

THE **Royal** BLACK

September '14, Issue No. 5

The Official Publication of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth

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- INSIDE THIS EDITION OF "THE ROYAL BLACK" -

8 Pages of
coverage
from the Last
Saturday



Pages and
pages of
proud
presentations



Find out who
won the Scava
Sham Fight



Right Worshipful Sir Knight Samuel Stewart with the new officer team of the Grand Black Chapter of United States of America.

A team of senior officers from Grand Council has instituted a new Grand Black Chapter of the United States of America – the first such event in over a century.

Baltimore, Maryland was the venue on 14th August for this unique event in the history of the Royal Black Institution.

As well as the Grand Council representatives, there was an enthusiastic gathering of Sir Knights from across the USA and the meeting proceeded under the Chairmanship of Right Worshipful Sir Knight Peter Downie, IDGM,

assisted in the Deputy Chair by Right Worshipful Sir Knight Robert Dane, ASGM.

The Imperial Grand Registrar, Right Worshipful Sir Knight Wm. H. Scott, confirmed that all the documentation was in order and the seven designated Sir Knights from America signified their acceptance of their responsibilities, including the confirmation of Sir Knight Samuel Stewart as the first Grand Master.

Others present included Right Worshipful Sir Knight Canon Dr. W.A. Murphy, Grand Chaplain, Right Worshipful Sir Knight J.D. Livingstone, Grand Treasurer, Right Worshipful

Sir Knight Ian McCafferty, Grand Lecturer and Right Worshipful Sir Knight Wm. Campbell, PASGM.

The meeting of Grand Council was followed immediately by the first meeting of the new Grand Chapter, at which its first officers were elected and installed and greetings brought from all the jurisdictions represented in the team and the Grand Chapter of Ontario East. A further meeting followed on Saturday, 16th August, when 10 new Sir Knights were initiated and a new warrant issued to North Carolina.

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Eric set to scale Everest

While he won't be moving mountains to raise money for charity, Eric Morrison is certainly set to scale them.

The WDM No5 District RBDC Belfast and Chaplain RBP 491 36TH (Ulster) Division Memorial will be participating in the Everest Base Camp trek from 17th September to 4th October to raise funds for the Methodist Church in Ireland: World Development and Relief Fund, Methodist Missionary Society, and the Home Mission Department.

A team of 20 from across

"The Everest Base Camp trek will be the fulfillment of a dream.."



Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will be travelling to Kathmandu in Nepal to trek over 14 days in the stunning surroundings of the Himalayas. Along with the rest of the team, Eric has been training locally in the Mourne Mountains and also regularly climbing Cave Hill in preparation for the trip.

The Everest region or Sagarmatha, as it's known in Nepal, includes spectacular mountain scenery and views of 8 of the

World's 14 highest peaks, all of which exceed 8,000m. Walking in the hills has been a passion for Eric and the Everest Base Camp trek will be the fulfillment of a dream to visit the Himalayas.

As a member of Carnalea Methodist Church in Bangor, Eric has led a number of walks for the church walking group. However, the Himalayas will be a spectacular contrast to the last church walk in July to Rathlin Island.

Eric will be funding his own place on the trip and all charitable donations received will be used 100% for specific projects in both Ireland and Nepal, identified by the Methodist Church.

If any Sir Knight would like to assist this fundraising on behalf of the Methodist Church in Ireland please send your donations c/o Eric Morrison, Brownlow House (donations payable to: Methodist World Development & Relief Fund).



Message from the Sovereign Grand Master

Sir Knights, THE 'Last Saturday' has traditionally brought the curtain down on the marching season and all credit to you, the Sir Knights, Preceptories and Districts, on a magnificent finale and a magnificent turnout.

The Institution held parades in six locations across Northern Ireland on Saturday, 30th August. Approximately 17,000 members of the Institution from almost 370 Preceptories stepped out in Rathfriland, Armagh, Londonderry, Ballyclare, Larne and Donemana (reports and photographs from all the venues are featured in this issue of 'The Black' magazine).

I was very kindly invited to the County Antrim demonstration in Ballyclare. It was last held there in 2008 and this year 3,000 members of the Royal Black Institution from 79 Preceptories took part.

It was a wonderful occasion and my thanks go to all involved in its organisation. Indeed, my thanks and gratitude are extended to the organisers of each of the six demonstrations.

While the Last Saturday is a wonderful spectacle, enjoyed by Sir Knights and spectators alike, it should be remembered that it is the culmination of many months of hard work and preparation by Districts and Preceptories.

The First World War is also something we should remember.

World War I, or the Great War, was a global war centred in Europe that began on 28th July, 1914 and lasted until 11th November, 1918.

More than nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war.

Northern Ireland, along with the rest of Europe, marked the centenary of WWI with Services of Remembrance and Peace Vigils.

The Royal Black Institution, whose members were amongst those who paid the supreme sacrifice, joins in that remembrance.

Looking to the future, the Royal Black Institution recently instituted the new Grand Black Chapter of the United States of America in Baltimore, USA, and our best wishes go to our American Sir Knights.

The Royal Black Institution continues to grow as a worldwide family and for that blessing we are grateful.

Yours,

Most Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master



Sir Knights who attended the civic reception for districts attending the Last Saturday Parade in Armagh. In the picture are Sir Knights from Aughnacloy, East Tyrone, Killyman, Summerisland and Primatial with the Lord Mayor Sir Knight Robert Turner.

Edenderry Print Management



Unit 8
Agnes Street Industrial Estate
Agnes Street
Crumlin Road
Belfast BT13 1GB
Northern Ireland

T: 028 9074 0192

E: edenderrydesign2@btconnect.com

Colour, Commercial,
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Secretary of State Theresa Villiers pictured during her visit to Brownlow House. Included are (from left) William Scott, Grand Registrar, Millar Farr, Sovereign Master and David Livingstone, Grand Treasurer.

Best foot forward for Philip and Andrew

Banbridge District's Worshipful District Master, Philip Hutton and Deputy District Master, Andrew Maxwell, pictured during their sponsored walk through the district.



CHINAULEY

Two members of Banbridge District No6 put their best foot forward in August in aid of charity.

Worshipful District Master, Philip Hutton and Deputy District Master, Andrew Maxwell carried out a sponsored walk which took in all the halls within the Banbridge District.

The pair started off at

Glen near Newry where RBP 27 sit and 32 miles later, after passing through six Orange Districts, they arrived at Ballynagarrick near Portadown and RBP 137. Many Sir Knights joined them along the way and many preceptories and Sir Knights donated to the two nominated charities - Parkinson's Research and the Alzheimer's Society.

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Deadline for reports/photos is 27th February 2015.

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Boost for the Lighthouse Trust

Members of the Institution presented cheques to the Lighthouse Trust at their open day. The Trust is a charity that has a summer scheme in Donaghadee to help children and young adults with cerebral palsy. Ulster RBP 768 presented a cheque for £200 from money raised by members and Sir Knight Robert Campbell presented a cheque for £450 raised by auctioning a signed Glasgow Rangers Shirt. In the photo are (from left) Lady Sheil, Trustee, WM Sir Knight Nigel Edmondson, PM Sir Knight Sam Irwin, Mrs. Joan Bruton, Founder of Lighthouse Trist, Reg WDM Sir Knight Robert Campbell Newtownards No. 11 District and Lady Sylvia Hermon MP, Trustee.

Obituary – Sir Knight Sam Foster Former Executive Minister with a love for the Institution

The death took place in August of Sam Foster, a well-known and highly respected member of the Institution.

The Ulster Unionist, who was 82, represented Fermanagh in the Northern Ireland Assembly and served as Environment Minister at Stormont between 1999 and 2002. He was a former chairman of Fermanagh District Council and served as a major in the Ulster Defence Regiment.

In 1987, Mr Foster was on the scene of the Enniskillen Remembrance Day bombing and pulled survivors from the rubble immediately after the IRA attack.

Mr Foster had Parkinson's disease and retired from the Assembly in 2003, but retained a keen interest in current affairs, welcoming the G8 summit when world leaders visited his beloved Fermanagh last summer.

In 2002, Mr Foster received a CBE for political and public service.

Mr Foster was a lifelong member of Enniskillen Chosen Few RBP 36 and LOL 729 Derryclavin, County Fermanagh and a Past Master of the lodge. He was still a Lecturer in his Preceptory.

He was a past District Lecturer of Enniskillen Royal Black District Chapter No 1 and was a past County Grand Lecturer of County



Fermanagh Grand Black Chapter.

