



# THE Royal

March '15, Issue No. 6

# BLACK



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## Tributes paid to Past Imperial Sovereign Grand Master



**T**he death took place on Monday, March 9, of Most Wor. Sir Knight The Lord Molyneux of Killead, K.B.E., Past Imperial Sovereign Grand Master. He was 94.

Lord Molyneux held many offices within the Royal Black Institution and was the Sovereign Grand Master from June 1971 to December 1998.

The current Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr, paid tribute to the life and work of Lord Molyneux.

mitment to its work throughout all that time was a wonderful example to all the members.

"He was a quiet unassuming man of immense integrity and he had a lovely way with people, from all walks of life. The word that dominated his life was service, whether it was in the RAF, the political field or the loyal orders. He was a true gentleman who inspired others and he will be very sadly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him, and particularly the Sir Knights in the Institution."

The Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, said, "Lord Molyneux always epitomized the principles of the Institution and exercised very strong and steady leadership throughout the worst of the IRA's terrorist campaign. There is no doubt that, but for his responsible leadership of the unionist community during that period, Northern Ireland could have experienced even greater violence."

There were tributes to the former Ulster Unionist leader and MP from right across the political spectrum.

His political career spanned more than three decades.

James Molyneux joined the Ulster Unionist Party in 1946 and went on to become one of its longest-serving leaders from 1979 to 1995.

At the end of World War Two, he was among the first British troops to enter the newly liberated Belsen concentration camp in Germany.

He was knighted in 1996 and was granted a life peerage in the 1997 Birthday Honours list, becoming Lord Molyneux of Killead.

A more detailed report on the life and work of Lord Molyneux will be published in the next edition of the magazine.

"We were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Lord Molyneux and we would like to extend our sincere sympathy to the entire family circle. They will be in our prayers."

"Lord Molyneux was a dedicated member of the Institution for many years and gave strong leadership as Sovereign Grand Master. He led the Institution for 27 years and his com-

## Institution all set for another busy year!

**M**embers of the Institution are gearing up for another busy year, this time with a strong international aspect.

There will be five demonstrations on the Last Saturday in August.

Newtownstewart will be the focal point for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the County Tyrone Grand Black Chapter. The Tyrone Sir Knights will be joined by Sir Knights from Primatial, Summerisland, Cavan and Monaghan. The Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr, will take part in the platform proceedings.

Other demonstrations will be held this year in Lisburn, Portstewart, Banbridge and Kilkeel.

The Sham Fight will be held on Tuesday, July 14 and huge crowds are expected again at Scarva for what has become a major event on the Northern Ireland cultural calendar. Lurgan District will go to Bangor.

Before the summer of parades gets under way, however, the Institution will hand over the money raised in the Sovereign Grand Master's Appeal. The two charities – The Bible Society and Mission Aviation Fellowship – will continue their good work in south Sudan, supported by the generosity of Sir Knights and friends.

*Continued on page 4*



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Pictured at the presentation of the two chairs in memory of the late Rt Wor Sir Knight and Bro Robert S McKelvey MBE PCGM are (from left) Wor Bro John Coulter, WM LOL 1608, Harold Henning, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Sir Knight Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution and Wor Sir Knight Alan Chambers, WM RBP619.

## Chairs presented in memory of Sir Knight McKelvey

The late Rt. Wor. Sir Knight and Bro Robert S McKelvey MBE PCGM (pictured) was remembered at Upper Crossgare Orange hall when his widow, Edna, and family presented two chairs in his memory - one to LOL 1608 and the other to RBP 619.

In 1947 the members of LOL 1608 were granted a warrant to form RBP 619 to sit at Up-

per Crossgare and Sir Knight McKelvey was one of 19 members to be initiated at their first meeting held on 15th February, 1948.

During his 60 years of service he was to become a stalwart of the institutions being elected as District Master of both orders before serving a term as County Grand Master, County Down Royal Black Chapter, from 2003 to 2005.

While an active member of both institutions it was his love and dedication to lecturing for which he will be best remembered.

On 1st March, 1950, at the age of 19, he was awarded his lecturing certificate from the IGBCBC. Following a term as 1st District Lecturer he was then elected to 1st County lecturer, a post he was to hold for 20 years, before being appointed to the Irish examining board of lecturers, where he served until his death in 2008.

Although very busy with both Loyal Orders he found the time to serve his community as a 'B' Special and member of the UDR, where he was commissioned from the ranks to retire at the rank of Captain, having been awarded the MBE in 1990 for

his service.

The chairs which were made by Bro Geoffrey Brown of Classic Joinery, based in Castlewellan, and were dedicated by the Rev David Hyndman of Magherahamlet Presbyterian Church, where Robert was a member of the committee.

The event was attended by many distinguished Sir Knights and Brethren, not only from the county but across the province, which was a token of the high esteem in which Sir Knight McKelvey was held.

Among those in attendance were the Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr and Bro Harold Henning, Assistant Grand Master GOLI, both of whom addressed the service and spoke fondly of their memories of Sir Knight McKelvey.

The event was coordinated by Wor Sir Knight and Bro Herbert Chambers PM, who spoke on behalf of LOL1608 and RBP 619.

Following the service tea was served in Magherahamlet Church Hall where the County Grand Master, Trevor Hawthorne and Rt Wor Sir Knight George Arthur, Ballymena District, were among those who spoke and thanked the family.



## Message from the Sovereign Grand Master

**S**ir Knights, The year 2015 is gearing up to be another busy one for the Royal Black Institution.

In addition to the many Preceptory meetings, anniversaries, services, presentations and parades, there are a number of other special events taking place.

The Institution's half yearly meeting of the Grand Council takes place in Cullybackey Presbyterian Church Hall on Saturday, 27th June. Taking part in this meeting will be representatives of the Royal Black Institution from the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Ghana and Togo, as well as the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

This is an important meeting and it is the first time that all the representatives from these countries will join together for the meeting in Cullybackey, which I am very much looking forward to.

I will also be attending a meeting of the Grand Orange Council in Liverpool on Friday, 10th July to coincide with the triennial meeting of the Council.

The International Lecturers' Conference of the Royal Black Institution will convene in the Lodge Hotel, Coleraine on Saturday, 5th September.

Lecturers from all jurisdictions will be present and some of the Lecturers will take part in the conferring of Degrees at the conference.

All in all, it is another busy 2015 for the Royal Black Institution and builds on the great success of 2014.

"The Black" magazine continues to prove popular with Preceptories and you the Sir Knights. My thanks to all the businesses who have advertised and those who are advertising in "The Black" magazine. Please give them your support.

Thanks also to Sir Knights and their families and friends for their support, to date, of the Royal Black Institution's chosen charities - the Bible Society NI and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Both these charities will be presented with cheques at an evening in Brownlow House, Lurgan on Tuesday, 24th March.

My very best wishes and thanks go to Preceptories and Sir Knights for all your endeavours in 2015.

Most Wor Sir Knight Millar Farr  
Sovereign Grand Master  
Royal Black Institution





# Commemorating the Great War

Banbridge Black District No.6 held a concert in the local leisure centre to mark the centenary of the start of the Great War.

The acts at the concert included the band of the Royal Irish Regiment, the pipes, bugles and drums of the 2nd Battalion, and the Brewery Boys. Over 800 people packed into the leisure centre along with a special visitor in the form of Brian Boru, regimental mascot of the Royal Irish to see the fantastic acts.

