

THE ORANGE STANDARD



"LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR  
REMEMBER 1690"

"THE PEOPLE" ISAIAH 62:10

FOUNDED 1973

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORANGE ORDER



Soldier F  
verdict  
welcomed

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Rt. Wor. Bro.  
John McCrea  
remembered

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Photography  
competition  
winners

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# Lords confirm Framework's failings

## House of Lords report highlights Windsor Framework problems

A House of Lords report on the Windsor Framework has recently been published and has criticised the current complex trading relationships between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

Under the Chairmanship of Lord Carlile, peers considered a range of issues relating to the post-Brexit trading regulations, and whilst their findings are unlikely to alter the European Union or current Labour government's minds, it nonetheless helps highlight the fact that the Windsor Framework has created more issues that it resolved.

The report entitled 'Northern Ireland after Brexit: Strengthening Northern Ireland's voice in the context of the Windsor Framework' was the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee, and its contents, published on 15th October found that democratic oversight arrangements designed to give Stormont politicians and industry stakeholders a say in post-Brexit rules are, in their words, "overwhelmingly complex" and "impossible to navigate."

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The Grand Master's dinner took place in the Roe Valley Resort, Limavady. Pictured above are Grand Master Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson with Rt. Wor. Bro. James Evans, County Grand Master Co. Londonderry and Rt. Wor. Bro. Kyle Thompson, City of Londonderry Grand Master.

Full coverage and picture special on page 10 & 11.



INTERESTED IN ORGANISING A WWI OR WWII BATTLEFIELD TOUR?

READ MORE ON PAGE 9

*Lest we forget*









## EDITORIAL

# Remembering Service & Sacrifice

The month of November is synonymous with Remembrance. Each year, Grand Lodge and Thiepval Memorial LOL 1916 host a short parade and Act of Remembrance at Schomberg House where members of the Loyal Orders come together to pay their respects to our members who paid the supreme

sacrifice in conflicts around the globe, and at home in Northern Ireland. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, 11th November at 10.30am. 80 years from the end of World War Two, we particularly remember the service and sacrifice of the men and women of that generation who gave so much to secure the freedom and

liberties we enjoy today. In this month's edition of the Orange Standard, we examine reactions to the recent report from the House of Lords into the ongoing failures of the Windsor Framework. The verdict from the Soldier F trial has been welcomed by Unionists and veterans representatives, however questions remain as to why

this flawed show trial was allowed to proceed at all. The Orange Institution has lost another stalwart following the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. John McCrea. We reflect on his service and extensive contribution to the Orange Family. The Irish Presidential election campaign highlighted the ongoing

bigotry and intolerance displayed towards those of an Orange background. The Institution has sought a meeting with the Taoiseach to ascertain how his Government intends to address the clear bias which exists against Irish Protestants in general, and Orange members in particular.



**Parade and**  
**Act of Remembrance**  
**Schomberg House**  
**Tuesday, 11th November 2025**  
**10.30am**



# Lords confirm Framework’s failings



Lord Carile

**Continued from front page.** The report’s findings reinforce the view of all Unionist parties that the current status quo is unsatisfactory and unsustainable. Lord Dodds (DUP) said “Every day that this situation is allowed to persist further erodes Northern Ireland’s constitutional position, harms consumer choice and imposes unnecessary cost and burdens on business.” Lord Empey (UUP) said that one of the key findings was that; “Government has failed to have all the divergence created between regulations applying in Northern Ireland that do not

apply in Great Britain, listed in a single location and constantly updated so that businesses and the public can see what is really happening.” He added that the Windsor Framework was “a broken system failing Northern Ireland.” TUV leader Jim Alister said, “While this report is valuable insofar as it shines a light on some of the very serious problems created by the second-class citizenship foisted upon us by the Irish Sea Border, ultimately it fails because it seeks to find ‘solutions’ that accommodate, rather than confront, the underlying injustice at the heart of that Border. The only real solution to the problems arising from being deprived of full citizenship — and from having our voice diminished — is for that citizenship to be fully restored.” However, despite the widespread recognition that the current arrangements are not working, the Labour government are unlikely to do anything since they have no appetite to upset the Brussels bureaucrats, who reportedly want to see even tighter implementation of the Irish Sea border. In an excellent summary of the current position published in the News Letter (20th October), com-

mentator Owen Polley correctly pointed to the intransigence of Nationalist politicians at Stormont who are content to see the current difficulties grow stating that, ‘Irish separatist ideology is far more important to nationalists than economic success. If they helped firms do well, it would confirm that Northern Ireland works best when it is properly integrated with the rest of the United Kingdom.’ Whilst the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Hilary Benn has

regularly rejected the option of Mutual Enforcement as a viable alternative, there is a growing body of evidence being presented by business owners and the Federation of Small Businesses which underscores the urgent need for reconsideration of this position. Mutual Enforcement provides a model whereby the need for physical checks on goods moving within the United Kingdom could be removed, whilst at the same time keeping the land

border with the Republic of Ireland open. Mr. Benn previously described the model as ‘magical thinking’ and ruled it out as a viable way forward. It is long past time that the Secretary of State and local Nationalists (including the Alliance Party) paid more regard to the proven difficulties being experienced by business in Northern Ireland than their continued blind subservience to Brussels and their collective obsession with the promotion of an all-island economy.



# Soldier F verdict welcomed

The former Parachute Regiment soldier, known as ‘Soldier F’ was recently cleared of seven charges against him relating to the deaths of a number of individuals in Londonderry on 30th January 1972. At the conclusion of the trial, which had been challenged throughout due to the flawed and inadequate nature of the evidence, Judge Patrick Lynch acknowledged that the evidence presented had been ‘well short’ of what would have been required to secure a conviction. Whilst delivering a critical assessment of the actions of the Parachute Regiment soldiers on the day, Judge Lynch acknowledged that there was no legal mechanism of apportioning “collective guilt” on those involved. He stated that the prosecution had failed to prove that Soldier F “knowingly and intentionally assisted in the shootings with intent to kill, or was shooting himself with that intention.” Unionist political representatives



collectively welcomed the verdict. TUV leader Jim Allister KC said the acquittal raised the “fundamental question why this veteran was put through this ordeal.” DUP leader Gavin Robinson MP welcomed the outcome as a “common sense judgement”,

whilst Ulster Unionist assembly member Doug Beattie MC described the proceedings as a “show trial”. Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioner David Johnstone clearly articulated the feelings of many veterans, victims and

survivors of terrorism when he spoke after the verdict: “Society in Northern Ireland must find a way to deal with legacy issues in a fair and balanced way – one which does not disproportionately focus in the actions of the military or police and distort the historical

record of the conflict. It must be remembered that nine out of ten deaths during the Troubles were caused by terrorist organisations.” Nationalists and Republicans took a very different view to the finding. In a response which was clearly devoid of any self-awareness or sense of irony given her previous ‘no alternative’ commentary on the actions of Republican terrorists, the so called ‘First Minister for All,’ Michelle O’Neil described the ruling as “an affront to justice.” Ms. O’Neill remains markedly less vocal about the need for justice for the families of the 344 members of the Orange Institution murdered by terrorists, many of whom have never been afforded the opportunity to see anyone stand in court to face trial for the murder of their loved ones. Neither have Sinn Féin representatives cried “justice delayed is justice denied” for the victims of Tullyvallen, Kingsmills or Enniskillen.



## OBITUARIES

## Rt. Wor. Bro. John McCrea JP (1936 – 2025)

Members across the Orange family were saddened to learn of the recent death of Rt. Wor. Bro. John McCrea JP.

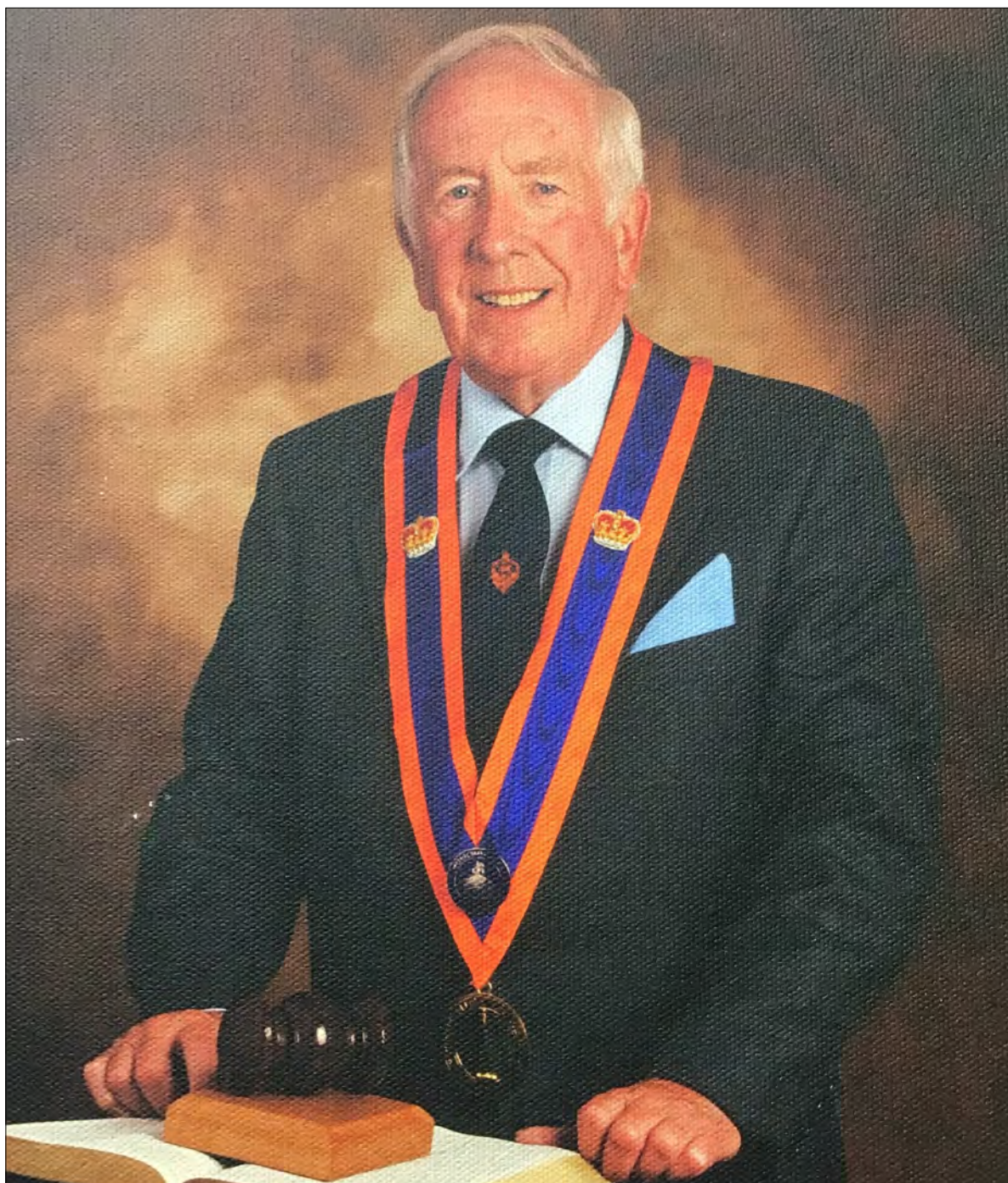
Paying tribute to a true stalwart of the Orange cause, Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson said: "John McCrea was a pillar of Orangeism for decades and was a well-respected Brother and friend to many throughout the Institution. His life was one of service, and he faithfully held many key offices at various levels of our organisation. On behalf of the Grand Lodge, I offer our condolences to his family, and to the members of his own Lodge, Star of the North, Ballyhackamore LOL 1053."

Rt. Wor. Bro. McCrea's funeral was held on Saturday, 18th October at Knock Methodist Church, Belfast before committal at Dundonald Cemetery where an Orange funeral service was observed by the Brethren in attendance.

Former GOLI Executive Officer, Wor. Bro. George Patton delivered the following personal tribute during the service of thanksgiving:

"At the outset may I offer our sincere condolences to the family from the Orange Institution worldwide. You have been and will remain in our thoughts and prayers. I also wish to thank the family and Rev McCrea for the opportunity to pay this tribute to my friend, Brother, mentor and indeed line manager when I was the Executive Officer at Grand Lodge and he was Grand Secretary.

I first met John about 50 years ago through the Junior Orange Movement, and for many years as we journeyed through Orangeism, he was my guide and mentor. No one could have had a better teacher. Despite that, I am ill equipped both in terms of my own ability and time to do justice to the impact and legacy of Rt Wor Bro John McCrea JP on Orangeism, not just in this jurisdiction but worldwide. In a History of Orangeism in County Armagh, when referring to the 'Founding Fathers' the author quotes from Genesis Chapter 6 "And there were giants on the earth in those days." I would say not just in the days of our founding fathers, John McCrea was a giant in Orangeism. John was born into an Orange family following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, and he served the Institution faithfully for over 70 years. He Joined Star of the North Junior LOL 71 in the early 1940's and at age 18 moved into their parent Lodge, Star of The North LOL 1053.



John was a true son of Ballyhackamore and never forgot his roots in 'the Hack' both in geographical and Orange terms. I recall when John was elected to Belfast City Council his election literature bore the slogan "Vote McCrea – One of your own" – and that's exactly what he was. There is an excellent photograph of John which has been shared on social media over the past few days. It shows John in his Imperial Council regalia, standing behind a dais on which he has proudly displayed his LOL 1053 collarette.

