



Orange STANDARD

LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE Isaiah 62:10

NO

Orangemen and women, unionists and loyalists, should say 'NO' in the forthcoming Northern Ireland referendum, unless radical changes are ordered by Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Government on the agreement reached at Stormont on April 10.

The concerns of the greater number of people in Northern Ireland must be directly addressed and acted upon if a political settlement is to have any credibility within the wider populace in the Province.

To this end, the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has requested an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister and, if this is granted, Grand Lodge officials will be seeking firm assurances and, where necessary, the removal of proposals in the Stormont Agreement which are clearly at variance with the wishes of the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland.

At its meeting last month the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland stated: "The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland takes note of the acceptance by the participants to the talks process of the document on April 10, but failing clarification of certain vital issues cannot recommend it to the people of Ulster".

Orangemen and unionists opposed to the agreement have been heartened by the stance taken by Lord Molyneux of Killead, the Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution,

and by six of our Ulster Unionist MPs who are Orangemen: the Rev. W. Martin Smyth, William Ross, Jeffrey Donaldson, William Thompson, Roy Beggs and Clifford Forsythe.

Opposition to the agreement is quite definitely growing at grassroots unionist and Orange lodge level; and a number of county grand lodges and districts have publicly declared their positions.

The agreement is a very green-tinged document which has been carefully compiled to placate the pan-Irish nationalist front, of which Sinn Fein/IRA is an integral component.

The concerns of the unionist/Orange family and their opposition to the document are fuelled by the following:

- * The over-riding role for the Dublin government in the internal

affairs of Northern Ireland.

* **Doubts over the future and integrity of the RUC.**

* **Failure to copper-fasten the decommissioning of illegal terrorist weaponry.**

* **The prospect of an undemocratically accountable Northern Ireland Assembly.**

* **The prospect of unrepentent terrorists in the executive of the proposed Assembly.**

* **The inclusion of mechanisms designed to make further concessions to the IRA.**

* **The spectre of the Maryfield Eire Secretariat operating under another guise.**

* **The early release of terrorist prisoners, both republican and loyalists, who have been convicted of the most heinous crimes.**

* **The promotion of symbols and culture which are alien to the great majority of people in Northern Ireland.**

As it presently stands, the agreement reached at Stormont on April 10 is something which very few unionists, if they are patently honest, could live with. Therefore we would implore pro-Union voters to have the courage of their convictions and, with the belief in protecting their birthright and heritage, they must do what is right for their beloved Province on May 22.

Only a dramatic intervention by Her Majesty's Government to make the agreement acceptable to the unionist majority in Northern Ireland will avert the disaster course our Province is now embarked upon.

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Parades quango in terminal decline

The wheels are off the wagon of the Parades Commission and Government policy on marches in Northern Ireland is in total disarray.

The Commission's decision to call off an announcement on its attitudes to loyal order parades this summer at the behest of the Prime Minister Tony Blair under pressure from Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble has seriously undermined the independence and integrity of this now discredited unelected quango.

The resignation of its two loyalist members – Glen Barr and Tommy Cheevers – means that the Commission is now totally flawed and its fold-up now seems certain.

The anti-unionist-Orange position which the Commission has adopted was obviously going to be reflected in a proposal to ban the Portadown District L.O.L. No. 1 parade along the Garvaghy Road in July and Orange parades in Pomeroy, Dunloy, Ormeau Road (Belfast) and in other areas where extreme republican residents' groups are agitating.

Tony Blair asked the Parades Commission chairman Alisatair Graham not to proceed with the recommendation on marches because of a fear of a negative response from unionists which would rally many more people to the 'NO' campaign in the referendum.

David Trimble declared he was "vehemently opposed" to the Commission's report contents and said he was not trying to delay the document until after the May 22 referendum.

A Grand Orange Lodge statement said, "The farcical events regarding the Parades Commission, including the resignation of two of its members, has totally vindicated the position of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

"The Commission has absolutely no credibility. It may be argued that an independent quango is in itself a contradiction in terms. However, their response to the Prime Minister's request not to proceed with the publication of their preliminary findings on a number of parades clearly proves that there is not even a pretence at independence.

"The Commission have proved themselves incapable of even abiding by their own procedural rules. The Commission is a failed concept arising from flawed legislation. Rather than having asked them to delay publication of their report the Prime Minister should enact legislation to remove the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act from the statute book."

The Grand Lodge statement added: "It also has to be said that it is reprehensible if a politician has tried to influence this publication because of the implications it may have on the proposed referendum on May 22 on the Northern Ireland settlement".

Portadown District L.O.L. No. 1 has expressed its "indifference" at the move by the Parades Commission to postpone a decision on the Garvaghy Road parade from the Drumcree church service in July.

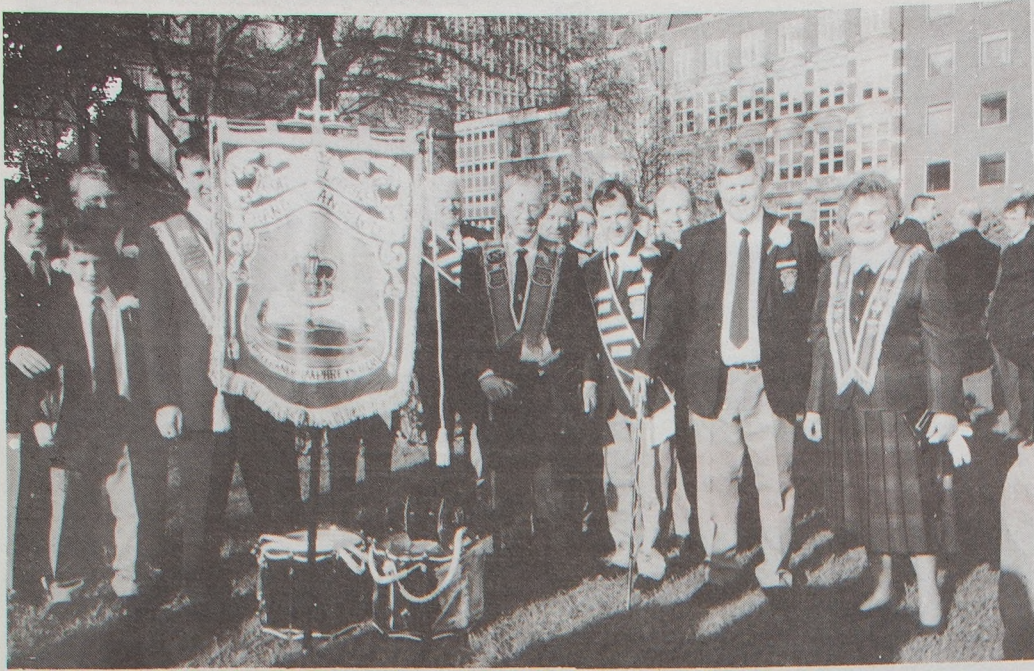
A spokesman for Portadown District Orangemen said: "We don't recognise the Parades Commission, we have had no contacts with the Commission, and we are ignoring what they have to say.

"As far as we are concerned we are walking the traditional route home from Drumcree Parish Church, along the Garvaghy Road".

The 32 Portadown lodges agreed unanimously at their meeting on Wednesday to apply to the RUC for the usual routes to and from Drumcree Parish Church on the first Sunday in July.

Portadown District L.O.L. No. 1, meanwhile, is to consult its 1500 members in the 32 private lodges over the Stormont Agreement. A special District meeting will be held next month to monitor the views of the brethren, but indications are that they will endorse the decision of County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge to reject the agreement.

Read the Agreement carefully and decide



Co. Leitrim banner and Rising Sons of Killegar L.O.L. No. 404.



Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson, M.P., with Bros. Ian Smart and Tom Jackson.

London Orange weekend

BRETHREN and Sisters from throughout the United Kingdom joined the City of London District LOL No.63 on March 28-29 for the annual London Orange weekend.

On the Saturday, several hundred marched through the 'square mile' City of London to a rally at Tower Hill which was addressed by Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson MP. The district church parade on Sunday, through the City of Westminster, was followed by a service led by Bro. Sam McKay, general secretary of the Protestant Truth Society and Worshipful Master of Cullybackey District.

Prior to the Saturday parade, wreaths were laid at the Central Markets War Memorial and Smithfield Martyrs' Memorial, which commemorates the many Protestants put to death for their beliefs during the reign of the Roman Catholic Queen 'Bloody Mary'.

Pride of Norris Green Accordion Band and Bootle and District Concertina Band provided the musical accompaniment and entertained the many tourists who flocked to take photographs of the parade as it passed The Old Bailey, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Bank of England, before winding down the narrow streets to the Tower of London.

City of London District



The London bannerette is displayed.

Master, Bro. Ian Smart, and Bro. David Packer, Wor. Secretary of William Alexander Memorial LOL No.1689, addressed the rally on the need for improved religious education in our schools and the dangers of Australian republicanism. The keynote speech, on the need to protect the Union, was delivered by Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson MP, who gave a welcome insight into the current situation in Ulster.

The sight of brethren and sisters from Irvine, Govan and Glasgow in Scotland; Larne, Comber and Ballyclare in Northern Ireland; and Co. Leitrim in Eire joining together to sing 'The Sash' and the National Anthem at the end of the rally reinforced Bro.

Donaldson's message that we must continue to stand united against Irish republicanism in all its forms.

Following the rally, brethren and sisters were entertained by the Pride of

Norris Green Accordion Band at a well-attended evening social event. With no band actually based in the district, the opportunity to have a good Orange sing-song is always appreciated and this was no exception.

Having remembered to put the clocks forward, everyone arrived on time for the Sunday church parade. Portsmouth Accordion Band, the only Orange band in the South of England, led the parade as they have done since it was started in the 1980s. Over 100 brethren and sisters walked past the Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral, Anglican Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and into Whitehall.

A number of wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph

before the main body of the parade passed Downing Street and into Trafalgar Square. Emphasising the unity of Orangeism throughout the British Isles, a delegation of rank and file members from each of the three jurisdictions entered Downing Street through the imposing gates and approached the most well known front door in the world.

City of London District LOL No.63 traditionally presents a Bible to each new Prime Minister. On this occasion it was accompanied by a letter imploring Mr. Blair to use God's word as his inspiration and guide. Concern was expressed at his apparent move towards Rome and away from Reformed Protestantism.

Bro. Sam McKay,

preaching at the service for the first time, gave an uplifting and inspiring sermon which was well received by the large congregation

Visitors, from throughout the British Isles, vowed to return and take part in the 1999 London Orange weekend.



Speaking after the service, City of London District Master, Bro. Ian Smart, said: "I am delighted that London has been a focal point for Orangeism this weekend. Much work has gone into building bridges with the large Orange communities in Scotland, Ireland and Liverpool.

"The support which we have received from these areas is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing many of our friends again next year, and being joined by others who have not enjoyed the unique experience of the London Orange weekend."

He added, "I shall be passing the torch to a new District Master this year. I am sure that he will be reassured by the support which he will have throughout the British Isles."



On parade near the Tower of London.



Brethren and sisters headed by the Pride of Norris Accordion Band.



Ulster and London brethren.

Weak government which tolerates murder

MURDER most foul was committed by republicans in Armagh city when former Reserve RUC Constable Cyril Stewart was cut down in a hail of bullets in a supermarket car park in front of his horrified wife.

The civilised world was horror struck by the killing, just the latest in a litany of crimes committed this year in Northern Ireland.

But the British Government, deeply committed to the 'peace process' fell over backwards to assure everyone that the IRA 'ceasefire' was still intact - the main pre-occupation of a government in collusion with the government of Eire in a plan to create the conditions and structure which will lead to an eventual united Ireland.

The INLA spared the government even deeper

embarrassment when it admitted the foul killing, even though that will have cut no ice with decent God-fearing and law-abiding

Ulster people. As far as they are concerned, the INLA murderers come from the same stable as that which has been responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent people during the past 29 years.

This government is so reluctant to take firm security measures against republicans that it will gloss over almost anything in its bid to keep the IRA on board in the 'peace process' even though that terrorist organisation has not handed a single bullet or piece of semtex over.

