

# Orange STANDARD

LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE Isaiah 62:10

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## New man at the helm



**SHANKILL Road man Robert Saulters – Bobby to his private lodge brethren in the Whiterock area – was the unanimous choice the new Grand Master of the Orange Order.**

The 61-year-old secretary/accountant takes over as head of Orangeism in Ireland from Donegall Road man, Wor Bro. the Rev. Martin Smyth MP, who held the position for 24 years.

The Belfast Orangeman follows in the illustrious footsteps of 19 Grand Masters, who date back to Colonel William Blacker from Co. Armagh in 1797.

Bro. Saulters' nomination – the only one on the floor at the half-yearly meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland – was in the name of two rural-based Orange leaders, Londonderry County Grand Master Wor. Bro. Alfred E. Lee and Londonderry chaplain and

the Order's Assistant Grand Master, Bro. the Rev. W. Warren Porter.

The election, conducted by the Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, Wor. Bro. Sir James Molyneaux MP, was warmly applauded by the 200 Orange leaders present in the House of Orange from the various county jurisdictions in Northern Ireland and in Eire.

Earlier, Wor. Bro. the Rev. W. Martin Smyth was given a standing ovation as he handed over the instruments of the office to a smiling, somewhat bemused-looking Bro. Saulters.

The new Grand Master said he was greatly honoured and humbled to be elected to the highest position in Orangeism and, in his leadership, he pledged to do all in his power to portray a positive image of the Institution.

Robert Saulters has been an Orangeman for 34 years, having joined Whiterock Temperance LOL No.947 in November, 1952. He served as the lodge Worshipful Master in 1965-66 and was later District Master of Shankill District LOL No.9 in West Belfast for three years in the mid-1980s.

For the past three years, he has been the County Grand Master of Belfast, following a period of nine years as County Grand Master in the city. He also belongs to RBP No. 1174 in Shankill area.

He is married with two sons and is a member of Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church.

The two outgoing Assistant Grand Masters, Wor Bro. the Rev. Dr. W. Warren Porter and Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson were re-elected at the meeting, as were the Grand

Secretary Bro. John McCrea and the Grand Treasurer Bro. Mervyn Bishop.

East Londonderry Forum representative and Limavady lawyer Bro. David Brewster was elected a Deputy Grand Master of Ireland, while Church of Ireland cleric Bro. the Rev. Gerald Sproule was elected Grand Chaplain to replace the Rev. Dr. Michael Dewar, who died recently.

At the meeting, Orange leaders considered various reports on the parades' issue and the current political situation in Northern Ireland. Reports from the various counties confirmed a significant upsurge in lodge membership, which, Orange leaders claim is attributable to the Institution's firm stand taken on contentious parades.



## Roadblocks ahead in 1997

**NO-ONE can tell what the future holds, but people can make predictions in the light of current happenings, and as far as Northern Ireland is concerned the signs are not promising for 1997.**

The media is already publicising the Drumcree Orange church service six months hence, and television and radio programmes are already warning of what could happen if there is not a resolution of the dispute which caused such turmoil in 1996.

That's true, but it is vital that the media, and everyone else determined to have an input into this important event point the finger firmly in the direction of where the threatened trouble is coming from.

It was not the Portadown Orangemen who sought conflict over their 189-year traditional church parade route, any more than they did in 1986 when similar uproar resulted in the loss of the traditional routes along Obins Street.

Nor was it the Orangemen of Ballynafeigh who sought confrontation on the Lower Ormeau Road along which their lodges had paraded for over a century.

Likewise, it was the unlawful closure of the church parade route at Dunloy which resulted in deplorable scenes in that village and later at Harryville in Ballymena.

The media, as well as the liberal and ecumenical sources who are involved in the Garvaghy Road and Ormeau Road controversies must not make the mistake of equating traditional law-abiding Orange church parades with violent and noisy street demonstrations by republicans opposing these.

There is every reason to believe that the majority of decent Roman Catholics in Portadown, Ormeau Road and all other contentious places are not really that concerned about Orange parades, nor keen to have the Province brought to the brink over opposition to these.

It is Sinn Fein-IRA who have singled out these traditional parades for their campaign of rebellion and anarchy. These organisations have not demonstrated any willingness to end confrontation and to play a positive part in

bringing about a better Northern Ireland in which every law-abiding citizen can feel free to go about their business without the fear of bomb and bullet.

### ISSUE

The real fact is that Sinn Fein-IRA seize on any issue which they believe can be exploited to serve their purpose that that is why Orange, Black and Apprentice Boys parades have been targeted in recent years.

The onus is on the democratic nationalist political organisations like the SDLP to harness the support of decent law-abiding Roman Catholics in all these areas to adopt a realistic attitude to traditional Orange parades.

The Portadown parade would be no more than 10-15 minutes to walk as it always does in a dignified form from the top of Garvaghy Road to the town centre. Is that unreasonable? Does such a peaceful parade without banners and triumphalist music warrant such a huge security presence and the uproar created by republicans, most of them 'travelling supporters' from other areas?

And let no-one be under the illusion that if the Orange were to lose the Garvaghy Road and the Ormeau Road routes that this would be the end of Sinn Fein-IRA protests. The evidence is clearly to the contrary.

Sinn Fein-IRA has already talked about making the outward parade from Portadown town centre to Drumcree Parish Church a target for their venom – a hitherto non-controversial route. And Sinn Fein's 'solution' to the Portadown church parade apparently is for Orangemen to have to make a four-mile detour along country roads – that's democracy!

The Orange Institution does not seek confrontation with anyone, and it will be doing everything possible at every level – Grand, District and private lodge level to avoid a repetition of last year's events this coming summer. But it takes two to tango, and the Province must await the response of the republicans to assess the real hopes of an avoidance of needless confrontation.

## Silver Jubilee of Standard

**THIS is the first issue of the 'Orange Standard' in 1997 – a year which will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Order's own newspaper.**

The staff of the 'Standard' like to feel the paper provides a vital platform for the views of rank-and-file Orangemen and Orangewomen, as well as carrying stories and photographs of interest to them.

We believe the paper could be even more effective and successful if it received maximum support from members of an organisation with a huge membership. It would help if brethren and sisters bought the 'Standard' each month, read it and then passed it to their family and friends.

We would also welcome more advertising, and in this connection it is encouraging that an increasing number of firms and individuals are finding it worthwhile to place advertisements in the Orange Standard.

But above all we would wel-

come contributors to the columns of the newspaper. Each year for the past decade or so we have appealed to lodges and individuals to provide the Standard with copy and with stories of special Orange and Protestant interest.

There has been a good response in some parts of the Province – Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Cavan are examples – but there are others where the response has been lukewarm. We would like to carry many more stories from Orange districts where there has been an apathetic attitude.

We would appeal therefore to brethren to give this matter their consideration. If anyone feels they can contribute by writing articles or providing items of interest, please contact the Orange Standard editorial committee, c/o House of Orange, Dublin Road, Belfast – we will be very happy to hear from them.

## New Grand Master speaks to 'Orange Standard'

IN a wide-ranging interview with the 'Standard' the new Grand Master of Ireland, Bro. Robert Saulters gives his views on a wide range of issues. The Grand Master sets out his hopes and ambitions for the Order, and the areas in which he sees the opportunity for expansion.

Bro. Saulters recalls his upbringing on the Springfield Road and the important part played in Belfast Orangeism by Number 9 District, Shankill Road.

The exclusive interview covers controversial topics like the infamous Blair interview, Drumcree and Harryville, as well as the Orange Order's links with the Ulster Unionist Party.

# On the level with grassroots

**BRO. Robert Saulters has a strong feeling for grassroots Orangeism and he will obviously be comfortable in his dealings with brethren at private lodge level.**

He understands how Protestants and Orange brethren living in frontline areas of the Province feel, and this is due to the fact he was born and brought up in the Springfield Road area of the city.

Bro. Saulters now lives in Dunmurry, but he obviously has a strong feel for the Springfield-Shankill area and he is strongly identified with Orangeism in that famous part of the city. He was initiated as a young man in 1952 into Whiterock Temperance LOL No.974 and has remained a faithful and loyal member ever since, holding most of the important offices at private and District Lodge level.

He has the interests of West Belfast Protestants very much to the forefront of his thinking and is pleased that the future for the Greater Shankill is a lot better than for some time.

"The redevelopment of the Shankill Road and other Protestant areas of North and West Belfast was dev-

astating to a large extent and it meant that in the 1970s and early 80s many once thriving areas were reduced to a wasteland. Happily, things are now a great deal better and the Shankill is looking very well with all the new housing and other amenities.

"A lot remains to be done, but the people of Springfield and Shankill are very resilient and there is a new feeling of optimism. New private housing is going up in Ballygomartin, and hopefully the cut in the budget of the Housing Executive will not affect the plans for the many new houses and improvements still needed in Greater Shankill!" said Bro. Saulters.

### TENSION

He is sad about the polarisation in the Springfield Road community and can remember the years before the Troubles started when Orange parades could proceed along the road without any tension. Indeed, as in so many parts of Northern Ireland, Roman Catholics were able to stand and watch the parades without any tension.

Orangeism experienced a great expansion in the

upper Springfield in the 1950s and 60s and Whiterock Orange Hall was opened in 1958 to serve the hundreds of Orange families moving into Highfield, Springmartin, New Barnsley and Moyard estates.

The intimidation of Protestants began in 1970 and meant hundreds of Protestant families were forced out of New Barnsley and Moyard. The troubles which erupted meant a peace line being established at Springmartin, the most far-flung Protestant area in West Belfast.

"Protestant churches were affected, losing many of their families, and of course the Orange and Black were also hit as there was a movement to other parts of the city and further afield," said Bro. Saulters.

However, Belfast Orangemen are a resilient lot and in the 1970s there was a large influx of new members into the lodges. That tapered off and there was a period of decline, but the situation has been stabilised and in recent years an increase in membership has taken place.

"We have had our ups and downs but the situation is now a lot better than it

has been for years," said Bro. Saulters who makes the point that all 11 lodges in Shankill District LOL No.9 are doing well. Whiterock also has a thriving junior lodge with over 25 members and generally morale is high.

### LINK

Bro. Saulters would like to see Orangemen who have moved to other parts of the Province retain their link with the Order, either remaining with their own lodge or transferring to another lodge.

"We would reckon about 50 per cent of brethren who have left North and West Belfast have retained their membership or joined lodges in North Down and South Antrim - I would like to see all of them remain as they have a vital part to play," he said.

That's why it has given Bro. Saulters so much pleasure to note an increase in the number of lapsed brethren seeking re-admission to the Order.

"Some of them left because they felt the Order was not vigorous enough in its defence of Protestantism. The stand taken by the Order in the

past few years has convinced them that they were mistaken - I am happy to see them come back into the fold as they have a great lot of experience and expertise to contribute," he said.

Bro. Saulters, as County Grand Master of Belfast, as well as new Grand Master of Ireland, is happy that Belfast Orangeism is on the march again, and is convinced it will continue to play a vital role in Irish Orangeism. "Belfast has a long and noble tradition and we have reports of districts throughout the city making progress," he said.

Sandy Row and Ballymacarrett are thriving, with large memberships, Shankill is doing well, Ballynaveigh has faced the problems and challenges of re-routing with great courage, and the Clifton Street Districts are making a big impact once again.

"Movement of population and the mistaken redevelopment policies of the 1970s and 80s hit the Order, as it did so many Protestant Institutions. But they have coped and are now taking advantage of the movement of families back into the city," said Bro. Saulters.

## Loaded questioning

**THAT 'loaded' question put to Bro. Robert Saulters about Labour leader Tony Blair when the new Grand Master was introduced to the press, still rankles with Worshipful Bro. Saulters.**

"We went out of our way to extend every facility to the press and media people. We genuinely thought they would be interested in learning about my plans for the Institution, about what I felt were the most important aspects surrounding Orangeism, and giving them some information about myself.

"Instead, I was, to use the phrase, set up. There is no doubt that some people had been doing homework on me and trying to embarrass me at the very start of my period of office. This question just didn't arise in an innocent fashion - it was obviously held in reserve until the people concerned learned who had been appointed as Grand Master," said Bro. Saulters.

Bro. Saulters, obviously

hurt by the treatment he received from large sections of the media - treatment in sharp contrast to that accorded to the new head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland - will not be clamping down on press interviews in future. But he will be more cautious.

"Yes, I am afraid it has made me wary of some sections of the press and media and how they tried to use me on this occasion," he said. Instead of Bro. Saulters being profiled in a positive and interesting way, he was vilified and attacked by sections of the media.

