to step up the provision of more trees and woodlands is certainly a decisive step in the right direction. Full marks to Minister Poots in promoting this excellent project which can transform the landscape of our province.

# Help everyone to play their part

Some years ago, just before he relinquished the leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party, the late James Molyneux was the guest speaker at a constituency meeting in Portadown, which I was reporting for the local weekly newspaper, writes Brian Courtney. During question time, Mr Molyneux was asked if there should be some concern over the then increasing number of ethnic people in Northern Ireland. The Unionist leader answered without hesitation, and he was firm and positive. No, was his response, and he pointed out that most of the newcomers to the province were making an

important contribution. He singled out for special mentioned Health Service workers, including surgeons, doctors, and nurses, and stressed how important they were in keeping our hospitals and health centres ticking over. Mr Molyneux also pointed to the recruitment of foreign workers for new industries in Belfast, Craigavon, Dungannon, Newry, and other centres. He did stress the importance of ensuring that immigrants should be coming to Northern Ireland to play their part in making this province one of the most prosperous areas in the United Kingdom.

It was vital, he said, that the UK should have a screening policy along the lines of Canada and Australia, to ensure that immigrants must not have a criminal record, and were not seeking to exploit the country's social, welfare and housing benefits. Apart from this aspect of immigration, he was convinced that there was nothing to fear from new communities being established in Northern Ireland, and felt they could make a very important contribution to the general welfare of the country. There are a number of new communities in Northern Ireland, and although the traditional unionist and nationalist

tribes predominant, these 'new' Northern Ireland folk will play an increasing part in local affairs. It will help unionism and the Union if a significant number of the ethnic newcomers can be convinced that it is a great deal better than the alternative, of joining the Irish Republic. This is a real challenge for the DUP and Ulster Unionists as they embark on commemorating the Centenary of Northern Ireland. If they succeed, then it could cement Northern Ireland to the United Kingdom, and look forward with confidence to the future.



## News from the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland



# THE ORANGE TORCH



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

On 2nd January 1971 eighty thousand supporters travelled to Ibrox stadium to watch Rangers v Celtic in the traditional Ne'erday match. 66 of their number would not travel home that evening as they tragically lost their lives as they were leaving the stadium on stairway 13. More than 200 others suffered serious injury. Among those who lost their lives were seven Scottish Orangemen. In Memorium:  
Thomas Dickson LOL 275  
Peter Farries LOL 156  
Ian Frew LOL 181  
Walter Raeburn LOL 94  
William Shaw LOL 452  
Charles Stirling LOL 275  
Peter Wright LOL 31  
"The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God; there shall no torment touch them, for they are at peace. In his favour is life;

## Ibrox Disaster 50th Anniversary

weeping may endure for the night, but joy cometh in the morning." Produced below is part of a letter sent by the Grand Secretary Bro. John Adam to Scottish Orange Lodges.

Dear Secretary,  
The dreadful disaster at Ibrox stadium on 2nd January has taken its toll of members of our Orange family, and we are even yet uncertain as to the complete extent of our loss. Please, if you know of any member whose name we must sorrowfully add to the list of our departed, telephone me immediately. Similarly intimation should be given of any Brother who suffered serious injury.



Foremost in our thoughts must be the families of Orangemen bereft of their loved ones and in most difficult circumstances. On behalf of our Order the Trustees of Grand Lodge has already given financial assistance in certain cases, since it was felt that it is now, and not at some future date that they need our support. A fund has

been opened, and an earnest appeal is made to your members, or to your lodge – be it Private, District or County – for donations, that we may be able to show our sincere Christian love and kindness to the bereaved. Official receipts will be issued for all donations, and at the closure of the fund a list of subscriptions together with a statement

of disbursement will be sent to each Lodge. Messages of sympathy have reached us from the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of Australia and both have offered to support our fund. We are deeply appreciative and thank these Grand Lodges on your behalf.

Deeply aware of the debt of gratitude we owe to Rangers Football Club Directors and Manager for the use of their stadium over many years, we have felt a personal concern for them and their players at this time, and we pray that God will sustain them in the days ahead. Let us give thanks to the Lord for the lives of our Brethren departed, and let

their memorial be our unity of purpose.

Yours Sincerely and fraternally,  
John Adam,  
Grand Secretary.