Despite his pride in LOL 1053 and Ballyhackamore, John was in no way parochial. He always saw the bigger picture, and when my small Lodge in rural County Armagh was struggling in terms of membership, he became an affiliate member to help us through difficult times. He took tremendous satisfaction seeing that Lodge grow to a position today where it is full of young,

committed Brethren with a secure future.

As stated, John was a member of our Institution for over 70 years, but he was never just a member. He was totally committed and saw the Institution as an extension of his Christian witness, his sense of place and community and the heritage it stands for. You will frequently see on Orange Arches the inscription "Fear God Honour the King Love the Brotherhood" Those few words sum up John McCrea.

His own Lodge quickly recognised his talent electing him Secretary and later Worshipful Master. John's Commitment and ability was then recognized more widely by his Brethren, and he was soon called to serve in Office at various levels.

- Ballymacarrett District Secretary for 8 years
- Belfast County Grand Secretary for 14 years
- Belfast County Grand Master for 9 years

- Grand Secretary Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland for 12 years
- Asst Grand Master Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland for 3 years
- Asst Secretary and then Imperial Secretary Imperial Orange Council for a total of 30 years and on his retirement from that post in 2009 he became an Honorary Imperial Vice President.

With all his commitment to the senior Order, I feel that John's first love in Orangeism was the Junior Movement. As Superintendent of Junior LOL 71 he was a positive influence on generations of boys and young men. As with the Seniors John held numerous leadership roles.

- Treasurer Ballymacarrett Junior District for 25 years
- District Master Ballymacarrett Junior District for 4 years
- County Secretary Belfast Junior County for 11 years

- County Master Belfast Junior County for 6 years
- Grand Secretary Junior Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland for 6 years
- Grand Master Junior Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland for 6 years.

It is no wonder his famous brown case looked a bit battered and worn.

I'm sure I have missed some of his roles, and to be honest, I wouldn't be surprised to find out he had been Secretary to an Orange Lodge he had started on a cruise ship during one of his many travels with Phylis. Johns' organisational ability and his concern for the welfare of others lead to his appointment as a Trustee to several Orange Charities including

- The McCrea Memorial Trust (named after his late father)
- City of Belfast Loyal Orange Widows Fund
- The Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orange Society

John held Senior Office in our Institution during some of the darkest days in the history of our country. In those often-challenging times, John represented this Institution with grace and intelligence. He was a measured and articulate spokesperson promoting the core values of our Order, the Reformed Faith and our belief in the Union at every opportunity.

John was extremely knowledgeable, well versed in the rules of the organisation. He seemed to have an amazing ability to recall past events, and how lessons learnt could be applied to future situations. When John spoke, you listened. He provided wise and mature counsel at meetings and very much observed the command in 1st Corinthians Chapter 14 which is quoted in our Laws and Ordinances – "Let all things be done decently and in order" Of course, it wasn't just within this jurisdiction that John was known and respected. His roles both here and in the Imperial Council meant he travelled the world in the cause of Orangeism. The esteem in which he was held worldwide has been evidenced by the heartfelt tributes over the past few days from around the globe.

Today we grieve the passing of our friend and brother John, but we know he is in the presence of his Lord and Saviour reunited with his beloved Phylis. We therefore mourn not without hope, but in the sure expectation of a joyful reunion in the heavenly places for those who die in Christ."



OBITUARIES

# Wor. Bro. Peter Malcolmson, Thomas Andrews Jnr Memorial

The Orange Institution and band fraternity in Belfast and Ballynahinch are mourning the recent death of Brother Peter Malcolmson. Peter lost his life as the result of a tragic road traffic collision on the Ballygowan Road, Belfast, on Saturday, 27 September 2025. He was a faithful member of Thomas Andrews Jnr Memorial LOL 1321 in Ballymacarrett, East Belfast. A brother held in high esteem by the Brethren of that lodge and by his Brethren and friends in The Heart of Down LOL 1865, Ballynahinch. Peter was “lead tip” in the Albert-

bridge Accordion Band. He joined “The Bridge” in January 1981 after great service as a loyal member of the 56th Boys Brigade Company, in Albertbridge Congregational Church. Peter loved drumming and loaned his talents to Hillview Flute Band and Shankill Road Defenders Flute Band for short periods in the 1980s and 1990s. On the day of his premature death, Peter, accompanied by the rest of “The Bridge” were engaged in one of his favourite pass times, entertaining a large crowd at a cultural day in Ballymacarrett orange hall. Peter worked for many years as a

milkman in “The Co” and latterly for Northern Ireland Railways in Lanyon Station. A fanatical blue-man, he accompanied his father, Worshipful Brother Reverend Billy Malcolmson, District Chaplain, Shankill District LOL No. 9, to home and away matches supporting Linfield. Survived by his dad Billy, sister Diane and wider family, his Memorial Service, conducted by his cousin, Reverend David Wilson, was held in Ballygowan Free Presbyterian Church, with burial in the adjoining cemetery. God Bless such a man and a Brother



# Disappointment as King prays with Pope

Many members of the Orange family will have been disappointed with King Charles III's decision to pray with Pope Leo in the Sistine Chapel – the first meeting of its kind since King Henry VIII broke with Rome and Protestantism was established as the state religion of England in 1534. Henry VIII's motivations to break from Rome are well documented as being largely a means to meet his own personal needs. He publicly criticised Luther and the reformers and indeed the title ‘Defender of the Faith’ was bestowed on him by Pope Leo X in 1521, in recognition of his defence of Roman Catholicism. The title ‘Defender of the Faith’ was withdrawn by the Pope in 1543, but was later reconfirmed on Henry by Parliament in 1544. King Charles has shown a willingness to engage with a range of other religious leaders. Nonetheless, the fact remains that in his 2023 Coronation Oath, King Charles swore to “maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law.” As Orangemen and women should we not be discouraged or deflected from our solid foundations which are rooted in the truths of the Reformation. In October 1555 Latimer and Ridley were burned at the stake for their beliefs. Winds of change will always blow, they have done so down through the centuries, and will no doubt continue. Never-



theless, it is important to remain steadfast in the Reformed faith, even in the face of opposition. As Bible believing Protestants, we

must never forget that there is only one true head of the Church – God's Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Grand Masters of Ireland, England and Scotland have jointly written privately to His Majesty to encourage him to

reflect upon the solemn commitments of his Coronation oath and the promises he made before God.



## ORANGE NEWS

# Celebrating Gibraltarians' Britishness



Wor. Bro. Raymond Spiers; Fabian Picardo (Chief Minister, Gibraltar) , Wor. Bro. Mervyn Gibson (Grand Secretary, GOLI) & Wor. Bro. Lord Rogan.



Lord Rogan engaging with the crowds.

Three Brethren recently enjoyed attending Gibraltar National Day on 10 September. The day commemorates the referendum held in 1967 when Gibraltar's population overwhelmingly voted to remain British, rather than succumbing to Spanish sovereignty. In the referendum, only 44 persons voted to join Spain, with over 12,000 voters affirming their British sovereignty. The format of the present-day celebrations began in 1992, and each year on 10th September, the

population through the streets to celebrate their British identity. The civic celebrations centre around a rally in Casemates Square with family friendly activities held in surrounding streets, including a children's fancy dress competition and fun fair. After the rally, a live music concert is held and later in the day it has become a tradition that the beaches are thronged as families enjoy a barbecue together. However, the stand out image of

the day is to witness everyone dressed in red and white - the colours of the Gibraltarian flag. The day is a celebration of Britishness, therefore it is not surprising members of the Orange Institution have, for several years, travelled to Gibraltar to share in the celebrations where the atmosphere has been described as "like the 12th, but with guaranteed sun". One Brother, who is a regular attendee, is Lord Rogan, Deputy

Speaker of the House of Lords. He is introduced at the rally from the platform, and responds accordingly, encouraging the people of Gibraltar to never surrender their British sovereignty. (There are no prizes for guessing what his rousing cry to the gathered crowds is!) This year, he was joined at the celebrations by the Grand Secretary, Mervyn Gibson and former Assistant Grand Master, Raymond Spiers and their wives. Wor. Bro. Spiers commented, "It

was a great privilege to join in this celebration of Britishness with the people of Gibraltar and it was an honour to meet their Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo." The Grand Secretary added, "Being British creates a sense of pride amongst many people that transcends geography. From Fermanagh to the Falkland's, from Glasgow to Gibraltar, the Union flag is the symbol that unites all those who are proud to be British." Gibraltar has been British since 1704; long may it remain so.

## Institution to seek meeting with Taoiseach

Voters in the Republic of Ireland have chosen their next President - Catherine Connolly. The 68-year-old Barrister was consistently described during the campaign as the 'left wing, anti-establishment candidate'. Time will tell what her election will mean for cross-border relations. In reality, the bar has not been set high by her predecessor, Michael D. Higgins. His uninspiring tenure saw him move from initial indifference to Northern Ireland to being frankly insulting in his attitude and actions. Whether President Connolly turns out to be the puppet Sinn Féin expect her to be as payback for their support remains to be seen. Considering themselves King makers, or more appropriately in this instance President producers, there is no doubt they

will keep the pressure on the new incumbent to deliver on their agenda. Despite our apprehensions, President Connolly can be sure that the Orange Institution will annually mark her birthday - which falls on 12th July! The other key question is will her election make any positive difference to our members in the Republic? The answer is clearly no. What emerged during the Presidential election was a campaign of outright bigotry towards the Orange Institution and at times, a naked sectarianism towards Protestants in general. Attitudes which existed just below the surface and contributed to ongoing low-level discrimination, became publicly exposed in the commentary and actions during the election. Social media, press

commentary and posters reflected that this intolerance is inbuilt with many, but in fairness, not all citizens of the Irish Republic. The Orange Institution has raised the issue of discrimination with the Irish Government before, and has questioned the clear disparity in their treatment of some minority groups, compared to that afforded to Irish citizens who are culturally British. Disappointingly, there was little by way of robust response from the main parties against the sectarianism on display during the election campaign. The Orange Institution will now request a further meeting with the Taoiseach to ascertain how his Government intends to robustly address the clear bias which exists against Protestants in general, and Orange members in particular.



Posters erected in opposition to Heather Humphries.



# Historical bias against Southern Protestants

The recent election campaign in the Irish Republic for a new President, revealed sinister and disappointingly dark echoes of previous experiences for the Protestant community there. The way in which some newspapers, and social media users, ‘went after’ candidate Heather Humphreys because her husband had been a member of the Orange Institution was remarkable. To compound matters further, it was revealed that this Protestant had even attended some Loyal Order events. A revelation that no doubt shocked the modern World!

Some may dismiss these antics as part and parcel of political jousting, but it does draw us to the fundamental question of how the Protestant minority, especially the Orange family, our viewed in the Irish Republic. Does it confirm, yet again, that are forefathers were right in signing the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant? In this article we look back at some of the issues raised in the recent Resolute People Exhibition, which told the story of Southern Protestants after Partition.

Partition was viewed as a betrayal by many Unionists and Protestants, who found themselves left out of the United Kingdom. “I wouldn’t spit on Edward Carson if he passed the end of my lane.” Uttered by the patriarch of a Cavan Orange Family, this graphically summed up the initial attitude of many in the border Counties, who felt abandoned and betrayed after Partition. Nevertheless, they made determined efforts to be good citizens. In 1926 Micheal E Knight, County Grand Master of Monaghan, used his speech at the Twelfth celebrations, near Ballybay, to publicly state that Protestants, if treated equally, would be good citizens. “He strongly appreciated the increasingly friendliness and courtesy shown them by those who differed from them in religion. Nothing would be left undone by the Orangemen to cement that good feeling. They were passing through trying times in this country. Agriculture, the chief industry, was suffering from serious depression, taxation was a grievous burden, farmers were hard hit, and if they were to emerge from the shadows into the sunshine one of the first conditions was that men should live together in peace and harmony and in obedience to those who were placed in authority.” His comments reflected the pragmatism of many Orangemen. If there was equity, equality, and liberty of conscience, they would

give their allegiance to the administration in Dublin. This hope quickly evaporated, especially as successive Fianna Fail Governments eroded the Treaty settlement and elevated the influence of the Roman Catholic Church. Their power would be such that they indirectly dictated the social and moral content of the 1937 Constitution. By the 1930s, although tensions between the two communities remained, and was particularly evidenced by Nationalist opposition to public celebrations on the Twelfth of July, Orange leaders continually encouraged their followers to look for better days ahead. At the opening of the new Orange Hall in Cloverhill, County Cavan, in May 1935, JJ Cole, Acting County Grand Master, reassured those assembled that the organisation was still healthy; “(He)...congratulated them on the possession of such a magnificent building. He then went on to review the position of Protestants in the Free State, and advised those present to be courageous and united, and to ‘sit tight’, as he believed there was a great future for Protestantism in Southern Ireland.

## Mayo Librarian Case

In 1930, Mayo County Council’s Library Board refused to confirm the appointment of a Protestant Librarian. The view was that a Protestant could not possibly understand the views of the majority of the population. This was reinforced by the 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 that the Protestant staff member had control over. She was subsequently moved to a different post. When coming to power in 1932, Fianna Fail sided with the Council.

## The Struggle for Identity

On 3 December 1990, Mary Robinson became Irish President. At her inauguration she stated that “Symbols are what unite and divide people. Symbols give us our identity, our self-image, our way of explaining ourselves to others. Symbols in turn determine the kind of history we make and remake.” Seventy years before this speech was given, it was clear that public symbols of British Identity, in Ireland, were not welcome. Not only were they not welcome, they became victims of the mob. It was yet another way in which the new

‘Irish’ identity was transformed into something that was largely nationalist and Roman Catholic. This image of nationhood found prominence at home and abroad. It was the type of narrative that would shape generations to come and result, however tongue in cheek, in statements like “Anyone wearing Orange, is not welcome in..”