As far as the question about Mr. Blair is concerned, the new Grand Master has no regrets about his answer. "I had made the point on July 12 - no-one seemed to pick it up then - that if a man was prepared to compromise his religion, then it would be difficult to regard him as being fitting to head the affairs of the nation," he said.

## Family links to the Shankill

**BRO. Robert Saulters has been closely identified with West Belfast and Shankill Orangeism in general, and his beloved Whiterock Temperance LOL No.974 for years.**

His father, the late Bro. David Saulters was a founder member of Whiterock Temperance, one of the best known lodges in Belfast. It was formed in 1921, at a time when the Troubles of the 1920s were at their height by brethren of the Upper Springfield Road area.

The lodge continued to prosper throughout the inter-war years, and in the years after the Second World War it really went from strength to strength.

Bro. Robert Saulters, who recalls carrying one of the strings of the lodge banner in 1947, when the lodge started off on the 12th morning from a place known as 'The Yellow Row' at New Barnsley, close to what is now the junction of Springfield Park-Springfield Road.

In November, 1952, Bro. Saulters was initiated into the ranks of LOL No.974, and in 1974 was elected to his first office - that of fourth committee man. He also played the clarinet with Belfast Military Band, and used his influence to have the band engaged to play at the laying of the foundation stone for Whiterock Orange Hall on July 27, 1957, and

again at the official opening of the hall on June 28, 1958.

That was an important day for Belfast Orangeism, and Bro. Saulters remembers it with great affection. It led to the establishment of the annual Whiterock Orange parade, when the lodges of Shankill Road District LOL No.9, supported by visiting lodges from other city districts, parade from West Belfast Orange Hall via Springfield Road, along West Circular Road and back by Ballygomartin Road to the Shankill.

This parade is an event looked forward to each year and it has played a leading role in helping the morale of Protestants in the Upper Springfield. One of the most infamous of the early events in the Troubles was a republican attack on the parade in 1970 which resulted in a tragic loss of life in subsequent gun attacks.

Republican pressure to have the parade re-routed away from Springfield Road has been intense, and as Bro. Saulters recalls, in the early years the Whiterock parade went from the Shankill on to the Springfield by way of Cuper Street. This was changed in subsequent years to Lawnbrook Avenue, Mayo Street, Ainsworth Avenue and now Workman Avenue.

"It is the last street leading from the Shankill to

Springfield, and the brethren are determined to keep this thoroughfare open for the parade," he said.

Bro. Saulters made steady progress in the lodge, holding the offices of deputy master from 1963 to 1964, and then Worshipful Master from 1965 to 1966, chaplain from 1968 to 1969, and secretary from 1970 to 1984.

Bro. Saulters became No.9 District Secretary in 1978 and was promoted in 1983 to the office of Worshipful District Master, which he held until 1985. He succeeded Rt. Wor. Bro. John McCrea as County Grand Secretary in 1985, and coincidentally he succeeded Bro. McCrea as County Grand Master of Belfast in 1994.

Bro. Saulters was serving

his third year as District Master of No.9 when he was asked to take over the office of County Grand Secretary. As a result, he reluctantly had to stand down as Shankill District Master, and although he now heads the Order at both Grand Lodge and County Grand Lodge level, Bro. Saulters is immensely proud of his membership of Number 9 District.

"We are not the largest District in Belfast numerically, but we are second to none when it comes to enthusiasm for the Orange cause," he said.

No-one talking to Bro. Saulters could doubt that, and this intense interest in Number 9 District will not be diluted or diminished by his assumption of the highest office that Irish Orangeism can offer.



## Blackman

**BRO. Saulters is also a staunch member of the Royal Black Institution belonging to RBP No.1174 in No.6 District Chapter (Shankill Road).**

"My Orange commitments do not allow me to devote the time I would

like to the Black Institution, but I value my membership. It is a marvellous Institution, based entirely on Christian and Biblical principles, and I would encourage all Orangemen to go on to take our Black membership," he said.

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# Views of the new Grand Master

**BRO. Robert Saulters takes a cautious approach to the question of whether the long-standing link between the Orange Institution and the Ulster Unionist Party should be broken.**

"If the link is broken that will be a matter for the Ulster Unionist Party. The Party will have to weigh up all the possible advantages and disadvantages of such a break. As Orangemen we will respect whatever decision is eventually taken, but that will be a matter for Unionists. However, I don't think it is an issue that should be rushed," he said.

Bro. Saulters is a delegate from the Orange Order to the Ulster Unionist Party but accepts that there are brethren who feel that it would advance the cause of Orangeism more if the political link were broken.

"Equally, there are Unionists who feel that the Party would appeal more successfully to Roman Catholics if the Orange link were broken. I think those who advocate either of these arguments will have to think them through carefully as to what the consequences of the ending of the link would be," he said.

Whatever the outcome, Bro. Saulters clearly believes there is no urgency about addressing this issue - an issue often hyped by sections of the media - and that it is not high on the agenda of the Ulster Unionist Party.

"We are a democratic organisation, and so is the Unionist Party, so anyone who has strong feelings either way will have the opportunity to contribute to the debate - we are a broad

church," he said.

## HARRYVILLE

The vexed issue of protests outside Harryville Roman Catholic Church in Ballymena was raised in the interview with the Grand Master and he had no doubts at all on this matter.

"However angry some loyalists might have been about the way the brethren of Dunloy were prevented from getting to their church, the protests outside the Roman Catholic Church were wrong. We as an Institution stand firmly for civil and religious freedom and liberty," he said.

But Bro. Saulters was equally adamant that the denial of freedom to the Dunloy Orangemen to worship was just as important and should have had the same sympathetic treatment in the Press and media. He said those who sought to minimise the denial of rights to the Dunloy Orangemen by saying it was different from Harryville because the brethren were wearing regalia and walking to church were completely wrong.

"This Dunloy parade is a long-established one and as a church parade it should give no offence to anyone. There was no justification for stopping it and the parade should have been allowed to proceed," he said.

## DRUMCREE

Bro. Saulters is foursquare behind the brethren of Portadown District LOL No.1 in their determination to take the traditional return route from

their church service at Drumcree.

"This is one of the longest-established Orange church services in Ireland. Those who have accused the Portadown brethren of intransigence have ignored the fact that when Portadown Orangemen lost their other traditional route along Obins Street in 1986 they were assured that the route along Garvaghy Road would be respected - that was clearly established and agreed to at the time," he said.

Bro. Saulters said he would support the Portadown District and County Armagh Grand Lodge in their decisions on the Drumcree Church parade and said if called upon he would go to Portadown in support of the brethren there.

## CHURCH PARADES

On the general topic of Orange church parades Bro. Saulters will be urging greater support of annual district church parades throughout the Province.

"There has been a decrease at some services in the past decade and it is essential that we restore these to the important position they previously occupied. The Orange Order is a religious organisation - a Christian organisation - and church attendance must be top of its priorities," said the Grand Master.

Worshipful Bro. Saulters also pointed out that the collections at Orange services play a vital part in providing revenue for the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orphan Fund and the Belfast Orange Widows Fund.

## Community involvement

**THE new Grand Master of Ireland believes there is a need for Orangemen to involve themselves more in community work.**

"I would like to see more of our brethren play a greater role in their local community. Many brethren do, and are playing a prominent role in District Councils, in community organisations, residents groups and voluntary bodies. But I am sure there are many more who could also play a role and I would like to see them getting involved," he said.

Bro. Saulters welcomes the increase in the number of Orange credit unions in recent years, and he would like to see the Order play a greater role in helping Protestants to purchase property and houses.

He will also support recruitment policies aimed at attracting more men into the ranks of the Orange

Order.

"There are parts of Northern Ireland where there are real opportunities for expansion - new housing areas, town on the periphery of Belfast which are expanding. I would like to see our Order reach out to them and encourage them to join," he said.

Bro. Saulters also wants lodges to try and persuade men who have allowed their membership to lapse to come back into the fold.

"There are many former Orangemen who could play a vital role. I am sure that with a wee bit of persuasion a number of them could be attracted back to our Order," he said.

Bro. Saulters also stressed the need for Orangemen who move to mainland Britain or to Canada, Australia, and New Zealand to take out membership and help the Order in those countries.

## Unitarian

**BROUGHT up in the Church of Ireland tradition, Bro. Saulters now belongs to the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church and he is a regular worshipper at Dunmurry Church which he joined about 22 years ago.**

**A devoted husband and father, he and his wife Margaret have two grown up sons, and three grandchildren.**

## The media : friend or foe

TO many in our Institution the title above represents the only options in defining the relationship between ourselves and the media.

Indeed it has to be said that in the majority of cases we think of the media as a foe which exists only to present a 'bad' picture of the Orange Order. Given recent events and the need to put our point of view across it is time that we as a body, thought of the media in a different light.

The media can be thought of as a tool. In the hands of someone who knows how to use it the result can be a work of clarity and purpose. Used by someone who neglects the tools they have been given, the result is often a self-inflicted wound. It is time to become skilled in the art of communication, between ourselves and society at large, in order to use the resources that are available to us.

At the highest level we must learn that a press conference is not called for the benefit of the press. It is called to promote a statement of position or highlight an important event and if controlled properly then the issue for which the conference has been called will be the message that is communicated through the media. Any other message carried from the press conference

by the media is a self-inflicted wound.

We have all watched on television or read in the papers as the republican view point is put across on many issues without adequate rebuttal from ourselves. We have on occasion blamed the media for promoting a republican slant on issues. What we must ask ourselves is how often is this due to an underlying republican bias and how often is it due to the fact that reporters are treated in a hostile manner by ourselves. How often have camera men been told to clear off only to re-appear amongst republican protesters. How often have we refused to allow anyone to talk to the press only to have the same reporter appear on TV later that evening talking to a 'poor defenceless' resident who can't buy a loaf on the 12th. Reporters whether in print, on radio, or on TV have to submit articles or interviews. If we drive them away they will get a story somewhere.

There is no doubt that we as an Institution will come under attack throughout 1997. How strong we are at the end of 1997 will depend on our ability to use all of the resources at our disposal and our ability to reduce the number of self-inflicted wounds.

## Church duties

**WOR. Bro. Saulters will be encouraging Orangemen to attend annual District services in greater numbers, and he is convinced this is vital if the Order is to achieve its full potential.**

"Many District services throughout Northern Ireland are well attended. But there are others where there has been a steady decline, for various reasons, in recent years.

"I would like to see Districts put emphasis on attendance at their services and get the message across to the brethren to turn out in large numbers for these," he said.

Bro. Saulters pointed out that the valuable work of the Belfast Orange Widows Fund, and the Lord Enniskillen

Memorial Orphan Society, is supported by collections at Orange church services. This was another reason he wants to see larger attendances.

"It can be done," said Bro. Saulters who pointed to the magnificent turn-out at last year's service in the Ulster Hall when the building was packed.

"We must prove to those outside the Order that we are a religious Institution and that church attendance is a priority. That of course doesn't just mean attending Orange district services, but Orangemen should be at his place of worship each Sunday and encourage their families to attend as well," he said.

# Threats from IRA cells

THE recent revelation that a well-organised IRA cell has been operating for some time in the North Down area, and especially in the towns of Bangor and Hollywood will have shocked many people.

North Down is not the sort of place that the majority of people would associate with republican terrorism - it has been regarded as the one 'safe' area in Northern Ireland since the start of the Troubles.

But the uncovering of the IRA 'ring' in the Bangor-Hollywood area by the RUC in the aftermath of the Thiepval Barracks bombing exposes the strategy of the IRA and how it has used the ceasefire to build up its intelligence as well as targeting key figures in the judiciary, police and prison service. Counter-terrorist officers in the RUC are delighted

with the exposure of the terrorist cell, and at the same time surprised by the extent of the republican activities. The police investigations show that professional people like teachers have been engaged in the terrorist activities.

It is believed the IRA has used key operatives to obtain information through computers on RUC personnel, judges and magistrates who live in the so-called 'Gold Coast' of Northern Ireland. The IRA was able to obtain details through BT records, private medical care provision and details of holiday arrangements by police officers.

The police are understandably delighted at their coup in uncovering the IRA

cell. Lives have undoubtedly been saved and terror operations thwarted, but the feeling of euphoria must be tempered by the realisation of just how organised the terrorists have become.

That the IRA tentacles now reach out into hitherto unaffected North Down is significant and it underlines the need of maximum vigilance on the part of everyone.

There are no 'neutral' areas in this struggle and people in North Down will have to become as vigilant and on their guard as those in Fermanagh, Tyrone, North Belfast and all the other parts of Northern Ireland where liv-

## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Due to increasing administration costs it has become necessary to request that for small advertisements, costing £12.00 or less, payment *must* be forwarded with order.