He was Imperial Grand Lecturer of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth for 10 years from 1989-1999. He was also a past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master and was an Imperial Deputy Grand Master.

The Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr, paid tribute to Mr Foster, saying, "He was a fantastic man and the Institution is indebted to him for all his hard work. His love within the Institution was Lecturing and he contributed much to this over the years. He will be very sadly missed and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family at this time."

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Installations & Banners



Worshipful Sir Knight Ivan Kelly, County Londonderry Royal Black Chapter Worshipful Master and Assistant Grand Master, Sir Knight Ivan Kelly congratulates Sir Knight William Ross on his election as Worshipful Master of Ballantine Heroes RBP No. 94.

See page 13 for more pictures from the Ballantine Installation

60th anniversary for Ballyhalbert



Ballyhalbert Gold Crown RBP 656 cutting the cake at their 60th anniversary in Brownlow House, Lurgan. Pictured are Sir Knight Millar Farr, QPM, Sovereign Grand Master, WM Sir Knight James McMaster and DM Sir Knight Jackie Thompson



Ballyhalbert Gold Crown RBP 656 at their installation of officers and 60th anniversary in Brownlow House, Lurgan. Included are Right Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr, QPM Sovereign Grand Master, WDM Sir Knight Brian Sword, Deputy DDM Sir Knight Robert Campbell, WM Sir Knight James McMaster, DM Sir Knight Jackie Thompson with Sir Knights of RBP 656 and visiting Sir Knights.



Sir Knight Russell White flying the flag for Northern Ireland

The Sir Knights of Mount Carmel RBP 131 presented Sir Knight Russell White with a special flag for competing in the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Sir Knights Chris and Scott Irwin and Sir Knight Phillip Hutton presented the flag to Russell's mother as he was in training for the games. Russell competed in both the solo and team triathlon representing Northern Ireland.

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End of an era

The June meeting Westbourne Church Total Abstinence RBP 861 in the Witherow Memorial Halls at Westbourne Presbyterian Church marked the end of an era.

These halls are to be knocked down in the near future as part of the Church's redevelopment and RBP 861 decided, with the church's permission, to hold a meeting making them one of the last groups to use these halls. They were originally built by Rev. William Witherow as a school and were used for many community based activities over the years.

This was historically significant for RBP 861 as the Preceptory was formed out of Westbourne Presbyterian Church and Sir Knight Rev Mervyn Gibson, the Preceptory's current clerical Chaplain is the current minister of the church, while the preceptory's current Deputy Lay Chaplain, Sir Knight Kirk McDowell, is an active church member.

In addition to a Black Preceptory, an Orange Lodge, a Royal Arch Purple Chapter, at least one Women's Lodge and a Junior Girls' Lodge were formed in connection

to this Church and Rev. Witherow.

The June meeting had several visiting District Officers, including the District Master Sir Knight Tam Boyd (also a member of Westbourne Presbyterian Church), the Deputy District Lecturer Sir Knight Mervyn Buick, the Deputy District Lay Chaplain Sir Knight Norman Barry and the Deputy District Treasurer Sir Knight Billy Todd.

During the meeting the District Master presented Sir Knight Michael Cunningham with his Past Masters certificate, collarette and Jewel thanking him for his service to RBP 861. Sir Knight Ryan McDowell then gave an emblematic address explaining the imagery of the PM certificate.

Sir Knights Ryan McDowell and Mervyn Buick also conferred the Crimson Arrow degree on Sir Knight Steven Tate and the Royal Mark Degree on Sir Knight David Haddock.

There has been an Orange initiation within the Witherow Halls before but this may have been the first time that Black degrees have been conferred on the premises.



The Royal Black Knights of Patrick - (from left) Trevor Rose (PM), Worshipful Master Winston Hanna, Samuel Davidson (PM), Deputy Master Harold Speers and John Gordon (PM and Registrar).

Royal Black Preceptory 146 is keen to grow its membership

The Royal Black Knights of Patrick RBP 146 was constituted on 31st October, 1971. This came ABOUT AS Brethren of Cross of Patrick LOL 688 felt I necessary to extend the Christian witness within the Black Institution. Those Brethren felt at that time it would be good to have a Christian preceptory to help testify to the Gospel of Christ and continue to sow the seeds of the Gospel first sown on this land by St Patrick himself.

One notable member was Wor Sir Knight and Bro Rev Robert Bradford MP, who was murdered while carrying out his constituency work in south Belfast on 14th November, 1981. Other senior Sir Knights include Ernest Baird, Lindsay Smyth and Fredrick Hynds JP.

The first meeting took place in Carryduff Unionist Hall under the auspices of Saintfield District Chapter No12 and County Down Grand Black Chapter officers. The first preceptor offices were Worshipful Master Sir Knight Thomas Lindsay Smyth, Deputy Master Sir Knight Major Fredrick Hynds JP.

The Royal Black Knights of Patrick RBP 146 meet on the second Friday each month at 8pm in Moneyreagh Orange Hall in County Down. Any Christian brethren looking to join the Black Institution would be made very welcome amongst these Sir Knights.

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The Officers of RBP No.1 were delighted to present a cheque for £1,000 raised by Sir Knights for the Royal Black Institution's nominated charities for 2014. The cheque was presented on the 'Thirteenth' morning to the Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Knight Andrew McRoberts (centre). Also included are (from left) Brent Diffin, Deputy Master, Robin Diffin, Registrar, Richard Whitten, Worshipful Master and Keith Johnston, Chaplain.

New Ex-Servicemen Standard unfurled



The new Standard for Portadown Ex-Servicemen's RBP 326 which was unfurled and dedicated by Sir Knight Cecil Allen, District Chaplain of Portadown Royal Black District Chapter No5 in First Portadown Presbyterian Church, Portadown.



Sir Knight Cecil Allen, District Chaplain, Portadown Royal Black District Chapter No5 (left) with Sir Knight Bryan Walker, Worshipful Master Portadown Ex-Servicemen's RBP 326 after unfurling a New Standard for the Ex-Servicemen's Preceptory.



Sir Knight Cecil Allen, District Chaplain Portadown Royal Black District Chapter No5, (left) pictured with the Officers of Portadown Ex-Servicemen's RBP 326 after unfurling and dedicating a new standard for the Ex-Servicemen's Preceptory.



Sir Knight James Shaw sen (Worshipful Master) and members of Broomhedge Pride of the North RBP 244 at the Relief of Derry Celebration in Lisburn. *More pictures on pages 30 & 31.*



Sir Knight Maurice Kirkwood, District Registrar of Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 at the Relief of Derry Celebration in Lisburn. *More pictures on pages 30 & 31.*



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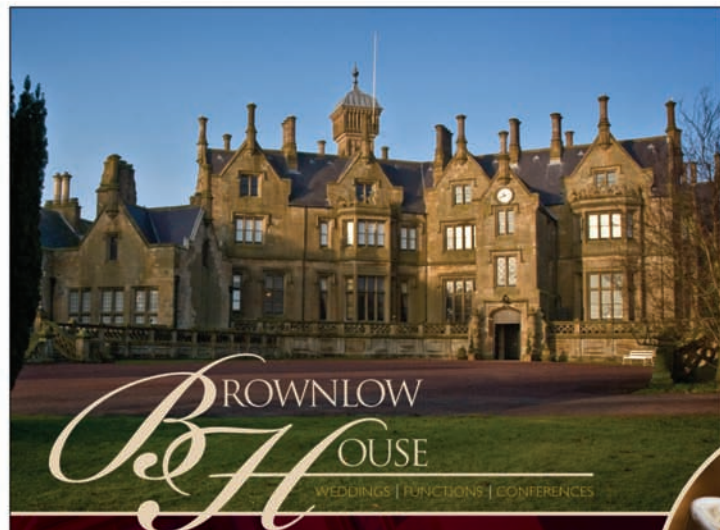


50th anniversary banner for Ballinamallard Crimson Heroes

RBP 272, Ballinamallard Crimson Heroes, marked the 50th anniversary of the unfurling of their banner on Saturday 2nd August prior to Couty Fermanagh's annual demonstration in Lisbellaw.

The original event took place on 31st July, 1964 at Drumkeen, Ballinamallard with the Deputy County Grand Master, Sir Knight R W Cartwright, chairing proceedings and the unfurling was conducted by Mrs Burke, wife of the WM Sir Knight Henry A Burke, LLB.