## The War on History

The war on history started even before De Valera came to power. It was characterised by an irrational and over emotional response to the ending of the Union between Great Britain and Ireland. An overzealous desire to make a clear break from the previous constitutional position resulted in an assault on those public symbols that did not fit the new accepted version of Irishness. This did not confine itself to merely changing street and road names but to the wanton destruction of history. To use a quote, often attributed to George Orwell; “The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of history.” For those interviewed for the Liberty exhibition, it was the approach to Education, especially the teaching of history, that reinforced the view that Protestants and Unionists in the Republic were a ‘breed apart’ and not full members of the nation. Perception or not, this certainly had an impact on community relations. The statues and monuments erected from the Eighteenth Century, were not simply symbols of a ‘colonial’ past. Irishmen of all shades and all backgrounds had served with, fought for, and delivered a ‘British’ history that was directly relevant to the public narrative and discourse represented by the monuments themselves. In this drive to be ‘different’ successive administrations lost sight of the fact that Irishness had been a contributory part of British Identity, not a competitor. Irishness had a place in Britishness, but it was clear there was little or no place for Britishness within the new Irish Identity. Nationalists argued that many of the monuments were not inclusive or reflective of aspects of Irishness but rather a reflection of British Imperialism. Yet, even nationalist publications, in trying to outline such an argument, undermined this very claim. The Nation pointed out that “We now have statues to William the Dutchman, to the four Georges – all either German by birth or German by feeling – to Nelson, a great admiral but an

Englishman...” If successive monarchs were European, then why were they targeted as symbols of Britishness?

Logical argument and debate can be obscured by the emotion of the mob. Overtime Britishness had absorbed, and indeed been shaped by, outside influences, but the new definition of Irishness was much more exclusive and risked becoming inward looking. In the years following Partition, symbols associated with Britishness were attacked, removed, or destroyed. In the early hours on 23 May 1923, explosives were strapped to the base of the Obelisk monument, that had stood on the Battle of the Boyne site since 1736. The Obelisk was destroyed by a blast that echoed in the surrounding countryside and rippled onto the pages of history. Shortly after this event The Irish Times deplored the wanton destruction of history that was taking place in the new Irish Free State. “Is history to be for Irishmen nothing save perpetual irritant? Can it not teach them something of the process by which they have become what they are now, of the quarrels they have survived, of the slow blendings and absorptions that have united Celt and Norman, Ironside and hessian, of times transformations and severances. All these things have been written in many books, but they are written most vividly on the monuments of our land, and those monuments, whether the things that they recall are gracious or painful, ought to be held amongst our most cherished possessions. That is the civilised practice of other lands...” It was the first major casualty, but not the last. The Statue of King William III, erected in 1701, and for so many years the focus of celebration for Protestant Dublin, was destroyed by a bomb on Armistice Day 1928. On the same day, a bomb damaged, but did not destroy, the Statue of King George II on St Stephen’s Green. In 1928 the Statue of King George I, that had originally stood on Essex bridge, was sold by the Irish Government to the Barber Institute of Fine Art, at Birmingham University. In 1937 the Statue of King George II, that had been attacked in 1928, was destroyed by a bomb, the day after the Coronation of King George VI in London. In 1983 a Statue of Queen Victoria in Dublin was sold to Australia and found itself placed outside the Queen Victoria Building in Sydney. Initially, there had been some opposition to selling off the statue. An Irish Government

memo said “It may be fashionable at present times to regard late nineteenth and early twentieth century Anglo-Irish artefacts as skeletons in the National Cupboard. My suggestion would be to leave the cupboard closed rather than toss the contents out to anyone who happens to ask for them.” But sold it was. The systematic removal and destruction of ‘British’ symbols was viewed by the Protestant community as an attack on them and their heritage. Even those Protestants who did engage with the new State, such as WB Yeats in the Irish Senate, warned that aggressive moves to exclude aspects of Protestant heritage and influence, would have a lasting and negative legacy for relations in Ireland; “If you show that this country...is going to be governed by Roman Catholic ideas and by catholic ideas alone, you will never get the North...You will put a wedge in the midst of this nation.” Such appeals appeared to fall on deaf ears, and it took almost 70 years before the sacred cow of Gaelic, Nationalist and Roman Catholic ‘Irishness’ was challenged in any meaningful way. Moves to create a new sanitised history and cultural outlook, were not confined to changes in the physical fabric of identity. The introduction of Irish language as a mandatory requirement for public sector employment created another perception within the Orange and Protestant community that the Establishment did not regard them as equal. This appeared to be nation building as opposed to society building.

This is not a comprehensive list of actions or attitudes to the Protestant and unionist community in the Irish Republic. This article does not chart the influence which the Roman Catholic Church had on the development of the State or the fact that Loyal Order processions and celebrations were forced from the public eye. It does, however, demonstrate a deep seated attitude of opposition to anything that does not fit the late Nineteenth Century construct of what being Irish is all about – Nationalist, Catholic and Gaelic. One could be forgiven for thinking that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Coupled with the attacks on Heather Humphreys during the recent election campaign it should cause many in this Country to sit back and think – what do some people mean by the term “New Ireland”





# Photography competition winners



1st place was this fantastic picture from Stephen Coulter of the recent Juniors trip to the Somme.



2nd place went to Bro. Simon Wiggins for his picture of Loughkillgreen LOL 854 and Loughkillgreen Accordion Band on the Twelfth morning.



3rd place was claimed by Bro. George Moore for this snap from Dan Winters cottage of Bro. Wilnor Allen.

As part of this year's Orange Heritage Week, the Orange Standard hosted a Photography Competition and, after considerable discussions and deliberations by our independent panel of adjudicators, the results are in.

Taking first place, for the second year in a row, was Stephen Coulter, with Simon Wiggins in second and George Moore in third place.

It was anticipated that there would be considerable interest in this competition and we were certainly not let down with dozens of people coming forward to submit their pictures.

The adjudicators reported that they were 'very impressed' by the standard of image submitted and commented

favourably on the broad range of topics covered.

Our lead adjudicator commented: "It was clear that the entrants gave a great deal of thought to their images and that was reflected in the elements covered - we saw everything people would expect to see associated with Orangeism, including parades, history and heritage, the bands and importantly - the Orange Family."

The Orange Standard Committee would like to congratulate the prize winners and offer their sincere thanks to all those who took the time to submit their fantastic photographs for consideration.

The winners will be contacted in due course and presented with their prizes.



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## ORANGE NEWS

# Gala Dinner a success at Limavady

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland hosted the Grand Master's Gala Dinner at the Roe Park Resort, Limavady on Friday, 17th October 2025. More than 300 guests gathered at the County Londonderry venue and enjoyed an evening of fellowship and entertainment. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Bro. Harold Henning. Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Edward Stevenson was led into the room by piper Bro. Scott Burns, before welcoming all present and calling on Wor. Bro. Rev. Mervyn Lindsay, County Grand Chaplain City of Londonderry to say Grace before the meal was served. After dinner, guests were entertained with a selection of tunes by the members of

Dungiven Crown Defenders Flute Band. The evening also provided an opportunity to support Huntington's Disease Association NI. Mr. Richard Hamilton addressed the guests about the work of the charity. As the evening progressed, Rt. Wor. Bro. James Evans, County Grand Master of Londonderry, made a short speech before proposing a Toast to the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. A very successful event concluded with dancing to the Hudson Blue band.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland would thank all those who supported this event and will make a presentation to Huntington's Disease Association NI in the near future.



The 300 strong crowd who attended the Grand Masters Dinner in the Roe Valley Resort, Limavady.



Richard Hamilton of Huntingtons Disease Association NI with the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master.



Junior Grand Master Joseph Magill, Grand Mistress Joan Beggs and Grand Master Edward Stevenson.



The Grand Lodge Officer team.



Piper, Bro. Scott Burns entertained the guests on arrival.



ORANGE NEWS





## ORANGE NEWS

# Ballycastle man convicted over 2023 Twelfth incident

Tadgh Sands (44) from Ballycastle, has been convicted of common assault and hindering a lawful procession following an incident at the Twelfth parade in the town in July 2023.

In footage which circulated widely on social media, a GAA top clad Sands could be seen crossing the procession on two occasions, stepping into the ranks of Silver Plains Flute Band with his dog. In delivering his verdict, District Judge Peter King stated that he was satisfied that the actions of the accused "were designed to hinder the lawful procession."

Owing to the restraint shown by band members the situation was quickly brought under control by Police officers in attendance, and the Judge acknowledged that "this could have descended into a general melee. It could have, but it didn't." Sands was found guilty on both charges and ordered to pay fines totaling £750 with a further order to pay £150 compensation to a band member with whom he had collided.

**Pictured: Tadgh Sands disrupting the Ballycastle parade in 2023**



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**Loyal Orders remember the victims of terrorism**

'Moving Tributes' exhibition opens at Brownlow House

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland

100,000 spectators watch the NI Centennial Parade

Grand Master declares event 'a great success'

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## AROUND THE LODGES

# Annaghmore Purple Star 'go green' with solar panels



The officers of Annaghmore Purple Star LOL 2033.



The new solar panels on Annaghmore Orange Hall. Picture by John Whyte.

Some lodges are never content and are always looking for new challenges. Annaghmore LOL 2033, located in South Londonderry, can certainly be described as forward thinking and have recently secured funding from the National Lottery to install solar panels, battery storage and an Electric Vehicle charge point at their Orange Hall. However, the Lodge have been working for a number of years on a range of projects and have had a great deal of success in securing funding assistance for several initiatives. Annaghmore LOL 2033 is a small rural lodge between Magherafelt and Castledawson with 23 members. A few years ago, the Officers and Brethren of the lodge decided to actively improve the life of both the lodge and local community and began investigating what

funding assistance was available to help address the many issues they had identified facing the local rural community. Their first foray into the world of funding was an application to DAERA rural capital micro grant. They were guided through the process by Darren from Evolve NI in Magherafelt and Marguerite from Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network. This first grant allowed the lodge to purchase new tables and chairs. This success proved to be the catalyst for what ultimately would change Annaghmore LOL 2033 over the next few years, into a vibrant band of Brothers working for the benefit of their local community. Encouraged by their success, other funding allowed the lodge to invest in industrial gazebos, lambeg drums, portable toilets,

security fencing panels, a petrol lawnmower and generators. A further award from the Community Fund was secured to modernise the hall interior. When Covid-19 lock down came into effect, the lodge was able to help those within the community who were at risk and isolated. The Brethren sought to create a space where the lodge and its neighbours could come together and have a sense of pride, friendship and true community, helping each other through the crisis. The Ulster-Scots Agency then supported Annaghmore by funding a shipping container to allow storage and create more space to continue community work when restrictions eased. Throughout Covid, they managed to prove that the Orange Lodge was about more than just

monthly meetings and parading on the 12th of July. The Lodge sourced funding to purchase and distribute food, fuel, information packs, plants and mental health wellbeing projects. With further support from the National Lottery Community Fund and 'Live Here Love Here,' the Lodge created an outdoor space for activities and a pollinating garden. Today they boast 'Blood of the Boyne' apple trees growing beside the hall, which are already producing distinctive, vibrant red apples. Ever aiming to share their facility and efforts with the wider community, Annaghmore brethren, with support from Denise at CWSAN, ran various events such as deep-sea fishing, traditional music classes, map reading and leather making course to help

the lodge and community tackle mental health wellbeing issues. The lodge also organised cookery classes where everything from curry to Hungarian goulash was on offer! The Lodge have also welcomed Ulster-Scots Agency funded cultural evenings and would like to acknowledge the help they received from Deirdre from the Ulster-Scots Community Network in these initiatives. LOL 2033 recently celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2025 by unfurling a new banner which was proudly displayed at a banner parade in Castledawson marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

For the brethren of Annaghmore LOL 2033, the future is very much Orange – and just a little bit green!

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## JUNIOR BOYS

# Bushmills Blues & Royals JLOL 50



Bushmills Blues & Royals JLOL 50 recently held their installation of officers. The WDM, CGM and the Deputy Grand Master of the JGOLI carried out the installation. The members also marked Ulster Day by signing replica copies of the Ulster Covenant.

## Deramore JLOL 45



Deramore JLOL 45 held their Annual Election and Installation of Officers at Ballynafeigh Orange Hall.

## Richhill Tercentenary JLOL 285



Richhill Tercentenary JLOL 285 had a visit to the USC Museum in Loughgall - learning about our history while building friendships.



JUNIOR BOYS

Hope of Ulster JLOL 33

JGOLI Quiz



Officers from Sandy Row and Ballynafeigh Junior District LOL No. 2 attended the monthly meeting of Hope of Ulster Junior LOL 33 Sandy Row. The event included the installation of new officers and the induction of new members.



On 18th October, the JGOLI hosted their annual General Knowledge Quiz in Dromore Orange Hall — a particularly poignant occasion as they remembered Past Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. John McCrea JP, on the day he was laid to rest. It was a wonderful evening of friendship and fellowship, with teams from Counties Down, Armagh, and Tyrone all well represented. Congratulations to the winning team, Edenderry JLOL 51 and to the joint runners-up Annahoe District JLOL 286 and Sir Henry Wilson Memorial JLOL 272 (Loughbrickland). Well done to everyone who took part — the winning team is pictured receiving their prize from the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Joe Magill who said: “I’d like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all who travelled to join us and make the evening such a success.