A public inquiry later discounted the initial version of events which suggested fans had been attempting to go back up the stairway. It was established the crush was caused simply by the downward force of so many supporters leaving at the same time. The momentum of the crowd meant that once people started to fall, there was no way of holding the mass of bodies back. The disaster remains the worst in the history of Scottish football and is surpassed only by the Hillsborough tragedy in British football.

## Scottish Covenanters

The Covenanters of the second Reformation had the Covenanter Oak in Motherwell. Scotland's early reformers in the first Reformation had the great Ormiston Yew Tree. Reformation martyr George Wishart and the Scotland's great Reformer John Knox both preached under the shelter of this ancient, 1,000 year old Yew tree. This next part is taken from an old magazine.

"Its trunk is 11 feet in circumference and 25 feet in length; the diameter of the ground overspread by its branches is 53 feet; and there is about the twentieth part of an English acre covered by it. It is still growing in full vigour without the least symptom of decay." "This was written in 1792. It is said that George Wishart, the martyr, preached under this yew, then celebrated as one of the largest trees of its kind in Scotland. Its outer spread of branches, says the old chronicler, was 218 feet, and its branches fall around the trunk like a huge umbrella, forming an inner circle large enough to afford standing room for 200 to 300 people. Here



Wishart preached to an audience composed of the Laird of Ormiston, his dependants and neighbours, and in desponding strains, in harmony with the solemn and funereal aspect of the old yew tree, addressed his last and parting words to those friends from whom he was so soon to be severed for ever. It is believed that shortly after Wishart's judicial murder at St Andrews, the plot to

revenge his death the leader in which conspiracy was Norman Leslie of the house of Rothes, was arranged by Leslie and his associates under the old yew tree of Ormiston. John Knox also used to preach under this venerable yew when he resided at Ormiston in the capacity of tutor or chaplain in the family of the Cockburns of Ormiston, then a leading reforming family."

## 200 years of Orange parades in Glasgow

This year sees the County Grand Lodge of Glasgow celebrate the Bicentennial of 12th of July parades in Scotland's largest city. The Orange Order was established in Scotland in 1798 and has existed in Glasgow since at least 1813. In 1821, there was a climate in Glasgow and indeed throughout the United Kingdom, of attacks on Orange meetings and the homes of Protestants. Anybody perceived to be attending Orange functions was viewed as fair game. The nefarious loutish activities of the people responsible for these attacks, who mostly termed themselves 'Ribbonmen', continued apace and were in no way confined to Glasgow. Ribbonmen, Fenians, Irish Invincibles – whatever guise they went under – their basic motivations were the same and their actions were indistinguishable as violent and ruthless. The first record of an Orange procession in Glas-



gow refers to the event that transpired on 12th July 1821. The Glasgow Chronicle of 14th July reports: "Thursday forenoon, the harmony that had marked the fair was interrupted by a procession of Orangemen. Three lodges met by appointment in the Lyceum Rooms, and at half-past 12 o'clock, after a variety of reports concerning the route the procession meant to take, they moved off, preceded by a band of music and a number of men with swords and emblems, and accompanied by three flags". However,

the parade was attacked at its conclusion by Irish Nationalist elements (which also recurred the following year) and a moratorium on our processions was introduced which prevailed for several decades. Nowadays, the County Grand Orange Lodge of Glasgow continues to stage a magnificent display of pageantry which shows the diversity and unique aspects of the Biblical, historical and cultural images of the reformed and British way of life, in which many thousands of Scots identify with and come onto the streets in support of. Our big year is being celebrated with a range of historical booklets, striking of a Jewel, commemoration mug, range of clothing and a massive recruitment drive. We hope you can join with us, God willing, on the first Saturday in July this year to help us celebrate our Bicentennial as we proudly parade the streets of Glasgow.

# Arlene's recipes

## Profiteroles with chocolate sauce anglaise

For the choux paste  
(serves 6-8)

Half a pint of water  
pinch of sugar and salt  
4oz butter  
5oz flour (strong)  
4 eggs large

1. Bring the water, sugar, salt and butter just to the boil in a heavy based large saucepan. Remove from the heat immediately.
2. Add the sieved flour in one go and mix with a wooden spoon.
3. Return to a moderate heat and stir continuously until the mixture leaves the sides of the pan. Remove from the heat and allow to cool.
4. Gradually add the beaten eggs, mixing with an electric beater. The

mixture should be of a dropping consistency.