The hymns sung on the occasion were O God of Bethel and Onward Christian Soldiers with prayers by Sir Knight Rev W S Forsythe and scripture read by Rev WS Twinem. The banner was dedicated by Sir Knight Rev E R Hastings, County Grand Chaplain, and the guest Speaker was Bro HW West MP.



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'Commonwealth' & leadership

*Reflections by Worshipful
Sir Knight Rev. Trevor Boyd,
First Rathfriland Presbyterian
Church, RBP 259,
East Tyrone District.*

The success of the Commonwealth Games of 2014 and the fact that our Institution bears the title, Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth, I thought it appropriate to take this opportunity to reflect on 'Commonwealth' and, in particular, the concept of leadership.

Upon her accession to the throne, Queen Elizabeth II became Head of the Commonwealth and throughout her 60 year reign it has grown from seven to fifty-three members representing two and a quarter billion people. During this time, our Queen has played a unique part as a leader who has brought unity and strength.

For a country, an organisation, a church, a family or a business to function it requires leadership.

In our generation those who are

leaders in all walks of life are coming under immense pressure and are often treated with a growing level of disrespect.

In a sinful and rebellious world, people have a great tendency to disrespect or to challenge authority. Parents are being challenged by teenagers and even younger children as to who is the head of the home? The Bible identifies that the head of the home is the father. Again the Bible sets out parameters on how to lead the home so that children are not provoked, but rather brought up in discipline and in the instruction of the Lord.

Employees, you are to submit to your employers. In my experience of industry this is the only way to run a successful business. Where there are tensions, rows, disputes between employees and managers things, at best, turn stale and productivity suffers, morale drops.

Paul in Ephesians wants the slave and us to go the extra mile for our boss and do our job as if it were for Christ because, ultimately, all we do is for Christ and is a demonstration of our faith. The

Christian faith is not a Sunday faith, it is one for each minute of each day of the week.

In all these things Christ, as head of the church, is our example. We are to love Him, we are to obey and respect Him as a mark of true faith. Do we always obey Christ?

Leadership, at whatever level, can be weighty to carry whether as the head of the Commonwealth, the head

of a business, the head of a home or

the head of a congregation. But according to Scripture this is the order of things for society to function as God intends. Many of you reading this magazine are in leadership of various types.

As leaders, I trust you want to impact our generation for Christ, we need to lead in a way that allows others to see our faith in God.

One way we can do that is by depending on God in the face of our daily pressures. The next time you're under pressure, under stress, pray for the grace you need to depend on God, who is perfectly and eternally worthy of your trust.

Also, remember to pray for the leaders you know. Those you lead will see how you respond to pressures and will follow your actions. People follow leaders! We enjoy the privilege of being part of the Commonwealth.

As Sir Knights, we should encourage people to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. It is He who leads the supreme commonwealth which we read about in Revelation 7:9-17.



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Installations & Banners



Macosquin RBP 256 Members presented with their long Service Certificates at the annual Installation of Officers from left front Sir Knight's Jim McIntyre (50) Hugh Caskey (50) William Campbell WM 256 Douglas Nevin (50) Ivor McPherson (50) back Rex McIntyre (40) Kenneth Hutchinson DM 256 (40) George Blair LC (20) Samuel McCandless (30) David Rankin (20)



Pictured at the installation ceremony of Quilly RBP 10 including (front row from left) Sir Knight David Marshal, Sir Knight William Hobson, CG Standard Bearer, Sir Knight Mervyn McKinley, WDM, Worshipful Sir Knight Colin Cunningham, DGC Registrar, and Sir Knight William Hill.

Remember
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the days of
your
youth!!!!

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VERSE 12



Elected officers at Lecale Royal Black District Chapter No2 – (from left) Sir Knight Brian Hunter, DCGM, Sir Knight Fergus Woods, DM, Sir Knight Sam Osbourne, former Treasurer, Sir Knight Phil Colmer, DDM and Sir Knight Ivor Walsh, DR.

Lecale District selects it's officers

The installation of officers representing Lecale Royal Black District Chapter No2 took place at Ballygawley Orange Hall, County Down.

Those officers duly installed included Sir Knight Fergus Woods, District Master, Sir Knight Phil Colmer, Deputy District Master, Sir Knight Nigel Bloomer, District Treasurer and Sir Knight James McKibbin who retained the office of District Registrar. County Officers in attendance included Sir Knight Brian Hunter, Deputy County Grand Master and Sir Knight Ivor Walsh, District Registrar, Rathfriland District No 7.

During the evenings proceedings, the outgoing District Treasurer of Lecale District No2, Sir Knight Sam Osbourne, was presented with a colarette in recognition of his 35 year tenure as District Treasure.

Installations & Banners



Officers and Sir Knights of Ballantine Heroes Royal Black Preceptory after their Installation of Officers held in Killaloo Orange Hall on 8th May.

Ballantine Heroes installation

Ballantine Heroes Royal Black Preceptory No94 (Kilaloo) held their Installation of Officers in Killaloo Orange Hall.

The Installation was carried out by the County Londonderry Royal Black Chapter Worshipful Master and Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Knight Ivan Kelly, assisted by the County Londonderry Royal Black Chapter Deputy Master, Sir Knight David Hay. The new Worshipful Master is the former East Londonderry MP, Sir Knight William Ross.



Sir Knight Samuel Carmichael receiving his Red Cross Certificate from Worshipful Sir Knight David Hay, Deputy Master of County Londonderry Royal Black Chapter and former Worshipful Master, Worshipful Sir Knight George Hunter.

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Institution steps out in style for the Last Saturday

THE Royal Black Institution stepped out at six locations across Northern Ireland on the 'Last Saturday' on August 30.

Approximately 17,000 members of the institution from almost 370 preceptories held parades in Rathfriland, Armagh, Londonderry, Ballyclare, Larne and Donemana.

RATHFRILAND

The biggest parade was in Rathfriland, which last played host to the event in 2001.

A total of 106 preceptories took part, accompanied by 80 bands. The parade began on the Newry Road and went through the village to the Castlewellsan Road.

The districts taking part were: Lower Iveagh, Lecale, Castlewellsan, Newry, Ballynahinch, Banbridge, Rathfriland, Mourne, Largymore, Comber, Newtownards, Saintfield and Bangor.

A religious service was held at 2.45pm, conducted by Pastor Roy Graham. Ivan Kelly, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, spoke.

A special attraction at Rathfriland was a Children's Choir from Uganda. They took part in the parade in traditional costume and proved very popular with the spectators.

The New Beginnings Charitable Trust was founded in 2007 by Roger Annett, a native of Kilkeel, County Down. The charity was founded to help some of the hundreds of thousands of needy children in Uganda. The main aim of the charity was, and is, to provide secure housing, education and medical facilities for underprivileged and orphaned children, in a Christian environment and give them hope for the future.

About three years ago the children were encouraged to form a choir, which is now touring Scotland and Ireland.

ARMAGH

ARMAGH was the venue and the Primatial Royal Black District Chapter No 4 the hosts as Sir Knights from Tyrone, Armagh

and Fermanagh stepped out for the traditional 'Last Saturday' in the city.

The Royal Black Institution held parades in six locations across Northern Ireland on Saturday and it was the first time in 10 years that the city of Armagh played host to Sir Knights and preceptories.

Sixty preceptories and bands took part in the parade which made its way through the thronged city via Dean's Hill, College Hill, College Street, Upper English Street, Market Street, Scotch Street, Barrack Street, Gaol Square, Victoria Street, Victoria Road, Drumadd Road, Kiln Road and Hamiltonsbawn Road to Spring Farm.

The Districts represented were Killyman, Aughnacloy, East Tyrone, Fermanagh, Summerisland and the host Primatial. A number of preceptories from Cavan and Monaghan also helped swell the ranks. The proceedings in the Demonstration Field took the form of a religious service, conducted by Wor Sir Knight, the Rev John M. Batchelor, Chaplain of Primatial RBDC No 4.

Also taking part in the service were Worshipful Sir Knight J David Livingstone, WDM Primatial RBDC No 4, who Chaired the proceedings and Worshipful Sir Knight Thomas Hume, WDM Summerisland RBDC No 6. The Address was by Worshipful Sir Knight, the Rev Dr David A Murphy, District Chaplain East Tyrone RBDC No 5.

The Resolutions were read by Worshipful Sir Knight Gordon Wakenshaw, DDM Primatial RBDC. They were Proposed by Rt Worshipful Sir Knight Robert Dane, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master and County Grand Master of Fermanagh. They were Seconded by Rt Worshipful Sir Knight William Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar.