Poems and letters from the Great War were read out by serving soldiers and an enjoyable night was had by everyone.

The Sovereign Grand Master

Sir Knight Millar Farr and two Assistant Sovereign Grand Masters Sir Knight Ivan Kelly, and Andrew McRoberts were also in attendance.

District No 6 donated all the profit from the concert - £6,650 - to the Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund. The concert saw the end of a busy two years for the district which saw them host the County Down demonstration in August 2013 and several events in commemoration of the Great War. The events the district ran has also seen charities - both local and national - benefit. Over the two year period the district raised over £17,215.



WDM Sir Knight Phillip Hutton, and DDM Sir Knight Andrew Maxwell with Regimental mascot Brian Boru and his handler.

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## Institution all set for another busy year!

*Continued from page 1*

And in June, The Imperial Grand Council will meet in Cullybackey. Representatives from around world will attend the historic meeting. Countries represented will include Canada, the United States,

Australia, New Zealand, Ghana, England, Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and, of course, Northern Ireland.

It will be the first time that so many overseas' members have attended a meeting in Northern Ireland.

## DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF THIS MAGAZINE:

### Autumn 2015 Edition

Deadline for reports/photos (i.e. anything other than Black Saturday) is August 21, 2015.  
Deadline for Black Saturday coverage is September 4, 2015.

### Advertising

If you would like to advertise in future issues of this magazine, please contact Headquarters at 028 3832 2518 or by e-mail at: [info@royalblack.org](mailto:info@royalblack.org) for a quotation.



*Cyril Wilson, RBP 1168 – Carricklongfield, Killyman – looks back on how the support of the Royal Black Institution makes a difference in Uganda...*

# Making a difference in Africa

**T**hree years ago the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth supported Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda as their designated charity.

Along with fundraising they sent a team of 16 men out to Kiwoko Hospital to support the Ugandan builders as they built accommodation for doctors. That accommodation had two bungalows and, at a later date, a third bungalow was added to it.

I was one of those men. This was my first time on a mission trip and I had never thought I would ever go on a trip such as this. We had a fantastic time at Kiwoko, some of us building, doing electric work, helping in the garage and myself going around the wards with the Chaplain of the Hospital talking to and praying with the patients.

The Rev Andrew Forster of St Ann's Church of Ireland in Dungannon told us that Uganda would get in our blood. I know, for me, his words were true. I became friends with the Chaplain of the hospital, Rev Michael Mwandha, and his family.

This August past was the first time since I became a Knight of the Red Cross that I did not attend the Last Saturday.

On the Thursday before, I left Northern Ireland with another group to go back to Uganda on another Mission Trip. We went with a group from Bangor called Abaana (children in Lugandan language) who have a New Life Home for boys.

These boys are from the streets of Kampala and they can range from the age of seven upwards.

They have left their homes for various reasons, thinking Kampala will be a better life. When they get there, they find the truth. They live on the streets, sleeping where ever they can and eating whenever they can.

This was very challenging to see the Lord at work in the lives of these boys and especially the volunteers in Uganda who look after these boys with limited resources.

Abaana also have schools in Uganda, Matthew Cardwell, Strathearn Primary School, that have a connection to Northern Ireland to name a few. At the schools, I had the opportunity to speak to the boys and girls about our Lord Jesus Christ, using the Wordless Book and to then help them make a wrist band with the colours of the Wordless Book in beads so they could remember the truths of God's Word.

It has been a very exciting but challenging time in Uganda, both this year and three years ago. It has opened my eyes to see the Lord at work here and Uganda. He is the same God no matter where we are in the world. DV I will go back again in a few year's time.

Anyone can support Abaana by sponsoring either one of the street boys who have a chance in the New life Homes or at one of the schools.



Cyril Wilson, working with a translator, in one of the schools in Uganda.



Back in Kiwoko - Cyril Wilson with Denise Wilson (Dr Rory Wilson's wife) and Tania Barker (Paul Baker's wife).

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# 90 years on the road for



Bloomhill RBP 1147 marks its 90th anniversary with a special meeting held on Wednesday 25th June, 2014 - exactly 90 years to the day of the very first meeting of RBP 1147.

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**B**loomhill RBP 1147 celebrated 90 years on the road with a number of events throughout the past year.

The first event was a special meeting of the preceptory held on Wednesday 25th June, 2014, exactly 90 years to the day of the very first meeting of RBP 1147. The Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother Paul Robinson, opened the meeting in the presence of many dignitaries, including Most Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr, SGM.

During this meeting a Red Cross and Certificate was presented to a Sir Knight, and other Sir Knights received 40 year jewels, 50 year and 60 year bars respectively.

A very successful BBQ and concert was held on 27th June and featured Bloomhill Accordion Band, the band which leads the Preceptory, 'The 1147ers' (easy listening music group), and the 'Men in Black' choir accompanied by Carla Sinnamon.

The 'Men in Black' are all members of RBP 1147 and 'The 1147ers' are either members of RBP 1147 or of Bloomhill Accordion Band. This event saw the hall filled to capacity, and the Sir Knights even had to set up tables outside to cater for those present.

A Banner Service was held

on 26th October at which the Sir Knight Rev William Anderson outlined the Biblical meanings of the symbols on both the old and current banner of RBP 1147.

This service was preceded by a token re-enactment of the first parade ever made by RBP 1147. In 1924, the Preceptory consisted of 15 members and, being led by two pipers, paraded from Stughan Orange Hall to the main Black Saturday demonstration in Cookstown, paraded back to Bloomhill House - where the members were treated to a meal by the Kinley family - and then paraded to Stughan Hall again where a dance was held to finish off the day in style.

On a cold and wet October evening in 2014, the preceptory did not re-enact the 1924 activity in full but did carry out a short parade to Stughan Hall led by two pipers. In addition, the Past Master of Bloomhill RBP 1147, Sir Knight Drew Robinson, wore a sash that was over 100 years old (kindly on loan from the Wilson family of Blacktown). This sash belonged to a relative of the Wilson family who was a member of Sherrygroom RBP 338.

The Sherrygroom Preceptory no longer exists but some of its members, including Sir Knight Thomas John Robinson, were the founding members of Bloomhill



# Bloomhill RBP 1147

RBP 1147.

In 1924, Sir Knight Thomas John Robinson became the first WM of RBP 1147 and he was the grandfather of the immediate Past Master, Sir Knight Drew Robinson, and a great grandfather of the current WM, Sir Knight Paul Robinson.

After a busy 90th anniversary

year, the preceptory continues to flourish, having added a further seven Sir Knights to the roll book. The future looks very bright for Bloomhill Olive Branch of Peace RBP 1147. The preceptory would like to take this opportunity to thank all those throughout 2014 that made their anniversary year a resounding success.

## Honorary Sir Knight Kenneth Wilson

**B**loomhill Olive Branch of Peace RBP 1147 has recognised the commitment of its Preceptory Chaplain.

On Wednesday 4th March, 2015, after 46 years of faithful service, attendance at meetings and the reading of God's Word from Holy Scripture, Honorary Sir Knight Kenneth Wilson stood down as Preceptory Chaplain.