Cost of small advertisement remains the same, £1.00 per single column x one centimetre.

# Tribute to the Grand Master for 24 years: Rev. Martin Smyth

**MANY tributes have been paid to the Rev. Martin Smyth for his outstanding leadership of our Institution during the 24 years and the 'Orange Standard' endorses everything that has been written and said about an outstanding Grand Master of Ireland.**

History will view Worshipful Brother Smyth's tenure of office in a most favourable light. The Grand Master brought qualities of honour, dedication and selfless service to the task he inherited in 1972 and it is a measure of his success that he left the Institution in a stronger position than ever before when he vacated the office in December.

Bro. Smyth presided over the affairs of the Orange Order during some of the most turbulent years since the foundation of the Northern Ireland State. He led the largest organisation in this Province - churches apart - with dignity and firmness, as well as with compassion and understanding.

Worshipful Bro. Smyth was always approachable and willing to lend a listening ear to any Brother, and he displayed professionalism of a high standard. He travelled extensively in the interests of our Order, and there wasn't a county in Irish Orangeism which didn't experience at first hand his leadership and grasp of affairs.

The writer has had the privilege of seeing at close hand how Bro. Smyth carried out some of his duties. I have been at Orange services in County Cavan where Bro. Smyth was received with great love and affection by hundreds of brethren from south of the border.

It was the same story in every part of Northern Ireland, and often I have watched Bro. Smyth bring the human touch to proceedings which might otherwise have been stuffy and formal. On a lovely summer day in the Birches area of County Armagh a few years ago I watched a shirt-sleeved Grand Master sitting sipping tea with country brethren who found their leader willing to spend hours of his valuable time with them before heading off to another Orange function in Belfast.

GRASSROOTS

There was nowhere Bro. Smyth was happier than mixing

with the grassroots of the Order, mingling with brethren and their families, and having a friendly work and pat on the back for the children at banner unfurling ceremonies.

His friendly nod and wave was always treasured and Bro. Smyth, in spite of his high office, brought the ordinary touch to his handling of affairs.

Worshipful Bro. Smyth was no 'easy touch' and it is fair to say that he didn't suffer fools gladly - not that he had to impose his leadership often - but he was one of those men who could mix professionalism with the human friendly touch, a real gift indeed.

The Order in general and the 'Orange Standard' and its editorial staff and committee can testify to Bro. Smyth's grasp of affairs and his expertise. Right from the day he inherited the office, Bro. Smyth proved his ability to assess the need for a more vigorous approach in presenting the Orange case through the media.

The 'Standard' was his brainchild, and his enthusiasm in getting the idea translated into reality was unparalleled. Bro. Smyth was the driving force behind the provision of the Order's own newspaper and he supported the 'Standard' editorial staff 100 per cent throughout his 24 years as Grand Master.

Bro. Smyth took an extremely keen interest in all aspects of the 'Standard'. He was always prepared to put forward his ideas at meetings of the editorial committee, but he allowed the staff to carry out their job and never interfered with their judgement on stories and articles promoting the Order.

His one disappointment as far as the 'Standard' is concerned is probably the fact that he did not manage to expand its potential from being a monthly to a fortnightly or even weekly newspaper.

Bro. Smyth's dream is one worth pursuing and perhaps the Order may eventually respond to the challenge and produce a weekly newspaper. It is far from being an impossible task as there is an Orange membership capable of supporting such a paper.

Bro. Smyth in the early years of his leadership initiated meetings to instruct brethren in public relations and how to work with the media - he was farsighted in this respect.

Thanks in large measure to his abilities, Orangeism has a much closer working relationship with the media, even if that can be strained at times - an example being the insensitive attitude shown by important sections of the media towards the appointment of Bro. Saulters as Grand Master.

Bro. Smyth has made an indelible contribution to the office of Grand Master, and he is loved and respected throughout the jurisdiction. There were some who speculated in the media that Bro. Smyth's decision a year ago to warn Grand Master that they must look for a successor was due to his non-appearance at the first stand-off at Drumcree.

That is nonsense, and has no foundation. In fact, when Bro. Smyth visited Portadown a few months after the Drumcree stand-off in 1995 he received a standing ovation at a Portadown District dinner in Carleton Street Orange Hall - a reception which greatly moved Bro. Smyth.

Portadown brethren were well aware of the fact that Bro. Smyth had a number of long standing engagements at the time of the first Drumcree stand-off and would have been prepared to come to Portadown if requested. He did vital work for the stand-off in other capacities at that time - an absolutely vital task. His standing among Portadown Orangemen remained undiminished, as it does in every district of Irish Orangeism.

Bro. Smyth's tenure of office has been a noble one, and represented all that is best in Ulster Protestantism - God-fearing inspiring leadership extolling the virtues of the Reformed Faith, and undiluted in its adherence of Biblical Christian principles.

A few days ago the writing was speaking to a Roman Catholic friend who praised Bro. Smyth for his Christian stand on issues like abortion, and also on offering a political olive leaf to nationalists some years ago.

"He showed statesmanship-like leadership qualities - the ability to represent his own cause but yet see the merits in that of people who might be termed religious and political opponents", he said.

That's high praise indeed and it reflects the high esteem in which Bro. Smyth has been held through a quarter-of-a-century of marvellous and inspirational leadership

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## Centenary dinner

The centenary dinner of Victoria Temperance RPB No.12 was held in Ballynaveigh Orange Hall on Monday, December 2 last. Guests included the WDM Chris McCormick, officers of No.7 Royal Black District Chapter, officers from other preceptories in No.7 District, and the special guest for the evening Sir Knt. Wm. Logan, Imperial Grand Registrar.



Sir Knt. Logan presents Wor. Bro. Sir Knt. T. Grant with his 50-year long service medal.

Photograph shows members of No.12 with guests, front row: Sir Knt. Chris McCormick, WDM; Sir Knt. Wm. Forster, WM; Sir Knt. Wm. Logan, IGS; Sir Knt. the Rev. Edward Smyth, Chaplain; Sir Knt. H. Miller, DDM. Back row: Sir Knts. J. Lemon, PM; T. Dillon, PM; R. Edgar, DM; T. Rea, PM; Reg. R. Aiken, PM; J. Johnston, PM, Treas and S. Leckey.



## Lisgenny champions again

THE Annahoe District Sports Committee annual clay pigeon shoot at Lisgenny on New Year's Day once again proved to be a tremendous success.

In excellent weather conditions teams participated: Bawn, Crilly, Curlagh, Lisbeg, Lisgenny, Loughans, Mountforest, Mulnahorn, Dergina, Reahaghey, and Roughan.

The standard of shooting was as high as ever and in a keenly fought competition, Lisgenny once again emerged victorious for the fifth year in a row. Runners-up were Lisbeg, who made the champions fight all the way.

The "Driven Pair" competition was dominated by Lisbeg, with Adrian Somerville winning, and Norman Gillespie finishing runner-up.

The "High Gun" competition for the best individual score of the day, was won by Jim Taggart, of Lisgenny. At the close the "Shoot Commander" thanked all those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the competition such an outstanding success. He also complimented the competitors on their much improved aware-

ness to the safety aspects of the sport. A special word of thanks was conveyed to the hosts Lisgenny for such superb organisation and for the use of the facilities. Also to the Lisgenny ladies for their excellent catering arrangements. He then asked the District Master Bro. Ivan Duff to present the prizes.

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# Paying the price to Europe

BRITAIN continues to pay a high price for its membership to the European Community and if the nation joins the common currency and surrenders even more of its sovereignty, then no doubt the price will be even higher.

The folly of Britain led by Edward Heath into the Common Market in the 1970s has been exposed on many occasions, and it has resulted in a bitterly divided Conservative Party.

On the broader front it has weakened Britain as a nation and ended its majestic role as a world power. It alienated the loyal former Dominions like Canada, Australia and New Zealand, who had served Britain so loyally down the centuries, including a huge blood sacrifice in two World Wars.

A letter in a national newspaper recently lamented the fact Britain had turned its back on these former kith and kin

countries.

No wonder Australians and Canadians are so bitter when they arrive at Heathrow and Gatwick. They have to queue for entry at an aliens section while former enemies like Germans and Italians walk straight through the EC counter with smooth passage.

Had Britain encouraged the Empire and Commonwealth concept it would have been leader of one of the strongest trading groups in the world and would have had friends it could trust.

Instead, it is at the back and call of countries who put their own interests first. Britain, like Germany and France, is a major contributor to European funds, unlike the Irish Republic and other poorer countries.

The Republic now boasts that it has a richer economy than that of the UK, conveniently overlooking - or rather playing down - the fact that it is one of the main beneficia-

ries of the European Community. Without the vast sums poured into the Republic of Ireland from the EC pool, the South would be much poorer.

But who can really blame Eire and other basically poorer countries for milking the European cow when Britain and the richer countries are so facilitating. Things will not improve, with the prospect of the poor eastern European nations like Poland and Croatia becoming members.

No wonder so many Tories want Britain to pull out of Europe and to reassert its independence before the country becomes just a region of Europe. But will they get their way? Past evidence suggests not, and that the UK will continue to subsidise poorer countries clamouring to get on board the EC gravy train, and to encourage their unemployed to take up jobs and university places in the United Kingdom.



## Honour for long-serving treasurer

THE name Beverland has been synonymous with Rasharkin Chosen Few LOL 694 for 74 years. Fittingly, a member of the family was honoured at a function in the Orange Hall on November 7. Bro. William Beverland has been treasurer for 27 years, and was presented with a

Rasharkin Chosen Few LOL No.694, left to right: Bros. M. Torrington, PM; D. Steel, WM; J. Henry, W. Beverland, Treas.; J. Kerr, H. Wallace, DM; W. Harvey, Hon. Member and E. Harris, PM/Sec. Photograph courtesy of Ballymena Times.

jewel to mark his sterling contribution to the lodge, by the Worshipful Master, Bro. Joe Henning. He still acts as treasurer, carry-

ing on a tradition set by his late father, Bro. Jas Beverland who was secretary/treasurer for some years.

## Christmas dinner for Junior Lodge

The members of Prince's No.247 held their Christmas Junior Orange Lodge dinner in the Temple Golf

Picture shows the members of Prices Junior Orange Lodge No.247 with Superintendent Jim Stewart (back row, 2nd from right).

and Country Club. Superintendent Bro. Jim Stewart stated: "We were delighted that Sam McBride was able to help us with providing a room within the complex at the Golf and Country Club, where the boys were able to enjoy themselves after a most enjoyable meal and I

am very grateful to the generosity of the Assistant Supervisors in giving their time, talents and financial assistance towards making this evening such a success.

"It was nice to see each boy and Supervisor receive an Orange Order pocket diary, generously provided by one of our assistants. The boys have already asked if they can return to the gymnasium".

## 50-year medal



At a recent meeting of Henry Thomson Memorial L.O.L. No. 129, Newry, Bro. Eddie Johnston was presented with a 50-year long service certificate by Wor. Bro. J. Russell (WM). Wor. Bro. Russell spoke of the outstanding service given by Bro. Johnston who joined L.O.L. No. 129 on April 4, 1946 after returning from the Middle East where he served in the RAF. Bro. Johnston was elected lodge treasurer in 1948 and continues to hold this office to this day.



## Memorial plaque for Londonderry stalwart

Wor. Bro. Alan Lindsay (3rd from right), City Grand Master of Londonderry, unveiling a plaque in memory of Bro. George Acheson, at Eglinton Orange Hall. Bro. Acheson was a member of Hope of Eglinton LOE No.764 for 30 years. Included in the picture (from left) are: Bro. Jack Smallwoods, Londonderry No.5 Orange District, Bro. George Wylie, LOL No.764, Bro. Rev. David Browne and speakers, Bro. Norman Miller, the Apprentice Boys' of 'Derry and Bro. H. Stewart of Junior Orange Lodge District No.1.



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# Orange Roll of Honour

SINCE the publication in November's edition of the Orange Standard of the roll of remembrance compiled by Bro. Greg Hopkins, several lodges and individuals have contacted him with the names of other brethren who had lost their lives as a result of the terrorism of the past 28 years.

Bro. Hopkins sincerely thanks all those who have taken the time to advise him of any additions and corrections, and greatly appreciates the words of support and encouragement for his endeavours.

He apologises for the omission of one forwarded name in the roll, and the misspelling of several others, but as these were typographical errors they were beyond his control. Several of the correspondents expressed a desire to have the names of their loved ones published in the Orange Standard, and even though it is many weeks after Remembrance Sunday, it is important that we in the Orange Institution recognise the sacrifice that they have made.