The Vote of Thanks was Proposed by Worshipful Sir Knight Richard Emerson, Deputy County Grand Master of Tyrone and WDM of Killyman RBDC No 1 and Seconded by Worshipful Sir

Knight Harold Erskine, WDM Aughnacloy RBDC No 3.

Following the service, the parade again made its way

from 'The Field' into Armagh to round off a most successful 'Last Saturday' in the city.

DONEMANA

THE County Tyrone demonstration was held in Donemana.

Twenty-four preceptories from South Donegal, Omagh, Castlederg and Strabane took part. They were accompanied by 22 bands.

The procession got underway at 1.30pm and paraded via Longland Road, Lisnarragh Road to Berryhill Road. The parade was last held in Donemana in 2011.

A religious service was held at 2.30pm, conducted by Ian Donnell and the Rev Ivan Dinsmore.

The principal speakers were the Sir Knight, the Rev Robert Campbell, County Grand Chaplain, Antrim and William Montgomery. The Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Worshipful Sir Knight Andrew McRoberts, also spoke.

The demonstration coincided with the 150th anniversary of the Strabane District.



LONDONDERRY

In Londonderry, 34 preceptories were on parade, accompanied by 33 bands.

The demonstration was last held in Londonderry in 2008 and this year's parade consisted of members of the Royal Black Institution from Coleraine, City of Londonderry, Raphoe and South Londonderry District.

The parade moved off from May Street via Limavady Road, Clooney Terrace, Spencer Road, Craigavon Bridge, Carisle Road, Ferryquay Street, the Diamond, Bishop Street, London Street, Kennedy Place, Kennedy Street, Wapping Lane, Craigavon Bridge, Spencer Road, Clooney Terrace, Glendermott Road and Bond Street back to May Street.

The platform proceedings were conducted by Sir Knight the Rev Joseph Andrews. The guest

speaker was Sir Knt the Rev Nigel Reid, Past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master.

BALLYCLARE

The County Antrim demonstration was held in Ballyclare.

It was last held there in 2008 and this year 3,000 members of the Royal Black Institution from 79 preceptories took part.

More than 70 bands joined the parade which began at 12.30pm and made its way to 'The Field' via Rashee Road, Rashee Park, Erskine Park, Ballyeaston Road, North End, The Square, Main Street and Mill Road to Sixmilewater Park. The Service of Worship was conducted by the Rev Ian McClean. The principal speaker was the Sovereign Grand Master, Most Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr.

The Districts represented were Lisburn, Ballymena, Antrim, Larne, Ballymoney and Ballyclare.

LARNE

The City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter held its annual demonstration in Larne.

The demonstration was last held in the coastal town in 1985.

The parade began at noon at the Sandy Bay pitches and travelled via Bay Park, Curran Road, Glenarm Road, Newington Avenue, Ferris Avenue, Herbert Avenue, Old Glenarm Road, Victoria Road, Pound Street, High Street, Upper Main Street and Circular Road.

There were 59 preceptories from Belfast on parade, accompanied by 33 bands.

A religious service was held in 'The Field', conducted by Sir Knight William Elliott.



THE LAST SATURDAY 2014

- Rathfriland -



Some Sir Knights of host district, Rathfriland Royal Black District Chapter No 7, pictured arriving at the demonstration field at the County Down Grand Black Chapter Demonstration at Rathfriland on Saturday 30th August.



County Down Grand Black Chapter office bearers and colour party pictured arriving at the demonstration field at the County Down Grand Black Chapter Demonstration at Rathfriland on Saturday 30th August.



Deputy District Chaplain Sir Knight Rodney Magennis pictured giving out gospel tracts at the County Down Grand Black Chapter Demonstration at Rathfriland on Saturday 30th August.



Worshipful Sir Knight Pastor Roy Graham pictured during his religious address at the County Down Grand Black Chapter Demonstration at Rathfriland on Saturday 30th August.



Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Sir Knight Ivan Kelly, pictured addressing Sir Knights during the platform proceedings at the County Down Grand Black Chapter Annual Demonstration at Rathfriland on Saturday 30th August.

THE LAST SATURDAY 2014

- Armagh -



Sir Knights Grand Black Chapter Armagh & Tyrone parade through Armagh.dd3639



A strong contingent of Sir Knights RBP 242 wend their way through Armagh.dd3666



'Sir William Allen Memorial' RBP 153.dd3683



A proud day for grandad and grandson as they pace themselves through Armagh. dd3670



The eyecatching Protestant Boys Omagh Melody Flute Band.dd3673

THE LAST SATURDAY 2014

- Donemana -



Steven Roberts, Provincial Grand Black Chapter of England Grand Treasurer, and officers and members of Seskinore 'Knights Of The Golden City' RBP 304 on Saturday morning in Seskinore Orange Hall prior to making their way to the Royal Black Institution 'Last Saturday' demonstration in Donemana. A number of members received long service accolades, the highest of which went to William Mitchell for 69 years' service.



The Strabane District No 2 bannerette leads the Strabane preceptories and bands through the village during the 'Last Saturday' parade in Donemana. The Strabane district is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. AN3664



Preparing to take part in the Royal Black Institution 'Last Saturday' parade in Donemana are, from left, Harry Wilson, Ardstraw Johnston's Sons RBP 474, Fred Burke, Glentimon RBP 416 and Derek Tinney, Cowan Memorial Flute Band, Sion Mills, and Glentimon RBP 416. AN3636



The parade on route on Longland Road during the Royal Black Institution 'Last Saturday' parade in Donemana. AN3641



Members of Lisleen RBP 191, Castlederg, on parade during the 'Last Saturday' parade in Donemana. AN3678



A Member of Sir Knight William Fyffe Memorial RBP 184, Strabane, on parade in Donemana on Saturday. AN3668

THE LAST SATURDAY 2014

- Londonderry -



The banner of the County Londonderry Grand Black Chapter pictured at the head of Saturday's parade. INLS3514-119KM



These members of R.B.P. 113 were pictured on Saturday. INLS3514-117KM



A sword bearer with R.B.P. 576 pictured during Saturday's parade. INLS3514-123KM



Members of the Royal Black Preceptory pictured on parade in Londonderry on Saturday. INLS3514-125KM



The Ringsend Pipe Band pictured taking part in Saturday's Royal Black Preceptory parade in Londonderry. INLS3514-126KM

THE LAST SATURDAY 2014

- Ballyclare -



Chief Guest at Ballyclare was the Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr (left) being greeted by William Strange, Worshipful District Master Ballyclare.



RBP 475



Nice to see you!



RBP 535



Lisburn District



Stepping out with Lisburn Young Defenders

THE LAST SATURDAY 2014

- Larne -



Picture by Freddie Parkinson
Sir Knights of RBP 178



Picture by Freddie Parkinson
Sir Knights of RBP 1069.



Picture by Freddie Parkinson
City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter in Larne.



Picture by Freddie Parkinson
Sir Knights of RBP 1005.



Picture by Freddie Parkinson
Co Antrim, Sir Knights of RBP 229.



Picture by Freddie Parkinson
Ulster Volunteer Flute colour party.



Picture by Freddie Parkinson
Keeping the step correct in Larne.



Crowds descend
on Scarva for
the biggest fight
of the year!

This year's Sham Fight at Scarva was one of the biggest ever. A number of districts and preceptories which do not normally attend, took part in the parade.

Among them were Strabane district, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Other newcomers to the event included preceptories from Belfast, Coagh, Sixmilecross, Ballyhalbert, Comber, Hillhall, Enniskillen, Carrickfergus, Garvagh, Glasgow and Donegal.

This year the main invited guests were senior representatives of the Presbyterian Church, the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church. They were joined by representatives of the Bible Society and Mission Aviation Fellowship - the Institution's 2014 charity appeal will support both organisations and the mon-

ey raised will be used to send Bibles to Christians in South Sudan and bring humanitarian aid to remote and hard to reach communities.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is an international Christian aviation organisation, whose mission is to see the lives of isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Jesus' name. Serving in 25 developing countries they bring help and hope to over 1,800 remote destinations.

Using dirt, grass and mountain airstrips, MAF provides a lifeline of essential medical care, food and water supplies, relief teams and church workers to some of the poorest people in the world.

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland (BSNI) works in partnership with its sister Society in South Sudan as part of a world-

wide Fellowship that serves 200 countries. BSNI seeks to reach everyone with God's Word in a language and medium they can access and afford, so that each person might experience God's purpose for their life.