It matters not that British people have been murdered and that British towns - Portadown, Moira, Banbridge, etc. - have been bombed or been the

target for failed attempts to destroy their centres and the fabric of society.

The government has been so wooed by Dublin and by US President Bill Clinton that it will bend over backwards in its attempt to placate the enemies of Ulster and of the Ulster majority.

It proved this by the revelation of the 'leaked' document in which the government was cynically prepared to exploit Protestant church leaders from Archbishop Robin Eames down in order to sell its 'line' on the political path forward.

What damnable impertinence to try and brainwash a free people in the way that even the Communist USSR would have balked from attempting. The peoples of occupied Europe in the Second World War, and of countries behind the Iron Curtain until the fall of Communism showed their contempt and refusal to swallow poisoned propaganda.

The Ulster Protestant people will likewise refuse to drink from the poisoned chalice and to fall into line meekly as their freedoms and liberties won by generations of Ulstermen through blood sacrifice are poured down the drain.



North/South united

On Friday, March 20, a wedding on the Shankill Road in Belfast, in St. Michael's Parish Church, united Eire and Northern Ireland under the Orange banner. The bridegroom was Southern Orangeman Bro. Winston Smith, a member of Dublin's King William III LOL No.1313, and the bride was Sister Pauline Taylor, of Epworth WLOL No.190 from the West Belfast District. Canon Barry Dodds, rector of St. Michael's Church of Ireland, conducted the marriage.

Ulstermen and women will not allow themselves to be trussed like helpless flies ready for the Irish spider to devour. They know only too well what their fate would be in a united Ireland dominated by the sort of people who have carried out ethnic cleansing so successfully in many parts of Northern Ireland.

Nationalists boast these days that four of the six counties of Northern Ireland now have Roman Catholic majorities - a disputed assertion. But even if it were true, the stark fact is that this has been brought about by forced movement of population and ethnic cleansing on a scale only exceeded in former Yugoslavia since World War Two.

TRUST

How could Ulster Protestants, Orangemen and Unionists worthy of a name ever trust their future and that of their descendants to a regime so clearly under the control of men and women who have followed mercilessly and without deviation a programme designed to consign a free people to slavery and to the dustbin of history?

It is to Britain's shame that during the past 25 years it has not taken the draconian security measures to crush republican violence. No Falklands Task Force to Northern Ireland - merely a holding operation until a 'political solution' favourable to London and Dublin would be secured.

No wonder the Presbyterian minister who officiated at the funeral service of Cyril Stewart spoke out so bravely as he accused the government of failing in its duty to provide the security the people of Ulster deserve.

When Ulster lost the Ulster Special

Constabulary, that body of brave men, due to an earlier British Government seeking to appease the IRA, the Province was promised the people would enjoy the same sort of security which had served the people so well for nearly 50 years - 50 years in which only a handful of people had died through republican terrorism.

That promise was not kept then or since, and the innocent people of Northern Ireland have paid an appalling price in terms of dead, wounded and maimed - along with the loss of thousands of good citizens who have left the Province due to the instabil-

ity of the violence.

The fault for this did not lie with the brave men and women of the security forces - Army, RUC, or UDR and RIR - but rather with the politicians at Westminster who preferred to appease their traditional enemy in Dublin rather than stand by the loyal people of Ulster.

A dreadful story of betrayal which is still continuing, and will eventually succeed unless there is a united front by all the unionist people of this Province and their leaders - a solid determined opposition to any bid to give Dublin a meaningful say in the running of Northern Ireland.

County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge which represents the county with the largest number of Orangemen in Northern Ireland has presented new collarettes to its officers. These were dedicated at a meeting in St. Patrick's Hall, Broughshane. Pictured, back row, left to right: Bros. Desmond Gray, Assistant Deputy County Secretary; Harry McCloy, District Chaplain; William Leathem, Deputy County Secretary and Drew Davidson, County Secretary. Front, left to right: Bros. Robert McIlroy, County Grand Master; Joe Gaston, Deputy Grand Master and Thomas Maddock, County Tyler. Photo: Ballymena Times.



Bro. Victor Harrison, Upper Ards District Master No.11 District, presents a 50-year jewel to Bro. David McMillan of Bro. Henry Ferguson Donaghadee LOL No.836. Also included are Deputy District Master No.11 District Bro. Tom Stratton and the Worshipful Master of LOL No.836, Bro. Karl McClean.

Markethill says 'No'

ORANGEMEN in Markethill, Co. Armagh have described the Stormont agreement as "iniquitous" and they have implored all their members to reject the deal in the May 22 referendum with a resounding 'No'. Markethill District LOL No.10 said the agreement offered nothing for the greater number of people

in Northern Ireland, other than a first step to a united Irish republic.

"Our faith, culture and heritage under the terms of this agreement will be speedily eroded and we have no hesitation in calling on all our members, unionists and loyalists in our district to reject it," said the District Lodge.

Commission interferes

GLENAVY District LOL No.4 has expressed concern at the disclosure that the Parades Commission have without referral focused on the question of a parade in Crumlin.

"As we anticipated this is another quango following in the well-established pattern of attempting to ensure that it actually has

a role for itself.

"The interference of the parades commission will unnecessarily heighten tension and the fact that they have not specified which parades or parades they have focused on can only lead to further dangerous speculation," said a Glenavy District official.

50 years service

New officers for Armagh district

At the January meeting of Armagh District L.O.L. No. 5 Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Grand Master, installed the new team of officers.

This brought to an end the term of office for Wor. Bro. Gordon Frazer.

Bro. Frazer has served as District Master for nine years, which saw the county demonstration being held in Armagh.



Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, CGM, presents Bro. Frazer with his Past District Master's certificate.



Officers of Armagh District L.O.L. No. 5

Infamy of the assaults on Southern Protestants

THE article on Orangeism in the Cork town and district of Bandon in the April issue was very interesting and timely, writes a 'Standard' correspondent.

Timely, because a few days after reading the article I was glancing through a new book in a Belfast bookshop on the activities of the Irish Republican Army in Co. Cork during the Troubles of the 1920s.

The book chronicled the efficiency of the IRA Flying Columns in 'rebel' Cork during the so-called War of Independence against the Crown Forces.

Cork was indeed the setting for some of the worst excess of the 1920-22 period when the IRA introduced a reign of terror in both Cork city and the county.

Crown Forces, notably the famed Auxiliaries and the Black and Tans fought an equally bitter war of attrition and so successful was this, combined with the strong army presence that by the time of the Treaty the IRA was on the run and mainly reduced to operating in mountainous areas.

But it was a chapter on the atrocities carried out against the Protestants of West Cork that caught my eye. Protestantism had long been strong in West Cork and both the Church of Ireland and Methodists had strong communities there - as indeed they still do.

Orangeism and Southern Unionism had thrived in Bandon and its valley, where there was a strong Protestant minority. But the British withdrawal and the outbreak of the Civil War between pro and anti-Treaty elements

in the IRA had a devastating effect on the Protestant population in West Cork.

In a terrible period in the summer of 1922 hundreds of Protestant families were expelled from their homes, and in a few days 10 Protestants, mostly farmers, had been murdered in their homes, many of them in front of their families.

The ages ranged from the youngest who was a boy of 16, to a man in his 80s, and the only reason for their murders was their religion. All had been respectable God-fearing people but had been known to have British sympathies - in other words loyal to the Crown - and that was enough to signal their doom.

The forced expulsion of families, and the fear of murder resulted in the boats from Cork to England being packed for weeks by Protestants. Many others fled by train to Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland.

The book says that most returned in a few months time, but for many of them it was just a case of settling their affairs before pulling out of Ireland for good.

Families with names like Buttimer, Perrott and Hollyioke had been in West Cork for generations but that did not save them.

Another sinister aspect was that no republican group claimed responsibility for the murders and evictions, and even when some semblance of law and order was re-established no group ever officially admitted carrying out the slayings, even though it was known by everyone that it had been the IRA.

As the book says the IRA in Cork

was always eager to talk about its victory over a force of Auxiliaries at Kilmichael in a successful and bloody ambush, but not about the murder of innocent unarmed Protestants.

One of the young Protestants killed had served with distinction in the recent Great War, and like so many of his brave fellow ex-servicemen that was enough to brand him as a collaborator.

The IRA in Cork city during that period murdered a dozen young British soldiers who had been out walking with their girlfriends. Three were taken into a field and shot after leaving a shop where they had bought some sweets for their girlfriends.

That was the reality of life in Cork and the treatment handed out to so many Protestants and loyalists. Bandon until then had a strong Orange membership and was a noted centre for loyalty and unionism.

This was destroyed during the period and 'Orange' Bandon, as the book refers to it was crushed by the forces of republicanism.

There are still many Protestants in Brandon and West Cork generally, although nothing like the number which existed before 1922. But Orangeism and Unionism has long disappeared and Protestants have only been allowed to stay as long as they kept a low profile and their heads below the parapet.

The fate of Orangeism and Unionism in Bandon and Cork does not make for pleasant reading but it is an opportune time to reflect on it as Protestantism in Northern Ireland faces challenges not witnessed since the 1920-22 period.

Armagh Orangemen reject agreement

THE Orange Order in Co. Armagh has rejected the Stormont settlement and called on Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble to reconsider the serious implications of proceeding with the recommendations of its acceptance.

In what was effectively seen as a shot over the bows of the UUP leader on the eve of the crucial Ulster Unionist Council meeting, the County Armagh Orange declaration was highly significant.

A statement from the County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge reminds Mr. Trimble that he represents a major part of Co. Armagh, with the implication being that he should take on board the deep concerns and opposition to the agreement from grassroots unionists and Orangemen in the region.

The statement urged all its 7,000 members to fully study the agreement and exercise their Christian duty to vote in the forthcoming referendum on May 22, according to their conscience.

"The County Grand Lodge officers have examined the document in great detail and consulted with representatives of each of the 11 district lodges in the county and regret that they are unable to recommend its acceptance to the

brethren of Co. Armagh".

Mr. Trimble's Upper Bann constituency takes in Portadown and Lurgan, where two of the largest Orange districts operate, and lodge members there are affiliated to the Ulster Unionist Party, with some delegates to the Ulster Unionist Council.

The other County Armagh districts - Armagh City, Loughgall, Tandragee, Richhill, Killylea, Keady, Newtownhamilton, Markethill and Bessbrook - are situated within the Newry-Armagh constituency and are affiliated to the local unionist association in the region.

The Orange Order was formed in Co. Armagh in 1795 and it exerts considerable influence throughout the county with a wide section of the Protestant population, both middle and working class.

The Armagh declaration came 48 hours after the tacit rejection of the Stormont settlement by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland at its meeting in Belfast.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland asserted: "The Grand Lodge takes note of the acceptance by the participants to the talks process of the document of April 10, but failing clarification of certain vital issues cannot recommend it to the people of Ulster".

The motion was put forward and overwhelmingly accepted, the motion's proposer being Lord Molyneux of Killead, the former Ulster Unionist Party leader. During the meeting, two Westminster MPs Bros. the Rev. Martin Smyth and William Ross spoke out against the deal.

The Belfast County Grand Orange Lodge has already decided to support a 'No' vote in this month's referendum and various district lodges across the city have already set up the machinery to ensure their members and supporters vote solidly against the deal.

Markethill District LOL No.10 in Co. Armagh, representing 12 lodges, described the Stormont deal as "iniquitous" and has implored all its members to reject it with a resounding "No".

The Markethill brethren said the agreement offered nothing for the greater number of people in Northern Ireland, other than a first step to a united Ireland.

"Our faith, our culture and heritage under the terms of this agreement will be speedily eroded and we have no hesitation in calling on all our members, unionists and loyalists in our district to reject it," said the Markethill District LOL No.10 statement.

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Omagh lodge raises £900 for Cancer charity

MOUNTJOY Faith Defenders LOL No.750 presented a cheque for £900 to the Omagh branch of the Cancer Research Campaign, at the lodge's annual dinner dance which was held in the Royal Arms Hotel in Omagh on Friday, February 20.

The lodge treasurer, Bro. Stanley Wilson, said that the money had been raised through a number of events held in the course of the previous year.

He said an in-house draw, a table quiz and the sale of lodge ties had boosted the fund, the lodge's first serious charitable endeavour.