Anyone with any further names for inclusion can contact Bro. Hopkins via the House of Orange up to the present time, and including the additional names below, 165 members of the Orange Institution are known to have paid the supreme sacrifice. Several others are still awaiting verification.

Armagh, April 28, 1994.

**Bro. Robin Smyrl** (UDR) - Cookstown True Blues LOL No.459. Shot, Gortin, September 13, 1977.

**Bro. Harold Sinnamon** (UDR) - Pomeroy Faith Defenders LOL No.325. Explosion, Dungannon, April 11, 1974.

**Bro. James Johnston** (UDR) - Pomeroy Faith Defenders LOL No.325. Shot, Dungannon, May 8, 1984.

**Bro. Matt Boyd** - Pomeroy Faith Defenders LOL No.325. Shot, Dungannon, January 11, 1993.

**Bro. Stanley Adams** (UDR) - Pomeroy True Blues LOL No.293. Shot, Altmore, October 28, 1976.

**Bro. William Graham** (UDR) - Pomeroy True Blues LOL No.293. Shot, Pomeroy, April 25, 1987.

**Bro. Eric Boyd** - Pomeroy True Blues LOL No.293. Shot, Cappagh, August 5, 1991.

**Bro. David Martin** - Pomeroy True Blues LOL No.293. Explosion, Cookstown, April 25, 1993.

**Bro. Alfred Woods** (RUCR) - Omagh No Surrender LOL No.850. Explosion, Gortin, August 2, 1981.

**Bro. Andrew Beacom** (RUC) - Cooneen LOL No.1010. Shot, Fivemiletown, December 12, 1993.

**Bro. Ernest Smyth** (UDR) - Lendrum's True Blues LOL No.1643. Shot, Fivemiletown, December 12, 1993.

**Bro. Ivan Hillen** (UDR) - Lisgenny LOL No.323. Shot, Lismore, May 12, 1984.

**Bro. Christopher Mein** - Bovain LOL No.1000. Shot, Galbally, February 11, 1975.

**Bro. Michael Darcy** (UDR) - Bridgetown No Surrender LOL No.379. Shot, Castleberg, June 4, 1988.

**Bro. Norman McKinley** (UDR) - Bridgetown No Surrender LOL No.379. Explosion, Castleberg, July 14, 1984.

**Bro. Ronald Finlay** - Tullywhisker Border Guards LOL No.1120. Shot, Strabane, August 15, 1991.

**Bro. John McVitty** (RUCR) - Knox LOL No.1841. Shot, Rosslea, July 8, 1986.

**Bro. William Burleigh** (UDR) - LOL No.362. Explosion, Derrylin, April 6, 1988.

**Bro. James Oldman** (UDR) - Glassmullagh LOL No.446. Shot, Ederney, April 3, 1987.

**Bro. Thomas John Fletcher** (UDR) - Garrison LOL No.885. Shot, Garrison, March 1, 1972.

**Bro. John Arrell** (UDR) - Bruce's True Blues LOL No.400. Shot, Clady, January 22, 1976.

**Bro. Graham Fenton** (HM Prison Service) - Cloughmills LOL No.715. Shot, Ballymoney, July 22, 1977.

**Bro. Joseph James McIlwaine** (UDR) - Royal Oak LOL No.374. Shot, Lambeg, June 12, 1987.

**Bro. William Cecil Burns** (H.M. Prison Service) - Star of the North LOL No.1053. Shot, Belfast, December 30, 1980.

**Bro. William Heenan** - Legananny LOL No.1455. Shot, Castlewellan, May 3, 1985.

# Eleventh night bonfires

**THE subject of Eleventh Night bonfires was also touched on by the Grand Master who urged organisers to ensure that these were well organised and supervised.**

"I have to emphasise that bonfires have nothing to do with the Orange Order which has no control over them. But, increasingly sections of the national media are linking these bonfires with our 12th July celebrations and when there is drunken and irresponsible behaviour they try to brand the Orange Order as having some connection with this. Nothing could be further from the truth, but as we are under close and critical scrutiny from the media it is essential that those who would blacken the Order have no ammunition," he said.

Worshipful Bro. Saulters also stressed he is not opposed to bonfires, as they are a long-standing

tradition and an essential part of the general scene.

But he urged organisers to try and ensure that alcohol is prohibited from the bonfire celebrations, as it is invariably alcohol which leads to unseemly and irresponsible behaviour.

Wor. Bro. Saulters recalled the times not so long ago when bonfire night was a very enjoyable occasion in which the entire Protestant community participated, walking from one bonfire to another in their own districts in Belfast and throughout Ulster.

"Let's make it an enjoyable family-orientated event again with alcohol missing. People can have a good night with music and dancing, as well as goodies for the children and it creates a very enjoyable atmosphere with which no fair-minded person could find fault," he said.

Worshipful Bro. Saulters also stressed he is not opposed to bonfires, as they are a long-standing

# Desecration of Sabbath

ONE of the most disturbing trends in the run up to Christmas in recent years has been the increasing volume of trade and business transacted on the Sabbath.

This year the Christmas shopping on Sundays before Christmas reached new levels and it has to be stressed that this is contrary to all the traditions and principles of our Protestant way of life.

Sunday shopping was prevalent in Protestant cities and towns as well as those with Roman Catholic majorities and this is to be deplored. The Protestant churches face a constant battle against counter-attractions and this applies especially to Sunday Schools, so why add to these?

There is more than enough shopping time available on weekdays before Christmas without having to intrude on the special ethos of the Protestant Sunday.

There are other questions that need to be asked.

Why are the authorities so willing to enforce existing rules and regulations governing Sunday opening? More relaxed legislation is on the way, but that surely doesn't remove the need to enforce those already in existence. To ignore this is to bring the law into contempt and that can surely benefit no-one.

Another point that needs to be made is surely there is only so much money available to spend? To have an extra day's shopping is only spreading the financial cake that bit further.

But apparently stores and shops can afford to pay their assistants to work on Sundays, so it runs contrary to the often expressed case that Northern Ireland is a socially deprived and hard hit region of the United Kingdom.

Indeed the reports that stores lifted as much as £1 million on one day in Northern Ireland before Christmas certainly does not match the case often made that this is a poverty stricken area.

Those observers who are so often heard on the media claiming that a large section of Ulster families are on the poverty line were strangely muted in the run up to Christmas when reports of huge spending and Sunday shopping dominated the headlines. Others who often clamour about the rights of workers in industry were strangely quiet about people having to work seven days a week.

Is the talk about Northern Ireland being socially deprived just hot air? It would certainly seem to be the case given the huge splash-out on goods and alcohol during the festive season, and the fact it appeared necessary to have Sunday opening to meet the fantastic demand for goods.

Far from being a deprived area, Northern Ireland appears to be a prospering boom area - and that's to be welcomed - but the Province could still manage to meet the consumer demand without adding Sunday to the shopping stakes.

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# Credit Union

Brethren, Sisters and their families who wish to join a Credit Union or who seek further information can do so at the following places.

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Cloughfem Protestant Hall  
Cloughmills Orange Hall  
Bushside Orange Hall  
Dunmurry Orange Hall  
Ballinderry Memorial Hall  
Magheragall Orange Hall  
Lisburn Orange Hall  
Muckamore Orange Hall  
Protestant Hall, Ballymena  
Connor Orange Hall  
Lame Orange Hall  
Broughshane Orange Hall  
Glenam Orange Hall  
Ballymacash Orange Hall  
39 Linford Green, Rathcoole  
Monkstown Community Resource Centre  
St. John's C. of I., Upper Falls

## Co. Armagh

Armagh Orange Hall  
Gibson's Hill Orange Hall, Lurgan  
Markethill Orange Hall  
Cloncore Orange Hall  
Keady Orange Hall  
Tandragee Orange Hall  
Carlton St., Orange Hall

## Belfast

Sandy Row Orange Hall  
Ballymacarrett Orange Hall  
(Albertbridge Road)  
Ballynateigh Orange Hall  
Clifton St., Orange Hall  
North Belfast Orange Hall

## Co. Down

Donacloney Orange Hall  
Newry Orange Hall  
Maze Orange Hall  
Banbridge Orange Hall  
Bangor Orange Hall  
Downpatrick Orange Hall  
Dromore Orange Hall  
Newtownards Orange Hall  
Saintfield Orange Hall  
C.A.B. Ballynahinch  
19 Causeway Rd. Newcastle  
Kilkeel Orange Hall  
Comber Orange Hall  
Kinallen Orange Hall  
Moneyreagh Orange Hall

## Co. Fermanagh

Kesh Orange Hall  
Irvinestown Orange Hall  
Lisbellaw Orange Hall  
164 Main St., Lisnaskea  
Brookeborough Orange Hall

## Co. Londonderry

ABOD Hall, Society St.,  
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## Co. Tyrone

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# Grand Master takes stock of his 24 years in office

THE address by Wor. Bro. the Rev. Martin Smyth at the half-yearly meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge:

"Just as the Prophet found reaction after the challenge to Baal on Carmel and his Disciples were brought down to earth speedily after the dramatic experience of Transfiguration so we have found 1996. From the high of Bicentennial celebrations we faced the real world of intrigue, political economy with the truth, and continuing terrorist intimidation, bombings, and murders.

"Individual members and halls have regularly been attacked. Largely our people have continued to show tremendous restraint.

"The significant change of policy by the Sinn Fein/IRA has amazingly been ignored or missed by those who claim to be percipient commentators. Is this due to political myopia or religious bigotry? The virulent campaign by media and press journalists to fit the ban and allow them to really question Sinn Fein/IRA spokespeople has revealed either an unwillingness or inability to do so.

"The number of times they have probed searchingly rather than treating them with kid gloves could be counted on one hand. A recent Cook Report on television again revealed Martin McGuinness as one who not only flees the field when searchingly interrogated; he was also unmasked by those who suffered under his republican rule. It also raises the spectre of why there has been no prosecution. It is in the public interest to play the republican game?

"In addition to traditional IRA tactics, they have returned to street politics and the nefarious practice of boycott. In keeping with Roman Catholic and Irish Republican mythology the Orange Institution has been targeted for street blockage.

"Rather than use the law correctly, the Northern Ireland Office, the Maryfield Secretariat and the hierarchy of the RUC, decided to placate former prisoners masquerading as residents leaders. In every other country the right of peaceful procession would have been defended by the law. Under the Public Order Order, the Police and the Department of Public Prosecution would have proceeded against any unlawfully impeding such a procession. The threat of public disorder would have been faced rather than seeking to coerce peaceful and law abiding citizens to abandon their rights, or stand up for them. Having endured 28 years of weak government reaction to a terrorist campaign by a minority to subvert the democratic will, there came a popular revolt by Orangemen and women and those who supported them.

"I understand the former Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Annesley, defended his inept leadership by advising the Police Authority that I had been unable to get the Portadown brethren to abide by, what I already told Sir Hugh, was a wrong decision. In company with others we shared with senior police officers the currents sweeping our Province and advised them that their duty was to uphold the law. They choose rather to restrict a peaceful walk from a church service.

"Now of course we are blamed and David Trimble has been vilified for seeking to prevent tragedy in Portadown. Police officers preferred to withstand Orangemen rather than remove illegal protestors. This was repeated again in Dunloy.

"May I say, I repeat my call not to impede Roman Catholic worshipping, even though we disagree with some of their theology and ways. We stand for civil and religious worship.

"However, I wholeheartedly repudiate churchmen and others, who immediately rush to condemn the Orange stand. Such would not have the mettle of the early apostles or later reformers who were prepared to obey God rather than men. The Divine Right of Kings was challenged by the Apprentices in Derry. The unequal administration and partial application of the



Wor Bro. Martin Smyth, M.P.

law was likewise challenged when the Garvaghy Road was blocked, as the Ormeau Road and other main roads, by police officers fearing republican violence and seeking to avoid the sight of the R.U.C. forcibly removing illegal protestors.

"If we are forced to challenge such decisions we will also have to face the courts if we are accused of illegal action. Let me make it plain that I abhor any destruction of property, injury to persons or threats against people. Nonetheless, I regretfully record that, violence was first used by police against a young man with learning difficulties and against a peaceful protest in support of Portadown at the

Birches Roundabout at 7.00 a.m. on the Monday morning.

"At the end of 24 years as your Grand Master I believe the Institution is stronger today than when I was installed in office. From one full-time officer, a typist and part-time worker, we now have a headquarters staff of 6. Our charities are in a strong financial position serving widows, orphans, and those in need. The Sir George Clark Bursary in its second year awarded grants of £15,000 for university, research and Employment Aid.