Star of Lurgan JLOL 149



Star of Lurgan JLOL 149 enjoyed a night of games, food and learned about the plans for the year ahead at their monthly meeting! They also enjoyed a birthday celebration.





## JUNIOR BOYS

# Blue Banner JLLOL 781, Donaghadee

A great turn out at the recent meeting of Blue Banner JLLOL 781. Monthly meetings are very important and are often followed by a few games of darts and football.



## Ballycastle District JLLOL 8



Ballycastle District Junior LOL 8 had a great night with their Past Worthy Master receiving his Past Master's jewel and certificate from the current WM. They also welcomed another new member, bringing their total to 24.



JUNIOR BOYS



Mourne  
JLOL 54  
now over  
100 strong

At a well-attended meeting for Mourne JLOL 54 the lodge initiated new members and held the installation of officers. The lodge wished to extend their thanks to the outgoing Officers and to the District Officers for attending. The lodge now has 102 boys in the ranks.



Aughintober JLOL 235



Aughintober JLOL 235 enjoying something to eat after their monthly meeting.



## JUNIOR BOYS

# Dr Henry Memorial JLLOL 139



Dr Henry Memorial JLLOL 139 held their installation meeting at Schomberg House. The installation was followed by a tour of the museum conducted by Dr. Jonathan Mattison.

# Newtownards District JLLOL 131



Another great lodge meeting for Newtownards District JLLOL 131 with a visit from the local fire service. The boys got to try on some of the protective gear, have a look at the fire engine and even got to try the fire hose.



JUNIOR BOYS

# Derrygonnelly JLOL 209



Derrygonnelly JLOL 209 at their election and installation of officers and below, enjoying a game of unihoc.



# Moyrourkan JLOL 144 parade and installation



Moyrourkan JLOL 144 taking part in the annual Ulster Day parade in Tandragee.



The lodge held their October meeting at Dan Winters cottage with 28 members present and welcomed 3 new recruits.



## JUNIOR GIRLS

# JOWAI Officers Continue Visits

The Officers of the Junior Orange Women's Association of Ireland (JOWAI) have continued their programme of visits to junior girls' lodges across the province to conduct annual installation of officers meetings.

Sister Norma Gillespie (Worthy President), Sister Dawn Todd (Worthy Chaplain), Sister Paula Taylor (Worthy Secretary), and Sister Kelly Wylie (Worthy Treasurer) have enjoyed meeting with members and leaders, offering encouragement and support to the next generation within the

Junior Orange family. In the last month, the JOWAI Officers have visited:

- Victoria Junior Girls, Londonderry JWLOL 3
- Loyal Daughters of Ulster, North Belfast JWLOL 13
- Daughters of Ann Sinton Memorial, Markethill JWLOL 24
- South Fermanagh Girls, Maguiresbridge JWLOL 33
- Daughters of Teemore JWLOL 49
- Daughters of Killylea JWLOL 50

These visits provide an

excellent opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our junior members, strengthen bonds of friendship and encourage continued involvement in the Order's activities and values.

A reminder that membership is open to girls aged 6-17, offering opportunities for friendship, learning and service within the Junior Orange family.

For more information on your local junior girls' lodge, please contact:

[Juniororangewomen@outlook.com](mailto:Juniororangewomen@outlook.com)



## Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland and Junior Orange Women's Association of Ireland

### Be Part of Something Special!

The Orange Institution is dedicated to Christian, community, and family values.

It has Junior Women's Lodges for girls aged 6-17 years and Women's Lodges for those 17 years and older.



#### Membership Benefits Include:

- Christian Ethos
- Cultural Enrichment
- Social Inclusion
- Charity Fundraising



#### Focus Areas:

- Empowerment: Instilling citizenship and personal development.
- Enriching Experiences: Promoting learning and camaraderie.
- Building the Future: Nurture young women to become valued societal contributors.

**Join us in celebrating community, culture, and personal growth!**

#### For More Information:

Contact Julie Dodd

Email: [aloi.sec@hotmail.com](mailto:aloi.sec@hotmail.com) Mobile: 07476 983 542



Lodge of Limited Purpose  
Boyne  
WLOL 1690

Lodge of Limited Purpose  
Queen Elizabeth II Memorial  
WLOL 1882

Interested in Joining?

Application forms for membership are available from your private Lodge Secretary.



JUNIOR GIRLS

# Daughters of Laura JWLOL 42

The Daughters of Laura JWLOL 42 were pleased to attend the Portadown District LOL No. 1 Annual Reformation Parade and Service on Sunday, 26th October, held in Armagh Road Presbyterian Church.

The service was led by Reverend Nigel McCullough, who delivered an inspiring message reflecting on faith, unity and the enduring significance of the Reformation.

Following the service, members took part in the parade, which was led by the Edgarstown Accordion Band. The procession was conducted with great pride and dignity, marking an important occasion in the District's annual calendar.

The Junior Officers from JWLOL 42 have demonstrated wonderful dedication and community spirit in their support of this year's Portadown Poppy Appeal.

Over the past year, the girls have been diligently collecting their loose change in specially designed poppy money boxes – and their efforts have truly made a difference. At the recent Portadown Poppy Appeal Launch, held at the Royal British Legion, the Junior Officers were delighted to present a cheque for £220 to support the Legion's vital work in helping veterans and their families.

The lodge have also added a creative touch to the Centenary of Remembrance exhibition to be held in Thomas Street Methodist church in November, with a collection of hand-painted memorial pebbles.

Following a recent meeting, members took time to design and paint each pebble as a personal tribute to those who served and sacrificed, reflecting the exhibition's theme – "Every Stitch Has a Story." Their artwork will be featured in the exhibition commemorating 100 years of the Portadown War Memorial, held at Thomas Street Methodist Church from 3rd–7th November 2025.

Organised by the Royal British Legion, Portadown Branch, Portadown Heritage Tours and Thomas Street Methodist Church, the event will showcase local crafts, stories and acts of remembrance that connect the past with the present.

Visitors are warmly invited to attend and to support the Portadown Poppy Appeal.





JUNIOR GIRLS

Sister Heather Hamill Memorial

In preparation for Remembrance Day, the members of Sister Heather Hamill Memorial JWLOL 12, Sandy Row, came together to create beautiful felt poppies. This thoughtful activity provided an opportunity for the girls to reflect on the significance of Remembrance while expressing their creativity.

It was especially heartwarming to see the older girls supporting and encouraging our younger members throughout the session. The collaboration between age groups truly demonstrated the spirit of unity and mentorship within our lodge.

We look forward to seeing all the girls proudly wearing their handmade poppies during the Remembrance period as a symbol of respect and gratitude for those who have served.



Daughters of Teemore JWLOL 49 take part in Ulster Day parade



On Saturday, 27th September 2025, members of JWLOL 49, Daughters of Teemore, proudly participated in the Ulster Day Parade in Tandragee. The event was hosted by Moyrourkan True Blues LOL 305 and brought together Lodges from across the district to commemorate this important date in our shared history.

Ferniskey JWLOL 55 get active



Following their regular monthly lodge meeting, the Daughters of Ferniskey JWLOL 55 enjoyed an evening with a difference — a

lively club exercise class! The event encouraged teamwork, fun and fitness, as the girls swapped their usual meeting

routine for music and glowing exercise sticks that lit up the hall. The session was filled with energy

and laughter, showing how the lodge continues to foster not only friendship and faith but also wellbeing and active living.

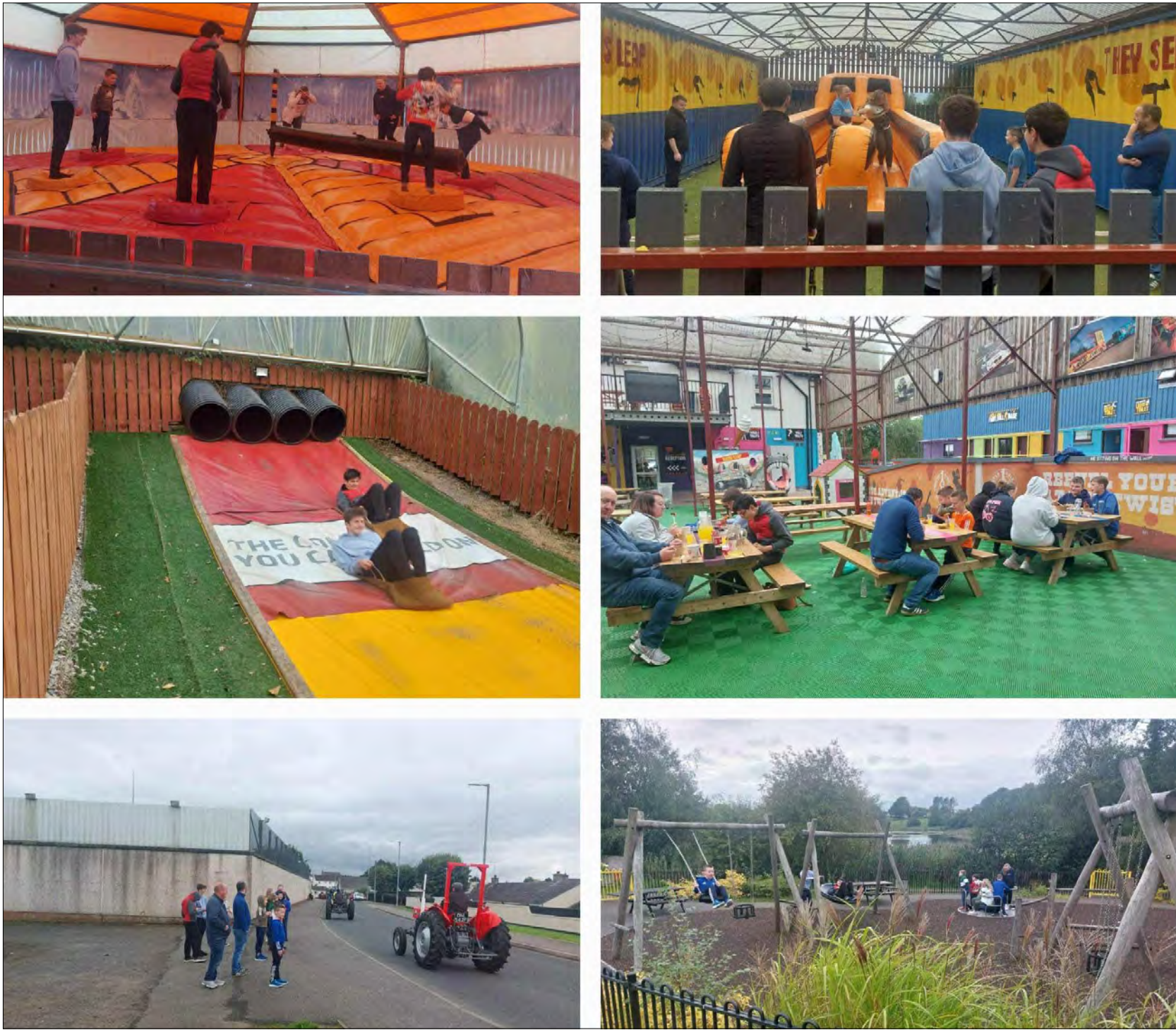
Members commented on how enjoyable it was to spend time together in a relaxed and energetic setting.



JUNIOR GIRLS

# South Fermanagh girls and boys enjoy fun-filled trip

JWLOL 33 South Fermanagh Girls, Maguiresbridge, recently joined the South Fermanagh Junior Boys for their annual trip to Todd's Leap, Ballygawley. The event proved to be a fantastic day of adventure, fun, and friendship for everyone involved. Throughout the day, the young members enjoyed a wide range of activities – from slides and obstacle courses to games and team challenges. The laughter and excitement were clear to see as the group explored all that Todd's Leap has to offer. A well-deserved lunch and some relaxed social time rounded off the visit perfectly. Adding a unique twist to the return journey, the group was delighted to come across a tractor run in Fivemiletown, which provided an unexpected highlight to an already memorable day.



# Daughters of Anne Sinton JWLOL 24



JOWAI would like to extend warm congratulations to JWLOL 24 Daughters of Anne Sinton on the great success of their recent Fun Day, held on Saturday, 27th September at Markethill Orange Hall.





## JUNIOR GIRLS

# Daughters of William JWLOL 53



Members of Daughters of William JWLOL 53, Lisbellaw, recently enjoyed an educational and enjoyable day trip to Londonderry, where they visited the Siege Museum.



## Killylea JWLOL 50

The Daughters of Killylea JWLOL 50 were honoured to attend the 230th Anniversary celebrations of Tannaghhill LOL 6.

The celebrations began with a special thanksgiving service held in Killylea Parish Church, where members and guests gathered to give thanks for over two centuries of loyal service and Christian witness. The service was led by Rev. Bill Akins and Wor. Bro. Rev. Timothy Eldon, Deputy County Grand Chaplain, who shared inspiring reflections on the enduring values that have guided the lodge throughout its long history.

Following the service, the parade made its way through the village, led by the Pride of the Birches Accordion Band.