Sir Knight Kenneth, or Kenny as he is known locally, joined Bloomhill Olive Branch of Peace RBP 1147, encamped at Stughan on 1st August, 1956. After being a member for 13 years, he was elected to the role of Chaplain on 5th July, 1969, taking over from his uncle. It was in this role Sir Knight Kenny would remain for the next 46 years until onto 4th March, 2015, one year short of him amassing an incredible 60 years' faithful and devoted service to the Royal Black Institution. Indeed, dur-

ing Sir Knight Kenny's 46 years as Chaplain he has served under no less than eight Worshipful Masters.

Sir Knight Kenny is one life's true gentleman and someone who has devoted his entire life to God and living by his example. This is very much relevant in his everyday life, but more so when he was Chaplain. His delivery of God's word and the summary of Scriptures when a degree was being conferred were so sincere. The way in which Sir Knight Kenny delivered the Word of God challenged us all to refocus our lives, to listen and to apply it to our lives.

All the Sir Knights at Bloomhill are sad to see Sir Knight Kenny step down as Chaplain. We do wish his wife Sadie, who has been a strong support to him now for many years, and Sir Knight Kenneth, God's richest blessings, best wishes and good health for the many years that lie ahead.



Past Master of Bloomhill RBP 1147, Sir Knight Drew Robinson, marks the anniversary by wearing a sash that is over 100 years old.



Back row: Sir Knight Jason Ferry, Treasurer RBP 1147, Sir Knight Will Patterson, District Treasurer, Sir Knight Keith Murphy, Registrar RBP 1147, Sir Knight Desmond Bloomer, Deputy District Master, Sir Knight Ryan Ferry, Chaplain RBP 1147. Front Row: Sir Knight Rev Wm Anderson, PASGM, Wor Sir Knight Paul Robinson, WM RBP 1147, Hon Sir Knight Kenneth Wilson, Past Chaplain RBP 1147, Wor Sir Knight Richard Emerson, DCGM Co Tyrone, Sir Knight Garnett Ferry, DM RBP 1147



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## Red Cross Presentations

### Nine Red Crosses presented



Nine Sir Knights from Dyan RBP 60 who received their Red Cross Degree on the same night.

Pictured are, back row (from left) Sir Knight Kenneth Montgomery, RBP 35, Lecturer, Sir Knights (RBP 60) David Simpson, Christopher Robinson, Rodney Kirkland, Benny Robinson, Sammy Stevenson and Sir Knight William Emerson, RBP 641, Lecturer. Front row (from left) Sir Knights (RBP 60) Andrew Robinson, Kenneth Rutherford, Raymond Verner, DM, WJ Whittle, WM, Adrian Whittle, David McNeill and Sir Knight David Emerson, RBP 641, Lecturer.

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## Demonstration Venues 2015

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 14th July   | Annual Sham Fight and Demonstration - Scarva   |
| 14th July   | Lurgan R.B.D.C. No. 2 - Bangor   |
| 1st August  | Provincial Grand Black Chapter of England - Southport                                |
| 1st August  | Co. Fermanagh Grand Black Chapter - Maguiresbridge                                   |
| 8th August  | Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland - Irvine                                  |
| 29th August | Co. Antrim Grand Black Chapter - Lisburn   |
| 29th August | Co. Tyrone Grand Black Chapter also Summerisland/Primatial District - Newtownstewart |
| 29th August | City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter - Banbridge                                      |
| 29th August | Co. Down Grand Black Chapter - Kilkeel   |
| 29th August | Co. Londonderry Grand Black Chapter - Portstewart                                    |

County Fermanagh Grand Black Chapter

### Take Five Service

(similar to Take Five Service held in Londonderry in September 2013)

To be held in Saint McCartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen  
On Sunday 6th September 2015 at 3.00p.m.

Assemble at Derrychara Link Road at 2.00p.m.,  
moving off at 2.15p.m.

**Everyone Welcome**



# Harold takes up new Orange appointment

**H**arold Henning – a member of the Royal Black Institution – has been elected as the new Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

Harold will work alongside recently re-elected Grand Master Edward Stevenson.

Speaking to the News Letter after his election, the Rathfriland native said, "I am fully aware of the responsibility that has been bestowed upon me, but will do my utmost to serve the interests of our membership at all times; promote the Christian and reformed faith; and stoutly defend and uphold the proud heritage of the Orange Institution."

Mr Stevenson said, "On behalf of our entire membership, I would like to congratulate Harold on his election to office. Harold has a long association with Orangeism, and will bring great enthusiasm, know-how and commitment to the role."

Harold Henning lives in Killeel, and is a businessman. The father-of-two is a member of Drumlough Heroes LOL 153 and a past district



master of Rathfriland District LOL No 3.

He previously served as an Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and is also in the Royal Black Institution and Apprentice Boys. He is also a member of the Pride of the Hill Flute Band, Rathfriland.



Mervyn Heathwood, Portadown Piker, and John Trimble, a survivor of the tragedy, are presented with a cheque by Canon Bill Adair, Kyle Brannan, WM, RBP 267.

## RBP 267 support tragedy hit families in Lough Rea

**T**he members of RBP 267 have raised money to help the families affected by a drowning tragedy at Lough Rea in March, 2014.

They held their annual carol service in December, led by Sir Knight Cecil Allan. The address was given by Canon Bill Adair, St Columba's

Portadown. In May the annual church parade took place to Vine-cash Presbyterian church.

The combined collection from both these events made a total of £301.20 which was given this year to Portadown Pikers, to support their efforts after the drowning tragedy.

### OBITUARY

## Sir Knight George Savage

**T**he Institution expresses sympathy to the family of George Savage, who died in the autumn.

Mr Savage joined the Royal Black Institution in 1963 and was a foundation member of Clougher RBP 139 in April 1965. He served as Worshipful District Master of Lower Iveagh RBDC No 1 from 1995-97 and during his time in office the District Chapter hosted the County Down Last Saturday Demonstration.

At the time of his death he was Worshipful Master of RBP 139, having also held that office from 1993-95.

Mr Savage had also served his community both as an Ulster Unionist MLA for Upper Bann and as a member of Craigavon Borough Council.



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## Men in Black are in fine voice

Songsters 'Men in Black' with accompanist Carla Sinnamon pictured following their performance at the Northern Ireland Drum Major Group Variety Concert in Marlacoo Orange Hall. The men, members of Bloomhill Olive Branch of Peace RBP 1147, sang a selection of sacred songs including, 'Roses never fail', 'When the roll is called up yonder' and 'Let the lower lights be burning'.

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# Concerned about your spiritual health?

Reflections by Rev. Nigel Kane

**W**e're all familiar with sickness, whether it's as insignificant as the common cold, or as serious as a life-threatening illness.

Sickness of any kind isn't pleasant because it's part of the curse that came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. When Jesus was on earth, He performed healing miracles which temporarily reversed the effects of the Fall.

One such miracle is found in Mark 1:40-45. We read that "A man with leprosy came to [Jesus] and begged Him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean'" (v.40).

Leprosy is a skin disease which destroys nerves, bringing numbness to extremities. The devastation that follows comes from unknowingly damaging body parts, and infection setting in.

Lepers only had to look at their infected hands, or feet, to be reminded about the seriousness of their condition. If that wasn't misery enough, in Bible times, lepers were considered ceremonially un-

clean, and excluded from society until they were cured.

The consequences of this terrible disease caused the man to disregard these rules and come to Jesus, begging for cleansing. Notice that, although this leper realised that Jesus was perfectly able to heal Him, He also recognised that he had no right to presume that Jesus would heal him. This is the correct attitude with which to approach God when we're ill, or we're praying for someone else who's ill.