"However, like other tested and tried organisations we are not without critics within and without the Institution. While we should

# Tribute to Grand Master

THE Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has expressed its heartfelt gratitude to the Rev. Martin Smyth for his leadership as Grand Master of the Orange Institution in Ireland for 24 years.

In a tribute to his leadership the Grand Lodge said Orangeism involved Bro. Smyth totally and sacrificially.

"He set the membership an example in loyalty to the Reformed Faith and in courage and integrity in standing firm for the lofty principles of the Order. The performance of his duties was with a commitment far beyond what should be expected of any Orangeman.

"As preacher, lecturer, and media interviewee in Ireland and elsewhere in the world he was always an effective ambassador for Orangeism. By education and experience he was well equipped to explain and defend the Orange Order philosophy on religion, politics, and life.

"The best known and most honoured of Orangemen, he travelled in the several Orange Order jurisdictions. And in so doing brought encouragement and inspiration to Orangemen, their families and friends everywhere.

"Our indebtedness to Bro. Smyth could not be overstated. As a worthy leader he enjoyed the respect and support of his brethren. He leaves office in the knowledge that his good work will be continued and built on and by those who have learned from him".

not ignore those without; it is still true that greatest danger comes from within. Any objective reading of history confirms this. It is a pity that those who have gone public to advance their

views critical of the Order, did not present their case within the structures. I look forward to the Institution reforming and moving forward.

"This can only be done purposefully when we take our authority from the scriptures and the example of our Lord Jesus. Too many have been moulded by the world and practice primarily worldly wiles.

"Media pundits will seek to read into my decision not to let my name be considered this year in some sinister reasons. The simple fact is that on two earlier occasions I was prevailed upon to accept the call of my brethren to remain in office. Last year when I had hoped to demit my responsibility, elements challenged the authority of Grand Lodge and sought to undermine the discipline of, and divert, the Institution to other paths. They received a clear answer.

"Now is the time to let a fresh leader take the helm, ably supported by an able team. I can assure them of my continued help, but not interference, as they seek to lead the Institution forward into the new millennium. Having sought, as a sinner saved by grace to be faithful above all to my Lord, I know my failures.

"Amongst them, I am unaware of breaking any Law of the Institution, but have sought to abide by them. My hope is that all others have done the same. At no time have I let my own political position or Presbyterian convictions lead me to treat a Brother, with other views, as anything other than a Brother."

## Annual General Meeting of Annahoe Credit Union

THE Annual General Meeting of Annahoe Credit Union Ltd., was held in the Bawn Orange Hall recently.

The chairman, Sammy Brush, in his opening remarks welcomed all present and said how pleased he was to see such a good attendance of members.

The secretary was unable to be present and the minutes of the last AGM were read by Paul Bell. These were approved by the meeting and signed.

The chairman then gave a brief outline of the progress made during the financial year ending 30th September 1996 which had been another very successful year. He stated that the adult membership had increased by 27.1% from 288 to 366 and their shareholding had increased by 82.56% from £303,569.71 to £554,226.06. The amount out on loan had increased by 28.3% from £226,787.50 to £291,038.16. The total transactions for the year amounted to £1,000,181.90. These were broken down as follows: shares collected - £370,776.76; loans repaid - £207,283.42; interest on loans - £30,167.24; shares withdrawn - £120,120.61; loans granted -

£271,647.92; new members - £186.00.

The chairman reminded members that it was six years ago on 17th November 1990 that Annahoe Savings Group was formed and that the progress to date had been remarkable. Annahoe Credit Union Limited was registered on 1st November 1991 and since then the total loans given out amounted to £809,593.84.

The chairman concluded by thanking all the committee members for their dedication and hard work during the year and in particular those members who worked as tellers in the office each Saturday night. Their dedication and hard work, which is all voluntary, cannot be praised highly enough. He also thanked the members for their support and expressed the hope that the success enjoyed so far would continue. He also appealed for more volunteers to come forward to train as tellers so that the increasing workload could be spread over a greater number of people and thus make it easier for everyone. He said he was pleased to note that another

four non-committee members had volunteered during the past year. These are Miss Hazel Law, Mrs. Yolande Johnston, Mrs. Helen Simpson and Mr. Denver Cardwell.

The chairman then drew the members attention to the new opening hours which are every Saturday evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. He said that the office would have to close at 9 p.m. sharp to enable the voluntary staff to balance the accounts, count the money and go home at a reasonable hour. He appealed for the members co-operation on this.

The treasurer, Mr. Noel Erskine, told the meeting that the committee had decided to recommend that a 5% dividend be paid as well as a 15% rebate on interest paid on loans. He pointed out that this rebate reduced the very competitive interest rate on loans of 1% per month to 0.85%. He also said that it was proposed to pay 5% interest to the juniors. These proposals were put to the meeting and unanimously agreed.

Albert Beattie gave the auditors report on behalf of William Courtney & Co., Chartered Accountants,

Armagh.

Four members of the committee had retired in accordance with rule 72. The secretary, Daryl McKeown, had stated in a letter that he would not allow his name to go forward for re-election due to other commitments. The chairman paid tribute to all the hard work that Daryl had done in the past and expressed the hope that he might be able to find time to help again in the future. The nominations received for the vacancies were the outgoing members, Mrs. Caroline Law, Mrs. Myrtle Law, Gerald Pike and a new nominee, Trevor Lockhart. There were no other nominations so the chairman declared them elected and welcomed the new committee member Trevor Lockhart.

The committee held a meeting immediately afterwards and the following officers were elected: chairman, Sammy Brush; vice-chairman, Ivan Duff; treasurer, Noel Erskine; assistant treasurer, Mervyn Little; secretary, Trevor Lockhart; assistant secretary, Caroline Law; internal auditors, Gerald Pike and Noel Givan.



## Long service

Two members of the Star of the East RBP 52 Dungannon, Sir Knt. Edwin Whyte (left) and Sir Knt. Joe Cahoon pictured after receiving 50-year jewels from Sir Knt. Derek Marshall WDM, Killyman District Chapter No. 1 at Portadown on the Last Saturday in August.

# Apprentice Boys 60th anniversary dinner

**THE Apprentice Boys of Derry, Mitchelburne Club, Saintfield Branch, celebrated their 60th Anniversary on November 18 with a dinner and social evening in Saintfield Orange Hall.**

At the end of the meal an anniversary cake, which was baked and decorated by Bro. William Clarke, was cut by Bros. Thomas Colhoun and Kyle Carse - grandfather and grandson.

Bro. Ken Lunney, President of the Branch, gave a very enlightening history of the branch's formation and activities down through the years, including some informative extracts from the minute books. One interesting fact being that the Rev. William McCrea, M.P., was made an Apprentice Boy, through the Smithfield Branch, in April 1968.

Presentations of 50-year medals were made to Bros. Jim Scott, Sammy Riddell and Tommy Colhoun by Bro. Walter Irvine, Chairman of the Co. Down Amalgamated Committee. Bro. Robert Hamilton, from Bellshill Branch, then presented into the safe-keeping of Bro. Tommy Colhoun

a set of new ceremonial table coverings for the use of the branch. These were a gift from the President Ken Lunney. A further presentation was made to Bro. Trevor McIntyre (Secretary) in appreciation of his hard

work and commitment to the branch.

The guest speaker was John McIntyre, from the Ulster-Scots Language Society who spoke on the renewed interest in the Ulster-Scots language. The guests found his talk be both informative and humorous.

The Saintfield Branch of the Apprentice Boys continues to go from strength to strength being represented at all church services and other activities organised by the Apprentice Boys of Derry. One enthusiastic member was heard to comment at the end of a very enjoyable evening that he couldn't wait until the 100th anniversary!

**Bro. Thomas Colhoun along with his grandson Bro. Kyle Care, cutting the anniversary cake to mark the 60th anniversary of the Club.**



**Officers, members and guests of Mitchelburne Club, Saintfield Branch of the Apprentice Boys of Derry on their 60th anniversary. Front row: 2nd left, Bro. Ken Lunney, President of Club, together with Bros. Jim Scott, Samuel Riddle and Thomas Colhoun who were presented with 50-year jewels for service to the Club. Seated 2nd right in front row is Bro. Lawrence Anderson, Vice-President.**



# Marked silence on boycott

**THERE has been a distinct reluctance on the part of many Roman Catholic Church and civic leaders to unreservedly condemn the campaign of boycott which has forced Protestant business people out of their livelihood in Pomeroy and other parts of Northern Ireland.**

This is in stark contrast to the outright condemnation by most Protestant church and Unionist political leaders and parties of the picketing of the Roman Catholic Church at Harryville.

Protestants in Pomeroy, Dunloy, Bellaghy, and many other places have had a tough time since last July. Families have been forced from districts they have lived in for generations by intimidation, boycott and violence.

Ethnic cleansing is an ugly term, but it has certainly been in operation in Northern Ireland during the

past 27 years and it has overwhelmingly been the Protestant section of the population which has been on the receiving end.

Roman Catholics have been intimidated from their homes in parts of County Antrim and this is deplorable. But that has been minimal compared to the expulsion of Protestants from huge parts of North and West Belfast, from large tracts of Tyrone and Fermanagh, from the Garvaghy Road in Portadown, and the West Bank in Londonderry.

In 1969 there were flourishing Protestant communities in Grosvenor Road, Oldpark Road, New Barnsley, Moyard, Upper Meadow, Spamount and Hillman Streets off the New Lodge Road. It was the same in Cliftonville, Lower Ormeau, at Newington in Lenadoon, in the Rosemount - Park Avenue area of Londonderry, and at Woodside - Garvaghy

Road in Portadown.


Today, these areas are all completely nationalist or in the process of going that way, and this has resulted in the uproar over Orange parades in places like Springfield Road, Garvaghy Road and Ormeau Road.

Most of the ethnic cleansing and intimidation took place quietly and without the glare of television cameras. Over 14,000 Protestants were forced to move from the west bank of Londonderry, hundred of Protestant families were driving from New Barnsley estate in a matter of days, yet nothing was done to protect them and allow them to remain in their homes.

The same thing must not be allowed to happen about the equally deplorable attempts to force Protestants out through boycotting their businesses - the matter must be highlighted in order to have this practice ended.



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# The authentic Drumcree story

GORDON Lucy had almost completed his book on the Drumcree stand-off 1995 when an event bigger confrontation took place at the historic Portadown church in July 1996 and it is a tribute to the diligence, research and expertise of the author that he has been able to produce a book doing justice to both momentous events.

Lucy is the first author to produce a book on the awesome events at Drumcree these past two summers. No doubt there will be many other books on the subject - an ongoing and still not resolved issue - but Lucy has the advantage of having been in first and his book should enjoy a big sale.

Portadown has always been an Orange stronghold, but the events of the past two summers have made the parish church which lies a short distance outside the town a household word throughout the world.

Drumcree and Garvaghy Road have become synonymous with what is broadly known as the 'marching season' - a term invented by outsiders, as it was one never used prior to the Troubles by Ulster people, and certainly not Orangemen.

The publicity of course which has made Drumcree and Garvaghy Road internationally known is not the type which Portadown wants, nor indeed the Ulster Protestant and unionist community at large.

The fact that a hitherto peaceful annual church parade has become the focal point for so much agitation, turmoil and uproar is not something that the Orange Institution wanted or sought. Quite the contrary in fact and Orangemen were merely wanting to walk along the route their forefathers had walked for nearly 200 years.

That Garvaghy Road has become a byword for intolerance is due to the influx of republicans into an area which was formerly predominantly Protestant in character, although Roman Catholics had lived side by side with their neighbours in peace for generations.

The republicans, most of them not from Portadown, have used the Orange parade as a vehicle to parade their hatred of all things British. They did the same thing a decade ago and succeeded in closing Obins Street to the Orangemen - now they were determined to do the same with Garvaghy Road, with the objective of eventually ending the District church service.

Gordon Lucy's book chronicles the story of the stand-offs at Drumcree and draws extensively on the memories and writings of many of the key figures associated with the events - Bros. David Trimble, Jeffrey Donaldson, and



The scene at Drumcree Parish Church on July 10 during the public meeting at which it is thought was the turning point of the siege.

Portadown District Master Harold Gracey among many others.

Gordon did not interview nationalist residents of Garvaghy Road but has sought to give a balanced view by drawing on the reported comments of spokesmen like Brendan McKenna.

The book points the finger of blame at personalities in the RUC and the Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition. He criticises senior police officers for mistaken decisions over the route, and the residents' group for its utter intransigence over the traditional return parade route.