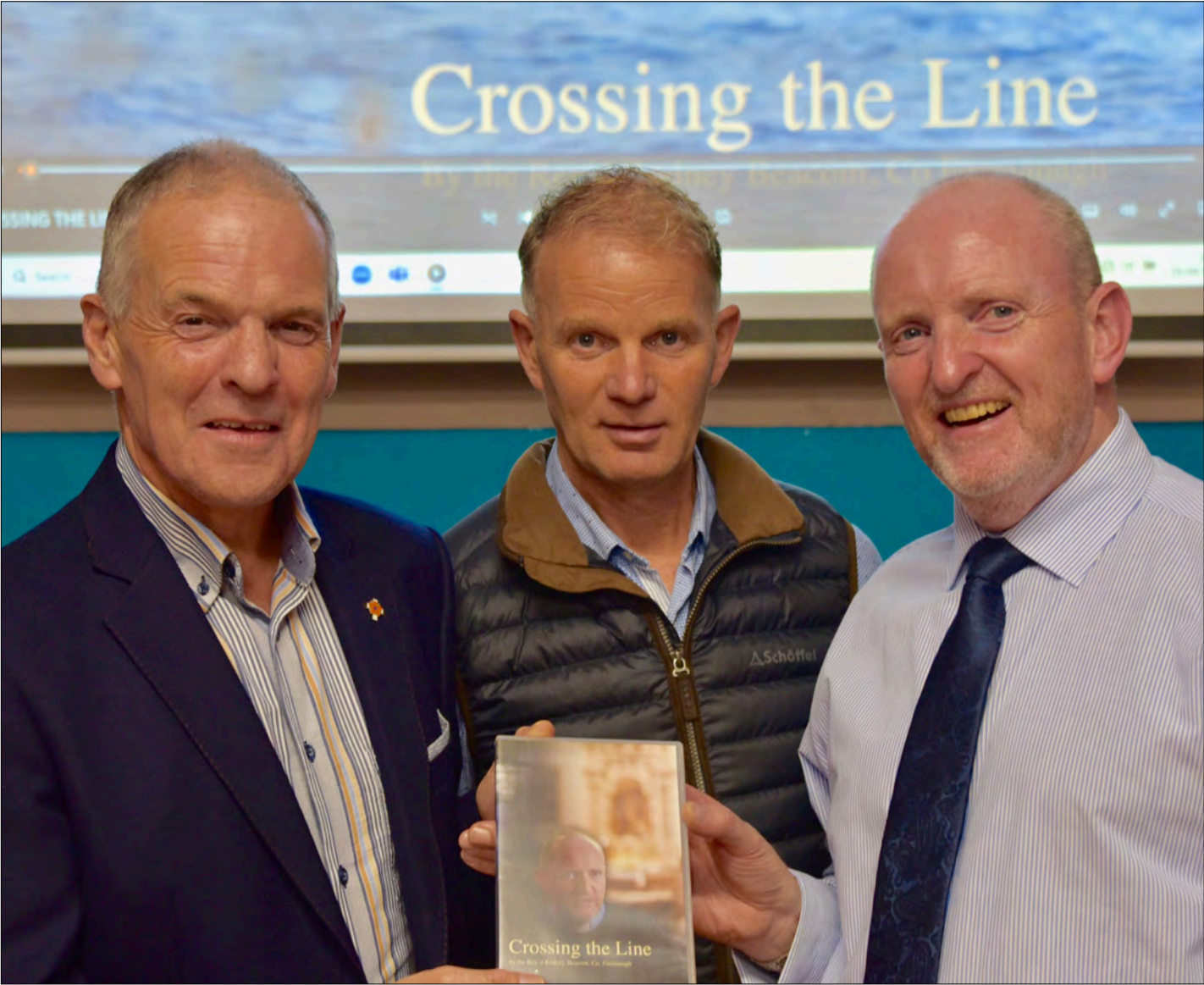
AROUND THE LODGES

# Ahoghill District LOL No. 12

At a recent meeting held in the Ahoghill District Orange Hall, Wor. Bro. Rev. Rodney Beacom along with a former County Grand Master of Fermanagh, Rt. Wor. Bro. Stuart Brooker gave an insight as to what life was like living near the border during the sectarian onslaught and murder campaign perpetrated by the provisional IRA for over 30 years.

Rev. Beacom, who is a Deputy Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, a County Grand Chaplain of County Fermanagh Grand lodge and a member of Lisbellaw LOL 315, narrowly escaped death, along with his colleagues in the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve, during a terrorist ambush. This, the Rev. Beacom described as his personal “fork in the road” which led him to a life affirming relationship with God, completing his path in becoming a Presbyterian Minister. During his talk, Bro. Beacom played small parts of his DVD entitled “ Crossing the Line” giving a particularly detailed account of the night when noone should have survived the terrorist machine gun attack on his police car.

Wor. Bro. Ian Small, District Master, thanked the two Brethren for travelling all the way from Fermanagh, and recognised that many Brethren from parts of County Antrim have had little experience of the brutal campaign of genocide that was inflicted on their fellow Brethren along the border with the Irish Republic. With a large number of DVD’s and memory sticks purchased together with a retiring offering taken at the door, the two charities, the Christian Institute and the Lord Enniskillen will benefit greatly from the dedication of Bro. Beacom and Bro. Brooker and the generosity of those who supported the night called “Crossing the Line”.



W.D.M. Bro. Ian Small along with Rt. Wor. Bro. Stuart Brooker and Wor. Bro. Rev. Rodney Beacom.





## AROUND THE LODGES

# New bannerette for Dublin & Wicklow LOL 1313

Dublin & Wicklow LOL 1313 recently revealed a new bannerette and flags while hosting a tour group of brethren from The East Belfast Great War Society. The blue and navy are the Royal Charter Colours granted to the City of Dublin by Elizabeth I. The portrait is of General Cutts, who served William of Orange from the very beginning of his campaign, and landed with him at Torbay. He was buried in the graveyard of All Saints' Church, in an area once known as "Hell" beside Christ Church

Cathedral. The church was demolished in the 1880s to make way for Lord Edward Street, so his remains now lie beneath the street or one of the nearby buildings. The salamander in the design is a reference to Cutts, nicknamed "the Salamander" because he was always in the thick of battle—just as the creature itself was said to withstand fire. The lilies and other flora represent our shared Kingdoms, but they are also found in Dublin's coat of arms. Likewise, the three burning castles symbolize the

passion Dubliners hold for their city and the saltire of the Cross of St Patrick. The Crown signifies Dublin Brethrens loyalty to our Sovereign King Charles III. The French Huguenot bleeding heart, set within a white rose, recalls the heritage of many brethren in Dublin and Wicklow whose family names trace back to the Huguenot refugees of the 17th century who settled in the "Tenters" area of the city. The Union Flag and St. Patrick's flag stand side by side in a proclamation of freedom, decency and truth.



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AROUND THE LODGES

# 90th Anniversaries marked with battlefield tour

St. Martin's Church Defenders LOL 1980 and Ballymacarrett Defenders Flute Band jointly celebrated their 90th anniversaries with a battlefield tour of the Somme and Flanders between 25th - 29th September 2025.

Without doubt, the highlight of the trip was Ballymacarrett Defenders Flute Band performing at the Menin Gate remembrance ceremony on Thursday, 25th September 2025. The Band and lodge paraded

ed from the Cloth Hall to the Menin Gate at which point the band took position while the various delegations laying wreaths. Ballymacarrett Defenders gave an exceptional performance which was well received by the assembled crowd while senior members of LOL 1980 laid the final wreaths in the remembrance ceremony. The Drum Major for Ballymacarrett Defenders also laid a wreath. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the band and lodge

paraded back to the Cloth Hall with both the outward and return parades being warmly greeted by those along the route.

The next day saw both band and lodge parade to the Thiepval Memorial and the Ulster Tower including the memorial to members of the Orange Institution with acts of remembrance conducted at these sites.

Various other sites were visited during the trip including Vimy Ridge on Sunday, 28th. This was

an excellent way to mark Ulster Day given the vast Orange contribution to Canadian ranks. Canada is thought to have provided more Orangemen to the British Forces than any other Orange jurisdiction, with an estimated eighty thousand Canadian Brethren thought to have served in the Great War.

Some of the group also had the privilege of watching County Donegal Grand Orange Lodge lay a wreath at the Menin Gate ceremony on Saturday 27th Sep-

tember. The trip was a fantastic experience for all involved and a great way to mark Ulster Day, Orange Heritage Week, the 90th anniversaries of LOL 1980 and Ballymacarrett Defenders Flute Band.

Thanks to all those within both the lodge and band for organising this including Worshipful Master Bro. Norman Crothers and especially tour guide Nicky Gilmour and Wor. Bro. Jim Sargent.





## AROUND THE LODGES

# Ballymacarrett Defenders Flute Band and St. Martin's Church Defenders LOL 1980



Ballymacarrett Defenders Flute Band and St Martin's Church Defenders LOL 1980 continued their 90th anniversary celebrations with an anniversary black tie dinner in Belmont Bowling Club on Saturday, 11th October 2025. The night began with a brief introduction by Worshipful Master Wor. Bro. Norman Crothers.

An excellent 3 course dinner was enjoyed by all with background music, videos and photographs of the lodge and band's recent trip to the Great War battlefields.

Following the meal, Band Secretary Wor. Bro. Jim Sargent delivered an extremely well researched presentation on the history of the band beginning

with their original name in 1934 of Councillor Cole Flute Band, later becoming Ballymacarrett Defenders in 1935. He included various highlights including an appearance on the Kelly Show following the band securing the 1995 International Marching Band World Championship and the recent highlight of playing at the Menin Gate ceremony.

A presentation was also made to long standing band member Robert McWilliams with a memento of their Somme trip. A moments silence was also observed to absent friends. Lodge Treasurer Wor. Bro. Trevor Osborne then gave a brief history of LOL 1980, at which point District Lecturer Wor. Bro. Ryan McDowell was invited to present

two 50 year medals on behalf of the lodge. The First was to the daughter of the late Wor. Bro. Fred Nixon who sadly passed away a few months. The second was to Wor. Bro. Trevor Osborne, with his responsibilities as lodge Treasurer being emphasised. The evening then concluded with some music and singing.

## Clounagh LOL 9 hold election at 'Birthplace of Orangeism'



Clounagh LOL 9, Portadown District, at Dan Winters Cottage on the 3rd October 2025. The Lodge held their Election of Officers on this occasion. Back Row l to r: Kyle Tedford, Derek Cloughley Foreman of Committee, Dennis Hayes, David Forde, Cecil McCann, Jamie Reid, Roger Conn and Mark Bunting DM. Front Row l to r: Paul Bonis Chaplain, Adrian Branyan District Lecturer, Richard Finlay WM, Chris Dawson Secretary and Trevor Bonis Treasurer.



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MUSEUM NEWS

# Sloan's welcomes international visitors

This has been a tremendous year for overseas visitors to the "Museum of Orange Heritage" at Sloan's House, Loughgall. Pictured are just a few who have paid a visit in recent weeks. Other visitors in the past year have been from Canada, Australia, Germany and Holland.

In addition, the museum has been very busy in recent months with Lodge and group visits. Some Saturdays, there have been two or three groups and all are provided with a

conducted tour of the iconic birthplace of the Orange Institution by the volunteers.

The museum has now reverted to the Winter opening hours, Monday to Thursday, 10.00am to 1.00pm, and Friday & Saturday, 10.00am to 3.30pm. Group visits outside of those hours can be facilitated by booking via reception on 028 3889 2048. There is no charge for a visit to the museum, but donations are welcome.



Emepvele Thouveial from Rome.



Dave Mooney Franklin from Massachusetts.



Roy Hepibe from Norway (with friends)



Kahu Te Keni from New Zealand.

MEMORABILIA DONATIONS

## Send us your lodge memorabilia

Museum of Orange Heritage Curator Dr. Jonathan Mattison is reminding all County, District and Private Lodges to continue to send in their new pieces of memorabilia and collectables, including programmes of events, to the museum. This will allow staff to continue to build a sense of the range of activities and events carried out by the Orange family. If your lodge or district has produced any items to mark milestone events please get in touch. You can contact the museum staff via email [info@goli.org.uk](mailto:info@goli.org.uk) marking 'Museum Memorabilia' in the subject line. Alternatively, you can telephone the Museum of Orange Heritage at Schomberg House on 028 9070 1122.

## Museums group training



Recently members of the Orange Museums Group and museum staff received Digital Photography training at the Museum of Orange Heritage, Belfast. Photography and Digitisation are important ways in which museums and heritage sites can both preserve and platform their collections for a wider audience.



# Wreath of Remembrance honoured those who did not come home



The old newspaper photo showing the four boys who laid the wreath at Ballymena War Memorial.

In November 1924 four Ballymena boys were photographed at the unveiling of the war memorial in the County Antrim town. Their names were Samuel Beattie, Fred Colgan, Alec Colgan and James Nicholl.

The boys had all lost their fathers in the Great War and they wore the medals of their deceased fathers and laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal British Legion at the historic occasion when the war memorial was unveiled by Major General Sir Olive Nugent.

In paying tribute to the war dead of the town, Nugent said he had known some of them personally. A contemporary newspaper report quoted the Major General as saying "he thought that occasions such as these were for more than commemoration of the names of brave men.

"He thought they were also for the dedication of the spirit which animated them - to be for us and for those who came after us a standard of life to aspire to and to follow. It was in that way he thought they should honour the men whose names were on that memorial, because they were teachers of the highest and noblest duties of citizenship, and it was from their example that those who follow them and the generations yet to come may learn how in the time of need their forefathers interpreted their duty. Very few of these men were professional soldiers.

"The great majority of them were just plain, simple men, living quiet and peaceful lives in their own homes..."