This requires Bible translation, Bible printing, and also a wide range of distribution arrangements which, in South Sudan, will involve close co-operation with MAF.

Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, said he was delighted the institution was supporting the charities.

He said, "It is a further extension of our Christian and charitable outreach. It will help us spread the message of the gospel, a core principal of our organisation.

"The Bible Society will provide the Bibles and MAF will fly them into Sudan, where

there is a strong desire to learn more about the Christian message.

"We are very pleased to be in partnership with two such well-established and respected Christian charities, who have been working successfully around the world for many years. I have no doubt that the members of the Institution will really get behind this year's charity appeal, as they have always done, and make a difference to the people of South Sudan."

The institution has built up a strong record in charity work and has raised more than half a million pounds in the past decade.

The money went to organisations including the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Action MS, Open Doors Ministry in Sudan, Diabetes Research, Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda and the Alzheimer's Society.



Portadown District Officers



RBP 638





The joint armies



Sr. Knight William Scott with Church Representatives who were special guests at Scarva - Ken Robinson (Methodist Church), Canon Shane Forster (Church of Ireland), Michael Barry (Presbyterian Church), John Doherty (Bible Society Northern Ireland) and Colin Davis (Mission Aviation Fellowship)



A group of young musicians from Crozier Memorial Pipe Band



RBP Redrock 595



Churchill Band, Londonderry



Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, (third from right) with officers and special guests.



Sovereign Grand Master Sr. Knight Miller Farr



Enjoying the day out are from left: John Moore, Keith Johnston, John Moore and Tim McClelland, all Sir Knights from RBP No.1 Erin's First Royal Blues.



The head of the parade



Members of RBP 1000 laying a wreath at the war memorial



King William (John Adair)

2014 RESOLUTIONS

FAITH RESOLUTION

We, the members of the Royal Black Institution, are taught to remember that our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ came to this world not to be served but to serve. He gave himself on the cross of Calvary as a once and for all sacrifice for our sins.

We call upon our members and their families to respond to the service and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ by surrendering their lives to Him in repentance and faith, to live a life of service and sacrifice to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and to our Reformed faith, which is Christ centred and Bible based.

LOYALTY RESOLUTION

This year we remember the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.

Countless people from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth lost their lives in this appalling conflict, in which they fought to protect King and Country and we must not forget their sacrifice. In the battlefields of Europe, they carried out their duty with little regard for themselves.

The members of the armed forces in the First World War were true heroes, as have been their successors. We owe them all a great debt of gratitude - we will remember them.

Their loyalty should be an inspiration to all of us as we today reaffirm our loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION

We reaffirm our allegiance to the British Crown and the structures that form the basis of our democracy.

Therefore, as Royal Black Knights, we resolve to remain part of the United Kingdom.

We strongly encourage our members in Scotland, their families and friends, to show clearly in September's referendum that they wish to remain an integral part of the United Kingdom.

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Presenting the cheque for £480 for the IGBC's designated charities are (back row, from left) Sir Knights Jeffrey Kane, Keith Morrow, Registrar, Andrew Kane, Wilson Morrow, Treasurer and Trevor Weir. Front row (from left) Right Worshipful Sir Knight Gareth Campbell, Deputy Imperial Grand Treasurer, and Worshipful Sir Knight Roy Morrow, RWM. Missing from the photograph is the Chaplain, Sir Knight Rev Nigel Kane, who worked very hard in organising the event and led the praise on the day.

Songs of Praise in Curran

The members of Curran Golden Star RBP 446 held a special 'Songs of Praise' service to raise funds for this year's IGBC's designated charities.

The service was held in the tiny South Londonderry village's Presbyterian Church and was very well attended. Tea and refreshments were served at the end of the service which also incorporated the institution's current 'Take Five'

project.

A total of £480 was raised in aid of 'Bible Society NI' and 'Mission Aviation Fellowship'.

The officers and Sir Knights of Curran RBP 446 would again like to thank all those who came to the service and donated so generously to these worthwhile charities. They would also like to record their thanks to Curran Presbyterian Church.

Anniversary service at Castlederg

Castlederg District Royal Black Chapter No6 held their annual anniversary service and parade to Castlederg Free Presbyterian Church.

The parade assembled in the Albert Street car-park under the command of Sir Knight James Emery, County Lay Chaplain. Ardbarron Pipe Band, under Pipe Major David Young, led the County and District Officers while Sir Knight Stevan Patterson carried the District Standard followed by a good turnout of Sir Knights.

The service was conducted by Bro. Rev. Raymond Robinson, Chaplain of Glenageeragh LOL No908 and Minister of Kesh Free Presbyterian Church who extended a warm welcome to everyone and thanked the District Chapter for the invitation to Castlederg.

The special offering in aid of the LEMOOS was taken up by Sir Knight William Montgomery, Imperial Deputy Grand Master, and Sir Knight Ken Bratton, Worshipful Master of Ardess Crimson Star RBP No463. The organist was Rev. Lindsay Wilson.

After the service the parade re-assembled and marched through the town finally dispersing at Albert Street with the band playing the National Anthem.

Big night for Benraw Guiding Star

Benraw Guiding Star RBP 40 held their unfurling of a new banner at Benraw Orange Hall.

The Worshipful Master of Benraw RBP 40, Sir Knight Geoffrey Bradford, welcomed all the Sir Knights, visiting bands and the general public and called on the Worshipful District Master of Rathfriland No7, Sir Knight Harold Henning, to chair the proceedings.

Rev Charles McCurdy opened with prayer and scripture reading before four-year-old Nicole Maxwell presented the scissors to Sir Knight John Herron and wife Doreen who had the honour of unfurling the lovely new banner and was presented with a basket of flowers and a gift by Ole-sya Patterson.

Sir Knight Ivor Walsh, registrar of Rathfriland District No 7, made the collection appeal.

The Benraw Pre-



ceptory was delighted to have Sovereign Grand Master Sir Knight Millar Farr as guest who congratulated RBP 40 on unfurling the new banner. He wished the Benraw Preceptory every success in the future.

Other speakers were County Grand Master Sir Knight Trevor Hawthorne, County Grand Registrar Sir Knight Trevor McBurney and Deputy District Master Rathfriland No7 Sir Knight Samuel Heenan. Sir Knight Pastor Roy Graham, District Chaplain, dedicated the new banner and Sir Knight

Eddie Patterson, Treasurer of RBP 40, gave a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who helped to make the evening a resounding success, which was seconded by Sir Knight Jonathan Maxwell, Deputy master RBP 40.

The platform proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of the of the National Anthem lead by Legananny accordion band before Benraw Pipe Band headed the parade of the new banner along with Crimson Arrow Pipe Band, Newcastle and Star of Maghera Flute Band.



Members of Benraw RBP 40 along with the platform party at the unfurling ceremony at Benraw Orange Hall.



Sir Knights of Lackey Sons of Levi, RBP 785, Co. Monaghan, who attended a special evening to present long service jewels and bars.



Sir Knight Thomas George receiving his 50 year bar from the Worshipful Master Sir Knight Mark Warnock at a preceptory meeting of Knights of Ulster RBP24.



The presentation of 40 year medals to three Sir Knights of Tassagh Temple of Royalty RBP 82 –Registrar David Brownlee, PM James Rountree and Vivian Brownlee. Also included are, back row (from left) Sir Knights. (insert) 1st Lect RBP 443 Richard Keys, Thomas Marshall, Stanley McCarten, Stephen Herron, Desmond Branian and PM Cecil Dickson. Front (from left) Treasurer Alex Patterson, WM John Herron Registrar David Brownlee, PM James Rountree, Vivian Brownlee, DM Cedric Crozier and Chaplain Ronnie Watt.



Sir Knight Stuart Crozier (centre) who received his Red Cross Certificate and Red Cross from WM John Herron (second left). Also in the picture are (from left) Treasurer Alex Patterson, DM Cedric Crozier and Chaplain Ronnie Watt.

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Royal Black Institution County Officers with Rathfriland Royal Black District Chapter No7 officers with the new District Bannerette, presented to the District Standard Bearer Sir Knight Billy Maxwell at a service in 2nd and 3rd Rathfriland Presbyterian Church.



Rathfriland Royal Black District no 7 officers pictured after receiving new district cuffs.

Dedication for Rathfriland District

A new bannerette for Rathfriland Royal Black District No7 was dedicated at a service in Third Rathfriland Presbyterian Church.