No doubt readers will form their own conclusions and these may be coloured by their political views and allegiances. But few would argue with many of the findings, and especially Lucy's comment that when the 900 Orangemen of Portadown District set out to walk to Drumcree Parish Church on Sunday, July 9, 1995, unknown to them they were about to march their way into the history books.

Lucy was spot on when he predicted that the Orange stand-offs at Portadown will become as famous in Orange history and folklore as that of William Johnston of Ballykillbeg who led a huge Orange parade from Newtownards to Bangor in the 19th century to break the then Liberal ban on parades.

In the foreword to what is an excellent book, Bro. George Patton, executive officer of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, makes the salient point

that the Protestant community is by no means unique in holding parades, and he cites many worldwide examples to support his case.

"There are a number of factors prompting the organisation of Orange parades. They are a witness for our faith and this is evidenced by parades to and from public worship."

It is a theme which constantly emerges throughout the book from Orange and Unionist representatives. They clearly see the nationalist opposition to the Orange return parade along Garvaghy Road as an attempt to deny Protestant worshippers their right to practice their faith by attending Divine Worship at a parish church attended by their ancestors, and using the same return route to Carleton Street that has been used for 189 years.

Nationalists of course, especially those living in upper Garvaghy Road estates do not see it that way. They point to demographic changes - changes brought about by intimidation and pressure on Protestant families to move - and what they perceive to be a triumphalist parade.

Much of Gordon Lucy's book concerns the stand-off of 1995, but it has been updated to comprehensively cover the events of the past summer.

Lucy draws extensively on newspaper reports and speeches made during the stand-offs, and the conclusions in the book support the view that the interference of the Dublin

Government play a key part in the original decision to re-route the parades.

"Behind the scenes in London Sir John Wheeler, the security minister, and other colleagues in the Government had become increasingly convinced that Sir Hugh Annesley had made a serious error of judgment and would have to reverse his decision," wrote Lucy.

He claims that journalists in London were fully aware of the views of Ministers and it is believed those views were communicated to the Chief Constable either directly by Ministers or indirectly by officials.

Talks were taking place right up to the last minute involving church leaders in a bid to break the impasse but Lucy declares that the Chief Constable's decision to do an about-turn on the parade was based on the belief that the negotiations being brokered by the four church leaders were not prospering "and time was of the essence."

Lucy also concludes that Brendan McKenna and the Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition were not prepared "to swallow hard, forget the past, and find a formula."

"They had adamantly refused to agree to even a token procession, thereby spurning the efforts of the church leaders, including the Cardinal, out of hand," he said.

The author believed that McKenna's sole reason for such intransigence was that David Trimble and Ian Paisley, not during but after last year's march "allegedly had behaved in a triumphalist manner."

One of the most controversial features of this year's stand-off was the encounter between Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble and leading Portadown loyalist Billy Wright.

Lucy comments: "As Trimble's motive in meeting Wright was to preserve the loyalist ceasefire and to avert violence, his efforts ought to have been commended rather than the subject of censure."

The author comes down strongly on the side of those who argue that Trimble was a calming influence during the stand-off and he quotes a leading southern writer Ruth Dudley Edwards who said: "I saw Trimble, like an army officer in the field, heading off trouble, calming people down and trying to defuse the anger of his constituents without losing his influence for good."

High drama indeed, and this book covering so many aspects of the stand-offs will provide much food for thought among those seeking solutions to avert a repetition in July this year.

The book is published by the Ulster Society at £7.99 and is on sale at all leading bookshops.

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# Sanctity of Drumcree

DRUMCREE Parish Church is known throughout the world due to the stand-offs these past two years, and it is a church with long associations with the Orange Institution and Protestant religion.

Its churchyard contains the mortal remains of many who have served the Unionist and loyalist cause down the years, and who paid the supreme price for their loyalty.

The graves in the churchyard include those of members of the security forces killed in the various IRA campaigns of this century.

One well-known victim of the IRA during the 1920-22 campaign was W.J. Twaddell, a Unionist MP for West Belfast in the Northern Ireland Parliament.

Mr. Twaddell was murdered by IRA gunmen as he walked along Royal Avenue in June, '22, and the killers escaped into Smithfield.

Mr. Twaddell's funeral to

Drumcree was one of the largest seen in Portadown and many VIPs walked with the cortege as it made its way along Garvaghy Road.

Another victim of the IRA in those times was young Portadown man William Thomas McKnight. William, an Orangeman, was serving with the 'A' Special Constabulary when he was mortally wounded by a republican sniper in County Tyrone, dying shortly afterwards in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

His funeral was also one

of the largest in Portadown in those days and was widely condemned by church and civic leaders. McKnight, a young man in his 20s had served with distinction in the Great War with the Inniskillings and had been decorated for his

outstanding gallantry.

The cortege included a large representation from his lodge - Seagoe LOL No.26. Sadly, many others have died in the service of the Crown since, and a number are buried in Drumcree churchyard.

A big night at Kilrea LOL No.366 Apprentice Boys' Lodge when they met to honour the devoted membership of no less than five '50-year men'. Certificates were presented by Deputy Master John Alexander to Bros. James McIlfratrick, John Walker, Tommy Holmes, Bobbie Torrens and Robert Alexander. Special jewels were presented to Bro. James McIlfratrick and Bro. John Walker to show appreciation of their 50 years faithful service as secretary and treasurer.



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# Comment - Comment - Com

## Change at the top in Orangeism



AFTER 24 years of sterling service to the Orange Institution in the single and complex office of Grand Master of Ireland – he served Orangeism with equal commitment in several other capacities – Most Wor. Bro. the Rev. W. Martin Smyth declined to be nominated for the office for another year. I paid compliment to him in the last issue of this paper for a contribution to the cause greater than what could be expected from any Orangeman. The County Grand Master of Belfast, Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert Saulters, was elected unanimously to succeed him in the most public and pressurised post in Irish Orangeism. He comes to the office with experience in top job of the Belfast County and with the added advantage of having been County Grand Secretary for a period. His worth in both capacities was readily acknowledged. The Grand Lodge was persuaded that he could lead it in a most difficult period for the Order organisationally, and politically for Ulster. He has been assured of the support of a Grand Lodge team of officers who will give him the same loyalty, respect and devotion they showed to his predecessor. They are a good mix of age, experience, education and intelligence, and from backgrounds sufficiently varied to provide the necessary advice and encouragement a leader needs in his situation. An accountant by profession, Bro. Saulters has the quiet, thoughtful approach to decision taking, a necessary attribute in his business and an asset in leadership for such a time as this. It is to be hoped that the Institution at large will treat the new Grand Master with sensitivity and sympathy. He must carefully monitor his movements and control his engagements to allow him to pursue a life aside from the demands of the Institution. A family man and a churchman, he has commitments of primary importance to which he must give time and presence. It is reasonable to request that invitations to Orange Order functions, events and activities should take account of these things. Fortunately the services of Assistant Grand Masters are available so that the workload can be shared. Bro. Saulters within minutes of his election had to face the media. He gave a creditable account of himself then, and thereafter in a few radio programmes – one of them was Sunday Sequence, December 15 – when he showed an ability to explain his thinking on matters in question and with a clarity of speech and precision of thought that no one may doubt his courage, determination and honesty in the presentation of the Orange case for whatever reason and in whatever circumstances.

### POSITIVE APPROACH

The half yearly meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland on December 11 in the House of Orange was very well attended and as usual remarkably good natured and positive in its approach to the business before it. Perhaps the most important report that it heard was that of the Commission set up to examine the structures of the Institution and to make proposals for changes in them. While our comment of last issue on the subject was written without knowledge of this Interim Report, it is gratifying to see that our thinking is similar in substance if different in detail. Ours was a scan of the present situation with an eye to the future while the report is an examination in depth of what is and what is suggested for change. The chairman of the Commission, the Rt. Wor. Bro. the Rev. Dr. Warren Porter, presented the report with commendable brevity and clarity and answered questions which arose from it. He invited lodges and individuals to make final comments on this Interim Report by May, 1997. Dr. Porter asked for another year in which to continue the work of the Commission and that request was granted.

### MORAL BACKBONE

The short journey to the General Election is quickening the pulses of politicians, the media and those in the population interested enough in politics to go to the polls to try to ensure the election of a government which will serve them well. Among the subjects in debate are party attitudes to education, health, housing, homelessness, violence and unemployment. But there is a new emphasis on morality in everything. The parties are emphasising Christian moral values as the basis of their philosophy of modern-day politics. There appears to be an acceptance of the Daniel O'Connell maxim, "Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong." This is not a new phenomenon in British politics. In other days the religious card was played by politicians with convinced Christian attitudes and responses to the issues which confronted them. And by others who found it an advantage to elicit the support of those who Christianity was for them the answer to humanity's needs. In British politics there has always been the sincere and the insincere and the separation of the one from the other has not always been easy.

Orangemen, like all other citizens, have to be concerned about government for it has to do with our happiness or misery; whether we are clothed or naked; fed or starved; deceived or instructed; protected or destroyed. (Cato) The amelioration of the condition of people, and the increase of human happiness ought to be the leading objects of every political party, and the aim of every individual, according to the measure of his power in the situation in which he finds himself. We might add that political prosperity has a dependence on religion and morality. One Christian writer insists that "religion is the mortar that binds society together; the granite pedestal of liberty; the strong backbone of the social system." The parties are being led presently by men who claim to be motivated by the Christian ethic. That their politics have an indebtedness to the Christian emphasis on chastity, honesty, magnanimity and decency in human relationships. It is not for us to question their sincerity. Time will tell us whether our trust in them was justified. The emphasis on morality and Christian values has encouraged churchmen to voice their opinions on matters of immediate importance to us. Their submissions are not new thoughts on old problems, but a reiteration of complaints against the wrongs of society. A main complaint has been the growing chasm between the rich and the poor. The imbalances are seen as the evidence of preferential treatment of some and the neglect of others. Church leaders have expressed their opinions on education, health, poverty, and the safety of people in an often violent society. While there has to be an appreciation of the many problems facing the authorities in each field there has to be a constant questioning of how they are being tackled. Underlying every submission is the expectation that those affected by decisions made for them will be treated with that sensitivity to which they are entitled. The good society is respectful of all its citizens and especially those of them for whom life is a struggle just to survive. Because the Christian voice should be heard in everything which matters to people it is right and proper that we should hear it by leaders who can inspire, and irritate, those responsible for political decisions which affect us all. The Christian voice is the voice of the deepest human experiences. While in Northern Ireland we may not vote for a party of government at Westminster we are no less interested than those who can in the result of the General Election, for our future depends as does theirs on who governs us.

## Shankill preceptory celebrate 50 years



Colin Winncott, the youngest member of the 'Sons of Ulster' RBP 375 Shankill District No.6, Belfast, and Sandy Scott, the oldest, had the honour of cutting the cake at the Golden Anniversary of the preceptory at the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast.

Pictures :  
ALLAN McCULLOUGH,  
Belfast



Sir Knt. Danny Rafferty, WM, pictured with members of RBP 375 at an anniversary dinner in the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast.



Sir Knts. William Young (Treasurer), Thomas Hall (Chaplain) and George Irvine (Registrar).



Sir Knt. Danny Rafferty, WM; Sir Knt. David Young, PM; Sir Knt. Gary Wilson, PM; and Sir Knt. Lee Wilson, DM, were also in attendance.



Sir Knt. Lee Wilson (left), Deputy Master and Sir Knt. Maurice Gilmore (right), pictured with Sir Knt. Jim Ashbridge, a member of the 'Sons of Ulster' for 43 years.

## Parades concern

THE Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has expressed concern at the submission made by the Police Authority to the North Review Body.

"The right of free assembly and peaceful procession should be enshrined in any democratic state. The proposal to levy some form of payment for such a right is abhorrent in a democracy. The concept of an independent tribunal to decide on parades is ill-advised."

The newly elected Grand Master, Bro. Robert Saulters, stated that the RUC and ultimately the Secretary of State must accept that this is their responsibility without influence whether it be from tribunals, the Maryfield Secretariat, or the Dublin Government.

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## OBITUARY:

# Very Rev. Robert Dickinson

HIS many friends throughout the whole of Ireland were deeply saddened by the death of former Presbyterian Moderator, Dr. Bertie Dickinson (71), following a period of illness.

Well known for his strong views which he argued articulately in the courts of the Church, Dr. Dickinson was no stranger to senior office in the Presbyterian Church. He was Moderator of the Derry Presbytery in 1971. Clerk of the Tyrone Presbytery from 1976 until 1989. Moderator of the Synod of Derry and Omagh in 1988 and took up the position of Clerk of Ballymena Presbytery in 1994, coupling that role with that of Presbytery's press agent.