Bro. Wilson told the large attendance at the function,

"We decided late in 1996 to concentrate some of our efforts on becoming more community based, and on raising money for a nominated charity.

"This year's fund will support the Meningitis Research Foundation, and we have already raised £350. We hope to raise even more money this time around."

Mr. Patterson Stewart, chairperson of the Omagh Branch of the Cancer Research Campaign accepted the cheque for £900 and praised the efforts of the lodge, while Bro. Wilson thanked all who had contributed to the 1997 fund.

The guest speaker at the

dinner was the Past Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Rt. Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson, Ulster Unionist MP for Lagan Valley.

He took as his theme Orangeism on the wider political front, and also addressed the gathering on issues currently affecting Northern Ireland.

The Worshipful Master of the lodge, Wor. Bro. Robert Cummings thanked Rt. Wor. Bro. Donaldson for his address, and said that it was a pleasure to welcome him to a Mountjoy lodge event again, as he had opened the new Mountjoy Orange Hall on Friday, June 2, 1995.



Officers of Mountjoy Faith Defenders LOL No.750, presenting a cheque for £900 to Mr. Patterson Stewart, chairperson of the Omagh branch of the Cancer Research Campaign. They are, front row, from left: Wor. Bro. Robert Cummings, WM; Bro. Stanley Wilson, treasurer; Mr. Patterson Stewart, chairperson of the Omagh branch of the Cancer Research Campaign; Bro. Errol Thompson, secretary. Back row, left to right: Bro. Ivan Cooper, lay chaplain; Bro. Niall Jack, tyler; Bro. William Jack, assistant secretary and Bro. Sydney Gilfillan, assistant treasurer. The cheque was presented at the lodge's annual dinner dance in the Royal Arms Hotel, Omagh on Friday, February 20.



Rt. Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Past Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, pictured with officers of Mountjoy Faith Defenders LOL No.750 at the lodge's annual dinner dance. They are from left, Bro. Ivan Cooper, lay chaplain; Bro. Niall Jack, tyler; Bro. William Jack, assistant secretary and Bro. Sydney Gilfillan, assistant treasurer.



Wor. Bro. Robert Cummings, WM of Mountjoy Faith Defenders LOL No.750 (second from left), welcoming Rt. Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Past Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland (second from right), to the lodge's annual dinner dance as the guest speaker. Also in the picture are Bro. Stanley Wilson, lodge treasurer (left), and Bro. Errol Thompson, lodge secretary (right). The dinner dance was held in the Royal Arms Hotel in Omagh.



Bro. Errol Thompson (left), secretary of Mountjoy Faith Defenders LOL No.750, pictured with some of the guests who attended the lodge's annual dinner dance. They are Wor. Bro. Andrew Scott (second from left), District Secretary of Omagh District LOL No.11; Rt. Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Past Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland (centre), Bro. Stanley McFarland, district treasurer of Omagh district LOL No.11 (second from right), and Wor. Bro. Ivan Buchanan, district secretary of Strabane District LOL No.14 (right).

Installation dinner for Lodge of Research

SOME 55 members and guests of the Loyal Orange Lodge of Research gathered in the House of Orange on Saturday evening, March 14 to hold their 34th annual installation of officers dinner. Their special guest for the evening was their lodge chaplain and Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Rt. Wor. Bro. the Rev. Canon Dr. S.E. Long JP and Mrs. Long.

Following an excellent meal prepared by Mrs. Rhonda Patton, the short but formal part of the evening - the proposals of toasts - was carried out.

Bro. Mark Neale proposed the toast to the Loyal Orange Lodge of Research which was responded to by the Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. William Clarke, who in turn proposed the toast to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Replying to the toast

Canon Long thanked the lodge for their kind invitation and spoke of the hurt felt within Grand Lodge by the attacks upon it, by those, especially from within our own ranks, who would appear to have misunderstood and misrepresented Grand Lodge attitudes and decisions. The task ahead for Grand Lodge and the membership at large was to repair broken fences.

He continued by restating the need for Orangemen to abide by the qualifications of an Orangeman, and the need for wholehearted support of the Grand Master, and Grand Lodge by the wider membership, and for the Institution to speak with one voice.

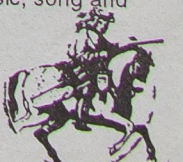
Change was coming and the Order would have to live with the changes while continuing to work to safeguard our political and religious interests. In this respect it would be impera-

tive upon us all to ensure that the pro-Union vote be maximised.

The Orange Institution was strong enough to enable it to withstand attacks from within and without but change was necessary, a managed change which would make the Institution relevant to the present times and better equipped to face new challenges.

The final toast to the ladies and other guests was proposed by the Deputy Master, Wor. Bro. Jack Ashenhurst and replied to by Bro. Nevin Hamilton, who with much humour thanked the lodge on behalf of the ladies and guests for their hospitality.

The brethren and their guests were then entertained by the Little Family with music, song and dance.



Comment - Comment - Com

Scotland's 200th anniversary celebrations

THE 200th anniversary celebrations of Orangeism in Scotland provide us with the opportunity to pay our compliments to the Institution across the narrow water; and to express our gratitude to the officers and brethren who from over there have been our very good friends in our joys and sorrows. Their fellow feeling for us, especially in the past 30 years, has not been merely sentimental and sympathetic, but practical and generous. And the presence of so many Scottish brethren at our annual parades, events and functions, and as occasional speakers at our Twelfth demonstrations, have bound us together to mutual advantage. The traffic has been two-way, for the presence of our brethren as participants in Scottish Orange Order demonstrations and happenings, and sometimes as speakers, is a regular occurrence. Our pleasure was to fulfil engagements in the latter capacity at several Orange demonstration locations, always happily and always impressed by their high quality organisation and the appearance and conduct of the brethren on the march. To rejoice at the state of Orangeism in Scotland is an opportunity also to glance at its strength and there and elsewhere. The strength of the Institution in Ireland, Scotland and England is impressive. For while each jurisdiction has its own problems they remain remarkably virile; actively involved in the total life of their communities and in close contact with one another. Elsewhere the situation is different. The glory has departed to an appreciable extent in Canada where in an increasingly pluralist society the formerly strong and powerful Orange Order has a smaller and lesser role to play. There is satisfaction in memories of past achievements when Orangemen held key posts in church and state. They contributed largely to the making of a country esteemed for that civil and religious liberty which was the slogan of Orangemen who were often its leaders in religion, education, business, industry and commerce. While not what it was Canadian Orangeism is still strong and rich in the qualities of those who are its leaders and members. It was Ulstermen who founded and led the Institution "down under" in Australia and New Zealand. But when emigration dried up recruitment was a problem. The inability to

persuade fellow citizens to join up has disabled the Institution in these countries. What pertains in Australia and New Zealand is even more acute in the USA where the Order is but a shadow of what it was in the early years. The natural loss of brethren and the dearth of emigrants from Britain and Ireland had their effects. The state of the Orange Order worldwide is at both encouraging and discouraging. Where it is strong there are pressures on it to use its strength for the defence of Protestantism, its beliefs, principles and practices. And of the politics to which it is committed, with the social implications inherent in good citizenship; and the competent leadership Orangemen can provide wherever they are located. Where it is weak it can continue to make valuable, even impressive, contributions to the society of which it is a part. And that fact is of particular relevance for the brethren in Togo and Ghana, with relatively small Christian presences, and where their Christian witness is important to church and country. Representatives of the Orange family meet triennially in the Imperial Orange Council of the World. The get-together is an occasion to share experiences and to consider matters of common concern. Concerns are often similar, though sometimes very different for location and environment play a part in the success or failure of Orangeism everywhere.

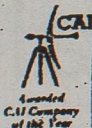
ourable and just settlement to Northern Ireland. The disagreements and unpleasantness over these parades means that the two communities will not accommodate one another when faced with the really substantive issues which is of crucial concern to them. The assumption is that the parades issue will govern the attitudes of all involved in the "peace process". Whether or not this is likely it is an imperative on all concerned for the future well being of the country that this controversy is ended. We expect the government and the relevant authorities to ensure that law keepers are not assaulted by law breakers who must be prevented from gaining their objectives by unlawful means. The threats of force, disruption and destruction are not to be taken lightly, but not to be countenanced either is being forced to make decisions in response to threats. On parades the "Insight", UTV, Thursday, March 26, 1998, was a three parter in which a spokesman for the nationalist residents groups, Brendan McKenna; the Orange Order's David McNarry and the Parades Commission chairman Alistair Graham, spoke for a minute and there followed 10 minutes of questions to each of them from a teenage audience. It was a poor programme if the expectation was to bring fresh thinking to the subject of disputed parades with their hurtful and far-reaching consequences for all of us. There was no new thinking here. It was apparent that the youthful audience had set views on the marches, and the circumstances surrounding them. Their questions, and responses to the answers they got to them, underlined yet again the width of the gulf between unionists and nationalists on community relations which is there from very early age. The young people posed their questions with clarity and precision. The answers were often less clear and precise. We were reminded that it takes a special skill to answer questions adequately off the cuff. Because our task as Orangemen is to convince people everywhere of the honesty and sincerity of the stances we take on all the issues of consequence to this society as a whole, media participation is a necessity. It is to be hoped that other appearances on the parades issue will be of greater value and usefulness to us.

CONTENTION

So much has been said by voice, pen and picture on the parades issue that there is little reason for anyone to add to it. It is entirely likely that to add would be to repeat what has been said again and again. There is no difficulty in stating in a few words what is the crux of the problem - confrontation between those who want to parade and those who want to stop them from parading. The cases and places in dispute are few but the disagreements have been given such national and international publicity that they are seen to be pivotal in the much larger problem which is to bring a peaceful, hon-



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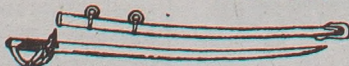
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Sanctity of life

ABORTION is a very emotive subject which is hardly surprising given the fact that the sanctity of human life is at stake. The 'Orange Standard' has always supported the view that abortion is wrong and only in the most exceptional circumstances should it ever be approved.

We would certainly take our stand against the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland and believe that this view would be supported by all the members of the Orange family.

Bro. the Rev. Martin Smyth, MP, immediate Past Grand Master of Ireland, has been one of the most outspoken opponents of abortion on demand and has earned great cross-community admiration and respect for his stand.

Protestants should always support the sanctity of life and Orangemen and women must be in the vanguard of any campaign to

protect lives – especially those of the defenceless unborn.

Those who argue about the 'mother's right to decide' conveniently overlook the fact that it is only God who has the right to decide on such matters and His laws are clearly set down in the Commandments and gospels.

Former Liberal leader David Steel may have felt back in 1968 when his Private Members bill was carried that abortion should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, but the floodgates have opened since.

The most recent figures show that on the British mainland a total of 180,000 babies are killed each year by abortion. That is a horrific figure and a terrible indictment of British society.

It really amounts to another form of contraception, and one can only reflect on the loss this has been to the nation. There could have been great

preachers, surgeons, scientists, teachers among those destroyed in their mothers' wombs – as well as the huge number of ordinary citizens, people whose contribution to national life would have been just as important.

Northern Ireland has had many of the immoral Acts enacted by Westminster over the past 30 years foisted on it, but abortion would be a bridge too far and it must be resisted by all Ulster people who seek to uphold the Christian standards and principles on which this Province was founded.

Of course, there must be compassion and caring for the women and girls who are often confronted with a terrible dilemma over the prospect of an unwanted pregnancy, and every effort must be made to provide this vital help.

But it is not by destroying unborn babies – a step which in most cases causes great mental anguish for the women concerned in later life.



Long serving members honoured

Bro. William Lamont, Bro. Thomas Swann and Bro. William Davison received their 50-year jewels from Cloughwater True Blues LOL No.966 at Cloughwater Orange Hall in Co. Antrim.

Government treachery confirms violence pays

THERE has not been the slightest hint of regret, far less apology, on the part of the Provisional IRA for the many atrocities carried out during the past 28 years against the people of Ulster and the members of HM Forces and Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Yet, under the terms of the Stormont Agreement, if this is ratified in the referendum, the IRA gunmen and bombers will be released into society, most of them having served only a fraction of the sentences imposed on them.