5. Place the choux paste into a piping bag with a ½ inch plain piping nozzle. On a lightly greased baking tray, pipe out into small round pieces/dollops, about 1 inch diameter.
6. Place a shallow tray of water in the bottom of the oven. Bake at 200C/ Fan 180 for 30 minutes. After 25 minutes open the oven door to allow steam to escape and close door again and finish baking for 5 more minutes.
7. Remove from the oven and place the profiteroles upside down on a cooling tray. Make a small hole in the bottom of each profit-

erole to release steam and return to the oven for five more minutes to dry out insides.

8. Remove from oven and cool profiteroles on a cooling tray upside down. Store or freeze in an airtight container until required.

Chocolate sauce anglaise

3 egg yolks  
2 oz caster sugar

A quarter pint of milk  
A quarter pint of double cream, lightly whipped  
4 oz dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids), melted in a bowl over a pan of simmering water

1. Whisk the egg yolks and sugar in a bowl for approx. 2 minutes until pale in

colour.

2. Heat the milk in a saucepan until it just about comes to the boil.
3. Whisk the milk onto the egg yolk mixture. Strain the mixture through a sieve back into the cleaned milk pan.
4. Return to a very low heat and stir continuously until the mixture thickens slightly and coats the back

- of a spoon (trail test). Be very careful not to over-cook!
  5. Allow to cool and using a whisk stir in the melted chocolate and then the lightly whipped cream.
- To serve:  
Using a piping bag with a inch nozzle fill the profiteroles with crème Chantilly (whipped fresh cream with 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

essence and a dessert spoonful caster sugar) and serve dusted with icing sugar and the luxurious chocolate sauce.

**Top Tip:** You may wish to halve the recipe to make less, however they freeze very well and you can then defrost as many as you need to be filled with cream!



## Gardener's Corner

by Beth Lunney

As I write this article for February we are still in the middle of a 'lockdown'. Our Nursery Centre has been closed from Christmas Eve and we are not allowed to do 'click and collect'. A couple of us are getting the shop turned around from Christmas to spring so that when we are allowed to open we are ready to go. The rest of the staff have been furloughed. Not only are we dealing with all the problems Covid-19 has caused, we now have the sea border between Great Britain and Northern Ireland to deal with. We had to take delivery of our Seed Potatoes, vegetable sets and flower and vegetable seeds before the end of December this year otherwise we would not have got them across. Anyone who normally orders their seeds from

seed merchants in England will know that they cannot supply Northern Ireland since the 1st January. We are now finding that nurseries, in Great Britain who we have dealt with for many years as we know we get good quality, service, and great varieties of plants, are not going to be able to supply us. This is all down to EU regulations – we in Northern Ireland are still in the EU and Great Britain is now looked upon as a third country – and this even though we are all part of the United Kingdom. Orders that were made up to six months ago for planned deliveries through the season will not be able to be sent over. It seems that the EU wants plants that are grown in pots to be set out on concrete to grow and as pots are

normally set out on soil or gravel covered in weed blocking fabric growers will not be able to get the Phytosanitary Certificate that is needed to send the plants over. It could take a Rhododendron four to five years to grow before it is saleable so you can see how this is going to affect growers in Great Britain. Rather than having to make huge investments to satisfy the EU it is probably going to be easier to say 'sorry we can't supply NI'. There are also issues with compost and wood fibre that the roses and other plants are grown in. We are now lobbying politicians in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain to see if anything can be sorted out as a matter of urgency.

Even with all the problems we are facing at the moment nature just



carries on and it does your heart good to see some plants just starting to flower. One of these plants is Helleborus x ericsmithii 'Pirouette'. This plant was bred by a Mr. Eric Smith (1917-1986) who came from South Hampshire in England. This Helleborus is a cross between Helleborus niger (the Christmas rose) and

Helleborus x sternii. 'Pirouette' and is ever-green or semi-evergreen although in very cold areas it may lose all its leaves over winter. In mid-winter to mid-spring flower stalks appear with an abundance of pink buds which open to white flowers flushed with pink and mature to deeper pink above

bluish-green foliage. Old leaves can be trimmed right back in winter to show off the flowers and new foliage will emerge in spring. This plant requires neutral to alkaline, free-draining soil in partial shade and is excellent for under planting trees, fronts of borders or growing in pots. Stay Safe