In 1985 the General Assembly elected Dr. Dickinson its Moderator and he held the post during a year of political upheaval surrounding the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Strongly committed to the Reformed tradition of the Presbyterian denomination, he was one of the leaders of the campaign which secured the Presbyterian withdrawal from the World

Council of Churches.

In paying tribute, the present Moderator, Dr. Henry Allen, said Dr. Dickinson was a friend of many years standing.

"He was a man valiant for truth, a preacher of the Word of God and a gift evangelist. He spoke from his heart and possessed a sound theological touch. While he held strong views and debated powerfully, he was not of a contentious spirit. Throughout his ministry he was a devoted pastor and a good friend," he said.

Dr. Dickinson was born in Belfast on April 25, 1925.

He was brought up in the Westbourne and Orange-field congregations and attended Methodist College, Belfast and Magee College, Londonderry, graduating in Arts from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1948.

On his appointment as Moderator in 1985 he became Doctor of Divinity awarded by the Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland. In 1992 he gained a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Queen's University for a

thesis on Divine Healing which also became the subject of a book which he wrote.

More recently he was awarded a Doctorate in Theology by the Geneva Theological College.

After his licensing in 1950, Dr. Dickinson's ministerial career began with a time of assistantship in Richview. He was ordained in 1953 when called to the Argyle Place congregation. Warren Porter, a personal friend of Rev. Dickinson and his family, recalled the words of King David: 'Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen today in Israel.'

They were words that also applied to Bertie Dickinson, he said.

Forty-six years ago, Rev. Dickinson was licenced by the Presbytery of Belfast, and he was 'delighted to proclaim the good news to sinner and saint.'

His services in Ebrington in Londonderry, Tobermore, Draperstown, and in his later years at Newtowncrommelin were widely sought far beyond his parochial bounds, said Dr. Porter.

He recalled the opening night of the Assembly, in 1985, when he showed that he was a 'great preacher' who spoke from the heart to the common people.

For many years he served on the council of the Barbican Mission to the Jews, and after it amalgamated with the International Jewish Society to form Christian Witness to Israel, he continued his service.

As an advocate of the spiritual welfare of the Hebrew people, he stood in a noble tradition, according to Dr. Porter.

As a theologian of no mean ability, two universities admitted him to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Theology.

## GOOD SPIRIT

He never took the easy way out or shrank from espousing the truth as he saw it, and he did not shrink from controversy. In 1960 he became minister of Ebrington, Londonderry. Thirteen years later he moved to the joint charges of Tobermore and Draperstown where he min-

istered until 1989 and his called to Newtowncrommelin congregation. He retired from the active ministry in 1994.

Although he had recently retired from active participation, he had been a life-long member of both the Orange and Royal Black Institutions and had held high office in both.

He identified strong with the Orange Order, and was Grand Chaplain of the City of Derry Grand Orange Lodge as well as taking a leading role in the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

Just a few years ago, he felt he had to relinquish office in the Order, Dr. Porter, among others, sought to dissuade him, as he saw the need for his incisive analysis and loyalty was as true as ever.

Dr. Dickinson was buried at Ballee cemetery after a service of remembrance at Harryville Presbyterian Church last Sunday.

He is survived by his wife, Pat, and a large family of married children: John, Stephen, Peter, their children, his brother Eric, who now lives in Canada and Betty his sister.

Wor. Bro.  
J.A. Morrison, B.A.

THE death of the Grand Lodge's Deputy Librarian took from us one of those quiet, efficient, self-effacing well read brethren who add knowledge, respect and dignity to the Institution.

The organisation is rich when it has such brethren for they are never plentiful on the ground. We pay tribute to Bro. John for the masterly way in which he re-ordered the Institution's library, catalogued its books and literary materials from all sources and made it easy for those who use its facilities to do so to the best advantage. His selection of suitable additions to it was always taken with an eye to the value and usefulness of each purchase.

John was a writer of distinction, his letters to the press were distinctive for their well ordered reasoning of a case; and his publications were carefully researched and presented. An example of that is the recently published "Ulster Cover-Up" by the Ulster Society. Our sympathy goes to the widow and family circle in their bereavement.

S.E. LONG.

## Wor. Bro. the Rev. Canon Dr. M.W. Dewar, M.A., Ph.D., Grand Chaplain

IT is with a deep sense of loss that we contemplate the sudden passing on November 30 last of Dr. Michael Dewar, one of the best known and most respected chaplains of the Orange Institution.

An Englishman, who became an Ulsterman in spirit, reality and destiny, he added considerably to the better understanding of those things for which Orangeism stands by his preaching, lecturing and writing.

A recognised authority on King William III, the Williamite period, its heritage and contribution to British and Irish politics, Dr. Dewar shed much light on these subjects, and memorably and permanently in his first part of "Orangeism: A New Historical Appreciation". (1967).

His profiles of the Protestant Reformers and the booklets, "The Scarva Story", "Why Orangeism?" "Protestant Portraits: A Brave Thirteen", "A Junior Orangeman's Catechism", "We Live in Britain" and "They Subdued Kingdoms: A Historical Portrait Gallery", were among the works which marked his standing as an historian of repute. In styles of speech and writing, peculiarly his own, he enlightened, edu-

cated and entertained all who read or heard him.

As a scholar he demonstrated his versatility and the extensiveness of his knowledge of people and events; literature and general knowledge, when he participated in the radio "Round Britain Quiz" representing Northern Ireland, and as a competitor on television's "Mastermind" in 1972. Years later he was seen in attendance at a "Mastermind" when his son was in the black chair. And he had been a competitor on "Brain of Britain" 1965.

Dr. Dewar was ordained for the curacy of Shankill, Lurgan, on June 16, 1949. He was a curate in St. Patrick's, Ballymacarrett and thereafter rector of Scarva, Magherally and Helen's Bay. There was a break when from 1960-64 he was joint-headmaster of Harcourt School, Weyhill, Andover, Hants.

The ordination was by Bishop William Shaw Kerr, a Grand Chaplain of the Order, whose writings and friendship had so affected the thinking of Michael Dewar that he made his commitment to Irish Anglicanism and Orangeism thereafter.

I was also one of the seven to be made deacons in St. Clement's Church, Belfast, that day and in that church I was to serve my first curacy. Only two of the seven remain alive, Canon J.R. Hall and myself. Michael was highly honoured when he was appointed a Canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, in 1983.

He retired from the active ministry in 1986 and went

to live with his wife, Lily, in Cheltenham, England. And there he served as an honorary assistant clergyman in a local parish church. He remained deeply interested in the Church of Ireland and

well-informed on the Orange Institution for he was such a prolific letter writer that he kept his friendships alive by his pen.

We offer our condolences to Lily, sons David

and John, their wives and families on their bereavement. A Liverpool lass Lily and Michael had a most excellent loving, sharing and working marriage.

S.E. LONG.



## Canon Dr. Michael W. Dewar - An Appreciation

THE sudden death of a well-known rector, who served in the Diocese of Down and Dromore for more than 30 years, has evoked much sorrow. The Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Willoughby Dewar, died at his home at Cheltenham, Gloucester, to which he and his wife, Mrs. Lillian Dewar, moved some 10 years ago to be near their sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

Dr. Dewar's appointment to the incumbency of the seaside Parish of Helen's Bay early in 1973 was in the opinion of many a long overdue recognition of his outstanding ability.

A pillar of Orangeism, he held high office in both the Orange and Black Institutions and was also identified with the Apprentice Boys of Derry. A few years ago the officers and brethren of Mount Ida LOL No.26a presented him with a gold watch to mark his 50 years membership of the Order.

Year after year he remembered the host of friends he had made on our local scene and was in the process of completing his Christmas mail at the time of his sudden death.

It was in the autumn of 1957 that I first met him. At that time he was rector of

Scarva Parish, Co. Down, where he ministered from 1955 to 1960.

In the years since then there grew up between us a friendship which I will always cherish. We corresponded on a very regular basis, and only at the beginning of the week in which he passed away I received his last letter.

He was ordained in 1949 by Bishop William Shaw Kerr and served his first curacy in the parish of Shankill, Lurgan. Later he became the curate of St. Patrick, Ballymacarrett, Belfast.

Following his incumbency in Scarva he returned in 1960 to his native Hampshire, there to become joint headmaster and chaplain of Harcourt Preparatory School, Weyhill, a position he held for some four years.

But his love of Ulster and of the Ulster way of life led him to return to the premier County of Down, which was proud to count him amongst its very own. And so in 1964 he was appointed to take charge of the parishes of Magherally and Annaclone, an appointment which meant that for over 8 years until 1973 he and Mrs. Dewar were to occupy the lovely old Georgian rectory at Magherally,

almost within a stone's throw of the ruined 18th century church, where the remains of that renowned mediaeval scholar, Dr. Helen Waddell, were laid to rest.

That one of such literary gifts and skilled penmanship should have held the post of secretary of the Lurgan Clerical Union and the Banbridge Ministers' Fraternal during his years at Magherally is not surprising. At a time he was also joint editor of the Down and Dromore Parishes Magazine. A former Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt. Rev. G. A. Quinn, appointed him to be examining chaplain in Church History of candidates for ordination.

A graduate of Cambridge University and Trinity College, Dublin in 1960 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Queen's University, Belfast, for his treatise on 'How far is the Westminster Assembly of Divines an Expression of 17th century Anglican Theology?' - a work which was indicative of his sympathy with other Reformed Churches.

For some 16 years he was a member, and for 13 years secretary, of the Belfast Eclectic Fraternal, a

fellowship of Protestant clergy of all denominations.

In 1972 he qualified as the 'Mastermind' of Northern Ireland in Magnus Magnusson's programme 'Mastermind of the United Kingdom', winning his way through to compete against the rest of the U.K. in the semi-finals. His son David scored very highly in Mastermind in more recent years. In the "Round Britain Quiz" BBC radio programme Dr. Dewar and others from Northern Ireland on numerous occasions defeated the London resident team.

During Dr. Dewar's incumbency of Scarva he made a welcome contribution towards putting the 'Sham Fight' village on the map through his illustrated booklet, 'The Scarva Story', followed in quick succession by 'A Brave Thirteen' and other historical works.

In the parishes where he served, tributes were paid on the Sunday following his death, coupled with prayers for Mrs. Dewar and her family.

His passing is a tremendous loss to all who had the privilege of knowing him. His memory we will cherish.

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## WOR. BRO. REV. WILLIAM FRAME

WOR. Bro. the Rev. William Frame died after a short illness in the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald aged 75 years.

He was a member and Past Member of Comber True Blues LOL 1035 for 57 years and was also their chaplain for many years. Other offices included Past District Master and District Chaplain of Comber District LOL 15 and a Deputy Grand Chaplain of both Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and Co. Down Grand Lodge. Other offices he held in sister organisations were: Grand Chaplain of the Royal Arch Purple Chapter, Deputy Grand Chaplain of Co. Down Royal Black Chapter, District Chaplain of Comber District Black Chapter and Chaplain of Star of Comber RBP 186. His dedication and commitment to the Institution was well renowned, as witnessed by the presence of senior Officers of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland at the funeral service.

The funeral service in Comber Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church was conducted by Rev. Ian Gilpin, assisted by the Moderator, Rev. David Cockcroft. The address by Rev. Harper of Ballygowan Presbyterian Church. It was remarked that the funeral was the largest gathering in Comber, an estimation of Bro. Frame's esteem throughout the Province.

Wor. Bro. John Bostock, PDM, in paying tribute to Bro. Frame, stated: "He was the most fun loving, youthful person I have ever met; even though he was 75 years. He was young in his approach to life and a great inspiration and example to the Orange Institution. His wisdom, counsel and most of all his sense of humour will be sadly missed, and the loss to the Orange Institution, especially Comber District will be impossible to replace."

Bro. Frame is survived by his wife Emily, son William and daughter Beth.

A contributor to the letters column of the 'Belfast Telegraph' recently issued a blunt challenge to those who so ardently favour a united Ireland to spell out the consequences in the unlikely event of this scenario coming about.

He had a very good point. The IRA terrorist campaign of the past 25 years, aided and supported by Sinn Fein has drawn covert support from sections of the nationalist community who would be adamant in their assertion that they are opposed to violence, but support in principle the case for a British withdrawal and the incorporation of what Gerry Adams calls the 'failed Statelet' of Northern Ireland into a united socialist republic.