These are the men the Northern Ireland Office referred to until recently as 'criminals' as successive British Governments vehemently denied these men and women were prisoners-of-war.

Now we are being told that they are in fact POWs and should be treated the same as all soldiers in previous conflicts which have come to an end. Tony Benn, no friend of the Ulster Unionist cause, said in a recent radio interview that the struggle in Northern Ireland had been a war and terrorists behind

bars resulting from that were "prisoners-of-war".

Relatives of policemen and prison officers killed in the Troubles found it impossible to get proper compensation because they were told it had not been a war. The same applied to families trying to have the names of their menfolk serving with the Ulster Defence Regiment added to war memorials in the Province.

Clearly someone has been lying, and judging by the promises of early releases it looks as though it has been the governments who have been less than forthright with the truth.

Prisoners are one important issue – arms and explosives are another. Decommissioning was supposed to be a necessity when the talks started, before any agreement could be reached. All terrorist weapons were to be handed in – now there is a vague promise they will be surrendered by May 2000 – quite a change in emphasis.

What happens if the arms are not surrendered? Will Sinn Fein-IRA be

debarred from the proposed new Assembly? Don't bank on it as the Government has seemed determined to force through an agreement irrespective of how many problems arose.

This government doesn't care too much for the sensitivity of decent law-abiding Ulster people and pious words and platitudes are all that will be delivered as expediency demands the release of hundreds of hardened terrorists and bombers.

The innocent dead of Ulster will be consigned to history with only their grieving families and friends constantly remembering their sacrifice and martyrdom. Truly justice has been turned on its head and it is those who can use most force, or threaten the use of force, who are listened to by those in authority.

What a travesty and what a weak and spineless attitude adopted by the government towards terrorism and political murder. And no wonder there is despair on the part of law-abiding citizens as they see a surrender to the forces of evil and fascism.

Recognition of long service



BRO. Jack Park of O'Hara Purple Guards LOL No.310, Magherafelt receives his 50-year certificate and medal from Bro. John Kenning, incumbent WDM of LOL No.3 District, Magherafelt.

Bro. Park received the degree of Purpleman along with Bro. George A. Kane on February 3, 1947. Their sponsors that night were Bro. Robert Wylie, DM and Bro. James Clarke. Worshipful Master was Bro. William Greer Kerr.

Since then Bro. Park has been a true and loyal member of LOL No.310, having served as tyler, committee member, chaplain and Deputy Master.

He has attended faithfully throughout his 50 years

service in spite of being a farmer, and member of the RUCR.

He has always taken an active part in the running of the lodge and to his great credit has set an example to all those brethren who have since joined.

Wherever LOL No.310 was on parade, Bro. Park was sure to be in its ranks, whether it was in Belfast in protest at the Anglo-Irish Diktat, Loughgall in glorious celebration or in Drumcree in support of the Portadown brethren.

A measure of the high esteem in which Bro. Park is held, was the number of tributes paid to him on the night he received his certificate, not only by LOL No.310 members but also the visiting brethren.

Bowls tournament

THE annual Annahoe District LOL No.6 pairs bowls tournament held in Crilly Orange and Black Hall (kindly granted) on Wednesday, February 11, once again proved to be a tremendous success.

This tournament continues to grow in popularity, and the hall was filled to capacity with competitors and local bowls enthusiasts.

Proceedings commenced with 36 teams competing, and the final did not take place until 1 am, and what a final it turned out to be, with the Annahoe LOL No.336 team of Bro. Albert Bartley and his wife Maureen narrowly defeating the Crilly LOL No.677 team of Bro. Fred Leitch and his wife Lydia.

The District Master Bro. Ivan Duff thanked everyone who made the tournament possible. He then presented the winning Annahoe team with the district shield and winners' trophies and the runners-up trophies to the beaten finalists, Crilly.

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50 years service

Wor. Bro. Samuel Osborne pictured with Lecale District and Killyleagh True Blues LOL No.549 officers after receiving his 50-year service certificate. Bro. Osborne is a well known, hard-working, unionist councillor on Down District Council and has given many years valued service to both Orange and Black organisations in the Lecale District.





40 years treasurer

Wor. Bro. Alfred E. Lee, the County Grand Master of Londonderry, receives a carriage clock from Past Grand Master, Wor. Bro. the Rev. W. Martin Smyth in recognition of serving 40 years as treasurer to the Imperial Grand Council. Present were, from left: Bros. Lord James Molyneaux MP, William Murdie, the Rev. Victor Ryan, Mervyn Bishop, Robert Saulters (Grand Master of Ireland), Tom Reid and John McCrea.

Picture: Allan McCullough.

Record turn-out for Ballymena Easter march

THE largest Easter Monday parade of Apprentice Boys brought an influx of more than 10,000 visitors to Ballymena.

Seventy Apprentice Boys clubs were represented in the highly

colourful holiday march, with 60 bands, mostly blood and thunder melody flute, stepping out at a quick pace.

The march from Ballymena Showgrounds passed through the town centre to the Harryville district and thousands of people lined the footpaths along the two-mile route.

The Governor of the Apprentice Boys, Bro. Alistair Simpson was joined by his Parent Club senior colleagues from Londonderry and officials of the Co. Antrim A m a l g a m a t e d Committee of the organisation, which hosted the parade.

The largest contingents in the 6,000-strong parade were from the Ballymena area, Coleraine, Ballymoney, Larne, Lisburn, Portadown, Lurgan and Belfast.

Brethren from the Apprentice Boys in Falkirk and Maybole (Ayrshire) in Scotland were given an enthusiastic welcome in the

strongly loyalist mid-Antrim borough.

Apprentice Boys clubs also turned out from far flung parts of the Province such as Co. Fermanagh, Stewartstown and Castlederg in Co. Tyrone; Bryansford and Clough in the Mourne region of Co. Down. Apprentice Boys from the Eire border counties were among marchers.

Most of Ballymena's town centre shops were closed as part of the Easter holiday break, but those which remained open did brisk business with the many visitors for the parade. The Seven Towers shopping complex and the Sainsbury's store were a mecca for many people before and after the mid-day parade.

A religious service for the Apprentice boys marchers was conducted by Coleraine Presbyterian minister the Bro. Rev. Joseph Andrews and the special preacher was Fivemiletown Presbyterian minister Bro. the Rev. Tom Greer, who belongs to the Ahoghill Apprentice Boys branch.

On Easter Tuesday members of the Junior Orange Order paraded in Ballyclare.

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Extending the message of Orangeism

A MEETING took place recently in Armagh Orange Hall between the District officers and committee of Armagh District LOL No.5 and local clergy in the area; the purpose of which was to establish a clearer understanding of the workings of the Orange Institution and its role within the local community.

Wor. Bro. George Patton, who was the main guest speaker, addressed the meeting and outlined the historical aspects of our Order emphasising its two principal aims: that of promoting the Protestant religion and the defence of Irish Protestants. Bro. Patton referred to the growth of our Institution and the Christian witness it has sought to bear over the years with many prayer groups now established within District Lodges and evangelistic missions which have been held in recent years organised by local or district lodges.

Wor. Bro. William Scott, Imperial Deputy Grand Registrar, spoke on behalf

of the Royal Black Institution and defined its aims and explained how this Institution differs from that of the Orange Reference was made to the degrees based upon scripture which seek to promote Christian virtues and emphasise the need for faith.

A report was given on the Junior Orange movement within the district by Bro. Mervyn Stinson, superintendent.

The WDM, Wor. Bro. George Proctor, reported on the work within the district and outlined various activities which the District Lodge have been involved in.

The meeting was then left open for clergy to ask any questions or clarify issues raised. Overall, it proved to be a worthwhile exercise as the members of the District Lodge seek to promote the Order as a vibrant outward-looking organisation of which they can be justly proud, both for its global influence and for its sustained defence of our Protestant culture.



Glenarm stalwart

Bro. J. Balmer, P.M., being presented with an inscribed watch by Bro. the Rev. Stewart Dickinson on behalf of the members of Glenarm LOL No. 1121 to mark 69 years membership of the lodge at their installation of officers.

'The Scots-Irish in the Carolinas

By Billy Kennedy

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Gillygooley Lodge serving the community



Gillygooley Orange Hall, 1997.

IT is a sad reality that too many Orange Halls are becoming derelict or at best only used very occasionally. This is a trend which should be arrested and Orange Hall management committees need to look at ways of rejuvenating their premises to serve their local community. In this article I wish to convey the successful story of how Gillygooley Orange Hall, built by the members of Gillygooley Sons of William LOL No.339 in 1973 and which is located two miles north west of Omagh, Co. Tyrone, is being utilised with financial assistance from various funding bodies.

First I feel it is important to give a brief history of LOL No.339 as it has moved around the Omagh area since 1835. It is a fact that when the Orange Order was formed immediately after the Battle of the Diamond at Loughgall, Co. Armagh on September 21, 1795 it is reasonable to assume that a small number like 339 would be in the first issue of warrants. It has been established in Grand Lodge records that LOL No.339 was issued and working in 1798 but no indication as to its location.

It was not until 1835 that it can be firmly established that the warrant was working in the Omagh area in the townland of Rosnamuck approximately five miles north east of its present location.

Many lodges had a temporary cessation of operations because of local difficulties or indeed fierce political conflict, lodge numbers moved around with each new WM as they were elected. In Grand Lodge records of 1888 LOL No.339 made no returns and in 1890 the warrant was re-issued to a Bro. William Kerr of Coolkeeragh, two miles south west of the lodge's present location. Grand Lodge records indicate that the warrant was again cancelled the following year and re-issued to Corcrair Purple Rockets, a Portadown lodge.

Local research has confirmed that the warrant issued to Bro. Kerr was indeed not cancelled and has continued in the intervening years albeit at various locations and to this day there are two lodges operating under the warrant 339. The lodge having moved around various locations meeting in

Worshipful Masters' homes decided to build an Orange Hall in 1910 to be known as Corlea. It was around this period that many of our orange halls were built especially in rural areas and they became among the first community halls of the century.

The hall was opened on April 17, 1911 and became the centre of social functions in the area. This was such a significant event that it was recorded in verse.

"We sons of William loudly raise
Your No Surrender cry
Unfurl your banners to the breeze
As they did in days gone by;

First came the sons of William
With loyal hearts and true;

They marched that day into Corlea

Their numbers were but few,
And headed by their WM
They still obey this call,
For they meant to be there that day
At the opening of the hall."

Twenty four years after building their new hall lodge members made a strange decision, at a

meeting in May, 1935 it was decided to leave the hall and move approximately one mile to the centrally located Gillygooley School which had become vacant following the erection of a new school in the area.

This was rented from the Church of Ireland and during the 1960s negotiations took place to purchase the property, but due to an error in the deeds it was deemed unadvisable to pursue with the purchase. The lodge remained here until July 4, 1973 when for the second time in 62 years the brethren opened a new Orange hall which was to be known as Gillygooley. In Omagh District Gillygooley lodge, with their new hall pioneered youth activities as part of overall lodge activity. By 1974 the ever successful youth club came into operation with an initial membership of 46. The club registered with Western Education and Library Board and as a result received financial assistance annually.

Those were the days when Orange hall dances were in popular demand by young people and Gillygooley proved to be a popular dance hall with patrons from every section of the community, travelling for miles to the fortnightly dances, at which bands from throughout the Province performed. Sadly the arrival of lounge bar entertainment spelt the death knell of rural dances and alternative ways of utilising the hall were considered. As already mentioned the youth club which was formed in 1974 was continuing to grow with membership approaching 100, because of the increased membership the club had to be divided into three age groups. As time passed it became evident that the



Bro. Andrew Scott, Chairman
Gillygooley Community
Group.

club was now almost exclusively using the hall and the lodge trustees decided to lease the property to the trustees and management committee of the youth club. This enabled the club to avail of additional funding which included a 90 per cent grant from Western Education & Library Board for provision of an additional games room. The Board also assists annually with insurance, electricity and equipment etc. The property also changed from being a rated building to becoming zero rated with a further annual saving of over £1,500.

Thoughts were also given to utilising the hall during daytime and following discussion a playgroup and mothers-toddlers group was formed which attracted financial assistance from Community Services Child Division of DHSS, Cadbury's Trust, NI Voluntary Trust, and The Peace and Reconciliation Fund to name a few. Weekly aerobic and line dancing classes have also been organised. The local Presbyterian Church also use the hall as a Sunday School and the hall is presently in use six days per week with up to three different groups using the premises on some days.