# CENTENNIAL RANGE

£3.50



Key Rings

£25.00



Polo Shirts

£19.75



£13.00

Baseball Caps

£12.00



Tie



£17.50



Aprons

£9.00



Flags

£45.00



Boxed Jewel

£3.00



Lapel Badge

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ORANGE NEWS



# Newry District Lodge launches 'Unpeeling the Orange' booklet

Newry District Orange Lodge, as part of their pre-twelfth programme of events, released an animated film entitled, 'Unpeeling the Orange'. It was designed as an education project to help dispel the myths and misconceptions of what really happens behind the doors of an Orange Hall. It also provides an understanding of the Orange Institution so that

our cultural expression is celebrated and embraced by all. As a further extension to the animated film project, the District has published a small pocket-sized booklet which encapsulates the essence of the film and its characters, in colourful pictorial images. Due to the Covid-19 health restrictions the official launch envisaged was not possible.

However, as a District Lodge they moved to adapt the launch to overlap into a charity outreach event they annually provide to widows each Christmas. This took the form of circulating a copy of the booklet along with a special Christmas gift from a local restaurant. With the booklet having an unique QR code it provides direct access to the ani-

mated film, something members know the recipients and their extended family members and grandchildren are able to avail of. As we all have experienced an unbelievable period over the past several months due to the Covid-19 Newry Orange Lodge extends thoughts and prayers to everyone, as we move forward in faith and hope with God's guiding hand.

## Long Service Medals for Witherow Memorial members

Witherow Memorial LOL 1337 was instituted on the second Tuesday in December 1920 by the then District Master Wor. Bro. John Hume.

This was the first meeting of LOL 1337 in East Belfast and the lodge has maintained the second Tuesday of the month throughout its 100 years of existence. The lodge had planned to invite the Rev. Mervyn Gibson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and minister of Westbourne Presbyterian Church (out of which the lodge was formed), to a special meeting on Tuesday 8th December 2020 to mark the 100th anniversary of the first meeting. It was also the intention to have the Grand Secretary present long service medals to the brethren.

As this was not possible, the Secretary and Treasurer of the LOL 1337 deliv-



ered the following to those brethren entitled to receive them.

50 year medals to Bros. Reggie Morrow (pending), Billy Moore, Harry Morrow,

Mervyn Gray and David McCallum. 25 year medals to Bros.

Mark Gray, Craig Morrow, Martin Coburn and Tommy Corkill.

A 25 year jewel was posted to Glasgow for Bro. Tommy Cochrane.

ORANGE NEWS



Omagh District LOL No 11., W.D.M. Robert Cummings; D.D.M. David Swann; Nigel McCormick, District Lay Chaplain; and District Secretary, Raymond King pictured at Mountjoy Orange Hall, with Food Parcels that were distributed to over 180 homes for the elderly, widows, the sick, young families and people isolating in the Omagh District. Omagh District Council, Department of Communities gave money and it was matched by Omagh District Orange Cultural Association and Omagh District LOL No 11.

# Christmas food parcels distributed in Omagh District



Right: Neil and Maisie Armstrong pictured at Mountjoy Orange Hall with Food Parcels that were distributed to over 180 homes to the elderly, widows, those in ill-health, young families and people isolating in the Omagh District.

Pictures: Isobel O'Brien

Left: Errol and Elaine Thompson pictured at Mountjoy Orange Hall with the Food Parcels.



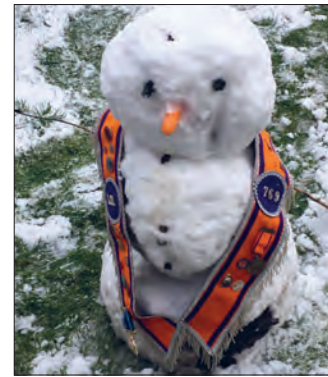
## Montober gets Warm Well Connected

In the run up to Christmas, Montober LOL 661 played its part in the distribution of a number of Warm Well Connected Parcels. This project was run by CSWAN and was aimed at reaching out to help people that are and have been acutely affected by Covid-19. The Cookstown Lodge took to the roads a few days before Christmas to call with people in the community who would benefit under this project, taking time to talk to people, checking in to see if they are ok and giving them a pack that contained useful things that keep people warm and well connected during what is another period of lockdown.