It was those ordinary lives that inspired me to write "Wreath of Remembrance", a story in words and music performed to high acclaim in Ballymena to mark the centenary of the war memorial.

As I delved into the story, there was assistance from the local newspaper, the Ballymena Guardian, which carried an appeal for information on the descendants

of the four boys.

That appeal resulted in several getting in touch, representing the three families concerned. They included descendants in Toronto and Vancouver as well as around County Antrim.

The story of the four boys and their lives after the loss of the Great War was poignant but also highlighted the lives that had taken shape despite the missing chair at each table.

As Nugent had said, these stories were of ordinary men, although Lance Corporal Samuel Beattie, 18860, 12 R. Irish Rifles, had previously served in the Royal Artillery. He was from Harryville in Ballymena and was married to Maria Sutters. He was 27 and she was 22 when they were married in Ballymena Methodist Church in 1909. They would have two sons, Samuel and Charles.

Samuel Beattie was working as a van man for Messrs. Gordon and Esler of Broughshane Street in Ballymena when the war broke

out. Samuel had been a staunch member of the Harryville company of the Ulster Volunteers and he enlisted in the 12th Royal Irish Rifles.

In the 1924 photo his son Samuel stands on the left-hand side of the photo, wearing his father's medals, and is the tallest of the group.

At home, he and his brother Charles each had a postcard from France sent "With love from Father".

Samuel and Maria had two sons, Samuel and Charles.

Samuel and his wife Irene had no



Samuel and Charles Beattie, whose father was killed in France

children. The couple moved from Ballymena to Belfast; throughout his working life he was a cook in the army.

Charles and his wife May had four children: Marie, Carol, Samuel and Frances.

Lance Corporal Samuel Beattie never returned from France, being shot by a sniper on March 7, 1916. But he has five great grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren, some of whom still live in his native town.

Robert Colgan was not featured in the photograph but in later years he dictated a wonderful memoir of his youth in Ballymena.

He recalled that his father had worked in the mill, starting at six in the morning and working until six at night, earning about 22 shillings a week for 60 hours work.

Robert remembered there had been a recruiting drive in the town for volunteers for the Great War, which was going for almost two years then.

"It was pay night but my dad didn't come home at 6pm with his pay for mum. He came back three hours later, drunk, and told mum that he had done a terrible thing - he had joined up with the army. But, he told her, she and the children would be well paid and looked after while he was at the war.

"Well, she cried and cried, but he could do nothing about it as he had 'taken the King's shilling'. But then, to make matters worse... Later that night my eldest brother came stumbling in the door drunk and my mother got into a terrible state when he told her that he had given a wrong age to the recruiting soldiers and signed up for the war. He was only 16.

"My brother was very sick that night and mum had a bad time with him. But she thought that he wouldn't have to go when she went round the next morning to tell the army his right age and Tommy (my brother) was glad to hear this, as he regretted what he had done.

"When morning came, she took him round to the office, but it was shut. It was only two days later when the call up papers arrived," Robert detailed in the memoir.

He also recalled the horror of 'dead letters' arriving in the town - the official notifications that a loved one had been killed in the War.

One morning the postman called at their house, followed by a trail of inquisitive children, with a 'dead' letter. His mother, Catherine, would not open the letter and he had to open it for her. The letter informed that her husband Thomas had died at the Somme.

Catherine Colgan went to bed, she was so upset, and the house was filled with neighbours sympathizing with her over the next days.

But the sorrow was not over.

There would be a second 'dead letter' to the Colgan home in Galgorm Street. Her son Tommy would not be returning home either.

After the war, when the Ulster Tower was being dedicated at the

Somme in November 1921, the Ballymena War Pensions Committee funded Mrs. Colgan to go to France for the occasion.

It must have been a sad and bittersweet experience for the County Antrim woman who had lost her husband and her son.

James Nicholl was the fourth boy in the 1924 photo. His father Rifleman Hugh Nicholl had been in the Hussars prior to the war and was an accomplished horseman. He served in the Royal Irish Rifles, where his role was also working with the horses, packing them with supplies and taking them up to the front. On one occasion, as with Samuel Beattie, a sniper struck, shooting him dead.

Mrs. Nicholl went out to the countryside to live while her husband was at war and there is a family memory that a James watched in the yard as a man called and spoke to his mother, making her cry. The young boy struck out at the man, not understanding the situation. The news was being conveyed that Hugh Nicholl would not be coming home again.

Amid the sad stories of loss and sorrow in the Colgan, Nicholl and Semple families, there was a strong sense of how each family had retained memories of those they had lost over a century ago. And also a strong sense of pride.

At Remembrance Sunday in Ballymena, Lance Corporal Samuel Beattie's service medals are proudly worn to the war memorial each year by his grandson Samuel.

Generations on from those dark times on the front lines, families at home still remember.



Lance Corporal Samuel Beattie.



Ballymena War Memorial.



## AROUND THE LODGES

# Clifton Street Arch Committee support Sandy Row Brethren

Clifton Street Arch Committee met up with their Brethren from Sandy Row Arch Committee and were pleased to hand over a donation of £1000 towards the cost of making their new Arch, which we hope to see going up for the 12th July next year.

The Clifton Street Committee would like to congratulate the Sandy Row Committee for all their hard work and determination to see this project completed.

If anyone would like to make a donation to Sandy Row Arch they can do so by making a payment using the account details below:

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## Charitable outreach from Lower Iveagh



Continuing with their charitable ethos of supporting good causes affecting local people, the members of White Hill LOL 258 held their annual Tractor Run & BBQ, resulted in the donation of £1,000 to the local branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. The Northern Ireland

branch utilise funds to provide support to local people with MND, their families and carers, organise support meetings, and provide specialist equipment and grants. Pictured: Bro. Richard Woods (DM), Marie Holmes (MND Co-Ordinator) and Bro. Bobbie Ingram (Chaplain)



AROUND THE LODGES

# Lindsayville LOL 216 election



Congratulations to Bros. Paul Bruce and Edward Brisbane on receiving their 60-year certificates – a remarkable milestone of dedication and service.



Bro. Lee Brisbane, one of the lodges newest members, was elected as Lay Chaplain not even a week after his initiation on Thursday, 25th September at Ochill Hall.

# Terryhoogan Bible and Crown Defenders LOL 116



Terryhoogan Bible and Crown Defenders LOL 116 presenting a cheque of £1000 to Autism NI after some recent fundraising/collections.



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## MORE THAN THE TWELFTH

# £8,400 secured for Myroe Orange Hall



DUP MLA Alan Robinson has offered his congratulations to Myroe True Blues LOL 259 who were successful in securing an Awards for All grant for £8,400 for Orange Hall improvements.

This funding will make a difference in enhancing the facility in this rural part of East Londonderry.

Alan Robinson MLA commented:  
“It was a pleasure to personally support the Lodge and it is fantastic that they have received grant funding for the first time and it was a joy to work alongside the Worshipful Master, Bro. Ivan Neely and Bro. Keith Buchanan MLA.

As a DUP team we are proud to support local lodges and bands.”

# Funding success for Ballyneal

Congratulations to Ballyneal Orange Hall, Ballyronan District, on receiving £20,000 from Awards for All for hall improvements! This funding will make a real difference in enhancing a space that's at the heart of their community. Keith Buchanan MLA commented: “It is great that another community facility has received support from the National Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland. We are keen to help Halls across NI through our teams to support community Infrastructure and development.



Pictured from left to right are: Bro. Edmond Davis, Ballyneal, Cllr Bro. Wesley Brown, Cllr Anne Forde, Bro. Alastair Brown, Ballyneal, and Bro. Keith Buchanan MLA.



AROUND THE LODGES

# Finnard Eglinton



Bro. Bruce Hamilton, of Finnard Eglinton LOL 234, presented a new bible to LOL 234 on the evening of Monday 13th October 2025 at Finnard Orange Hall.

# George celebrates Centenary



Co Armagh Grand Orange Lodge Officers and Armagh District Officers were honoured to be invited to the 100th birthday celebration for Wor. Bro. George Lutton recently in the Armagh Old Boys Band Hall. George is a truly remarkable centenarian being a member of the Institution for over 84 years, firstly as a member of Armagh True Blues LOL 109, and after it went dormant, transferring to Royal Standard LOL 347. He is pictured with his Lodge Officers (Bro. Raymond Clarke and Bro. David McCartney), Armagh District Officers (Wor. Bro. John Atkinson

WDM and Wor. Bro. Alistair Menary Dist Sec), County Officers (Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson CGM and Wor. Bro. Roger Gardiner CGS) and Rt. Wor. Bro. Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master. The Deputy Grand Master and the County Grand Master both presented George with specially commissioned certificates to mark the momentous occasion; the former also presented him with a 80 year service jewel. Congratulations to Bro. George on this tremendous milestone - a life time of dedicated service to Orangeism.



# Largy Sons of William LOL 988 cheque presentation

Largy Sons of William LOL 988 who presented a donation to Carrick Parish Church, Limavady towards the building of their new church hall. The money was raised from a tractor run organised by the lodge earlier this year. Pictured are Bro. Marshall Hay (Carrick Church), George Stewart (Carrick Church), Bro. James McClelland (WM LOL 988), William Moore (Carrick Church), Bro. John McClelland (DM LOL 988) and Bro. Alistair Kerrigan (Sec LOL 988).



## LADIES LODGE NEWS

# Ferniskey WLOL 74 - 55th anniversary

The Sisters of Ferniskey WLOL 74, recently marked the 55th anniversary of the lodge with a dinner at the Ross Park Hotel. A beautiful 3 course meal was followed by the cutting of a cake to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

Wor. Sisters Mona Thompson, Mary McDonald and Elsie Fleck were presented with cut glass crystal vases for their dedicated service to the lodge since it was formed in October 1970, with each of them having held the office of Worshipful Mistress. The formalities finished with a night of music and dancing with Entertainment from Auld Toon Ulster Scots Music and DJ Davy McCollough.

The lodge were also delighted to be joined by their Junior lodge, Daughters of Ferniskey JWLOL 55, showing that the lodge is continuing to grow and strengthen their bonds with the

local community, and the next generation of Orange Women.

Worshipful Mistress, Wor. Sis. Joanne Johnston commented: "It has been a great privilege to celebrate such a significant milestone in WLOL 74's history while also looking ahead to the future.

"The dedication of our senior Sisters over the last 55 years has ensured the lodge continues to grow from strength to strength and this is highlighted in the continued growth of the lodge and in our Junior lodge, JWLOL 55.

"I would like to place on record my thanks, and that of the lodge, to everyone who made the event such a success. Including Irons Bakery, the managers and staff of the Ross Park Hotel, Diane Saulters, Matthew Warwick, Davy McCullough and all the local businesses who continue to support us."





LADIES LODGE NEWS

# Newtownhamilton WLOL 98

Pictured recently at a meeting of the above lodge is the most recently installed member Miss Ella Irvine alongside one of the longest serving members Mrs Valerie Watt. The photo displays the strength of the women's lodge over the years with Mrs Watt being a member of the association for over 60 years both in the Newry's First WLOL 34 and after her marriage to the Late Brother Leonard Watt she transferred to the Newtownhamilton WLOL 98. The Watt family is a highly respected family in both the Newtownhamilton area and in the wider Orange family. Mrs Watt has many close connections to many lodges and she is very proud of her orange heritage and loves to see the younger generation being represented. Ella who hails from outside Markethill also comes from a family with strong orange roots. Her father is a member of Magherally LOL 58 outside Banbridge and she has younger sisters in Daughters of Anne Sinton JL0L 24 in Markethill. We put several questions to Ella and her answers show a depth of love for our institution and are inspirational for other young girls in our protestant community.

1. Why did you want to join the

orange institution?

I wanted to be a member because it reflects the values, traditions and heritage that are deeply important to me. The culture which the Orange Order endeavours to preserve is one of pride and tradition. It offers a sense of belonging to something larger than myself. The strong bonds of sisterhood within the institution create a supportive network where members uplift and encourage one another. Its foundation in the Christian faith was a key reason I chose to join as it reflects my personal faith.

2. What are you most looking forward to as an Orangewoman?

I am most looking forward to celebrating with like-minded people who share the same values, traditions and sense of community. I am also eager to enjoy our free and religious liberties, freedoms that we can enjoy today because of the courage and sacrifices made by those who came before us.

3. Would you encourage other young girls to join?

Yes, I would encourage other young girls to join. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and connect with people who share

the same biblical and cultural convictions, creating lasting friendships and a strong sense of community.

4. How do you view the older ladies of our association especially Sister Watt?

Valerie is brilliant. She has a wealth of knowledge and information on things both past and present, offering valuable insight and perspective. She is clearly invested in the lodge, its members and in seeing it prosper. She serves as a great encouragement and someone to strive to emulate through her dedication and example.

We trust that both Sister Watt and Sister Irvine have many more happy years in the organisation and we trust they will know the Lord's richest blessing on their lives.

We thank God for the many young women in the Newtownhamilton lodge which has approximately forty members, many of whom are under thirty. Ladies' Orangeism is alive and flourishing in the South Armagh town but we would encourage other young ladies with a Christian faith and a pride in their Protestant heritage to come and join us.



## County Fermanagh ALOI cheque presentation to Lisbellaw World Wars Society

Doreen Mullan and Diane Woods from Lisbellaw South Fermanagh World Wars Society receiving a cheque for £600 proceeds from a sponsored walk in June from County Fermanagh ALOI County Grand Mistress Sister Anna Moffitt, County Grand Treasurer Sister Hannah McKeown and District Tyler Sister Mandy Ellis.