Permanent culture display cabinets were fitted and unveiled in 1995 and financial assistance was received from the cultural and arts department of Omagh District Council and this has greatly preserved the history of our area.

Ever mindful of the changing needs and demands of the youth in our area thoughts were given, last year to converting a room and adjacent

unhygienic kitchen into a teenage coffee-bar with an adjoining TV lounge. This project cost in excess of £20,000 and was totally financed by funding from The National Lotteries Board, Children in Need, Inter-Church Reconciliation Fund for Ireland, and Woman Caring Trust. This has greatly enhanced the property and along with the installation of a hi-fi system, television and video has made it more appealing for the young people.

Presently a plan to refurbish the main hall including the modernisation of the stage to facilitate drama etc., has been drafted at a cost of over £50,000. Funding has already been received from the Co-op Care Grants Scheme and Telecommunity Fund. Applications have also been made to The Peace and Reconciliation Fund and 21st Century Halls Scheme.

From the humble beginning of the youth club in 1974, has evolved a group which is catering for the needs of the community. The premises have recently been listed as the venue for an outreach education programme to include lessons in floral art, computer studies etc. The young people have also participated in "Young Enterprise" with noted success.

The hall is presently used by 10 different groups and has become very much a community hall where everyone is made welcome. This we feel is unique within our area and could be used as a blueprint for other rural community groups with similar facilities and community needs.

If Orange halls are to survive there must be a change of foresight by many of our hall committees, imagination must be used and new ways found to maintain our halls which are an integral part of our community. The success story in Gillygooley has not come easy it has involved a lot of co-ordination and hard work, especially by a few individuals over the past 20 years. I hope by the sharing of our success I can inspire others to become motivated enough to pursue a similar rescue plan for many of our declining and decaying halls.

ANDREW SCOTT



New coffee bar after refurbishment which received funding from various agencies.

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Anti-Protestant Europe?

THERE are no Protestants in the UK according to a schools publication from the European Union!

What exactly is Europe? is a 30-page glossy guide to the EU designed for classroom use. However, it fails to find any Protestants in Britain, including Northern Ireland. Religious affiliation in Britain, we are told,

comprises 55% Anglican, 9% Catholic, 2% Muslim and 34% other.

Nothing appears under the column for Protestants in the UK. Only Germany and the Netherlands have any sizeable Protestant community according to the book.

In the 15 EU countries listed, Protestants (where they are shown at all), Lutherans and Anglicans

are recorded separately.

Consequently Roman Catholics appear as the largest single denomination in most countries. Children are asked to 'Look out in the table below which religion is the most common in each EU country and then across the EU generally.' The Roman Catholic Church appears dominant in almost all cases.

Treachery of Perfidious Albion

ULSTER Orangemen and loyalists should need no lessons in history to warn them of Perfidious Albion - the age-long term which describes Britain's all too-often tendency to betray her friends and kinsfolk.

It has happened often down the centuries and is a practice which has caused broken hearts in many countries and former colonies.

Ulster Protestants have no intention of becoming the latest victim in a long line of examples which include American colonists, Southern Irish Protestants, white Rhodesians, or the pro-Commonwealth zealots of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

While reading through a recent biography of Lord Edward Fitzgerald by Sally Tallyrand, the writer was struck by a chapter on Lord Edward's service in Canada with the British Army in the 1780s.

Fitzgerald, the most famous Protestant nobleman to support the cause of the united Irishmen, served with distinction in the army during the American War of Independence.

Some years later, while still an officer in the British Army he served in Canada, then teeming with loyalists who had fled the former American Colonies after the British defeat.

Fitzgerald came in contact with the famous Iroquois Indian chief Joseph Brant, who had led the Mohawks and other tribes in the war on the side of the British.

The Indian tribes had fought with great distinction and had been greatly feared by the rebel colonists. Their reward for their loyalty to the Crown had been to lose huge areas of their traditional hunting lands when the British signed an agreement with the new United States Government resulting in the loss of the Mohawk Valley and other areas.

Brant, however, had made many influential friends among army officers and was able to make successful representations to the British Government which resulted in the Mohawks being given Crown lands in Canada.

Indeed, the Mohawks still hold these lands, and the tribe had the distinction of having an Orange lodge -

members travelled to Belfast for the 1990 Boyne Tercentenary celebrations.

But the intention of the British Government which signed the infamous agreement in 1782 had been to carry favour with the new American Government even if it meant selling out its loyal Indian allies.

Not so fortunate as Brant and his Indians were many loyalists who fled the American colonies in the wake of the British surrender at Yorktown. Tens of thousands were forced to flee the Carolinas and the Eastern States for refuge in Nova Scotia, Ontario and Britain.

Billy Kennedy's books rivetting books on the part played by the Scots-Irish in the American victory rightly pay tribute to the courage of the Ulster settlers.

But the losers in this war have had few to tell their story and those loyal Americans - some 40 per cent of Americans remained staunchly loyal during the war - finished up destitute and penniless. It was only by their hard work and industry that they carved out a new life for themselves in Canada, where

they became the backbone of the British way of life, but they received little assistance from HM Government back home.

SELL-OUT

On to more modern times and the sell-out of the Southern Irish Unionists in 1921 by the Lloyd George Government was a disgusting example of stab in the back. Those Unionists had remained firm and had suffered terribly at the hands of the IRA - their homes burned, menfolk, men of them men who had served in the Great War with distinction were murdered, and when Britain scuttled out of the South they were left at the mercy of their enemies.

Southern Ireland's Protestant population dropped by two-thirds within a few years, the once strong Southern Unionist Party disappeared, and the display of the Union Jack in Dublin, Kingstown and other places was forbidden.

Yet, as the recent film on Michael Collins reveals, the IRA had been within a few weeks of defeat before Lloyd George agreed to enter into negotiations with

the IRA and their units in Dublin and other places were being rounded up by the score.

Post-war there have been other examples. In Burma, gallant tribesmen who had fought for the British against the Japanese had been betrayed when Britain gave Burma independence without protecting the rights of the hillmen.

White Rhodesians like Ian Smith who fought for Britain in the Second World War were vilified, and after encouraging families to move to Rhodesia after the war as emigrants, the Imperial Government pulled the rug from under them.

Australia and New Zealand were betrayed as well when Britain entered the Common Market, thus turning its back on kith and kin and preferring to make its future with its former enemies of Germany and Italy.

Nothing can be done about what is now past history, but the lessons can be learned for the future. There are people in Britain who would think nothing of handing over Gibraltar to Spain or the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

And of course there are those who would betray the most loyal people of the Empire - the Ulster Protestants and Orangemen.

It would suit the selfish interests of many in modern Britain if loyal Ulster were sacrificed on the altar of expediency and enabled Perfidious Albion to make friends with Eire who remained neutral in the war.

Fortunately, Ulster Orangemen and loyalists have no intention of becoming the latest victim of such betrayals. They have read their history and they know the score, so irrespective of the twisted logic and thinking of elements of British political life, the Ulster majority will not be meekly accepting treachery and deceit.

In spite of what some politicians may hope, the Ulster majority are still proud to be Queen's men and women, and remain loyal to the Crown - their rallying cry and watchword being the traditional 'No Surrender' of their ancestors who guarded the walls of Derry in the face of tyranny and despotism.

Greater love hath no man than this . . .

ON Saturday, February 28 as snowfalls gave way to bright sunshine, Ballymacarrett No.6 District LOL, Belfast marched a 750-strong contingent into Royal Avenue in the city centre to mark the 10th anniversary of the murder of two of their members by the Roman Catholic republican movement.

It was on the night of February 25, 1988 that the IRA were assisted onto the site of the Castle Court construction site to plant a 500lbs semtex device that was to devastate a routine Ulster Defence Regiment patrol 7/10 Battalion 'F' Company, whilst the soldiers closed the security gates shortly before midnight. Private James Cummings (Johnston's

Golden Star LOL No.1934) and Private Frederick Starrett (Banner of the Cross LOL No.1310), both aged in their early twenties, were killed almost instantly and others of the patrol were seriously injured.

Private Starrett was a member of the Free Presbyterian Church and in remembrance of the sacrifice of both young men and with the aim of supporting the bereaved families, a remembrance service has been held every year at the site of the explosion outside the Castle Court Complex. This year was to be different though and as the crowds gathered, No.6 District emerged proudly from Castle Junction and marched impressively up Royal Avenue. It took 12 minutes for the parade to position itself before the

point chosen for the service. Also awaiting the arrival of the men from the East, were the men from Belfast Orange Hall, Clifton Street who had turned out a representation of 200 brethren and had paraded from the north of the city.

The Rev. David McIlveen, of Sandown Road Free Presbyterian Church, led the gathering in the singing of Psalm 23 'The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want'. After an opening prayer, the Rev. Dr. Ian R.K. Paisley, MP, MEP and Moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church, spoke to the gathering on the subject of 'Fearing Him who has power over body and soul'. This was a solemn address, befitting the occasion and challenging men and women as to their position before God should death also call suddenly upon them. At the conclusion of the service the families laid wreaths of flowers in memory of their loved ones and a poppy wreath was laid by brethren who were colleagues of the fallen soldiers.

The gathering, which was now swollen by members of the general public, had marvelled at the beauty of the parades and the

remembrance ceremony but there was a further treat in store. After the oration and a minute of silence the city centre streets echoed to the sound, not of explosions, shots, trampling feet

or rhetoric from republicans, but of the loyal British people as they swelled their voices together to sing the national anthem of this country, God Save the Queen. It was not lost on the writer or on others in the gathering that this moment signified what Bro. Cummings and Bro. Starrett had died for and what this gathering was saying on behalf of all the right thinking people of Ulster who are still the greater majority, 'Nothing but the Union alone will do!

After Ballymacarrett District had returned to East Belfast, the private lodges of Bros. Cummings and Starrett visited their graves in Dundonald and Roselawn and as the snow began to flurry again, laic wreaths of poppies and read the scriptures from Revelation, chapter 7.

"These are they which came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb."

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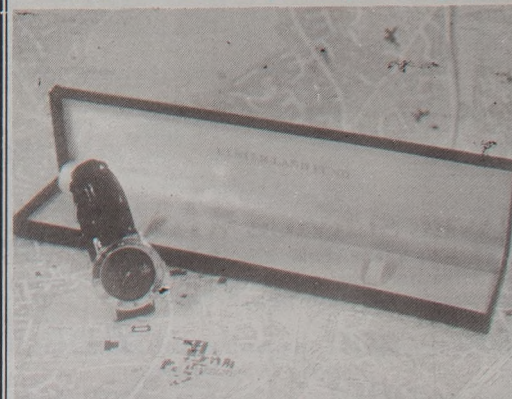
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Officers installed



THE Grand Master of the Orange Lodge, Bro. Robert Saulters, was a guest at the installation of officers of Blackhill LOL No.350, True Blues and the dedication of the refurbished McMath Memorial Orange Hall, Blackhill, Coleraine.

The chaplain read Psalm 27. Worshipful Master Lyle Reid welcomed special guests including the Most Worshipful Grand Master Bro. Robert Saulters, Worshipful County Grand Master Bro. Alfred Lee and Past District Grand Master, Sandy Row District, Belfast, Bro. George Watson, MBE, JP, visiting district officers and brethren from private lodges.

Worshipful Master Bro. Lyle Reid gave a history of the hall which was built in 1907 for £250. Previously the brethren met in a building in a neighbouring farmyard. The hall had electricity supplied to it in 1979 at a cost of £1,000.

The work of refurbishing the hall has been finished to a very high standard, by Bro. Samuel Linton. The WM on behalf of the lodge, thanked Bro. Linton for the excellent work he carried out.

He also thanked Bro. Andy Smyth for his work in restoring the pictures belonging to the hall back to their former glory and Bros. James Hegarty and Harold Milliken for all their work.

County Lay Chaplain, Bro. Ivan Kelly, offered a prayer of dedication for the hall.