It is time that these supporters of a united Ireland were called to account to spell out the financial ramifications of such a State. As the contributor to the 'Belfast Telegraph' said, this would include an answer to how military, financial and social issues are dealt with by the Irish State.

Where do the supporters of a united Ireland perceive the cash will flow from to maintain Northern Ireland at the same level of social and health provision enjoyed as part of the United Kingdom? Do they seriously believe that a country with so many social issues, including a mammoth drug problem, crime in the cities, and dependent on European cash to a large extent could have the financial wherewithal to keep Ulster

people on the same level of social and welfare benefits as they enjoy as British citizens?

The Republic has been extremely successful as an EC receiver, with billions of European cash, mainly provided by Germany, France, and the United Kingdom poured into the country providing a standard of living unparalleled in the Republic's history.

But there are already worries emerging in the South about what will happen when the European cash begins to dry up, as other poor nations join the Community - countries of eastern Europe which have looked enviously at the poor nations like Portugal, Spain and Eire who have milked the EC cow.

It is safe to assume that the Republic will have to adjust to receiving less cash from Europe, and if the United Kingdom decides not to join the Common Currency, then the South of Ireland will be in real difficulty.

But even if Britain does sign up to the common currency, it will still leave the Republic with enough problems without having to cope with taking on the responsibility for governing Northern Ireland.

### NIGHTMARE

It's a totally unreal scenario, and it would be a security nightmare for the Eire Army if it was asked to take on the role carried out by the British Army during the last quarter-of-a-centu-

ry. Does anyone seriously imagine the Republic's already overstretched military and police forces trying to keep the peace in Co. Antrim, North Down, East Belfast or North Armagh?

It is time for reality to dawn among those supporters of an Irish Republic who dream about this coming about through the will of the Ulster people. A million Protestants, and 250,000 Roman Catholics who want to remain British stand between the dreamers and their ambition.

But let the advocates of Irish unity spell out clearly and unambiguously how they see the financial support coming for their dream State. How will they finance the family allowances and all the other many benefits enjoyed by the citizens of West Belfast, the Bogside and other areas which receive a large proportion of the cash poured into the Province by the UK Government.

So such people really believe that Dublin would be as generous towards Northern Ireland as London has been? Would roads, hospitals, housing, welfare

and industry in Northern Ireland receive the same level of assistance from a Dail which would be presurised by TDs from Cork, Galway, Limerick and everywhere else to see that the North didn't have anything over them?

No, the reality is that Northern Ireland has thrived during the past 75 years from its membership of the United Kingdom. It has had its recessions, and no-one welcomes the sort of cut-backs which have taken place in health and social services recently.

But overall Northern Ireland has benefitted to an enormous degree by being British. It has been a member of the UK as of right, and Ulster people are proud to be British, proud to be Queen's men and women. They have no reservations on this score, and their loyalty to country and monarch has been undiminished.

They do want to be on friendly terms with the Republic, and they wish that country every success. But they see nothing advantageous in exchanging their status of citizenship. Perhaps the supporters of a united Ireland can present a prima facie case to the contrary, based on hard financial statistics. Let them now present that case and put it on the table for discussion.

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## 100th Birthday

One hundred not out. That's Sir Knt. Andrew McFall, Rhonehill Temperance RBP 987, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Sir Knight McFall, pictured with Sir Knights of RBP 987, was initiated in RBP 987 in West Belfast Orange Hall in August, 1919. A celebration party was held in Minnowburn House where he is in residence.

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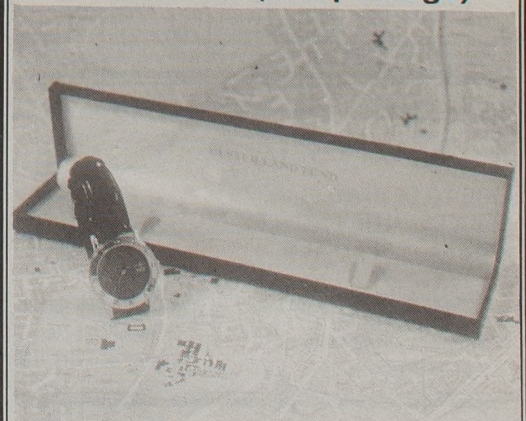
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## Women's installation in Saintfield



Sister Gladys Morrow, WM Saintfield Lodge (centre), pictured with Sister Maisie Ross, CGM Co. Down (left) and Sister McIntyre, WDM No.1.

SAINTFIELD Guiding Star Women's LOL No.67 has just installed their officers for the current year. The local Orange Hall was filled to capacity for the event with visitors from a very wide area including Ballygowan, Ballyrobert, Hollywood, Cavan, Newry and Magheragall.

Brethren from the local Men's lodges, Sister Maisie Ross, Grand Mistress of Co. Down and Bro. Alex McShane, Past County Grand Master of Co. Down, were also present and conveyed their good wishes as did the many representatives of the visiting lodges.

The installing officer was Sister McIntyre, District Mistress of No.1 District, Co. Down and Sister M. Ross CGM presented the

officers. Those installed were:- Sister Gladys Morrow (WM), Marion Moreland (DM), Margaret Murphy (Chaplain), May English (Secretary) and Jean Clarke (Treasurer).

A very enjoyable supper was provided for everyone, followed by an entertaining musical evening when Mrs. Beth McCalla and Mrs. Betty Grant sang and played many well-known old favourites. Sister Gladys Morrow WM then presented gifts of appreciation from the lodge to some of the guests. Bro. Robin Fairbairn, chaplain of Saintfield District Lodge, thanked Sister Morrow and all the members of Saintfield Women's Lodge for their many acts of kindness and generosity towards Prices True Blues LOL No.550 in particular and Orangeism in general.

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## Alarming cut-backs in housing

THE cut in the Northern Ireland housing budget of £22 million is alarming not least for the possible impact it might have on Protestant districts of Belfast and Londonderry which are poised for schemes which could revitalise areas which have been in decline for years.

It would be a real kick in the teeth for the Protestant and Unionist community if there were to be drastic cut-backs in the number of new housing schemes. For the past two decades Protestants have looked on with envy as huge housing schemes have transformed the face of Roman Catholic areas.

The schemes have been among the most modern in Europe and provided the Roman Catholic districts with high quality housing - Lower Falls, New Lodge, Ardoyne, Short Strand and Markets are some obvious examples.

In fairness, the Housing Executive has been getting on with the job in recent years of tackling the immense housing problems in the Shankill, East Belfast and North Belfast, but these are still well behind the provision in nationalist areas.

It would be disastrous for the Shankill and other areas if there was to be a significant stoppage in new housing building. The Sugarfield Street-Bellevue Street is one example where remaining houses are sitting in a virtual wasteland as their occupants await rehousing. A recent report underlined the poor housing conditions in the Ainsworth area of Shankill.

This is one of the areas which are due to be bulldozed with new housing starting, but it all depends on finance.

Just over a mile away in the Alliance area, work is nearing completion on the first part of a rehabilitation scheme which it is anticipated will get this once prosperous area back into the attractive condition it

was a decade ago.

It would be another blow if this redevelopment work was to be held back.

In south Belfast the Village area of Donegall Road is in urgent need of a modernisation and new building programme.

The same applies to many parts of Protestant East Belfast, which has the longest waiting list in the city. There is a great need for hundreds of new houses to cope with families in urgent need as well as continue the work of redevelopment.

Recently parents in the Glencairn and Ballygomartin areas have protested strongly about the threatened closure of their school. One of the strongest cases for retaining the primary school is that more houses are in the pipeline at Glencairn, and a large new private estate is under way at Ballygomartin.

If the Glencairn scheme which replaces demolished flats was to be put on the long finger it could jeopardise the chances of saving the school.

Clearly there are serious implications for the Protestant areas of Belfast if the housing programme is to be radically affected, and Orange and Unionist representatives for those areas will be watching closely continuing developments.

In Londonderry, hopes have been centred on a promised housing uplift for the famous Fountain area, the last Protestant district on the West Bank. Again, the worry is that a freeze on housing expenditure could hit this plan.

Generally, the Northern Ireland population as a whole does not deserve to be hit by such draconian measures, but the Protestant population in particular will be hit if this plan is carried through, as it is Protestant districts of Belfast and Londonderry where the housing need is more dire at the moment.

## Upsurge in violence deplored

THE Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, in common with all other citizens who desire to uphold the rule of law and the principles of civil and religious liberty, deeply deplores the recent upsurge in sectarian violence and strife in the Province.

The Lodge said this was manifested in the burning of churches, Orange halls, schools, and other property; in the eviction of families from their homes, the boycotting of businesses and the obstruction of people, Protestant and Roman Catholic, attending their places of worship.

"In the name of the Truth and the Faith for which we stand we utterly condemn all such actions. We are sure that all right-thinking people will join us in such condemnation. Nothing can justify activities which are in breach of the Law of God and therefore contrary to the solemn obligations to which we are all pledged."



Many lodges are now celebrating the 200th anniversary of their formation - there was a great deal of activity in the aftermath of the Battle of the Diamond in 1795. One such lodge is Brackagh LOL No.18, Portadown District. Pictured at a dinner to mark their bicentenary are, from left, back row: Bros. Jack

Pentland, Sam McIntyre (chaplain), Nigel Wells (committee), Robert Toal (secretary), Jack Anderson, James Copeland, Jeffrey Toal and Bertie Toal. Front: Bros. Robert Wallace (District Secretary), Leslie Wells (WM of LOL No.18) and Thomas Houston (DM).

# Lodges and Bands Notice Board

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# Overkill on Drumcree

THE Orange stand-off at Drumcree has rarely been out of the news since last July and as many people observed the event has been blamed for almost everything in this Province including the weather.

The anger and outrage on the part of nationalists has been all too evident and Drumcree for them seemed to represent the most extreme example of Unionist and Orange intolerance.

If ever there was a case

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of overkill on an issue it has been the Drumcree factor, and listening to the outrage of those so quick to blacken the Orange Institution and loyalists, a person with no knowledge could easily be persuaded that this was the worst incident in the 27 years of the Troubles.

What utter nonsense when one recalls the dreadful atrocities like Bloody Friday, Kingsmills, La Mon House, and so many others.

No-one suspects that the real reason for nationalist outrage is the fact that Drumcree, or rather Garvaghy Road, and indeed similar events at Ormeau Road and other places signalled the end of

perceived Unionist acquiescence in the destruction of their Province and its way of life.

Up until the Orange stand-offs, large sections of the national and international media had presented the Ulster question as being one mainly between the British on the one hand, and the Pan-Nationalist Front of Sinn Fein-IRA, SDLP, and the Dublin Government on the other hand. The Protestants and Unionists were increasingly being seen as bit players - people caught between two rivals contesting a piece of territory in which the views of the majority were hardly heard, or ignored.

Drumcree ended that perception, indeed blew it out of the water, and underlined the fact that Ulster Protestants are the most important ingredient of all in the Northern Ireland question. They are the majority after all, and a substantial majority at that, so they cannot be ignored.



## Remembering gallantry at the Somme

The Battle of the Somme and the awesome sacrifice of the 36th (Ulster) Division which suffered 5,500 casualties on July 1, 1916, has lost none of its impact with the passing of the years. Ulstermen and women still feel an intense sense of pride about the heroism of their soldiers in that conflict. Exhibitions and lectures on the Somme continue to command great interest. A recent example was an exhibition held by Causnagh LOL No.98, Loughgall, in conjunction with the Ulster Society. Pictured at the exhibition are, from left, Bros. George Anderson, WM; Mervyn Walker, Bobby Robinson, Gordon Anderson and seated, Thomas Walker.

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Accra Heroes of Peace LOL No.3 Ghana, West Africa. Back row, left to right: Bro. A.M. Atchoe (Assistant Sec.), Bro. D.R. Tette-Tay (Recording Sec.), Bro. Y. Fianyo-Adovor (Treas.). Front row, left to right: Bro. G.K. Fiagbedzi (PM), Bro. R.K. Atchoe (DM), Bro. (Maj. Rtd) D.e.K. Edjameh (IPM), Bro. D.K. Dogbey.



Brethren of Accra Heroes of Peace with two Sisters and Rt. Wor. Bro. D.F. Gregorio-De Souza (PM, PDM, PPGM, DGM, Grand Orange Lodge of Ghana), wearing the sash.

Officers and brethren of Colonel Verner's True Blues LOL No.162, Loughgall District, pictured at a dinner to mark the 200th anniversary of the lodge's formation.

Those present included Bros. John Thompson (WM), George Potts (DM), Stephen Hayes (chaplain), Joseph Thompson (secretary) and Desmond Greenaway.