Mark says that Jesus was so "Filled with compassion" (v.41) for this leper that He reached out His hand, and said, "I am willing. Be clean!"

A leper wasn't allowed to touch anyone, and no-one touched a leper, to avoid ceremonial uncleanness. Jesus' compassion for this man didn't let this stop Him from touching this man. Mark continues, "Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured" (v.42). The leper was healed instantly and completely.

Throughout Scripture, leprosy is a picture of sin, so the healing of leprosy symbolises deliverance from sin. Sin, like leprosy, starts off

**"Whether we like to admit it, or not, we're all spiritual lepers."**

small, numbing our sense of right and wrong, causing us to do things which harm our soul, and sometimes our body also. Sin progresses steadily to affect ever more parts of our life. We can even reach a stage where it doesn't even bother us when we sin.

Whether we like to admit it, or not, we're all spiritual lepers. Have you seen the uncleanness of sin within your life? Or, are you convincing yourself that you're OK?

Only those who accept that they're ill will seek medical help. Similarly, only those who accept that they're a sinner and who is powerless to deal with their sin by themselves, will seek God's forgiveness.

There's a fundamental difference between physical healing and spiritual healing. Sometimes it's not God's will to heal someone physically. But, it's always God's will to spiritually heal someone

who comes to Him in repentance and faith. This means that we can confidently say to God, 'I know you are willing, make me clean from my sin'.

The healing for sin that comes through Jesus is instant, and complete.

John says, "the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). If we don't seek this spiritual healing, our sins will not be forgiven, so we will have to be punished for them for all eternity in that awful place which Scripture calls hell.

If you began to experience serious chest pains you would contact your doctor immediately because you would be concerned about your physical health. But, if you are not trusting in Jesus you have an even more serious and urgent problem. I would urge you to be concerned about your spiritual health.

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# King David Morning Star RBP 137 celebrates 50 years



Sir Knights of King David Morning Star RBP 137 celebrating their 50th anniversary.



Two of the founder members of King David Morning Star RBP 137, Rodney Turkington and Ernie Harrison, cutting the 50th anniversary cake.



Long service awards were presented to Sir Knights of King David Morning Star RBP 137 - front row, (from left) George Wilson, Ernie Harrison, Rodney Turkington, and William Humphries. Back row (from left) Gilbert Crook, Trevor Guiney, John Guiney, Raymond Hamilton, Kenny Guiney



Sir Knight Raymond Flanagan, WM of Kilmore Dove of Peace RBP 1144, and Sir Knight Alan Goody WM of Rising Star of Paisley RBP 457 are reunited some 26 years after first meeting at the Last Saturday.

## Friends reunited

In 1988, two young Sir Knights met for the first time at the County Down Annual Demonstration hosted by Rathriland Royal Black District Chapter.

Sir Knight Alan Goody from the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland and Sir Knight Raymond Flanagan from County Armagh Grand Black Chapter were both guests of Donnacloy Red Cross Volunteers RBP 67, County Down.

At the Last Saturday in 2014 - some 26 years later - and still great friends, both of them returned to Rathriland, County Down as Wor-

shipful Master of their respective Preceptories - Sir Knight Raymond Flanagan, WM of Kilmore Dove of Peace RBP 1144 and Sir Knight Alan Goody WM of Rising Star of Paisley RBP 457.

In the true spirit of friendship, found throughout the Royal Black Institution, the pair are in regular contact including family visits across the North Channel. However, on the Last Saturday in August you will always find Sir Knights Flanagan and Goody reminiscing in a field somewhere in County Down.





Clogher RBP 800 New Sir Knights, father & son David & Dwayne Marshall receiving their Red Cross certificates from Lecturer Sir Knight Robert Gilchrist.



Clogher RBP 800 newly installed officers for the incoming year, Chaplin- Sir Knight Clement Cuthbertson, Worshipful Master - Sir Knight Leslie Allen, Treasurer- Sir Knight George Smyton, Secretary- Sir Knight Henry Reid. (Missing from photo- Deputy Master- Sir Knight Richard Mulligan)

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# City of Faith

**B**BC Northern Ireland recently screened a series entitled 'City of Faith' reflecting on the Christian heritage of the City of Armagh.

Two of the main interviews were with members of the Institution who spoke clearly and effectively in support of a Reformed, Evangelical understanding of the Scriptures.

One of those interviewed was

Sir Knight Harry McKennell, a Past Master of Armagh City Grand RBP 8 and an Elder in 1st Armagh Presbyterian Church. The other was Sir Knight David Scott, Worshipful Master of Wilson Memorial RBP 1077, also in Armagh, and an Elder in the Mall Presbyterian Church, Armagh. David is also the son of the Imperial Grand Registrar, Sir Knight WH Scott.



Three Sir Knights of 'Star of the East' RBP 251, Ballymartin have been honoured by a presentation in recognition of their long membership of the Institution by being presented with their 50 year Jewels. Pictured (from left) are Worshipful Master Sir Knight Robert McConnell, Sir Knight Jim Martin (50 years), Sir Knight Jim Annett (50 years), and Deputy Master Sir Knight David Annett. Missing from the picture is Sir Knight James Heaney (50 years).



Two Sir Knights from 'Star of the East' RBP 251, Ballymartin who received their Red Cross Certificates. Pictured (front, from left) are Sir Knight Nathan Stewart (Red Cross), Sir Knight Samuel Bingham (Red Cross). Back (from left) Worshipful Master Sir Knight Robert McConnell, 1st Lecturer Sir Knight Stanley Martin, and Deputy Master Sir Knight David Annett. Missing from the picture is 2nd Lecturer Sir Knight Charles Martin.



# Praise service in Aghadowey raises £1,000!

The Sir Knights of Agivey RBP 843 hosted a praise service in aid of the Sovereign Grand Master's Appeal for the Mission Aviation Fund and The Bible Society NI and raised £1,000.

The service was held in Aghadowey Presbyterian Church Hall which was full to capacity with Sir Knights and their families and friends.

At the outset of the evening a warm welcome was extended to all present by Sir Knight Daniel McAleese, WM with a special welcome to Sir Knight Millar Farr, SGM and Mrs Farr, Sir Knight Ivan Kelly, ASGM and Margaret Bohoussou, guest speaker, who gave a very challenging address. Margaret worked in some West African countries for almost 30 years as a

Bible translator mainly with The Bible Society of NI.

The service was conducted by Rev Dr Robert Kane, Minister of Aghadowey Church and the praise was very ably led by Glenkeen Fife & Drum Band.

Naomi, Nadine, Bethan and Nicole, four young girls with close family ties to the preceptory sang two pieces which were much appreciated by the congregation, after which a very generous collection was received.

At the close of the service, Sir Knight Robert McCahon, Registrar thanked all who had supported the evening and had helped to make it such a success. He invited all present to remain for supper which was served by the ladies of the preceptory, bringing to a close an enjoyable and blessed evening.



Pictured presenting a cheque for £1000, the proceeds of the service, to Sir Knight Millar Farr, SGM are (from left to right) Sir Knights John Davis, Colin Kennedy, Daniel McAleese (WM) Robert McCahon (Registrar) David McFetridge (Treasurer) and William J Knox.



Sir Knight John Parkes with other members of RBP 264 on receiving a presentation at Armagh on 27 August to mark 80 years membership.



The Sovereign Grand Master with family members of Sir Knight John Parkes and other guests at Primatial District World War I Commemoration in Armagh on 27 August.