Montober has not been shy when it come to stepping out to support the community and such projects. In June 2020, Brethren stepped out to deliver PPE packs so they were keen to step out once again and assist with the Warm Well Connected project. Commenting on the completion of the project, Worshipful Master Bro. Jim Black said: "Montober demonstrates the core values of the Orange Order daily such as Civic duty, responsibility and Charitable support for good causes. We as a lodge were delighted to be asked once again to assist in such a worthy project and will be ready to step out again for the next one."

ORANGE NEWS

# January snowfall brings fun for young and old!



## South Belfast Women's LOL No:17 Members helping to CUSHION the effects of COVID-19

Each member received a gift of a cushion personally delivered by the lodge secretary, Sister Ann Dickson DDM, Sandy Row District No:1



Sister Ann Dickson getting ready to deliver the special cushions



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Kinnego LOL 5 preparing to bring in NI Centennial year. "Snow Surrender".



The Museum Directors hosted the Sloan's House volunteers at a socially distanced Christmas dinner in the beautiful surroundings of Brownlow House, Lurgan. Great evening of food and fellowship at the end of a difficult year.





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## ORANGE NEWS

# An Act of Remembrance with a difference is held in Lancashire

Brother Mark Robinson, a member of Pendle Sons of Ulster LOL 25 (Burnley), brings a report on recent events from his lodge in England.

Burnley Football Club has a long standing association with a small town in Holland called Helmond, with large numbers of fans from both teams aiming to travel over to spend time with each other. Helmond was liberated during the war in operation 'Market Garden' and they have a lot of respect for the servicemen and women who gave their lives for their freedom. There is a small cemetery near Helmond where many heroes are buried. I was sent a video of a memorial they hold every Christmas and since then I have found out that hundreds of towns, villages and cities in Europe do the same on Christmas Eve.

Many members of our Lodge found the video very emotional and although we don't have the CWGC cemeteries near us, we decided to pay our respects in a similar method.

On Christmas Eve 2019 we visited the main cenotaph in Blackburn, the cenotaph



at Oak Hill in Accrington, the screen wall at Burnley Cemetery, the memorial in the peace gardens in Burnley, the main cenotaph at Towneley Hall in Burnley, the memorial at the top of the hill in Weir (the highest in England) and the memorial in Bacup. At each one we said a few words, placed a small light and observed



two minute's silence. All together it took a couple of hours to do all these places and honour our fallen. 2020 was going to be bigger and I intended to put it to the district to try and bring together Lodges to do the same in their areas. However, with there not being any meetings, I was not able to



do that. We were joined by Brother Roberts, from Blackpool Faith Defenders, who placed lights at several places around the Blackpool area. Brother Devlin, from Blackburn No Surrender, who along with Brother Ayrton from our lodge attended the main cenotaph in Blackburn, Oak Hill in



Accrington and the grave of Brother Ayrton, who was murdered by the IRA in 1979. Other members of our lodge did Burnley cemetery, the peace garden in Burnley, Cenotaph at Towneley, Weir and Bacup. At each of these locations we said the poem "For the fallen" and observed the

silence. It was so special to honour our fallen on what was one of the most important nights in the Christian calendar. Next year - if all goes well - we are hoping that other lodges or individuals will join us on that special night, to show that 'we will remember them'.

## Charity cheque presentation by Sussex Crown Defenders

Members of Sussex Crown Defenders LOL 848 in the South East of England have been working hard throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the biggest areas impacted by the lockdowns has been charities. They have seen their ability to generate funds massively curtailed. None more so than Shoreham charity Adur Special Needs Project. Their annual big fundraising day had to be cancelled as did many other essential events planned for 2020. That's why LOL 848 were so pleased to be able to send Treasurer Bro. Simon

Bell along to make this presentation to them of a cheque for £1,800 on behalf of the 13 members. This will pay for the children and their caring team to have a much needed trip out in 2021 once able. The members of LOL 848 pulled together with a range of fundraising ideas including haircuts, pop up sales, donations and 'Project £16.90' in order to swell the charity coffers. And it was made more possible by the help of their wider Orange Order friends, who assisted LOL 848 in their lockdown fundraising campaign, by purchasing novel pin badges.



# MOTOR MOUTH



with Graham Baalham-Curry

## Could plug-in hybrids really be the way forward?



# Get plugged in with Kia Xceed

Last year I recall being impressed with the latest Kia X-Ceed model, so much so in fact, that I was eager to get my hands on this plug-in hybrid version.