W.M. Bro. Lyle Reid thanked all the lodge brethren for their support in

Brethren of Blackhill LOL No.350 pictured after their installation and dedication in Blackhill Orange Hall. Included is Bro. Robert Saulters (seated centre), Wor. Grand Master of Ireland, who was a guest at the occasion.

the last year and especially the effort put in by the secretary, Bro. George Gilmore. He announced all offices vacant. Officers who were to be part of the installing team and brethren who were to be installed were announced.

The installing team consisted of: installing officer, Grand Master, Bro. Robert Saulters; deputy installing officer, PDGM, Bro. George Watson; Chaplain, WM No.648, Bro. Alec Young; Deacons, WM No.359, Bro. Jackie Forgraves and WM No.642 Bro. Basil Moore; regalia steward, Bro.

William Ross, MP, LOL No.2036 and Tyler, Wor. Master, Bro. David Doherty No.361.

Officers who were installed are as follows: WM, Bro. Reid; DM, Bro. Derek O'Neill; secretary, Bro. George Gilmore; chaplain, Bro. Harold Milliken; treasurer, Bro. David Anderson; lecturer, Bro. Thomas Anderson; foreman of the committee, Bro. James Hegarty; first committee, Bro. Bertie Patterson; second committee, Bro. Bertie McFadden; third committee, Bro. Trevor Pollock; fourth committee,

Bro. David Grimshaw; fifth committee, Bro. Stephen Knox, Tyler Bro. Don Leighton.

Bro. Saulters congratulated the brethren of LOL No.350 who had been installed and on the decision taken to refurbish the hall. He paid tribute to the workmanship.

Bro. George Watson said that no-one of the Protestant faith should have no excuse for not knowing about God and that the Orange Institution was the way forward if all members stand by the principles of the Institution.

Celebrating Hall centenary

AS the article in February's edition of the Orange Standard highlighted, the West Belfast Orange Hall this year celebrates its centenary. To commemorate this historic year brethren have organised a programme of events, which is very wide and varied, a programme which has "something for everyone."

The first event was a service of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the 100 years of Orange witness in "the West". The service held on Saturday, January 10 was conducted by Wor. Bro. the Rev. Dr. Victor Ryan (County Grand Chaplain of the City of Belfast) and the address given by Wor. Bro. Rev. William J. Malcolmson (Chaplain No.9 District, West Belfast and Trustee of West Belfast Orange Hall).

The "Aspects of Orangeism" art competition received over 150 entries from local schools (primary and secondary) and youth organisations. The standard of entries was extremely high and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr. Jim Rodgers presented prizes.

Congratulations to all who took part and a big thank you to the teachers and leaders for encouraging the young people to participate. An exhibition of the entries is currently on display in the hall.

Other events planned throughout the year include an Orange women's cultural evening on Friday, April 24, a centenary dinner on Friday, May 22 and a street festival and parade planned for Saturday, May 30.

It is the obvious intention to encourage those inside the Loyal Orders to celebrate the centenary. The religious services, the art competition, the various lectures, the Ulster-Scots evening and a play based on the Battle of the Somme are all designed to encourage members of the general public to come through our doors, so that the year of celebration can be inclusive of the entire community and exclusive to no-one.

For further information please contact Wor. Bro. William Humphrey Jnr, West Belfast Orange Hall, 342 Shankill Road, Belfast BT13 3AB.

Installation dinner aids charity

BRO. Tom Reid, Tyrone County Grand Master was the guest speaker at the installation of officers of Gillygooley Sons of William LOL No.339.

He was assisted by Bro. Sam Hammond, Chairman of Mid-Tyrone Credit Union and Secretary of Omagh True Blues LOL No.937, Bro. Gerald Sproule, WM of Ardarron LOL No.758, and Bro. W. Jamison, Burr LOL No.1927 Co. Donegal.

Bro. Reid in his address congratulated the lodge on its success and paid tribute to the facilities being provided for the youth and community. He outlined the events regarding Grand Lodge and gave a progress report on new initiatives.

Bro. Sam Hammond reported on the success of the credit union since its formation in 1991 and outlined the benefits it was providing for the community. He reminded everyone that the credit union was based in Omagh Orange Hall and welcomed new members every Friday night from 7.30 to 8.30.

Following the installation members and friends retired to the main hall where dinner was served followed by a social hour, music being provided by Lorna Gilmour. The lodge are donating the proceeds of the dinner to the research fund of Huntingdon's disease.

God must be our concern

A Presbyterian minister told Apprentice Boys marchers on Easter Monday that if they were not members of the Kingdom of God that was a lot more serious than the prospect of a united Ireland.

Bro. the Rev. Tom Greer said he did not want pushed out of the United Kingdom, but he was a lot more concerned that he

was right with God.

In the address at the demonstration in Ballymena, Mr. Greer, the minister of Fivemiletown Presbyterian Church, said that like many Ulster loyalists he was greatly disturbed by the agreement which the politicians reached at Stormont on April 10.

"We see our future as British citizens under threat, we are abhorred at

the thought of a terrorist as a government minister, we are incensed at the thought of convicted terrorists being let loose from prison to run our streets, and not even to hand over one gun.

"Of course, these things concern us deeply, but they should not concern us more than our soul's salvation".

Bro. Greer recalled how at Stormont they were told time and time again by the political commentators who thronged around Castle Buildings that "this is an historic day".

"We can expect radical changes and for better or

worse things in Ulster won't be the same again. But I wonder, as we gave ourselves to thinking about this new political agreement, and perhaps as our blood boiled at some of it, did we, this past weekend, miss the truly historic significance of the occasion?"

"It was Easter weekend and our hearts and minds should have been focused most especially not on what happened at Stormont, but on what happened at Calvary.

"For what happened there did not just change the life of one small Province, but change the whole course of world history".

Ahoghill-born Mr. Greer likened many a Northern Ireland Office politician to Pontius Pilate, who handed over Christ to be crucified.

"Like the NIO politicians Pilate was a weak-willed pragmatist who loved to be popular in all the wrong circles, a man who was afraid to do what was right if it looked troublesome, a man who would compromise the truth when it suited him".



Brethren of Donaghadee Junior Lodge No.36 with the under 10 and under 12 trophies won at the annual district No.2 5-a-side football tournament held in Ards Leisure Centre, January 1998.

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WHAT benefit am I entitled to? Is my relative entitled to disability allowance? What way do I go about getting housing benefit?

These are just some of the inquiries which have been pouring in from Orangemen and women to Bro. David Perry, the youth-welfare officer working full-time at the House of Orange.

Bro. Perry is happy to be deluged with these and other queries - his job is to help Orange brethren and their families who have any problems concerned with welfare benefits from the government or from agencies like DHSS, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Associations, or any other statutory body.

"The busier I am the happier I will be - that is the whole purpose behind my job," said David, who also visits various parts of the Province each month to provide help and guidance to brethren and sisters in their own area.

How often in the past have we heard Orange brethren and indeed Protestants generally claim that they are placed at a great disadvantage in comparison to Roman Catholics when it comes to getting information about what financial assistance they are entitled to from the government and State?

It has been a common

Help and advice at House of Orange

complaint for many years, and indeed there was some validity in the case made that the Order lagged behind in this respect.

Not any longer, and there is now a splendid service based in the House of Orange for providing the Orange 'family' with all the expertise and advice they need, writes an Orange Standard correspondent.

I interviewed Bro. Perry recently and found him to be a very positive and progressive thinking young man.

Bro. Perry, a native of Bryansford, near Newcastle, and now living with his wife Elizabeth at Ballynahinch, County Down, took up his appointment in the House of Orange in October, 1996.

Since then he has settled in well and the groundwork and foundations he has laid are now bearing fruit. "I find more and more brethren contacting me for help and information. But I am still far from overworked and I would welcome many more inquiries," said David.

Most of the inquiries he

has dealt with so far concern income support, incapacity benefit, disability allowance and queries from people getting attendance allowance. David can either give his own personal advice and information or refer the inquirer to the relevant organisation or government body.

Many people looking after parents or other relatives, if not acquainted with the benefits concerning attendance allowance should contact Bro. Perry.

Bro. Perry, who is 28 years of age, takes a deep personal interest in anything affecting Orangeism. He comes from an Orange background, as his late father was a member of the Order.

But David admits that he did not have a great interest in the Order until he became a Christian some years ago. This decision influenced him to consider ways in which he could help others, and in 1989 he joined the Order.

He has thrown himself wholeheartedly into the work of his private lodge,

holding several offices in Bryansford LOL No.438 - he is the current Worshipful Master.

His brother Ian is also a member of the same lodge and is chaplain.

David is also Deputy Master of Roden True Blues RBP No.93, Bryansford, and holds offices in Castlewella District LOL No.12 and Castlewella Royal Black District Chapter No.3.

To complete his Loyal Orders credentials, David is President of Bryansford Murray Club of the Apprentice Boys of Derry.

David and his wife Elizabeth have one son, two-year-old William, and the family worship at Banbridge Congregational Church.

Educated at Castlewella High School, David worked as a wood machinist for nine years. His commitments and interest in the Loyal Orders don't permit much time for hobbies, but David still finds time to support Linfield Football Club.

Bro. Perry is convinced

that Orangeism has a bright future but he is adamant that it must meet the challenges of a changing social environment. His own private lodge has a high percentage of young members, and David believes they have achieved that happy state of affairs because the lodge has an attractive programme of events during the years.

It holds barbecues, treasure hunts and outings to various places of historical interest. "That's the sort of thing which will attract brethren along to meetings and hold their interest. It is also a good idea to have special speakers and discussion nights.

"It is not enough just to hold a routine lodge meeting and go through the agenda. It needs more than that these days to attract, and hold, new members, especially young men and women," said David.

Bro. Perry takes a great interest in the work of the Junior Orange Institution, one of the sections of the Order making the biggest strides and he would like to see most Junior Orangemen and women graduate into the ranks of the adult Order when they reach the appropriate age.

Bro. Perry's work for the Junior Order includes editing a newsletter for the organisation.

As a committed Christian, he believes the Orange and

Black Orders must always stand firm for the firm principles of Protestantism and not compromise these precious principles. He believes Orangemen must always seek to maintain and protect the true Protestant principles and be diligent in things like church attendance and ensuring that their children are sent to Sunday Schools and Bible Classes.

Bro. Perry radiates enthusiasm and anyone seeking advice will find him more than helpful.

For the benefit of Orange brethren and sisters, the welfare advice centres held by Bro. Perry are as follows:

First Monday of each month: Brownlow House, Lurgan, 2-5pm; Lisburn Orange Hall, 7.30-9.30pm.

First Wednesday of each month: Ballymena Protestant Hall, 7-9pm.

Second Tuesday of each month: Newtownards Orange Hall, 7.30-9.30pm.

Second Wednesday of each month: Enniskillen Ulster Unionist office, 7.30-9.30pm.

Third Wednesday of each month: Omagh Orange Hall, 7-9pm.

Third Thursday of each month: Armagh Orange Hall, 7.30-9.30pm.

House of Orange, Belfast, on other occasions, 9.30 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday, telephone: 01232-322801.



Officers and brethren of the Portadown branch of the Apprentice Boys of Derry Club pictured with their new banner which was dedicated by Bro. the Rev. Tom Taylor.

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Perverse arguments

A RECENT conference in the Garvaghy Road area of Portadown heard speakers refer to the similarities of the present conflict in Northern Ireland with the united Irishmen rebellion of 1798.

Of course those making contributions drew on parallels of support their case and conveniently omitted other more relevant factors.

The Rev. Terence McCaughey, a Presbyterian minister, stressed the struggle which had involved both Dissenters and Roman Catholics fighting for justice. True, but one wonders

did he stress to the audience of 100 how that rebellion in Wexford in 1798 degenerated into a murderous campaign against Protestants.

Fine words by people like Wolfe Tone about uniting Protestant, Roman Catholic and Dissenter in the common name of Irishmen meant nothing when translated into the actions of the Wexford pikemen who murdered scores of Protestants on the bridge of that town or burned alive over 200 Protestant and loyal Roman Catholics in a barn at Scullabogue.

The Garvaghy Road folk talk a lot about the 'insult'

they have to endure when an Orange church parade goes along the road. But where is the proof of their tolerance of Protestants simply exercising the right to walk in a peaceful manner from a place of worship?