AROUND THE LODGES

# Ferguson Patent Centenary marked at Kirlish



Bro. Stevan Patterson (WM, Kirlish Chosen Few LOL 380) has ensured that the centenary of Harry Ferguson’s revolutionary ‘Ferguson Master Patent’ has been suitably marked with the

installation of a memorial plaque at Kirlish Orange Hall near Drumquin. Filed in 1925, Ferguson’s patented innovations would go on to revolutionise modern agricultural



production and many of his ideas were tested on land owned by his business partner Thomas MacGregor Greer at Tullylagan outside Cookstown. Greer made a significant financial investment

in Ferguson’s development of what would become the universally acclaimed three point converging hydraulic linkage system. Bro. Patterson said “Northern

Ireland can rightly and proudly celebrate our claim to be the county that gifted the modern tractor to the world. A technology designed in Northern Ireland which still helps feed the world.”



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OPINION

# Just a Word... Commemoration

It is almost certain that everyone of us has been touched by the remembrance of the untimely death of someone we knew at the hand of evil men and women. For many it will be the pain of the murder of a close loved one who was serving their Sovereign and Country or who were victim of an indiscriminate terrorist atrocity. For others they will have sat in the same classroom, worked the same fields, protected the same streets, worked in the same office or factory or sat in the same Lodge Room. The pain of loss will be felt keenly. The actions of evil men and women in wilful murder, indiscriminate attacks and blind hatred robbed relatives and friends of those whom they loved dearly. Stolen is the companionship, friendship, achievements, support, help in times of trouble and a natural family life which survivors had a right to anticipate. Beyond those who paid the supreme sacrifice are thousands who lived and live with life-shattering ailments or disabilities whether physical or mental. Their close

relatives bear a caring burden inflicted upon them by the consequences of evil perpetrated by a far-away foe, or even by a neighbour of different allegiance. Our individual remembrance of the fallen or injured is felt most keenly at anniversaries. Date of their birthday, date of marriage, Christmas and date of memory-etched events which they celebrated and enjoyed with us remain with us year by year. Most poignant is the date of the incident that took them from us or changed their and our lives experiences of each other. We may remember the day and the hour, where we were when informed of the terrible news, what we were doing and what we did next. These deeply held markers help us to remember and to cherish, as long as our memory permits, the loved one who was taken or injured so brutally. While we mourn, remember and commemorate we are not without hope; our faith takes us forward a day at a time to look upwards. Whether we have been touched deeply or not at all by the murder or injury

of those who served or were victim of evil we have in November opportunities for collective remembrance and commemoration through Festivals of Remembrance, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. It is our privilege and duty to honour those who paid the ultimate price by standing in harm's way to secure our freedom. While we cannot undo events gone by, we may influence the future, especially for veterans of all services and their families. Fortunately, much support to veterans in need is provided by the Royal British Legion, Help for Heros, service benevolent funds (examples, The Army Benevolent Fund, <https://armybenevolentfund.org/> and The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund, <https://www.udrbenevolentfund.com/>), specialised service charities (example, Blesma, The Limbless Veterans, <https://www.blesma.org/>), Regimental Associations and the Loyal Orders. We have always the opportunity at any time to give money to any of these charities which depend on voluntary donations, and in

November through the Poppy Appeal, to the Royal British Legion. Given the reduction in the use of cash and, therefore, less cash in our pockets our charities which have used street collections face a considerable challenge to generate really needed funds to support our veterans. There is another approach: our influence on those who have chosen a career in politics. We look to our leaders in this sphere to influence for good our governments, local authorities and public providers of essential services to do justly by our veterans. Especially, we commend the work of the Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioner as he keeps the focus on the needs of our veterans. Perhaps we should recall, remember or re-connect with the words of the poem 'Recessional' by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936). Written in 1897, four of the five verses have the ending which prompts us to commemorate, 'Lest we forget – lest we forget!'

RJL



The Cross of Sacrifice (designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield in 1917) stands in a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in a foreign field. Picture by RJL

## Invitation

If you believe that you can add a useful comment or additional statement to this short article on **COMMEMORATION** you are invited to write to the Editor of the Orange Standard. Your comment or article may be short – less than approximately 200 words. Please send by Friday, 21st November 2025 to [orangestandard@goli.org.uk](mailto:orangestandard@goli.org.uk).



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PULPIT



by Rev. Ian McClean  
GOLI Grand Chaplain



# A Miracle (and wee Albert's uncle Bob)



There are many definitions of the word MIRACLE. Dictionaries and encyclopaediae differ as to the exact meaning. Some mention divine intervention whereas others do not. Most refer to 'the usual laws of nature' but others avoid this phrase. A professor of philosophy in his lectures thought it best to describe the phenomenon by giving two examples. A child is playing on the railway lines as a train comes hurtling towards him. The engine driver collapses and releases the 'dead man's handle' causing the brakes to engage and the train stops inches from the child. That, we are told, is not a miracle. The circumstances can be explained. But in the other example, as the train comes hurtling towards the child, it suddenly leaves the tracks, flies through the air and thus avoids hitting the child. That, he tells us is a miracle. He then leaves it

up to his students to work out a definition. On the other hand, a professor of systematic theology points out that scripture does not sharply distinguish between God's constant sovereign providence and his particular acts. The whole of creation, he reminds us, is constantly dependent on the sustaining activity of God. Viewed from this point of view, everything that happens is a miracle. However, God's 'surprises' or 'mighty acts' or 'wonders' are given to us as 'signs.' Dictionaries and encyclopaediae and philosophers and theologians are all very interesting, but let's leave them for a moment. The first Sabbath School class I taught was composed of 4 and 5 year olds. I had just simply and painstakingly told them one of those beautiful miracles that Jesus performed. Then I said, "That was a miracle." Wee Albert

looked at me with big, wide eyes and said "My uncle Bob was in a miracle!" Now I knew wee Albert's uncle Bob, and I knew that he that he had just returned from visiting his sister in America. That was many years ago, and since then I have earnestly continued to explain God's Word to very many people. Sometimes as I stand in the pulpit I wonder just what are they taking in? I have to remind myself that even my best efforts are dependent on the Holy Spirit to explain and apply. But maybe Bob's young nephew hadn't been completely mixed up. Maybe this wee boy had got it just right! For I knew his uncle Bob well enough to know that he really had been, as Albert put it, 'in a miracle.' John W Peterson wrote a song, based on his own testimony. The chorus goes: It took a miracle to put the stars in place,

It took a miracle to hang the world in space;  
But when He saved my soul,  
Cleansed and made me whole,  
It took a miracle of love and grace.

He was writing about the greatest miracle of all. Think about it! That Almighty God became man – for us! That here on earth He lived a perfect life – for us! That on the cross on Calvary He died, bearing the punishment due to us for our sins! That He rose from the grave, the guarantee, the proof, that all who truly repent of sin and trust in the Saviour will one day rise from the grave and go to be with Him for all eternity. Just think about it! The miracle of the Red Sea and the river Jordan, the collapse of Jericho's walls, the routing of the Midianites by Gideon's three hundred, the feeding the five thousand, the

raising of Lazarus and all those other miracles have very little impact on us today. As signs they testify to the mighty power of God, but they all happened to other people and none of those people are around today. But here is a miracle that is offered to us all, and its effects will last for all eternity! Now you have heard the Gospel explained many times, possibly by the very best and most eloquent of preachers. But just for a moment consider what the Lord has told us "out of the mouths of babes and infants" (Psalm 8:2) and "a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6) and take heed to the lesson taught by wee Albert that day many years ago in Galgorm Sabbath School. Not only uncle Bob, but you too can be 'in a miracle,' the greatest miracle of all.





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## AROUND THE LODGES

# Dunloy Accordion Band

## 70 years strong and still marching on



The members of Dunloy Union Defenders LOL 496 recently had the pleasure of attending the launch of Dunloy Accordion Band's 70th Anniversary celebrations in The Great Hall, Parliament Buildings. It was a night that honoured not just music, but memory and a tribute to seven decades of dedication, discipline, and service. On 8 October 1956, members of the former Dunloy Flute Band and the Lodge came together with a vision to form an accordion band (given the popularity and versatility of accordion music at the time). And so, on that autumn evening in October, Dunloy Accordion Band was born.

Lodge records (which survived the arson attack on Dunloy Orange Hall in the early 1980s), state that the Lodge purchased 12 accordions to equip this exciting enterprise and offered Dunloy Orange Hall as a venue for practice (where the Band continues to use to this day). It comes as no surprise that the Lodge and the Band have faced many a challenge together in Dunloy Village - from the decades of the Troubles to the present day.

However, even in the harshest conditions, growth finds a way - because true strength is not born in comfort but in adversity. And so, nearly seven decades later, that initial investment, efforts of those founders and dedicated individuals and resilient spirit has culminated into one of the best marching bands in Northern Ireland.

Our Orange Institution has a natural synergy with marching bands and whilst most Lodges provide a venue or initial investment for a band; the bonds between our Lodge and the Band have been forged in the flames of adversity.

The Lodge is immensely proud of the Band and their accomplishments, with them always carrying the Dunloy name with pride and dignity. The Brethren of LOL 496 convey their best wishes to the Band for their 70th anniversary year and convey their gratitude for the Band's years of service. The Lodge looks forward to moving forward with the Band, from strength to strength.





AROUND THE LODGES

# New Fermanagh heritage tour tells the Orange story

My name is Simon Wiggins, a Brother in Newtownbutler District LOL No. 1, County Fermanagh. I am an avid historian of events relating to the Williamite-Jacobite wars in Fermanagh. I have recently launched a new heritage tour for groups visiting Crom Estate, near Newtownbutler. The tour focuses on the early Ulster-Scots plantation of Crom, and on the Williamite-Jacobite wars in Fermanagh. Over recent months I've worked with Orange districts, private lodges, marching bands and community groups to organise tailor made visits to Crom. One recent example in October 2025 was Magheragall District No.9 from Lisburn who visited Crom Castle, situated on the tranquil shores of Upper Lough Erne. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by Lord and Lady Erne, who led us on a guided tour of their magnificent family home. Throughout the visit, Lord & Lady Erne shared fascinating stories about the castle's history and the long heritage of the Erne family,



whose Ulster-Scots roots trace back to Crichton Castle near Edinburgh. Each room revealed a new chapter in the family's story, with portraits, heirlooms, and architectural details illustrating centuries of local and national history. Following the tour, the group

were treated to a delightful afternoon tea in the castle's conservatory, where they enjoyed homemade scones, sandwiches, and tea overlooking the scenic estate gardens and castle's private tennis court. The hospitality of Lord and Lady Erne made the experience both personal and

unforgettable with most visiting the Castle for the first time. In the afternoon, the group embarked on a Williamite walking tour of the estate, exploring the Old Castle ruins, dating back to 1611. I recounted how the strategic stronghold played a significant role during the Williamite-

Jacobite war in Fermanagh, notably surviving two Jacobite sieges in 1689. The defenders of Crom, loyal to William of Orange, successfully resisted attacks from the Jacobite forces of James II, who were defeated by an Enniskillen Williamite army at the Battle of Newtownbutler 1689, marking an important moment in local and Ulster history. The day concluded with a leisurely stroll through the surrounding parklands, where the blend of natural beauty and historical significance left a lasting impression on all in attendance. Overall, the visit to Crom provided the group with a rich insight into Ulster's heritage, blending noble history, architectural grandeur, and warm hospitality in one of Fermanagh's most captivating settings.

If your group would like to undertake a similar tour or to discuss tailored options you can contact me, Simon Wiggins at E: [sjwiggins90@gmail.com](mailto:sjwiggins90@gmail.com) / M: 07706835648