Hosted by Rathfriland RBP 170, the service was conducted by Sir Knight Rev Trevor Boyd. During the service new cuffs were presented to Rathfriland Royal Black District officers by Sir Knight Samuel McConnell, Imperial Deputy Grand Master.

He also handed over a new bannerette to District Standard Bearer Sir Knight Billy Maxwell which was carried at the head of the county demonstration in Rathfriland. Sir Knight Pastor Roy Graham, District Chaplain, dedicated the new bannerette and cuffs.

The Rathfriland Royal Black and Orange choir took part in the service with Hilary Hamilton on the piano. Third Rathfriland Presbyterian Church led the praise. The WDM of Rathfriland Royal Black District, Sir Knight Harold Henning, welcomed all the Sir Knights and Sir Knight William Walsh, WM of Rathfriland Royal Black Preceptory 170, proposed a vote of thanks.

After the service the new bannerette was paraded, led by Drumlough Pipe Band.

Red Cross Presentations

Presentations for Annalong & Ballinran



Sir Knights from Annalong RBP 34 and Ballinran RBP 431 with those who received their Red Cross Certificates.



Members of the County Cavan and County Monaghan Grand Black Chapters who took part in the Take 5 project.

Take 5 at Cloverhill

A Take 5 Service organised by County Cavan and County Monaghan Grand Black Chapters was held in Cloverhill Orange Hall. The lessons were read by Sir Knight William Heaslip, County Lay Chaplain, Cavan and Sir Knight John Truell, County Lay Chaplain, Monaghan. The service was conducted by Sir Knight Rev Nigel Reid who also spoke about the Take 5 Project. The collection was given to the Sovereign Grand Master's Appeal.

Red Cross Presentations



Brackley RBP343

Presentation of Red Cross certificates at Brackley 343 East Tyrone District back row (from left) Sir Knights Bobby Gilchrist, Omagh District Lecturer, Stuart McFarland, Rocky Jordan, Trevor Crawford WM, Ian Patterson Andrew Burnside, Bobby Dixon DM and William Stuart Lecturer. Front row (from left) Neil Armstrong Gordon Burnside, Scott McFarland, Ian McCausland, David Patterson. Missing from the photo is Kenny Crawford.



Sixteen Sir Knights of RBP 296 went through their Red Cross Degree in August. In the picture are: Front Row (L to R) Sir Knight William Murray D.M., Sir Knight Robert Keeney W.M. and Sir Knight Henry Dunbar the M.W.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, standing to the left is Sir Knight Ian Dick the Registrar. A Special thanks to Sir Knight Jack Simpson R.B.P. 296 and Sir Knight Angus Rankin R.B.P. 160 who have carried out all the Degrees.

Sixteen Degrees of success for RBP 296

Sixteen Sir Knights of RBP 296 went through their Red Cross Degree in August. In the picture are, front row (from left) Sir Knight William Murray DM, Sir Knight Robert Keeney WM and Sir Knight Henry Dunbar the MWGM of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, standing to the left is Sir Knight Ian Dick, Registrar. A special thanks to Sir Knight Jack Simpson RBP 296 and Sir Knight Angus Rankin RBP 160 who carried out all the Degrees.

Five star Golden Star

At a meeting of Waringsford Golden Star RBP No51, members assembled to see five Sir Knights presented with their Red Cross Certificates. Sir Knight Mervyn McKinley, on his last official duty before stepping down as District Master of Lower

Iveagh District RBP No1, congratulated the Sir Knights on having finished their travels and presented each with their certificate. He also paid tribute to the lecturers, Sir Knights George McLaughlin and Mervyn Kernaghan, and thanked them for their work.



Sir Knights of Waringsford Golden Star RBP No51 with their Red Cross Certificates, front row (from left) Sir Knights Gavin Beck, RBP 555; William McElroy; Raymond Malcolmson; Craig Williams, RBP 555 and James Camblim. Back row (from left) Sir Knights Mervyn Kernaghan, WDM No5 District, Lecturer, Frank Wallace, Registrar, Mervyn McKinley, District Master No 1 Dist, Myles Kelly, WM, Lee Marshall, DM and George McLaughlin, PDM Lecturer.



Sir Knight Thomas Cunningham (front centre) from Ballinran RBP431 received his Red Cross Certificate. He is pictured along with officers and members of Ballinran RBP 431. Front row (from left), Sir Knight John Hanna, Worshipful District Master, Sir Knight Henry McDowell, Deputy Master, Sir Knight Thomas Cunningham, Sir Knight David McConnell, Worshipful Master and Sir Knight William Baillie, Deputy District Master.

Relief of Derry celebrated in Lisburn

The annual 'Relief of Derry Service' was held in Christ Church Parish, Lisburn on 3rd August, hosted by local Apprentice Boys of Derry, No Surrender Clubs, in conjunction with Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 and Largymore Royal Black District Chapter No 9.

The service was conducted by the Rev Matthew Milliken, Curate and the preacher was the Rev John Pickering, Senior Minister. Renee Madden presided at the organ and together with the church choir led the singing of the congregational hymns that included, 'Stand up stand up for Jesus, and 'To God be the glory'.



Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 colour party and district office bearers pictured as the parade arrives at Christ Church Parish for the annual 'Relief of Derry Service'.

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Rev John Pickering, Senior Minister (left) and Rev Matthew Milliken, Curate (right) who conducted the 'Relief of Derry Service' pictured waiting on the parade to arrive at Christ Church Parish. Included are L to R: Sir Knights - Sidney Wilson, Robert Davis, Jim Martin and David Bell.



Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 office bearers - Brian Galbraith (First District Committee), Roy Douglas (Standard Bearer) and Neill Brown (Deputy District Master).



Like father like son: Sir Knight Tommy McMullan and his son Gareth, past masters of Hillhall Golden Star RBP 1074.



Members of Broomhedge Pride of the North RBP 244. L to R: Sir Knights - William Hobson (Worshipful Master), Charlie Dielt (Deputy Master), Robert Brown (Past Master) and Jamie Brown.

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South Donegal District on parade

Members of South Donegal District Royal Black Chapter No3 and visitors assembled at Tullyhommon and marched behind their Standard Bearer Geoffrey Knox and Tievemore Pipe Band to Pettigo Methodist Church for their annual anniversary service.

Dean Raymond Thompson conducted the service and extended a warm welcome to everyone in attendance and based his address on "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" [Romans chapter 1 verse 16].

The lessons were read by Canon William Johnston, Chaplain of County Fermanagh Grand Black Chapter and Tom Reid, Worshipful Master of Pettigo Covenant of Peace RBP No549 and the offering was taken up by David Black, District Master of Enniskillen District RBC No1 and Jim Emery, Lay Chaplain of County Tyrone Grand Black Chapter.

During the service Dean Thompson conducted a brief remembrance service to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. Thompson Anderson, District Master, proposed the usual vote of thanks and the organist was Mrs Evelyn Rowe.

Annual service in Omagh

Omagh District Royal Black Chapter No4 held their annual anniversary service and parade to Lislimnaghan Parish Church.

Prior to the service, the parade assembled at Mountjoy Orange Hall under the command of Errol Thompson and led by Mountjoy Pipe Band, followed by the County and District Officers, the impressive procession made its way to the church.

The service was conducted by Dean Raymond Thompson who chose as his text 'If ye love me keep my commandments'. The lessons were read by Johnston Mulligan, Lay chaplain of Omagh District

and Bobby Gilchrist, Lecturer of Omagh District.

The offering, in aid of the LEM-OOS, was taken up by John Hall, Past Master of County Fermanagh Grand Black Chapter and Jim Emery, Lay Chaplain of County Tyrone Grand Black Chapter.

During the service, Dean Thompson led an Act of Remembrance to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. At the close of the service, after the singing of the National Anthem, Stanley McFarland, Omagh District Master, proposed the vote of thanks. The organist was Mrs Florence Caldwell and the District Standard Bearer was John Crozier.

On the march

Tubrid Royal Black Chapter No1235 held their annual anniversary parade and service to Drumkeeran Parish Church near Kesh.

The parade assembled at Tubrid Orange Hall and marched to the church led by Tubrid Pipe Band.

The service was conducted by Bro. Dean Raymond Thompson [now retired] who expressed

a cordial welcome to the members of the local preceptory and all visitors.