It will be interesting to see this year, amid all the talk of reconciliation and new beginnings, how the Roman Catholics of Garvaghy Road re-act towards the Drumcree parade - it will be the first opportunity to test the new spirit of reconciliation in Northern Ireland about which there has been so much talk lately.

Flute band contest

THE Ulster Heritage Museum Committee hosted their second traditional flute band competition on Saturday, March 28.

Judges for the competition were Mr. William Maguire and Mr. Ken Stewart.

The evening saw powerful performances by Ballycraigie Sons of Ulster, Steeple Defenders, Ballymacarrett Defenders and eight times all-Ireland champions the William King Memorial.

After the bands had played their set pieces the William King and Ballymacarrett Defenders bands joined together to play a selection of music which before was good but this was even better.

Results were: Blood and Thunder music: 1st Ballycraigie Sons of Ulster; 2nd Steeple Defenders. Blood and Thunder percussion: 1st Ballycraigie Sons of Ulster; 2nd Steeple Defenders. Melody music: 1st William King Memorial; 2nd Ballymacarrett Defenders. Melody percussion: 1st Ballymacarrett Defenders; 2nd William King Memorial. Best Dressed Band: Ballymacarrett Defenders.

Articles from readers most welcome

"People's Champion: The Life of Alexander Bowman - pioneer of Labour Politics in Ireland"

- Terence Bowman. Ulster Historical Foundation - £9.99.

THE extraordinary concentration on religion and politics in Northern Ireland often prevents us from pursuing studies in the wider context of this society's concerns for the ordinary everyday life of its people. This biography of a man who set himself to better the living and working conditions of his fellows in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Ireland and Britain focuses our minds on matters not ordinarily to be viewed in our present restricted orbit of "religion and politics". And because history at best is biography we are shown, through the life of this man, what living, working or merely existing was like in the hard times still vivid in the memories of our oldest inhabitants and of their children.

Alexander Bowman - the biographer, Terence Bowman, is a great grandson - was born on March 16, 1854 in the townland of Derry, Dromara, Co. Down. And there began a life which was to take him through varied experiences and locations to a position of influence and power in the trade unionism of his

day. He had the same aim as other workers' leaders to "agitate, educate and organise" working people.

Bowman had most inauspicious beginnings - a large farming family dogged by the premature death of his father and the struggle of his twice widowed mother to cope in a survival of the fittest or most determined - an interrupted primary education; and jobs from childhood to help keep the wolf from the door in an often unsympathetic Belfast. A preview of what he would be in the future was when in an early job he got the sack for speaking up for his workmates in a dispute with management.

The author gives details, never wearily, of the life of a man with natural abilities in thought, speech and action most remarkable and unusual in someone with so little formal education. He traces Bowman's journey through stages in a political pilgrimage which took him by way of the liberalism of William Ewart Gladstone, the nationalism of Charles Stewart Parnell to the Socialism of his own natural inclination and conviction.

He believed that a well ordered society would be fair and just to all its citizens and that socialism, which favoured the poor and not capitalism which benefitted the rich was what would produce such a society. When he went into local government and took a councillor's seat in the Belfast Corporation he worked hard to implement that philosophy. And always on the journey Bowman had a mind of his own. His thinking was geared to what was best for working class people. Even his nationalism - it was never separatism - was his conclusion on how Ireland could best be governed. He had been impressed by the nationalism of Isaac Butt, who founded in 1870 the Home Rule Association of Ireland; and he was himself a founding member of the Irish Protestant Home Rule Association.

At the height of the Home Rule controversy in 1885 Bowman became the first working class Irishman to seek a seat at Westminster. The contest he fought unsuccessfully with the business tycoon, William

Ewart, his former employer, gives us a glimpse of the hustings in days when there was often mob violence at them despite the pleas for calm from the candidates. His politics and lack of employment forced Bowman to leave Belfast for Glasgow and then London where in each case he quickly involved himself in the emerging socialism of the two cities. He returned to Belfast in 1895 to renew his links with the trade union movement and in 1897 he was elected a city councillor for Duncairn Ward. When in 1891 he was elected President of the Irish Trades Union Congress that was the high water mark of his public life.

The insights we are given here on a world of work, so very different from what we know now, helps us to appreciate the giant strides that have been made in producing a better environment, facilities and conditions of employment. And to recognise the selflessness of men like Bowman, trade unionist leaders, who fought unremittingly to obtain them. Our world is different and yet it is the same in that

the poor are still with us and working conditions for some people are deplorable, and there are the deprived, the ill-treated and the manipulated.

To an extent this is the story of how Labour became a force in British politics, and big names in the new movement are here with Keir Hardie and Ramsey MacDonald. The book is opportune in that Labour has a power and influence greater now than ever it had in the past.

Underlying everything in the life of Bowman were his Christian beliefs and principles. A Presbyterian, though baptised a Roman Catholic in Finnis Chapel, Dromara - the story of his birth, parentage and naming is told in detail - he was ever a deeply committed churchman. His church connections - he moved congregations, Richview, Donegall Road and Argyle Place, Shankill Road among them, as circumstances dictated - and was in turn a Sunday school teacher and ruling elder. His speeches and lectures bore evidence of his Christianity which was always princi-

pled and practical. A family man, Bowman and his wife Rose, had six children, five boys and a girl, all of whom made such a success of their lives that they brought credit to themselves and their parents.

Alexander Bowman who died on November 3, 1924 spent the last 20 years of his working life as superintendent of the Falls Road Swimming Baths. Only then had he the security of job and home that he coveted so much for everyone.

Terence Bowman in his meticulous researches has done justice to a forefather of whom he can be proud in a well written, presented and annotated work with a useful bibliography. This Bowman is the editor of "The Mourne Observer" newspaper.

Especially interesting to this reviewer were the encounters of Alexander Bowman and the Rev. Dr. Hugh, Roaring Hugh, Hanna, Orangeman, conservative, fundamentalist and fellow Presbyterian, who was born too, in the townland of Derry, Dromara.

- S.E. LONG.

Positive response



MEMBERS of the Royal Black Institution are responding in a positive way to the appeal for funds to restore Brownlow House, Lurgan to its former glory.

The historic House was badly damaged in a republican arson attack two years ago and it will take a huge amount of money to make the world headquarters of the Institution the fine building it was before the fire which outraged Blackmen and their friends.

Sir Knight Samuel Gardiner, County Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution in County Antrim is presented with a cheque for £750 by Sir Knight George Wilson, Worshipful Master of Carrickblacker Guiding Star RBP No.503, towards the cost of restoring Brownlow House in Lurgan, headquarters of the Institution. Pictured from left: Sir Knights Ronnie Wilson, Registrar; William Johnston, Chaplain; George Wilson, WM; Jack Mathers, Deputy District Master, Portadown; Samuel Gardiner, County Grand Master; Jim Hewitt, WDM, Portadown; Victor Gillespie, Treasurer and Raymond Patterson, Deputy Master RBP No. 503.

Sir Knight Samuel Gardiner, chairman of the Brownlow House Restoration Appeal has paid tribute to the many preceptories and individual Sir Knights who have been making subscriptions.

The latest preceptory to make a contribution is Carrickblacker Guiding Star RBP No.503, Portadown, and at a recent function a cheque for £750 was presented to Sir Knight Gardiner by Sir Knight George Wilson, Worshipful

Master of RBP No.503.

Sir Knight Gardiner in thanking the preceptory, updated the Sir Knights on the work being done to restore the House.

The money was raised by means of a 'Wordsearch' competition, and the competition winners were: 1, R. Abbott, The Oaks, Derryhale, Portadown; 2, S. Hewitt, Drumard Road, Portadown and 3, J. Stewart, Bocombra Avenue, Portadown.

Oppose GAA apartheid

THE Eire President Mary McAleese has joined the call for reforms of the GAA to make it more accessible to Northern Protestants. I would however suggest that this is impossible because in all key aspects the Gaelic Athletic Association is a sporting apartheid organisation whose very title suggests a racist emphasis on sport.

If there existed an Anglo/Saxon Athletic Association with all the British trimmings, imagine the outcry about exclusion from the use of taxpayers' money to support its infrastructure and against businesses providing commercial sponsorship.

The infamous Rule 21 barring British soldiers and policemen (the emphasis being on British) is really only a piece of unfortunate racial transparency which "lets the mask slip" on the true nature of the GAA. The real exclusions are much less visible but nevertheless established to

exclude the British Protestant.

Consider the obstacles facing a Protestant or Unionist wishing to play the sport for its own sake. They could well find their local club named after an old IRA "hero" of the 1920s (perhaps a murderer of Protestant civilians) or an obscure saint only recognised by the Roman Catholic church. At the local grounds they would be expected to stand proudly to attention for the Soldiers Song while the tri-colour flutters at the mast. The club itself might be difficult to get into though, with its tight association around the local Roman Catholic parish system, whose priests, teachers and lay officials may hold many of the clubs key administrative positions - would a Protestant really be expected to know how to gain access to this religious network?

The discouragement doesn't end there of course, given the very

large number of past and present security force members in Northern Ireland they would probably by their acceptance of the Rule book have to be prepared to adhere to discrimination against a brother, or cousin.

Truly, the old South African Rugby Federation could have learnt much from the GAA. So where now are the many Irish anti-apartheid activists of the 70s and 80s?

Members of the Orange Order need to aggressively expose the GAA for what it is and call on government and businesses not to support this organisation until it totally reforms itself and becomes an ordinary open to all sport. If we as an Order received even a fraction of the money pouring into the GAA's coffers from such sources we indeed could afford the infrastructure we need for the next millennium.

Signed -
A CO. DOWN BROTHER.

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Sell-out or compromise

APRIL 9/10 saw one of the most historic days in the history of Northern Ireland. The unionist community and more specifically the Ulster-Scots people, being the main body of the unionist support base, now have a very important decision ahead of them and we are understandably split with many in the middle undecided.

This is the most important choice our people will have taken since the partition of Ireland.

This new agreement has many features such as changes to the Irish constitution but in many respects this has fallen far short of Protestant/Ulster-Scots expectation. The changes that have been made are good but Article Two of the Eire Constitution still regards all those who live on the island to be part of the Irish nation giving therefore no recognition of the Ulster national identity espoused by most Protestants.

"It is the entitlement of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish nation". This still seems to imply a flaw that has been part of nationalist thinking for too long, that we are some rogue part of the Irish nation which will eventually return rather than the distinct ethnic group we are.

An article recognising a second indigenous population on the island of Ireland (in the Province of Ulster) with as much right to be here and being welcome addition to a hitherto bad document. Article 44 outlining the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church has not even been looked at which is a betrayal of Protestants and other non-Roman Catholics in the South.

Also there seems to me to be a problem with a Stormont administration entering into an intergovernmental arrangement with an Irish government that has a stated aspira-

tion to destroy the state that Stormont would be responsible for governing.

However, the recognition of the Northern Ireland state is of crucial importance and if passed in a referendum for both parts of the island, any republican legitimacy they have claimed even by their own standards will be gone.

Another element of the deal is what is referred to as a shadow assembly. Whether or not this is a good or bad thing will depend on the detail but there is a danger that rather than reach agreement what the parties have done was agree a fudge. The idea seems to be that you have an election assembly that will then work out its own arrangement with the Dail and if these prove satisfactory the government will make Stormont a proper assembly, if not they pull the plug. If detailed arrangements have not been worked out in advance this would be like signing a blank cheque. And having got the Ulster people to rubber stamp that agreement a Labour government could coerce unionists into all sorts of cross border arrangements claiming they have a mandate, direct from the people.

Another problem with the assembly is a collective executive. The Ulster Unionist committee system was better; it gave every party a chance to participate on a proportional basis.

However, compromises were made and for peace the UUP agreed to a cabinet system. This does present problems if Sinn Fein are part of an executive.

Decommissioning aside how can you have a party so committed to destroying the state running the state? It is only just about viable with the SDLP and we should remember Sinn Fein are saying this is a platform upon which they will build a united Ireland. In addition, it concerns me that unionists unhappy with the agreement may not

be allowed to take positions that they are electorally entitled to unless they pledge to co-operate with all-Ireland bodies.