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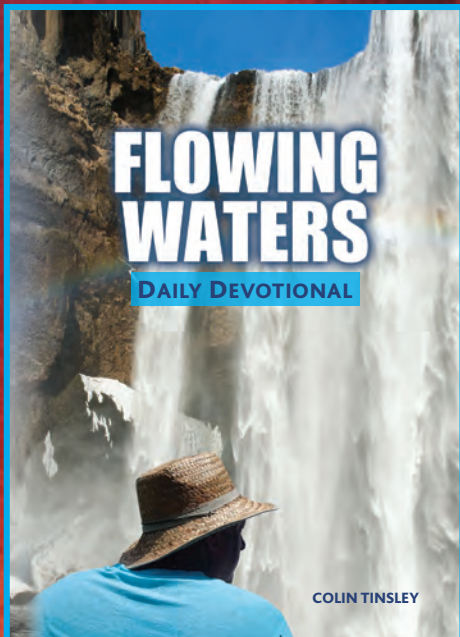
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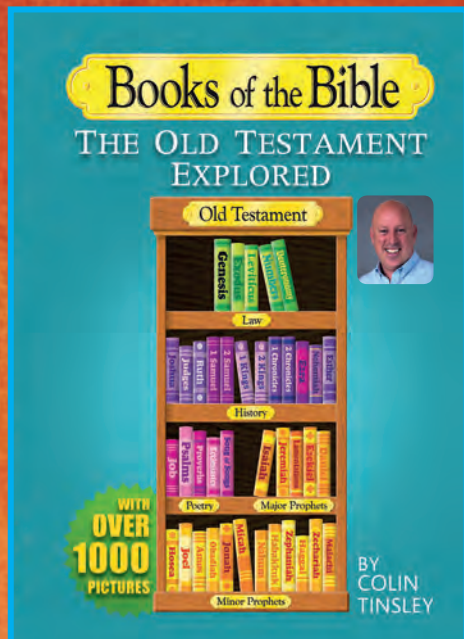
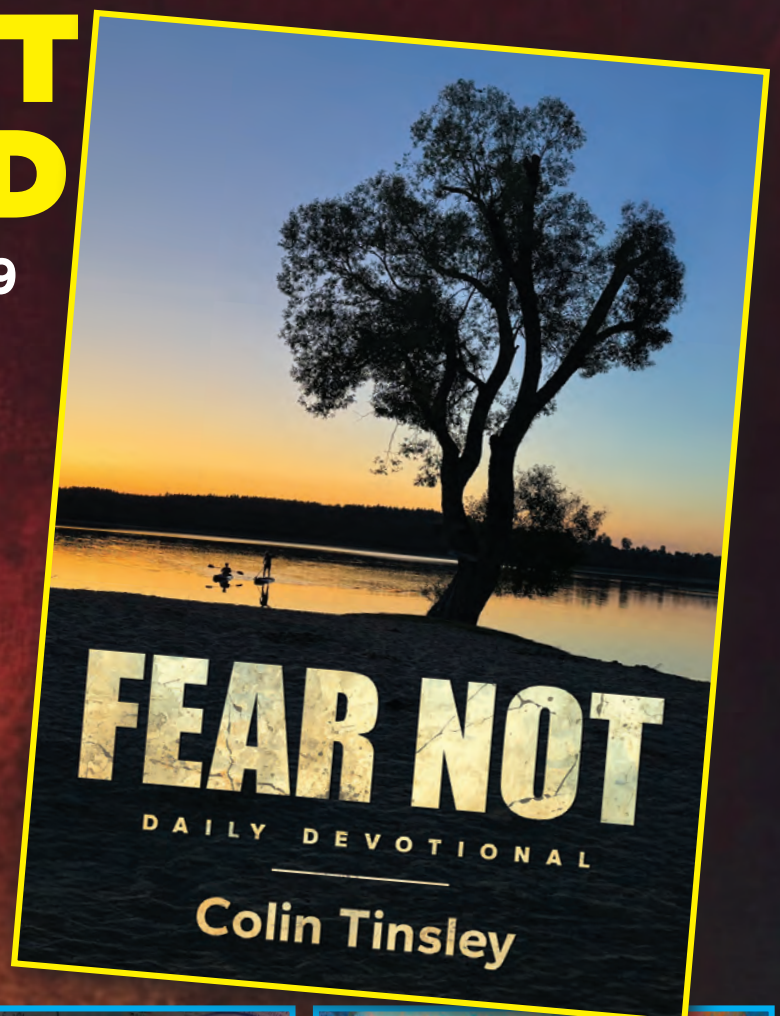
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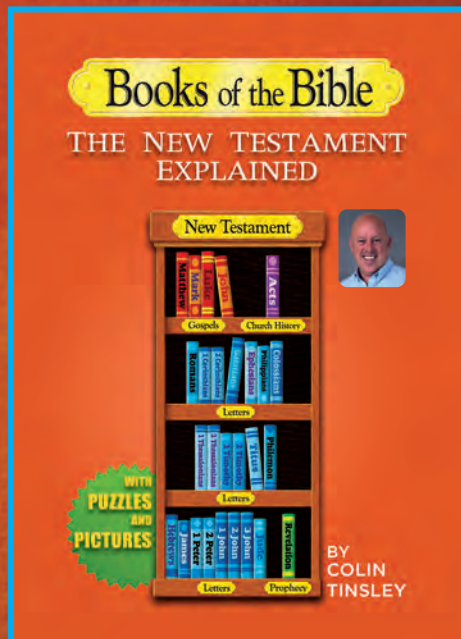
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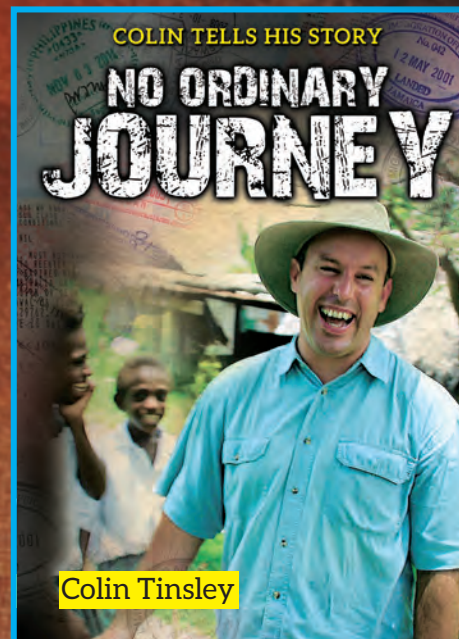
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How Christmas Brings the Calm We Crave

Sam Chan

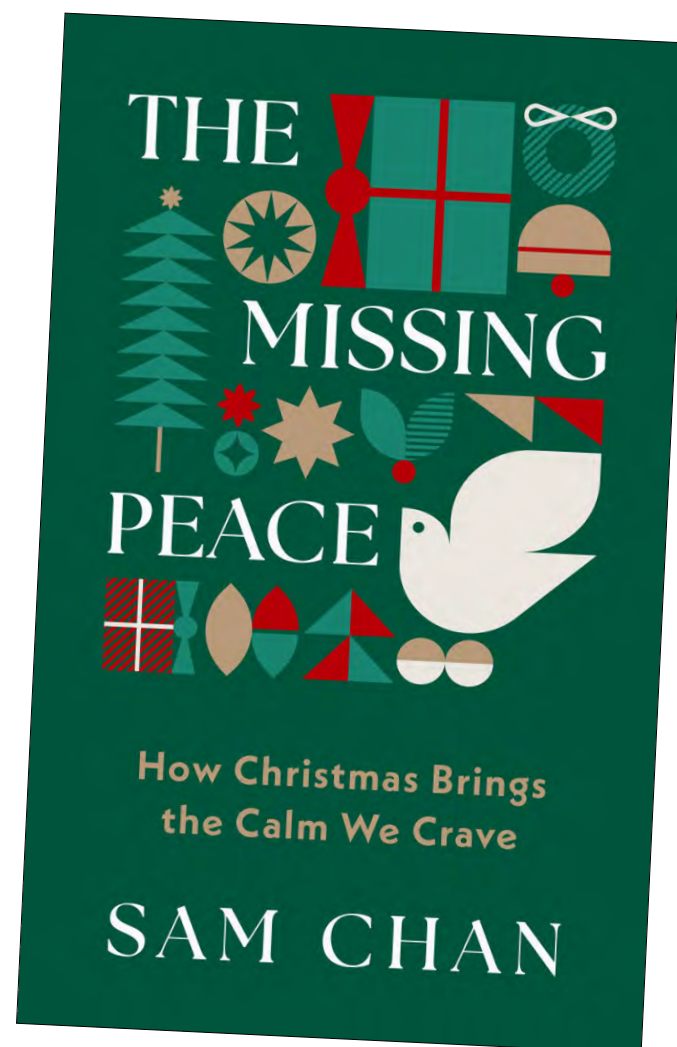
Peace on earth" is a crucial part of the Christmas message and a reality we'd all love to experience. But when we look around or listen to the news, it seems like an empty promise. Our world is not at peace, and often our lives and relationships are not peaceful either.

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story, Chan shows us how peace is possible despite the harsh realities of life in this world.

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COMPANY



Arlene's Recipes by Arlene Thompson

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Sticky toffee pudding is the ultimate British comfort dessert! Featuring a moist, rich date sponge cake generously drenched in a mandatory luscious homemade toffee sauce, this beloved dessert is pure indulgence. (Coffee essence is my secret ingredient!) Served warm with vanilla ice cream, it's the perfect ending to any meal—especially on chilly evenings when you're craving something cozy and sweet.

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce

Serves: 8

- 75g unsalted butter
- 150g caster sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 100ml milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1 tablespoon coffee essence
- 200g fresh dates, stoned, finely chopped

- 175ml boiling water
- 175g self raising flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- For the butterscotch sauce:
- 75g unsalted butter
- 175g light golden brown sugar
- 200ml whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon vanilla essence

1. Preheat the oven to 180C (170C for a fan oven)
2. Pour the boiling water over the chopped dates, set aside to soak and cool. Sift the flour and the baking soda together.
3. Add the vanilla and coffee essences to the milk.
4. Cream the butter and sugar together in a mixer until light and fluffy. Add the eggs slowly, waiting until it has been incorporated each time, before adding more.
5. Take the bowl off the machine, fold in the flour and the milk alternately

by hand. Lastly, mix in the date mixture. The mix will be rather light and runnier than a cake batter.

6. Ladle into greased individual moulds, and place on a baking sheet in the centre of a moderate oven. Bake for 30 minutes approx., until they are firm, and starting to pull away from the sides of the moulds.
7. Remove from oven, turn out on to a wire rack to cool.
8. To make the sauce, put the butter in a medium sized saucepan, over medium high heat. When the butter is bubbling, add the brown sugar. Stir together for about 3 minutes, until the sugar has dissolved and the whole mass is foaming and bubbling.
9. Carefully, pour in the cream and turn down the heat.



Let it all come together, and boil for about another minute or two, and remove from heat. Add the vanilla essence. Allow to cool slightly.

10. To serve, place the puddings onto warmed plates, and ladle a generous spoonful of the sauce over the top. If wrapped in cling film, these puddings keep well for a

couple of days, and they can be reheated in the microwave in just a minute or two.

Cooks Tip: For an extra special twist try adding 100ml Bushmills whiskey to the sauce, simmer for 1 minute and allow to cool slightly before serving. This recipe freezes well and can also be baked in a lined 8 inch square cake tin.



Gardener's Corner

by Beth Lunney

Things just keep moving along on the Nursery Centre. We are into a great time now for planting – because it is sure to rain you don't have the worry of things that have just been planted drying out. This means that at this time of year many hedges are planted. We have evergreen hedging plants in, things like Cherry Laurel, Griselinia, and Portuguese Laurel and in many sizes. Our stems of bareroot hedging will be with us around the end of November as these can't be dug up out of the fields until they are dormant. We will have hedging plants such as Whitethorn, Privet, Hornbeam, Beech and many more. The autumn colours and the berries which have appeared on many plants are just stunning especially when the sunlight hits them – they sparkle.

There are some shrubs which



flower at this time of year like Camellia sasanqua which is an autumn flowering Camellia and a evergreen shrub or small tree and native to southern Japan. We have two varieties at the moment, 'Narcissiflora' which is white and 'Cleopatra' which is pink. The sasanqua Camellias can be long lived if grown in the right conditions usually between 50 and 100 years and have been grown in the UK since the 19th Century. These two varieties have single flowers with large clumps of

golden-yellow stamens in the centre. The buds start to open in late September and flower on until early December and sometimes there can even be flowers at Christmas with an added bonus of a slight but sweet fragrance. Grow in an acid to neutral moist but well-drained soil and with a little shelter from the worst of the winter weather.

We have a lovely batch of 'Winter Cherry' on the Nursery centre and these are great for adding to winter window boxes or planters at this time of year. The Latin name for these plants is Solanum pseudocapsicum and they are related to tomatoes and potatoes. These plants can also be known as 'Jerusalem Cherry' or 'Madeira Winter Cherry'. They have bushy, evergreen foliage and grow to around 1ft and are a useful winter bedding plant. White, star-shaped flowers appear

in summer which turn into orange, long lasting berries. Although these plants are not completely hardy, they make a great show if planted in window boxes or containers that are kept close to the house and can last all winter. The berries are poisonous so best to keep away from children.

We have some Toad Lilys at the moment which is a not so nice name for something that looks quite exotic. This is a herbaceous perennial plant which means it will die down during the winter months and come back the following year. The variety of Toad Lily we have is Tricyrtis formosana 'Pink Freckles' and it is flowering at the moment. Tricyrtis are generally autumn flowering plants but 'Pink Freckles' will flower from late summer. They have upright and arching stems but 'Pink Freckles' has a good compact habit. Despite having the name of Toad Lily, the flowers are very beautiful and look like small lilies which are coloured pale pinky-lavender with purple spotting. Perfect for a shady part of the garden in rich and fertile soil.





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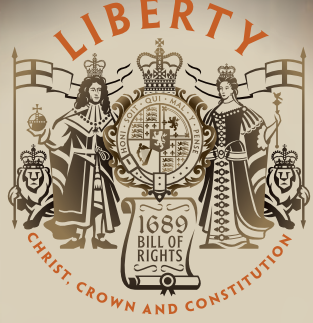
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- ♦ **Annual Grant** : quarterly grants (subject to means test) to support those who are permanently incapacitated from work with dependents under the age of 18; support for widow(er) with dependents under the age of 18.
- ♦ **Bursary Grant** : a means tested grant to a young person between the age of 18 –24 in further education, for a minimum of 10 hours per week, who was a dependent of an incapacitated or deceased member.
- ♦ **Members Grant** : a means tested grant to a member of the Loyal Orange Institution of Ireland or the Association of Loyal Orangewomen in Ireland in further education for a minimum of 10 hours per week.

***Any member*** can approach the Society, **in strictest confidence**, and if we can help, we will.

For further information contact the Administrator:

Mrs Linda Bishop: Telephone No. 028 9070 1122 (between 9.30 a.m. - & 5 p.m.) OR

Email: [admin@lemons.org.uk](mailto:admin@lemons.org.uk)

**Please ensure that your Lodge members are fully aware  
of the grants available**

Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orange Society, a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Northern Ireland.

Registered office address, 368 Cregagh Road, Belfast BT6 9EY

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