

NEWRY

Upwards of 100 lodges, accompanied by around 80 bands, will take part in the Twelfth celebrations at Newry - watched by thousands of spectators - in what is expected to be the largest Twelfth parade in Co Down.

Orangemen and women of host district, Newry, will be joined by their contemporaries from Banbridge, Bann Valley, Lower Iveagh, Lower Iveagh West, Rathfriland, Loughbrickland, and Gilford.

The parade will assemble at Newry High School and at 11.45am the new South-West Down Area Conference Standard will be dedicated and unfurled. The parade will get underway at 12noon led by the host District and will travel via Ashgrove Road, Downshire Road, Kildare Street, Hill Street, Margaret Street, The Mall, Bank Parade, Sugar Island, Trevor Hill, Downshire Road, Belfast Road, Ardmore/Shandon Park, Cloghanrmer Road, A28 to the demonstration Field.

The platform proceedings in the field will commence at 2.15pm led by Wor. Bro. Gary Ferris. District Chaplain Wor. Bro. Norman Hutton will lead a short religious service.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, the South-West Down Area Conference Standard will be presented to the Standard Bearer of Loughbrickland District LOL No. 10.

There will be prizes presented to the Best turned out combination of Lodge and Band; Lodge and Lambeg Drum; and Junior Lodge.

The return parade will get underway at 4pm.

GREYABBEY

The village of Greyabbey on the shores of Strangford Lough will play host to a Twelfth of July parade for the first time in more than 50 years. The village was due to host the Twelfth in 2020 but due to the Coronavirus Pandemic it has had to wait an extra two years.

More than 40 lodges accompanied by 30 bands, three Ladies Lodges and four junior lodges will be on parade lead by the Brethren of Greyabbey OL 1592 and Greyabbey Flute Band.

As an Orange Lodge, Greyabbey LOL 1592 can trace its history back to the year 1865, when the Worshipful Master was named in the County Down Grand Orange Lodge Report as William Woods. The Lodge sits in Greyabbey Orange Hall which was purchased by the Lodge in 1903 and is used by Greyabbey Flute Band for band practice and by the Abbey Highland Dancers.

The parade will leave the Assembly Field at Spring Road at 12noon and will follow a route along Newtownards Road, Main Street, Church Street through St. Saviour's Church Car Park (beside The Abbey) to the Field in Rosemount Estate behind The Church.

The return parade will begin at 4.30pm.

Having not been able to unfurl their new Bannerette until May this year due to Covid Restrictions, the Junior Brethren of Blue Banner JLOL 781 Donaghadee will finally get to parade with it in this year's demonstration. The bannerette is a fitting tribute to founding member Wor. Bro. Noel Weir who was the driving force behind getting the Junior Lodge formed in 2012. Bro. Noel Weir sadly passed away in late 2020. Also within the Upper Ards District, Carrowdore True Blues LOL 1051 will carry their new banner, depicting William Prince of Orange landing at Torbay in its first Twelfth Demonstration.

To celebrate the occasion the traditional Twelfth parade will be part of a Village Festival in the days beforehand.

BALLYGOWAN

The village of Ballygowan will play host to Twelfth of July celebrations for the first time since 2010.

The Brethren of Saintfield District will be welcoming their peers from Comber, Lecale, Ballynahinch and Castlewellan. In total, 61 lodges from the five participating districts will be on parade accompanied by around 48 bands. Representatives from the Association of Orangewomen of Ireland and the Junior Grand Lodge will also be taking.

Leading the parade, which gets underway at 12noon, will be the Brethren of Barnamaghery LOL No. 11 accompanied by Wellington Memorial Silver Band.

The route will see the parade, which features a fine selection of flute, pipe, accordion, silver and brass bands, leave Ravara Road at 12noon travelling along Saintfield Road, Meadow Way, Oakdale, Prospect Road, Tullygarvan Road, Belfast Road, Saintfield Road and returning to Ravara Road.

Also featuring in the parade will be the North Down Dragoons, comprising cavalry and foot soldiers in military costume of the Williamite Period.

The religious service in the field will be led by Bro. Rev. Andrew Murray, LOL 1366. Guest speaker is Grand Chaplain Rev. Brother Stanley Gamble.

Saintfield District erected a new arch in 2021. The arch has been designed to be erected in both Saintfield and Ballygowan and will be making its first ever appearance in the village this year.

The Brethren of Listooder True Blues LOL 1607 will have a new banner on parade.

A special guest will be Bro. Michael Thomas, P.M. Provincial Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ontario West.

The return parade begins at 4.15pm.

BALLYMARTIN

More than 1,000 Orangemen from Mourne District LOL No. 6 will partake in one of the most scenic Twelfth parades in Northern Ireland.

The magnificent backdrop of the Mourne Mountains and the Irish Sea provide the perfect setting for probably the most scenic processions.

The 15 lodges on parade will be accompanied by their own bands, adding to the special family atmosphere on the day in the Co. Down coastal village of Ballymartin.

The Lodges span the whole of the Mournes from the Silent Valley LOL 263 (at foot of the Mournes) to Cranfield LOL 907 (overlooking the mouth of Carlingford Lough) to Annalong (LOL 342, LOL 1330 and LOL 1702).

Mourne District is the biggest in the Orange Institution with 1,085 members and has the largest Private Lodge, Ballyvea LOL 343a, with 162 members.

This year it is the turn of Ballymageogh LOL 1036 to lead the parade with Ballymageogh Accordion Band.

The Kilkeel Lodges leave Kilkeel Orange Hall at 10:45am to parade the three miles to Ballymartin. There, they join with the remainder of the District and return to the Demonstration field where friends and family will join the brethren.

The Platform Proceedings begin at 2:15pm. The Platform Party will include Mourne District Officers Worshipful District Master Bro. Neil Cousins; Deputy District Master Bro. William Baillie; District Chaplain Bro. Eric Niblock; District Secretary Bro. Stephen Nicholson; District Treasurer Bro. William Burns; and Bro. Gary Bingham.

The District will leave to commence the homeward parade at 4:00pm.

The last time the Twelfth was hosted in Ballymartin was 2015.