St John's Parish Church, Caledon, Co Tyrone



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# Media Training Workshops

**Media training will help members spread the Institution's Christian and charitable message**

**O**ne hundred members of the Institution attended four media workshops held around the province over the past few months.

The workshops were the idea of the senior officers and were aimed at encouraging members to engage more proactively with the media.

The workshops were held in Killyman, Ardstraw, Brownlow House and Enniskillen and were conducted by the Institution's Media Relations Advisor Austin Hunter. Further workshops are planned throughout this year, at a number of different venues.

"The attendance has been fantastic," said the Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr, who spoke at a number of the events.

"We realised there was a need to improve the way our members interact with the media. As an Institution we get a lot of good publicity, particularly in our local papers. However, we felt we could build on this and the workshops have given our members a terrific insight into what the media wants and how we can get more of our stories published.

"It has been a valuable exercise and the response from the members has been extremely encouraging. They have developed writing skills for news releases and some work has been done on the best way to take and caption photographs.

"We will now roll out the workshops right across the country. We also intend holding one event in the Irish Republic and

we would also like to hold workshops for our members in Scotland and England.

"Getting out our Christian and charitable message is very important to us and these workshops will certainly help spread the word."



The media workshop in Ardstraw was attended by members from Strabane, Castlederg and Omagh.



Members from Lisnaskea, Enniskillen and South Donegal, who attended the workshop in Enniskillen.



# Some snappy photography tips

Austin Hunter, the Institution's Media Relations Advisor, offers some helpful hints on taking photography -

- Try to take photographs against a plain background.
- Ensure everyone is looking straight at the camera.
- Tell the people in the photograph to smile.
- Take four or five shots of the same picture.
- Provide a caption with each photograph. Names from left to right, front row first.
- If the group of people in the photograph is relatively small (6-8) include a name for each person
- Submit photographs before the deadline .



Members from Killyman, Aghnalcoy and East Tyrone who attended the media workshop held in Killyman.



Pictured at the media workshop held in Brownlow House were members from throughout Armagh.

"Getting out our Christian and charitable message is very important to us and these workshops will certainly help spread the word."



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## Long Service Medals



WM Sir Knight Shane Duncan, DM Sir Knight Samuel Little and PM Sir Knight Kyle Ellison presenting a crystal lamp to Sir Knight James Clarke from RBP 24 Poyntzpass for his 64 years' service to the Black Institution.



WM Sir Knight Shane Duncan and DM Sir Knight Samuel Little presenting a crystal lamp from RBP 24 Poyntzpass to the family for Sir Knight Hugh Hearst who sadly passed away this year. He had given 77 years to the Black Institution and his daughters Anne Poole, and Margery Crooke and Grand-daughter Nicola Simpson received the presentation



WM Sir Knight Shane Duncan, DM Sir Knight Samuel Little and PM Sir Knight Kyle Ellison presenting a crystal lamp to Sir Knight James Clarke from RBP 24 Poyntzpass for his 64 years' service to the Black Institution.



# Stormont visit crowns 120th celebrations for Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No4

**B**allymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2014 having been instigated on Thursday 29th November, 1894.

It was decided the best way to pay tribute to the predecessors within the District was to raise as much money as possible for the IGBC's 2014 charity appeal which turned out to be a joint appeal to provide both spiritual and practical help to persecuted Christians in South Sudan by the Northern Ireland Bible Society and the Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Planning for this began well in advance with a full programme of fundraising events throughout 2013, with the main commemorative events taking place in 2014. The fundraising events for 2013 included quizzes, a St Patrick's Day social event and a Black Saturday social event.

A coffee morning also slipped into the start of 2014 during which the opportunity was taken to host the Take 5 exhibition in East Belfast with Ballymacarrett Orange Hall being used as the venue. A commemorative badge and jewel were also struck the proceeds of which all went to the charity appeal.

A programme of events was also arranged for 2014 and while these still contributed a little towards fundraising, their main focus was on commemoration.

These included a commemorative church service in March 2014, an anniversary parade around East Belfast in May 2014 which



The District Officers and 120th Anniversary Committee of No4 District Chapter Belfast presenting a £3,000 cheque to the Grand Master's Charity Appeal, at Stormont. The cheque was presented by Ryan McDowell, Chairman of the committee, to David Livingstone, the Grand Treasurer, and MLA Sam Gardiner who hosted the meeting.

related to the date of the District's Warrant, No.4 District hosted the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter annual thanksgiving service in August 2014 and the final event was a dinner in the Park Avenue Hotel on Saturday 29th November, 2014 which was the exact date of the District's formation.

Sir Knight Christopher Cunningham compered the evening with several speeches and toasts being made including by Sir Knight William Mawhinney on behalf of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth and Sir Knight Tommy Hefferon (City Grand Master of Belfast) on behalf of the City of

Belfast Grand Black Chapter.

The 120th Anniversary Committee Chairman put on record the Committee's thanks to the District Registrar Sir Knight Christopher Cunningham for all the hard work he put into the dinner and all the events which preceded it.

Sir Knight Andy Davison presented Sir Knight Fred McGookin with one of the 120th Anniversary Jewels to recognise his 68 years in the Black Institution, including decades of service as District Master and City Grand Registrar. Fred was the guest of honour at this dinner, still serving faithfully as the Hall Keeper for Ballymacarrett Orange Hall.

Sir Knight Ryan McDowell presented the other special guests with a 120th Anniversary Jewel each, including Sir Knights Andy Davison, Tommy Hefferon, Brian Kerr and Billy Mawhinney. Each of their lady guests were also presented with a watch to thank them all for taking part in such a special occasion with the District. Sir Knight Billy Mawhinney also cut the District's anniversary cake.

The finale of all these celebrations then took place in Parliament Buildings, Stormont on Monday 1st December, 2014 when Sir Knight Samuel Gardiner hosted a delegation of District Officers and 120th Anniversary Committee members for the purpose of presenting a £3,000 cheque to the IGBC's charity appeal for 2014.

Sir Knight David Livingstone (Imperial Grand Treasurer) accepted the cheque from the 120th Anniversary Committee Chairman on behalf of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter with the City Grand Master of Belfast also in attendance.

The delegation received a tour of the building followed by a meal and wish to put in record their thanks to Sir Knight Sam Gardiner for allowing the district to finish two years of celebrations and fundraising on such a high note, in one of the grandest and most historic buildings in East Belfast.

The Chairman and members of the 120th Anniversary Committee cannot thank Sir Knight Gardiner enough for his hospitality and for assisting with the organisation of this presentation.

## Ballymacarrett on parade

**B**allymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 will hold its first annual Protestant Martyrs Service on Sunday 3rd May, 2015, with the parade moving off at 2.30pm from Templemore Avenue, Belfast.

The service will be dedicated to all Christian/Protestant Martyrs but with particular emphasis on the Marian Martyrs of the 1500s in England and the Scottish Covenanters of the

1600s. The date is loosely linked to the drowning of the two Margarets in Wigtown, Scotland on 11th May, 1685.

Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 will also have its annual District parade around East Belfast on Friday 8th May, 2015, leaving Templemore Avenue at 7.30pm to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day and Europe's Liberation from Nazi Germany.