The scripture lessons were read by Sir Knight Howard Marshall, Lay Chaplain of the preceptory and the offering in aid of the LEMOOS. was taken up by Sir Knight Ken Carson, Past Master of Ardess Crimson Star RBP No.463 and Sir Knight James Emery, Lay Chaplain of County Tyrone Grand

Black Chapter.

During the service Dean Thompson led an act of remembrance to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War I.

At the close of the service Sir Knight Derek Anderson, Worshipful Master of the host preceptory proposed the vote of thanks. The organist was Miss Gillian Stevenson.

Long Service Medals



The year 2013 was a momentous year for RBP 393, The Birches from Summerisland RBDC No. 6 in that all told 4 Long Service Medal Bars for 60 Years' Service and 6 Long Service Medals for 50 Years' Service were presented to Members. Pictured are Chaplin Sir Knight Eddie Forbes, Worshipful District Master Sir Knight Denis Rodgers, Sir Knight Maurice Forbes and Worshipful Master Sir Knight Tom Hewitt.



Sir Knights from Annalong RBP34 who received their 50 Year Jewels are pictured along with officers and members of Annalong RBP 34. Front row (from left), Sir Knight John Hanna, Worshipful District Master, Sir Knight William Wilson, Sir Knight William Cromwell, Sir Knight Maurice Campbell, Sir Knight Fred Gordon and Sir Knight William Baillie, Deputy District Master. Missing from the photograph is Sir Knight Thomas Burden who also received his 50 Year Jewel.



Sir Knight Albert Gregg and Sir Knight William Brown received their 50 Year Jewels and Sir Knight Raymond Gray received a 30 Year Jewel at the recent re-election meeting of Caleb's Royal Line RBP291 Magherafelt. In the photograph are (back row from left) Sir Knight David Montgomery, Worshipful District Master No4 District, South Londonderry, Sir Knight Norman McMullan, Worshipful Master RBP291, Sir Knight Raymond Gray, Sir Knight Jordan Kennedy, Deputy Master RBP291, and Sir Knight Roland Caldwell, Deputy District Master No4 District. Front Row (from left) Sir Knight Albert Gregg and Sir Knight William Brown.



On the 'Thirteenth' morning, Sir Knight John Moore of RBP No1, Erin's First Royal Blues, was presented with a Jewel to mark 50 years of membership of the Royal Black Preceptory by the Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Andrew McRoberts. In the photograph, (from left) are Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Andrew McRoberts, Sir Knight John Moore and the Worshipful Master of RBP No.1, Sir Knight Richard Whitten.



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Long Service Medals



Eight Sir Knights of RBP903 Florencecourt Star of The West, County Fermanagh were presented with long service medals at the monthly encampment. In the photograph are (from left) Gordon Burleigh, Treasurer, Leslie Wilson, Chaplain, Cecil Brownlee, Deputy County Grand Lecturer, David Burleigh, WM, David Black, Worshipful District Master, and Steven Crawford, Registrar. Back row (from left) Stephen Burleigh, Robert Wallace (30 years), Basil Whyte (40 years), Wesley Armstrong (30 years), Lancelot Forde (25 years), Thomas Elliott (30 years), Sam Wilson and Trevor Wilson, Deputy Master. Unable to attend and missing from the photo are Bob Monaghan (50 years), Bertie Coffey (40 years), and David Armstrong (40 years).



WDM of Saintfield Royal Black District Chapter, Sir Knight Jonathan Kerr, (second right) who presented long service medals to RBP73 members (from left) Sir Knight James Morrow, George Yeates and Jim Martin.



Sir Jack Fairbairn RBP73 is congratulated by WDM Sir Knight Jonathan Kerr after being awarded with his final lecturer's certificate.



Sir Knight Robert Ramsey (second right) is presented with his 50 Year Medal by members of RBP 267 who visited him in Lurgan Hospital. Also included in the picture are (from left) Cecil Allen, Portadown District Chaplain (also a member of RBP 267), WM Sir Knight Kyle Branyan, and Registrar Sir Knight Leslie Geary. Not included in the picture is Treasurer Sir Knight Ian Freeburn.

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120 Years at Ballymacarrett

120 years and counting

This year Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 is celebrating its 120th anniversary. Here is a brief history:

The installation of No.4 District Chapter was held in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall, believed to be in Chamberlain Street at that time, on Thursday evening of 29th November, 1894.

The City Grand Master Bro. Sir Knight Samuel Weir occupied the chair with the Deputy Grand Master Sir Knight John Boyd in the Vice Chair. The City Grand Registrar Sir Knight R Evans was also in attendance. The presiding officers are referred to as City Grand Officers and not County Grand Officers suggesting that it was the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter that was presiding.

The City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter was formed in 1883 but it was suggested that Ballymacarrett District did not become part of the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter until 1909 having previously belonged to the County Antrim Grand Black Chapter

Some of the names are difficult to decipher but it looks like the first officers of No.4 District Chapter were as follows having been installed at the above meeting.

- District Master Sir Knight William McCormick
- Deputy District Master Sir Knight Nicholas Dickinson
- District Chaplain Sir Knight Robert Maxwell
- District Registrar Sir Knight Thomas Radcliffe
- District Treasurer Sir Knight William McCracken
- Deputy District Registrar Sir Knight James J Mclean
- Deputy District Treasurer Sir Knight James Kernaghan
- 1st District Lecturer Sir Knight Samuel Glenfield
- 2nd District Lecturer Sir Knight George Thompson
- 1st District Standard Bearer Sir Knight John Reid
- 2nd District Standard Bearer Sir Knight Matthew Campbell
- 1st District Censor Sir Knight Thomas Ferris

- 2nd District Censor Sir Knight John McBride
- District Pursuivant Sir Knight Thomas McBride
- District 1st Committee Man Sir Knight Alex Wilson
- District 2nd Committee Man Sir Knight Robert Irvine
- District 3rd Committee Man Sir Knight John Hume
- District 4th Committee Man Sir Knight David J Geddis
- District 5th Committee Man Sir Knight William J Vance
- District 6th Committee Man Sir Knight William Hoy
- District 7th Committee Man Sir Knight Thomas Rainey

At the close of the installation meeting the minutes refer to a refreshment board which was presided over by the District Master.

The minutes state that several stirring addresses were given at this gathering by Sir Knights John Boyd, Robert Maxwell, Henry Bowman and others. This included an address by the City Grand Mas-

ter Sir Knight Samuel Weir on the progress of the Black Institution in Belfast which it says was listened to with "marked attention".

The District Master spoke in response to a toast to the prosperity of No.4 District Chapter outlining the advantages of forming a District Chapter in connection with the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter.

He also addressed the meeting on the rise and progress of the Orange Institution in Ballymacarrett which was received with "great enthusiasm". It was stated that several brethren contributed to the enjoyment of the evening with loyal songs which were "highly applauded" and the evening was concluded by singing the Queen's National Anthem.

The first monthly meeting of No.4 District Chapter was held on 27th December 1894 in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall.

The Deputy District Master Sir Knight Nicholas Dickinson occu-

pied the Chair with Sir Knight Alexander Wilson (1st Com) in the Vice Chair. The previous month's meeting was presumably under the auspices of the superior Chapter with December 94 being what they deemed to be the first monthly meeting in their own right.

It is presumably a sign of dedication by the founding fathers of No.4 District that they chose to have their meeting so close to the Christmas period. Even factoring in the very different social patterns of the time and the absence of television etc, it still shows commitment to the Royal Black Institution that these men wished to pursue Black business at such a festive and inclement point in the year when they might reasonably have stayed at home with their families.

It may also reflect that many of these early Sir Knights saw their membership of the Black Institution and the activities associated with it as a vehicle for perpetuating and practicing their Christian faith perhaps deeming their attend-



120 Years at Ballymacarrett for Ballymacarrett

ance at a Black meeting as being as natural as going to church at a high point in the Christian calendar.

A number of items were dealt with at this first meeting.

- It was proposed by Sir Knight J. J. Mclean RBP 248 and seconded by Sir Knight Matthew Campbell RBP 230 that each preceptory belonging to No.4 District pay District dues of 2/- per month to the District Chapter. This was passed. The District Registrar also reported that he had applied to No.6 Orange District to have No.4 Black District allocated the 4th Thursday of each month as their meeting night in the Orange Hall. This was granted with an agreed rent of 2/6 per month for the first 6 months with the situation to be reviewed at the end of this period.
- A discussion then took place relating to the attendance of members at the District Chapter. Bro. Hume RBP 468 gave a notice of motion with the stated objective of securing a good attendance from the "difficult preceptories" stating that he would move on the next night of meeting "that unless each preceptory be represented by at least four members that this preceptory be fined in sum of one shilling". Given that this was the District's first meeting it is unsure if Sir Knight Hume had any reason to feel that some preceptories would be difficult or poor attenders but he certainly seemed determined not to let bad habits take root from the start of the Chapter's existence. This motion seems to have been unanimously passed at the January 1895 meeting having been seconded by Sir Knight Reid.