Having recently tested a full electric vehicle from a different manufacturer, I am confident that we are a terribly long way off full electrification in Northern Ireland due to a poor network of slow or broken chargers. And with more households than you would think not able to install a charger for varying reasons, plug-in hybrids could be the way forward.

PHEV's are not new, the Mitsubishi Outlander is one of the best-selling in the UK and has been around for quite a few years. I've had the pleasure of testing a few hybrids over the years, but it is plug-in hybrids that interest me personally. As someone who spends a lot of time on the road, often dropping everything and running out the door to a breaking news story, full electrification just wouldn't be feasible for me.

Electric range on plug-in hybrids has never been fantastic, or that EV mode may only be available at slow city speeds. This is where this Kia took me by surprise as, soon after delivery, I headed out with my wife to run a few errands. Covering around 25 miles in total, with a mixture of B-roads and a dual carriageway, I was pleasantly surprised to notice that the X-Ceed PHEV done the full journey, even at 60mph, on electric only power.

There was a few more miles left on the range counter,



however without a home charging point and during my week with the car not being close to any public charging stations, I wasn't able to fully appreciate, nor extensively test the exact capabilities of this hybrid model. What I do know is that it is the first PHEV I have driven that has a genuinely usable electric-only drive.

Sitting in the KIA Ceed family, alongside a 5-door hatchback of which there is an estate version, as well as the super sleek shooting brake-styled model, the Xceed is a welcomed addition to the fleet, with pricing of this hybrid version starting from £30,695. Not quite an SUV as many people call it, rather a

crossover model, with Kia preferring to brand it as a 'sporty compact crossover'. Sporty isn't a word I would use, but with stiff competition from the likes of the Toyota C-HR and sister company Hyundai's Kona, such branding might catch the eye of potential buyers. Currently there are just two trim levels available for this plug-in hybrid starting with an Xceed PHEV '3' as tested, which starts from £30,695 and features 16-inch alloy wheels, 10.25-inch navigation with telematics, rear privacy glass, black cloth with faux leather upholstery, dual-zone climate control, heated front seats, heated steering wheel, electrically folding, adjustable and heated door



mirrors with integrated LED indicator lights, smart key with engine start/stop button, and electric parking brake.

There is also a first edition trim which is priced from £34,685 and add 18-inch alloy wheels, black leather upholstery, 12.3-inch TFT supervision cluster display, panoramic sunroof, smart power tailgate, wireless phone charger, aluminium pedals, heated outer rear seats, and smart park assist. Regardless of which trim you opt for, it is safe to say that there is a generous amount of equipment within. Practical load-space in the Xceed isn't as good as it's siblings, however, it offers much more practicality than it's exterior

shape would lead you to believe, and is better than some rivals. The cabin is a little more spacious from its siblings thanks to extra headroom, and with all Kia models, it's incredibly well screwed together. A pair of ISOFIX swivel child seats fit without issue, so long as you don't mind getting kicked on the back of your seat when driving. A comfortable driving position is easily achieved with very supportive front seating.

Unlike many brands who now digitise all cabin controls via a large touchscreen hub, the Xceed remains somewhat analogue, with push buttons for the heating controls, heated seating, and various driver

safety and convenience buttons.

This is far from criticism as I for one much prefer this layout and wish many more would stick to it. Despite its SUV styling the Xceed handles every bit as well as its siblings and, if you happen to have read any of my articles on those, you will know that I was very impressed with not only there agility, but comfort, too.

Available only with a 6-speed dual-clutch transmission, the PHEV which is based upon a 1.6-litre petrol engine accompanied by an 8.9kWh Li-ion battery, provides a combined output of 139bhp. It's not what I would call faster exciting, seeing 0-60mph in 10.6 seconds, a combined return of just over 200mpg could be expected, with an electric range just shy of 30 miles.

Company and fleet drivers can enjoy a contract hire from as little as £199/month, with an initial payment of £1,194 (prices are plus VAT). Private ownership is not quite as affordable with a PCP over 2-years and 10,000 miles/annum coming in at almost £450/month with a deposit of just over £6,000. With a 7-year, 100,000 mile warranty, servicing of this plug-in hybrid vehicle is recommended annually, or every 10,000 miles.

Fact File for model tested  
 Make : Kia  
 Model : Xceed  
 Trim : PHEV '3'  
 Engine : Petrol/Electric  
 Gearbox : 6-speed automatic  
 Cost : £30,695