Pictured at the presentation of a cheque for £815 for the Alzheimer's Society, raised during a collection at a Songs of Praise Service in Loughbrickland Presbyterian Church, are (seated, from left) Sir Knight Norman Johnson, Treasurer; Maeveen McNabb, Alzheimer's Society; Sir Knight Eric Rogers, WM RBP402; and Sir Knight George Cromie, DM RBP 402. Back row (from left) Sir Knight Trevor Martin, Chaplain; Sir Knight Paul Clydesdale, Registrar and Sir Knight Alan Rodgers.





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# Long Service Medals



At the presentation of 50 year service medals are Worshipful Master Sir Knight Tom Hewitt, Sir Knight Ernest Cassells, Sir Knight Victor Neill, Sir Knight Wesley Jackson, and Deputy Master Sir Knight Philip Currie.

## RBP 393 celebrates long service

Six members of RBP 393, The Birches from Summerisland RBDC No. 6, have received their long service medals exactly 50 years apart.

The six received their Royal Black Degree at the Preceptory Meeting held on May

17th, 1963 and they were presented with their medals at the Preceptory Meeting held on May 17, 2013.

In addition to the six long service medals, the special meeting also included a further four long service bars for 60 years' service.



Presenting the 60 year bars are Worshipful Master Sir Knight Tom Hewitt, Sir Knight Annesley Woods, 6 District Registrar Sir Knight John Gilpin, Sir Knight Billy Hanna, Deputy District Master Sir Knight Tom Hume and Sir Knight Garry Turkington, who accepted the Bar on behalf of his father Sir Knight Billy Turkington.



Worshipful Master Sir Knight Tom Hewitt congratulates Sir Knight Wilson McAdam.



Chaplin Sir Knight Eddie Forbes, Worshipful District Master Sir Knight Denis Rodgers, Sir Knight Maurice Forbes and Worshipful Master Sir Knight Tom Hewitt.



Sir Knight Eddie Forbes, Worshipful Master Sir Knight Tom Hewitt, Sir Knight Francis Neill presenting the 50-year medals.



# Long Service Medals



A family affair...Sir Knight Trevor McCartney of Searce Golden Crown Temperance RBP 221 receives his 50 year long service jewel from his son, Sir Knight David McCartney, Worshipful Master of Searce RBP 221 and Deputy District Master of Newry Royal Black District Chapter No 4.



Sir Knight Ronnie Fallis of Ballinamallard Crimson Arrow, RBP 272, is presented with his medal to mark 25-year's service by the WM of the preceptory, Sir Knight Gordon Lee. Sir Knight Fallis, a faithful member of the preceptory, was a regular attendee at meetings, but now suffers from Parkinsons and the WM presented him with his service jewel at his home.

## Stewards in training



Sir Knights of Primatial Royal Black District Chapter No4 who completed Parade Steward Training facilitated by County Armagh Community Development.

## Founder members recognised

Two founder members of Crilly Coronation RBP 359 have received their 60 year service jewels.

Tyrone County Treasurer, Sir Knight Noel Erskine, presented the to Sir Knight Albert Morrow (past Worshipful Master 1984-1990) and Sir Knight Robert Liggett at a special meeting in Crilly Orange and Black Hall.



Sir Knight Albert Morrow (front left) and Sir Knight Robert Liggett (front right) with their 60 year service jewels. Also included are (back row) Deputy Master Sir Knight David Bell, Tyrone County Treasurer Sir Knight Noel Erskine and Worshipful Master Sir Knight Robert Leitch.



Sir Knight Samuel Anderson was presented with his 60 year service bar in recognition of his service to the preceptory and Institution by Sir Knight Robert Black, Worshipful Master of RBP 25 Allen's Chosen Few. Also pictured (from left) are Sir Knights Joe Bowles, Alan Locke, Alastair Power and Harry Cooke.



# Long Service Medals



Sir Knight Stephen Abernethy (centre) receives his 40 years' service Jewel on the Last Saturday from WM Sir Knight Trevor Falloon (left) and DM Sir Knight Henry Newell, all of Bush RBP No.4.



Sir Knight Tom Harrison, RBP 189, receiving his 70 year medal from WM Sir Knight Ashley Hall.

## Special meeting for three Sir Knights

Ballyboley RBP 334 held a special meeting in Ballyboley Orange Hall to present three Sir Knights with their 60 year service bars.

The bars were presented by Worshipful District Master of Ballyclare RBDC No.6 Sir Knight William-John Strange. Also on the night, the Worshipful District Master made a presentation on behalf of Ballyboley RBP 334 to Sir Knight Roy Turner for his many

years of hard work for the preceptory - including holding the office of Registrar for over 40 years.

Ballyboley RBP 334 would like to thank all the visiting Sir Knights and the District Officers of Ballyclare RBDC No 6 who attended this special meeting and Worshipful District Master Sir Knight William-John Strange for making the presentations.



Pictured at the special meeting of Ballyboley RBP 334 are (back row from left) Sir Knight Robert Thompson, District Registrar, Ballyclare RBDC No 6; Sir Knight William-John Strange, Worshipful District Master, Ballyclare RBDC No 6; Sir Knight Nigel Thompson, Deputy District Master, Ballyclare RBDC No 6. Front row (from left) Sir Knight Jim McAlister, Sir Knight Roy Turner and Sir Knight Samuel Agnew, who all received their 60 year service bars on the night.



Sir Knights of RBP 189 at a special presentation of long service medals.





Members of Brackey RBP 343 were recently presented with long service medals. In the photo receiving their jewels are Sir Knight Walter Crawford (30 year jewel), Sir Knight Bobby Dickson (50 year jewel), and Sir Knight Robert McCombes (40 year jewel) being presented by Sir Knight William Abernethy, County Master. In the back row are Sir Knights Trevor Crawford, David Millar, David Swann and Alistair Stewart. Missing from the picture is Wor. Sir Knight Cuthbert Managh, Worshipful District Master, East Tyrone R.B.D.C. No.5 who was unable to attend due to illness and has sadly since passed away on February 26, 2015.



Brackey RBP 343 presents £500 to the Grand Master's Charity Appeal at their recent election of officers. From left, Sir Knight William Abernethy, County Master, Sir Knight David Millar, DDM East Tyrone, Sir Knight David Swann, Treasurer Brackey RBP 343, Alistair Stewart District Treasurer, Trevor Crawford, WM Brackey 343 and Sir Knight Bobby Dickson, DM Brackey.

## Service steps back in time

**G**arvetagh Guiding Star RBP No.76 held their annual country style carol service in Garvetagh Orange Hall in December.

Members and friends on arrival admired the old style lighting with hurricane and tilly lamps and Sir Knight Gerald Montgomery, the Worshipful Master of the preceptory, welcomed everyone and invited Rt. Worshipful Sir Knight William Montgomery, Imperial Deputy Grand Master, to conduct the service.

Mrs Alison, wife of the local Presbyterian minister, led the opening and closing prayers. The lessons, revealing the Christmas story, were read by Sir Knights Andrew Johnston, Robert Mont-

gomery, Ian Clarke, Stevan Bogle, Ian Lowry, Ronald Porter, Jim Emery, James Young, and Ronald Thompson.

Traditional carols were sung by the congregation, accompanied by Mrs Jeanette Lowry on the organ and Sir Knights Albert and Alan Keatley, members of Aghyaran Accordion Band.

The offering, in aid of the Sovereign Grand Master's Appeal - The Bible Society and Mission Aviation Fellowship - was taken up by Sir Knight Robert Scott, the preceptory treasurer and Sir Knight Thompson Young, a member of the preceptory.