The minutes of the May 1895 meeting record what may have been the first church service attended by the District.

The minutes say that no business was transacted at the County Grand Chapter's most recent meet-

ing which was "of any importance to this District" except for a committee of the County Chapter which was arranging to hold an anniversary sermon in Christ Church on Sunday 26th May, 1895.

It does not say what the anniversary related to. It was proposed and passed that the Sir Knights of No.4 District meet at Ballymacarrett Orange Hall on Sunday 26th May, 1895 at 2.30pm to leave for Christ Church. It was further proposed that an advert be placed in the Evening Telegraph (as seems to have been a custom of the time) to advise Sir Knights of the event.

This may partly have been because the District meeting had been held on the 23rd and had only a couple of days to inform their members. No mention is made of a band or whether they were to parade to the church or simply travel together. Christ Church seems to have been in another part of Belfast. The same minutes record that the District Registrar was to receive tram fares when representing No.4 District at the Amalgamated District. Christ Church seems to have appeared as a venue for the Black Institution at various points in the District's early history.

On 5th November - Anniversary of the Gun Powder Plot and the commencement of the Glorious Revolution with King William's landing in Britain - seems to have been an anniversary marked in the District's early years with the District attending the annual Gun Powder Plot service in Christ Church on Sunday 5th November, 1899.

The following year, records what may have been the District's first church parade in East Belfast to Willowfield Parish Church on Sunday 4th November, 1900. No band is mentioned but the following parade route is given - the District moving "in processional order by Albertbridge Road, Castlereagh St, Beersbridge Road, home coming via Willowfield Street, down Templemore Av to Orange Hall". The Browning Club of the Apprentice Boys within the hall (Belfast Browning ABOD Club) was to be given a verbal invite to this church

parade.

The Belfast Browning Club seem to have accepted this invite and wrote to the other Belfast Branch Clubs to join with them on that date with the same to be advertised in the Belfast Evening Telegraph. This may have been the first church parade the club took part in as well. The Belfast Browning Club was formed only a year previous to No.4 District Chapter with a few of the same names appearing as the early officers of both bodies with Sir Knight J.J. Mclean seeming to be prominent in both.

The April 1896 minutes record that a notice of motion was before the County Grand Chapter for the County in future to hold its meetings in Clifton Street Orange Hall. Whenever the District Master put

the proposal to No.4 District their wishes were that No.4's Officers oppose any change to the current arrangements

No.4 District Chapter's current Warrant was issued on 20th May 1909.

Some people have suggested that this was the point in time when No.4 District became part of the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter having previously belonged to County Antrim. The Warrant stated that Brother and Sir Knight Hugh Dempster and his successors were empowered to hold a District Chapter in Ballymacarrett having been signed by various senior Officers of the Institution.



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Sir Knight looks towards 70th anniversary of WWII tragedy

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the sinking of HMS Lapwing during the Second World War and for one member of the Institution it continues to bring back memories of old friends and comrades.

Lisburn man Thomas (Tommy) Jess, a member of Hillhall Golden Star RBP 1074, was a gunner on board the Lapwing when it was hit by a German submarine U-698 just a day's sail from the Russian port of Murmansk.

Official records show 158 sailors – almost half the crew – died on March 20th, 1945, on board the HMS Lapwing, when it was torpedoed without warning in the freezing cold Barents Sea.

The Arctic Convoys are credited with helping Russia resist Hitler's army as it invaded, with the vital military supplies sustaining the Red Army to push back against the Nazis. More than 3,000 seamen were killed on 78 convoys – which delivered 4million tons of cargo during World War II.

However, it took until last year for veterans of the notorious Arctic convoys to receive official recognition.

Tommy's family had launched a campaign urging the Government to award proper recognition of the bravery of veterans of the infamous

"The explosion just lifted me off my feet, skinning all my knuckles"



Arctic Convoys.

Despite a decree by the President of Russia to award the Russian Ushakov medal to all participants of the convoys, it was initially blocked by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office before the decision was overturned by Prime Minister David Cameron amid mounting pressure.

For Sir Knight Jess the memories of that fateful day live long, although he still finds it difficult to talk about it.

Already a veteran of the D-Day Landings where he saw a lot of action and a lot of death, Sir Knight Jess was blown 10 yards across the deck when a torpedo struck the Royal Navy destroyer during what would be the final few months of the conflict.

"The explosion just lifted me off my feet, skinning all my knuckles," he recalled. "But I was lucky as I always wore my lifebelt, which was my best friend at sea. Other fellows were more careless. There was one poor man who tried to make his way below for his lifebelt but he never got back up on deck."

After the torpedo ripped through the ship's hull, he stayed at his post until the abandon ship order was given. Then he jumped into the freezing sea and was lucky enough to be pulled onto a raft that had been thrown overboard by the crew and later rescued by HMS Savage.



Recently County Monaghan Grand Black Chapter presented at cheque for €720 to Jimmy O'Donnell, centre, from the Cavan Monaghan Palliative Care. The treasurer, Sir Knight Esmond Graham made the presentation on behalf of the chapter.

Pictured at the presentations were (L-R) County Registrar Sir Knight Bertie Latimer, Worshipful County Grand Master Sir Knight Eric Mackeral, Jimmy O'Donnell, Sir Knight Esmond Graham and Deputy County Grand Master Sir Knight Mervyn Reilly.

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Notes from England & Scotland



Coatbridge RBP160 celebrates 150 years

Morning Star Royal Black Preceptory No 160 Coatbridge in Scotland celebrated its 150th Anniversary in March.

The Preceptory Warrant was issued on the 14th March 1864. The first Worshipful Master was Sir Knight Edward Coulter who had come to Scotland from Northern Ireland to find work and where he settled and raised his family.

The anniversary was marked with a special meeting after which invited guests, NLC Depute Provost Jean Jones, Mr Douglas Hazlie and Mr George Smith Executive Officers of The Boys' Brigade. Air-drie, Coatbridge & District Battalion attended.

Mr Hazlie and Mr Smith received a cheque from Worshipful Master Sir Knight Matthew Sime for £320.00 to use within the Bat-



R.B.P 160 Deputy Master Sir Knt Billy Glen, Depute Provost Jean Jones, Worshipful Master Sir Knt Matthew Sime handing over the cheque to Mr Hazlie and Mr Smith.

talion.

The £320.00 donated to the Boys' Brigade was from the offering col-

lected at the annual Thanksgiving Service which was conducted by Sir Knt Kenneth Whyte, the Pre-

ceptory Chaplain.

His Sermon was excellent and the attendees in excess of 135 enjoyed the Christian outreach preached by Kenneth. This Service was first organised in the year 2000 by Chaplain Sir Knight Kenneth Whyte and has gone on annually from strength to strength. Local Ministers, Session members, Provincial, District & visiting Sir Knights have attended faithfully each year.

To date R.B.P 160 has raised through the offerings the sum of £4,139.00. The offering collected in each has been donated back to the Church Session of the Minister who conducted the service on the night. The Sir Knights of Morning Star R.B.P 160 are extremely proud of their Christian outreach in the town of Coatbridge over the last 150 years.



Enjoying the PGBC of Scotland's Relief of Derry demonstration which was held in Edinburgh on Saturday 9th August, 2014.



Members of RBP 277 from Larbert/Stenhousemuir, Falkirk who were the winning team of the J. Shearer Sports Day trophy for bowls and dominoes. Receiving the trophy is Worshipful Master SK Andrew Wylie and others in the picture are (from left) Brian Lamond, Jock Gray, Scot McFarlane, Frank Wilson, John Meldrum. The competition is held annually within Glasgow District No 11.



The presentation of P.M certificate and P.M. collarette to Sir Knight John Cuthbert of Endeavour R.B.P.827 Ayr, by R.W.D.M. Neil Findlay of No10 District Ayrshire, after having faithfully served his preceptory over the last seven years

D. R. Brewster LL.B.

SOLICITORS

Court Chambers:

19 Main Street,

Limavady

Co. Londonderry BT49 0EP

Telephone:

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