This seems highly undemocratic and reminiscent of Hitler banning opposition. Experience all around the world tells us government without opposition is bad. Without scrutinisation they become incompetent and sometimes corrupt.

Let's remember unionists like Dr. Paisley are not being banned for having hoards of secret weapons, but because people don't like his views. Regardless of what you think of men like Dr. Paisley this must be undemocratic.

Most unionists are prepared to accept reasonable cross border co-operation but what if at a future date these bodies evolve into something more than they are now?

As is Sinn Fein's stated aspiration, could a unionist elected by the people be denied his democratic right to prevent that by this loophole?

Undoubtedly unionists agreed this with a view to making the structures practical but I feel it is worth pointing out this possible abuse of the system as at least within Sinn Fein if not other nationalist elements, they did not sign the agreement in the same good faith and sincerity as the UUP, UDP and the PUP.

There are also other side issues sometimes referred to as the equality agenda such as the government's pledge to promote the Irish language but if this is the case unionists in any future assembly must demand the same treatment for the Ulster-Scots language which is the native tongue of the Ulster nation.

There is also to be a human rights commission. There is nothing wrong with this in principle but in the past nationalists have been able to hijack such things and there is a danger it may just be another tool with which to bash state insti-

tutions like the RUC.

On the human rights platform the peace deal includes signing up to "the right to freedom and expression of religion" and also "the right to freedom from sectarian harassment". Despite having signed these barely three days later the Apprentice Boys had their right denied to express their Protestantism in the way common in our Ulster-Scots culture by having a peaceful, dignified procession to church.

This in my view is also blatant sectarian harassment with no moral basis other than religious, national, ethnic and cultural intolerance. If these rules were applied properly then no loyal order parade will be re-routed.

Orangemen will watch how marches are treated under this new arrangement with eager curiosity. It is hard to believe that a unionist Prime Minister and a government made up partly of unionists could be a party to re-routing.

There is to be a commission on the future of policing the recommendations of which we are being asked to rubber stamp in this referendum without having seen them. The only thing Protestants have had in their favour is a 60 per cent vote or the Orange card that Gerry Adams has such problems with (democracy).

Once we give that up there will be no way back. Decommissioning is an issue that has always been of concern to true loyalists and when reading that weapons must be decommissioned within two years of the referendum many of us will remember the compromise made in good faith by the Ulster Unionist Party of parallel decommissioning and most will remember how the government broke its word to the UUP. Releasing prisoners is also a tender issue but the reality of this issue was outlined by Gary McMichael some

time ago that "paramilitary prisoners pro-long the life of paramilitary organisations." This an unfortunate truth that justice may have to be sacrificed for peace. However, if this is so it must be a real peace - guns must be handed over. The time scale for prisoners and guns are the same, they should therefore be directly linked.

The amount and how quickly paramilitary groups get their prisoners out should reflect the progress that the organisation in question has made to disband. It should be actual disbandment we demand not just decommissioning although that is the most important aspect of paramilitary disbandment.

There is a real danger if paramilitary groups resist and stall, they will get their prisoners out anyway just as they got into talks. The deal is not all bad, however, apart from the constitutional changes mentioned above the dreaded Anglo-Irish Agreement is gone. Some may argue that what we are getting is worse but at least it is democratically accountable to the assembly with a Unionist first minister. The principle of consent has also been firmly established but given the rising Roman Catholic electorate which already stands at 38 per cent it is not clear in the long term how beneficial a concession that really is.

The North-South element, however, is that strand which has always worried unionists most. Orangemen must study the detail of strand two carefully before deciding which way to vote. Sinn Fein appear to be able to see this as a half-way house to a united Ireland and evil as the republican leadership might be they are not stupid. The potential for these bodies to evolve into an all-Ireland government should be examined closely. This more than any other element of the agreement should determine how

Orangemen vote.

DEBATE

In conclusion the purpose of this article is not to either endorse or reject the present peace deal, merely to encourage informed debate on the future of our beloved Province. If the tone of this article seems hostile it is only because the media will undoubtedly give the positive elements of this agreement more than its fair share of time. This essay will hopefully have highlighted some of the dangers lurking in the agreement and help Orangemen scrutinise the detail. I advise brother Orangemen not to blindly follow old party allegiances. DUP men examine what Ulster Unionists have to say. UUP men examine the dangers the DUP speak off.

This could be the most important decision we have collectively taken as group in 400 years of Ulster-Scots history. It is important Orangemen give this the utmost consideration and if needs be, leave it to the day itself to determine how they vote. Don't be pressured into a yea or nay simply because of a desire for the holy grail of peace or on the reverse don't let past experiences of nationalist bad faith and government treachery fail to allow you to give the present deal a chance.

To conclude, Orangemen should register an opinion. If you cannot make up your mind it is probably better to vote no and be safe rather than sorry. However it is up to individual Orangemen to decide on whether the agreement has struck a fair balance or not. Orangemen should definitely register a vote although not necessarily following old party lines but we must vote for what we feel is best in all good conscience not to support Trimble or Paisley but to support ULSTER.

R.G. McDOWELL.

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OBITUARY:

**Sir Knight
David H. Boyd**

*The Past Worshipful Provincial
Grand Master of Scotland
Imperial Deputy Grand Master*



IT was with sadness and a tremendous sense of loss that No.4 Royal Black District Chapter of Partick, Scotland learned of the passing of our good friend David aged 95.

David was a fine Christian gentleman and over his long life as a dedicated servant always working for his beloved Institution.

In the year 1902 David was born at No.47 Crawford Street, Partick overlooking the Orange halls where they still stand today.

In his early life he joined Juvenile Lodge No.23, and at the required age he transferred to his father's lodge No.225. He held various offices and gained his lecturer's certificate.

In the year 1922 he embraced the Royal Black Institution when he joined the Preceptory Bond Accord No.150 encamped in Partick.

He held the position of Worshipful Master for the period of 1931-1951. At district level he officiated the District Master from 1931-1951.

Surely one of the saddest days of his life was when the warrant of RBP No.150 was handed over to the district chapter in 1983.

David then transferred to RBP No.187 Britain's Sons, the preceptory of his adoption he became a great star among its members.

A more important part of his life was No.4 District Lecture Class and he was delighted in 1938 at the international lecture conference at Stormont.

The late Sir Knight James Spence, the Worshipful District Master of No.4 District Chapter of Belfast, Ballymacarrett was agreeable to the suggestion that both classes undertake an annual lecture conference with No.4 District lecture class, Partick and No.4

District lecture class, Belfast.

These gatherings commenced after the Second World War in the year 1948 and up to this Easter it will be 50 years, they have formed a very strong bond of fellowship and companionship. The conference being held in Partick and in Belfast each alternate year at Easter weekends.

The greatest honour that our illustrious Institution could bestow on this fine Christian gentleman occurred in 1974 when he was elevated to Worshipful Grand Master of Scotland.

Thus he held this high office for a period of three years. There is no finer advert than David Boyd to appeal to all the Sir Knights of our Institution and particularly to our young Sir Knights to join the local lecture class, by learning the ceremonial work and to understand the lessons derived.

Letters to the Editor:

10 Sandy Hill Avenue,
Dunmurry,
Belfast BT17.
April 20, 1998.

DEAR Sir,

At the annual general meeting of the Ulster Special Constabulary Association held in Kilkeel on Saturday, April 18, delegates representing branches from each of the six counties reviewed the contents of the British Irish Agreement formulated at Stormont on Friday, April 10 and resolved as a body that they could not recommend its acceptance, the following points being made:-

1. It is our opinion that a 'Yes' vote in the referendum would commit the Province to a pernicious cycle of persuasion to renounce British sovereignty over Northern Ireland and to accept the doctrine of Irish republicanism.

2. We express abhorrence at the callous indifference with which talks signatories appended their names to a document before surrender of arms and explosives, at the same time pledging themselves to endorse giving freedom to those imprisoned for heinous use thereof.

3. Remembering the naked aggression which

followed the acceptance of recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Police in Northern Ireland 1969, we view with great concern the intention to establish another Commission purposed to inquire into policing in Northern Ireland. Believing that the time is inopportune for changes envisaged in the terms of reference to the Commission to be implemented, we urge the Secretary of State to retain the existing structure of policing, until such times as terrorism is eradicated, and illegal arms and explosives are surrendered or otherwise removed from terrorist hands.

4. We appeal to all parties for the Union to resolve their differences, to look at the consequences of 'Yes' or 'No' resulting from the referendum to be held on May 22, and unite in adopting a joint unionist approach to the political problem then confronting the Province, and we encourage them to seek an acceptable alternative to the Agreement put forward.

Yours faithfully,
Norman C. Tulip,
Hon. Secretary,
Ulster Special
Constabulary Assoc.

22 Albany Street
Deptford
London SE8 3PS
March 4, 1998

DEAR Sir,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on having so many interesting articles in this month's edition of the Orange Standard. However, I would like to make a few comments on the article entitled 'Anti British approach in films' - page 13.

Not all the films that have covered Irish terrorism could be categorised as being anti-British or pro-IRA. I could put in this category Hennessey (1975), The Long Good Friday (1979), The Crying Game (1992), Patriot Games (1992), Circle of Deceit (1993), Blown Away (1994) and The Devil's Own (1997).

With regard to the pro-IRA films which your article mentions, I would not think that they would have much attraction to the ordinary Londoner whom I meet or work with.

Regrettably, most people whom I have met or worked with in London do not particularly care about the Irish Question, except when it impacts upon their daily lives when Heathrow Airport or the Docklands area are attacked.

I have not detected much zeal amongst ordinary folk to see these films and therefore I tend to feel that the writer of the article overstates the importance of these productions.

Those people who do see these films are quite likely to be hoping to see some 'action' or 'violence' and the political dimensions generally go over their heads.

I am not saying films like the 'In the name of the father' should not be criticised but I do not believe that they will be responsible for ejecting Ulster from the Union.

Finally, I would like to see a regular letters column restored to the Orange Standard.

Yours sincerely,
Allan B. Robertson,
William Alexander
Memorial LOL No.1689
(London).

**Progress
in North
Antrim**

**BRETHREN of
Drumaheagles LOL
No.1099 in North Antrim
hosted more than 40 visiting brethren at their recent installation of officers in Drumaheagles Orange Hall.**

Included amongst the visitors were representatives from counties Antrim and Londonderry and the district lodges of Ballycastle No.23, Ballymena No.8, Ballymoney No.16, Bushmills No.21, Coleraine No.3, Garvagh No.4 and Rasharkin No.5, as well as 15 other private lodges.

Following the ceremony the WDM for Ballymoney, Bro. Mervyn Ferris was invited to present the outgoing WM, Wor. Bro. Campbell Nicholl with his Past Master's certificate and jewel.

Wor. Bro. Nicholl expressed his thanks to the members of the lodge for their help and support during his two year term of office, wishing his successor every success for the future.

In his inaugural speech the new Worshipful Master, Bro. Stanley Stewart said: "Our Orange Hall is what we call a 50-50 building,

50 per cent has been renovated to provide kitchens, toilets and ante-room which is used on Tuesday nights by the Bannview Community Credit Union.

"We plan to continue with our fundraising through old time dances, quizzes and so on, so I would ask for the continued support of our Orange brethren and the wider community, to enable us to replace the existing lodge room," he concluded.

The committee members include: Bro. Campbell Nicholl, PM; Bro. Wallace Kinnaid, Bro. Derek Steele, PM; Bro. George Connolly and inside tyler, Bro. Samuel McCaughan. The foreman of the committee is Wor. Bro. Andrew Kinnaid, PM.

After the meeting was closed for official business, the ladies committee served a hearty tea which was much appreciated by all.

Entertainment was then provided by members of Drumaheagles Flute Band, a magician and some traditional Ulster-Scots songs performed by Bro. David Doherty of Agivey LOL No.361.



Wor. Bro. Mervyn Ferris, WDM Ballymoney District Lodge No.16, presenting Wor. Bro. Campbell Nicholl, PM with his Past Master's certificate jewel. Looking on is Wor. Bro. Stanley Stewart, the newly installed Worshipful Master.

Members of LOL No.1099 at the installation of officers in Drumaheagles Orange Hall.