Sir Knight Gerald Montgomery proposed the vote of thanks and invited everyone to supper, which was served by the ladies.

## Anniversary events

The Strabane District Chapter undertook a series of events to mark the 150th Anniversary. These included -

### Anniversary Walk

On 10th May, five Sir Knights undertook an 18 mile walk around the various halls where the private preceptories meet. It commenced at the Bro. John Sayers Memorial Hall, Strabane and went via Leckpatrick, Killyclooney, Barron, Donemana and finished at the Sollus Centre, Bready.

It rained for most of the walk. However, the five Sir Knights were glad to welcome Sir Knight William Abernethy, County Grand Master, for encouragement and to walk with them on the home stretch to Bready.

### Church service

On 1st June, 2014 the District Chapter held a special Anniversary Church Service in Donemana Presbyterian Church. Rt Wor Sir Knight Rev Nigel Reid PASGM preached an excellent message and we were boosted by the presence of the Most Wor Sir Knight Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master and numerous senior Imperial Officers. There was also an excellent turnout of Sir Knights from Counties Tyrone, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Donegal.

After the service, Sir Knights paraded back to Donemana Orange Hall where the congregation and Sir Knights were entertained to a supper. Sir Knight Farr spoke on the occasion of the Anniversary and presented the District Chapter with a beautifully inscribed KJV Bible on behalf of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter.

Sir Knight Derek McDermott, DDM, then presented the Sovereign Grand Master Sir Knight Millar Farr, Sir Knight William Abernethy, CGM - Tyrone and Sir Knight Rev Nigel Reid, PASGM with District Anniversary ties in appreciation of what they do for Strabane District Chapter.

The occasion was later tinged with sadness as the Minister of Donemana Presbyterian Church, Rev Dr Stewart Jones, who led the Church Service, died on 12th July in a diving accident off the Donegal coast.

### Cricket Match

On 10th July, the Sir Knights of Strabane District Black Chapter took on the brethren of Strabane District Orange Lodge in a charity cricket match at Bready Cricket Club. An enjoyable and sporting game was had by all and a good sum was raised for the official Black Charities - The Bible Society Northern Ireland and Mission Aviation Fellowship. The Orange charity was NI Children's Hospice. For the record, the Orange Brethren won the match (narrowly!).

### Scarva parade

On 14th July, 2014 the District Chapter, along with family and friends, attended the Demonstration and Sham Fight at Scarva. This was a wonderful occasion and enjoyed by all, despite the bad weather. Best thanks are due to the Sham Fight Committee and Brackey RBP 343 and Omagh Protestant Boys Flute Band for letting us accompany them on the day.

### Last Saturday

On 30th August, 2014 the annual North Tyrone 'Last Saturday' Demonstration was hosted by Strabane District Black Chapter and held in Donemana. Traditionally, North Tyrone is one of the smaller Demonstrations with 25 preceptories. Again the weather was inclement during the parade and platform proceedings, however the arrangements were good and an enjoyable day was had otherwise.

The 150th Anniversary was marked and the day was boosted by the presence of the Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Rt Wor Sir Knight Andrew McRoberts.

God's word was preached by Sir Knight Rev Robert Campbell, Grand Chaplain of County Antrim and the Resolutions were proposed and seconded by Rt Wor Sir Knight William Montgomery IDGM and Wor Sir Knight Edward Stevenson, Grand Master GOLI respectively.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF STRABANE ROYAL BLACK DISTRICT CHAPTER No.2 ... 150 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

**T**he District Chapter of Strabane was formed in 1864 upon receipt of a warrant issued by the Imperial Grand Black Chapter. In 1865, Killyman, Aughnacloy and Strabane District Chapters met to form County Tyrone Grand Black Chapter.

In 1876, the District comprised of 13 preceptories with the present six member preceptories together from 1908 onwards. Killyclooney RBP No.64 is the only original preceptory still in existence, being formed in 1856.

Early records are scarce, but minutes exist from 1943 onwards. These show five Wor. Masters in that time with the most prominent being Sir Knight RF Cummings who served for more than 30 years, Sir Knight Irwin Craig, 13 years and the present Sir Knight Ian Donnell, 23 years.

Membership in early years was low. However, after the Second World War, this started to increase. Donemana RBP 260 showed great improvements under the leadership of Sir Knight Irwin Craig. Artigarvan RBP 91 and Strabane RBP 184 had some political figures in their ranks. Numbers were around 250-270 in the decades from the 1950s to the early 1970s – however, this has gradually declined to the present 160 mark.

In the early 1900s the district used to demonstrate with the Apprentice Boys of Derry on 12th August in Londonderry. After the war years, records show the Chapter demonstrating on the 'Last Saturday' with the Sir Knights of Tyrone. Recent North Tyrone Demonstrations are hosted in Donemana as republican elements have ensured

that the last Strabane Demonstration was held in 1982 and the last traditional morning parade of Strabane was in 1996.

The 'Toubles' also affected the Chapter with some preceptories losing esteemed Sir Knights to terrorist murder and associated families suffering as a result of terrorism. Most Wor. Sir Knight James Molyneux, Sovereign Grand Master, reported to Grand Council in June 1972 that "Sir Knight Senator John EN Barnhill was murdered in a bestial manner by terrorist gunmen in his own home at Brickfield, Strabane, a few days after attending Grand Council in December 1971." He had been Strabane District Registrar for 22 years.

Throughout these past 150 years, Sir Knights from this District Chapter have proudly served this great Institution in various offices at County and Imperial levels. Generations of the Cummings family (RBP 91) have served as Grand Treasurers for County Tyrone with Sir Knight Rev. T A H Moriarty and Sir Knight Rev. Frank M Hay (both RBP 91) giving excellent service to the chaplaincy of County Tyrone.

Though presently the smallest District Chapter in County Tyrone, we continue to enjoy tremendous support and encouragement from our County Officers and the Sovereign Grand Master. On this 150th Anniversary we celebrate our past heritage and look forward, rededicating ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Deliverer, ever advancing the Protestant Reformed faith and upholding the Royal Black Institution.



Sir Knight Millar Farr is pictured with Sir Knight Ian Donnell WDM cutting an Anniversary cake, surrounded by the District Officers.



The five Sir Knights who braved the elements to undertake an 18 mile walk around the various halls where the private preceptories meet. They are pictured outside Donemana Orange Hall after 11 miles - just seven more miles to go!



Sir Knights pictured in the field at Scarva Demesne.



Platform proceedings in Donemana.



# Cheques & Charity Presentations



Members of Fermanagh CGBC making a cheque presentation to the Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr. Pictured are (from left) Fred Crawford, County Grand Registrar; Robert Dane, County Grand Master; Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master; John McElwaine, County Grand Treasurer; and Tom Elliott MLA, Deputy County Grand Master.



A cheque for £384.20 was presented to Assistant Sovereign Grand Master Sir Knight Andrew McRoberts. The money was raised from the collection at the joint parade and service held by members of Covenant of Peace RBP 435, Bethlehem Guiding Star RBP 508 and Knights of the Golden Crown RBP 994. The service this year was hosted by members of RBP 994 and held in the Presbyterian Church Magherally. In the photograph are (from left) Sir Knight Samuel Smyth, WM Bethlehem Guiding Star RBP 508; Sir Knight Andrew McRoberts, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master; Sir Knight Edgar Patterson, Registrar Knights of the Golden Crown RBP 994; and Sir Knight Kenneth McCahon, PM Covenant of Peace RBP 435.



Brackley RBP 343 East Tyrone Chapter held a carol service in Drumnakilly Parish church as a fundraising event for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. Pictured are Sir Knight Trevor Crawford WM, and Sir Knight David Swann, Treasurer, presenting a cheque for £350 to Veronica Hawkes representing the Hospice.

## RBP 158 presentation to the Salvation Army



The superb fundraising efforts of RBP 158 has continued, with the latest cheque for £900.10 presented to the Salvation Army, Newry Corps, for its Anti-Human Trafficking campaign.

Since 1988, RBP 158 has raised over £40,500 for a wide range of charities. This latest amount was collected at the Twelfth in Gilford, the Thirteenth in Scarva and the Last Saturday in Rathfriland.



The Sovereign Grand Master enjoys a chat with Santa Claus in Ballyclare.



# Cheques & Charity Presentations

## Markethill raises £2,200



Markethill Royal Black District Chapter No.3 presented a cheque for £2,200 to the Imperial Grand Registrar and County Grand Master, Sir Knight William H Scott, for the Institution's designated charities for 2014 - The Bible Society and Mission Aviation Fellowship. The money was raised by the 10 preceptories within the District and at the Christmas Carol Service.

Included in the presentation in Markethill Orange Hall are, front row, (from left) Sir Knight Ivan Ross, District Treasurer; Sir Knight Jim Steenson, DDM; Sir Knight William Scott, CGM and Imperial Grand Reg; Sir Knight William Copeland, WDM; Sir Knight Robert Hamilton, Dist Lay Chaplain; and Sir Knight Samuel Courtney BEM, Dist Reg. Back row (extreme left) Sir Knight Allen Hawthorne, Dep Dist Reg, and (extreme right) Sir Knight Roger Gardiner, Dep Dist Treas and Dep Co Grand Reg, along with Preceptory representatives.



Sovereign Grand Master, MW Sir Knight Millar Farr, receives a cheque for £2,000 from Sir Knight Noel Erskine, Grand Treasurer, on behalf of Co Tyrone Grand Black Chapter towards the Designated Charities (Mission Aviation Fellowship and The Bible Society NI). Also pictured (from left) are Sir Knight William Abernethy, CGM, Co Tyrone, Sir Knight Stanley McFarland, Deputy Grand Treasurer, Co Tyrone and Sir Knight Richard Emerson, DCGM, Co Tyrone.



Sovereign Grand Master, MW Sir Knight Millar Farr, receives a cheque for £1,000 from Sir Knight Derek McDermott, DDM on behalf of Strabane District No.2 towards the Designated Charities. Also pictured (from left) are Sir Knight William Abernethy CGM, Co Tyrone, Sir Knight David Colhoun, Chaplain Strabane District No.2 and Sir Knight Richard Emerson, DCGM, Co Tyrone. The £1,000 consisted of the total collection from the 150th Anniversary Church Service in June and the Annual Cricket Match against the Orange District Lodge.





## Notes from England & Scotland



Worshipful Master, Officers and Sir Knights of Bon Accord RBP 150 Encamped at Edinburgh who held a recent meeting where Sir Knight Rev Jason Lingiah conducted a dedication service for new officers' collarettes.

## Shotts service raises £650

Following the very successful and uplifting evening of praise held in the Kirk of Shotts Parish Church, the Worshipful District Master, Sir Knight James Muir and District Registrar, Sir Knight Jack Ramsay, together with the Immediate Past District Master, Sir Knight Kenneth Whyte of Airdrie and Coatbridge Royal Black District Chapter No. 3, attended morning worship to present the preacher, Mr Kenneth Naismith, with a cheque for £650, which was collected through the

offering on the evening.

Sir Knight Whyte also addressed the congregation thanking them for their support and warmth of welcome and spoke on the Royal Black Institution's 'Take 5' initiative, outlining the 5 Solas - Scripture Alone; Grace Alone; Faith Alone; Christ Alone and to God's Glory Alone - the rallying call of the Reforming forefathers.

The District Chapter were warmly thanked for the generous donation which will help in the work of the Church and Parish.



Worshipful Master of Bon Accord RBP 150 (Edinburgh), Sir Knight Alastair Skene presenting Sir Knight James G. MacLean, Preceptory Chaplain and Provincial Grand Master of Scotland, with his 50 year long-service medal. Sir Knight MacLean was initiated into Star of Edina RBP 728 on 6th December, 1964. Also in the photograph is Sir Knight Scott A. Renwick, Grand Registrar of Scotland and Immediate Past Master of RBP 150.



Sir Knight Ian McCafferty, Imperial Grand Lecturer, presenting Sir Knight James C. Wallace, PM and Registrar of RBP 205, and Sir Knight Donald Smith, Registrar of RBP 263, with their 1st Lecturers certificate, at the 2015 Scottish Lecturers Conference in Glasgow.

## Pupils delighted with cheque and chocolates

In late December, the WM Sir Knight Angus Ward, along with Sir Knights Steven Graham and Thomas Thomson of the Ancient Sons of William, RBP 118, Glasgow, paid a visit to Broomlea Primary Special Needs School in the Saracens area in the north of the city where they presented a cheque for £250 and delivered Christmas selection boxes and tubs of chocolates for the 50 children and 10 teachers. The children at the school have learning difficulties and the school enhances their education and wellbeing.





## Notes from England & Scotland



The 1st Photo at The Remembrance Garden is taken just before the unveiling of the Propeller.



# Spitfire propeller dedicated in memorial service

**L**oyal Orders in the Slamannan area of Scotland – including the Royal Black Institution – have hosted an event to mark the unveiling and dedication of a Spitfire propeller in the Slamannan Memorial Gardeon.

The plane crashed in a field in Slamannan on Valentine's Day 1941. The plane was on a training exercise being piloted by Sgt Tristram Silvester from his base at Grangemouth and the propeller was recently recovered from Hillhead Farm by Dumfries & Galloway Aviation Society who, in turn, asked for it to be displayed at Slamannan Memorial Garden. This was agreed by the local Loyal Orders.

The day started with a parade near the field where the Spitfire ploughed into the ground and then proceeded to the War Memorial and then to the Memorial Garden.

All Loyal Orders were represented with the GM of GOLS, Brother and Sir Knight Henry Dunbar in attendance, along members of the Silvester family, MPs, an MEP, local councillors, representa-



The Silvester Family at the newly unveiled propeller. On the right of the picture is a memorial tree that was also planted and dedicated on the day, with the assistance of the Silvester family.

tives of the emergency services, Grangemouth Air Cadets and Dumfries & Galloway Aviation Society.

The Service was conducted by Sir Knight Rev Ian Loughran with piper Ian Milne and bugler Keira

Cousins. The Silvester family had travelled up from Worcester, including two brothers and a sister and they were overwhelmed by the enormity of the whole occasion.

The day was finished off with a buffet at the local community cen-

tre where the Silvester family were once again overwhelmed, this time by that old Scottish dish...a plate of Stovies. In all, this was a poignant but also an uplifting occasion.



# On parade in Cookstown



Members of RBP 599 on parade in Cookstown.



A member of RBP 303 on parade in Cookstown.



Members of RBP 653 on parade in Cookstown.



Members of RBP 303 on parade in Cookstown.



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