

FREE

Contact us
 for editorials,
 photos or
 advertising in 'The
 Black' magazine.

Email:
 info@royalblack.org

Phone:
 028 3832 2518



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr (left) and Grand Imperial Registrar Billy Scott promoting the forthcoming Luther Rally at Shamrock Park, Portadown. The Reformation event, organised by the Loyal Orders, is scheduled to take place on Saturday 6 May. Photo by Collette Dobson

Rally for Luther!

Sir Knights are being encouraged to join with representatives of the other Loyal Orders for a major rally to mark the anniversary of the Reformation.

On Saturday 6 May, members of the Royal Black Institution will step out in tandem with Orange brethren and others as they participate in the flagship event of the Luther 500 project, hosted in Co Armagh.

The evening religious service and rally at Shamrock Park in Portadown will be preceded by a procession through the town, commencing from Edenderry.

As well as the Royal Black Institution and Grand Orange Lodge, representatives from the Apprentice Boys, Women's Association, Independent Orange Institution, Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter and Junior Association are expected to be in attendance.

The rally comes ahead of the actual 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation later this year.

In October 1517, Martin Luther

nailed his '95 Theses' on the castle door in Wittenberg in Germany— an act widely seen as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, which spread throughout Europe.

Last year, the Royal Black and Orange Institutions produced a series of booklets and resources to help explain the events surrounding Luther and the Reformation.

The Portadown event is expected to underline the Christian witness project on a much larger scale.

Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr predicted the Luther rally would be a public manifestation of the Christian message and values promoted by the Loyal Orders.

He said: "The Royal Black Institution stands unapologetically for the truths of the Reformed Evangelical Protestant faith. In this decade of centenaries, and as a Protestant fraternity, we recognise the need to commemorate such an important evangelical landmark."

"I would encourage all of our mem-

bers to make every effort to attend this iconic event to celebrate the Reformation."

He added: "I look forward to your support in making this an event which will bring credit, not just to our Institutions, but to the cause we serve together."

Only County, District and equivalent bannerettes are to be carried on parade – however if a Preceptory has a banner or bannerette which either portrays Luther or depicts an event from Luther's life, they are encouraged to carry it in the procession.

Members are free to choose which regalia they wear in the procession, but the Loyal Orders are recommending participants wear the regalia of the Institution in which they hold the highest office.

The parade is scheduled to leave Edenderry at 5.30pm. The subsequent rally at Shamrock Park is due to commence at 7.15pm.

For more on the Luther 500 project, see pages 24-25

**IN THIS
 EDITION OF
 'THE ROYAL
 BLACK'**



Tribute to Austin Hunter
 - Pages 4 & 5



MacMillan Charity Cheque
 Presentation
 - page 9



Remembering the Somme
 Sacrifice
 - Pages 10 & 11



Notes from
 England & Scotland
 - pages 28 & 29

**COMBER PET
STORE**

**JARDINE
ENGINEERING**

PARTS DOC

AUTOSPARES

Message from the Sovereign Grand Master

The dawning of another year is always a time for looking forward and for some reflection.

As we embark on another packed calendar of events for 2017, it would be remiss not to recollect on the 12 months past.

2016 will forever be associated with the centenary commemorations for the Battle of the Somme. While our flagship events, the Sham Fight and the Last Saturday demonstrations, were the usual joyful occasions, they were also rightly tinged with sombreness as we recalled the sacrifice of those, including members of our Institution, who died on the battlefields of France.

Since our last edition, I, like many Sir Knights, and indeed the wider community, was also stunned and deeply saddened by the tragic death of our media consultant, Austin Hunter.

Austin offered invaluable guidance, advice and expertise during his eight-year tenure with our Loyal Order. He was the consummate professional, acting always in the Institution's best interests; ensuring our message was relayed appropriately, and when necessary, to a wider audience.

His legacy will undoubtedly be the greatly enhanced relationship we have developed, under his watch, with the local and regional media. It is one that is no longer hindered by suspicion of the press,



but rather utilising such a powerful outlet to proclaim the Institution's merits.

Unionism as a whole owes Austin a sincere debt of gratitude, and Northern Ireland is unfortunately a poorer place for his passing.

I would also take this opportunity to pay tribute to Her Majesty The Queen who recently marked her Sapphire Jubilee. This was yet another momentous landmark for our much-admired monarch and we pray she will continue to reign with such dignity for the foreseeable future.

The Christian message is at the core of our existence, and in partnership with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, we are delighted to be officially

marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year.

The highlight of our witness will undeniably be the major rally scheduled to take place in Portadown on Saturday, 6 May. I would encourage all Sir Knights to make their best efforts to attend as we collectively, through our fellowship, celebrate and commemorate this significant evangelical landmark. The message of our Luther 500 project will also be prevalent at our other main demonstrations throughout the year.

Charity is also one of the cornerstones of our organisation. Our most recent appeal was in aid of the worthy cause of Macmillan cancer support. I would like to place on record my gratitude and appreciation to all Sir Knights, preceptories and districts who donated of their time and funds so selflessly.

Finally, I would wish our members, supporters and readers of our magazine a happy and prosperous 2017. I trust and pray it will be both productive and successful for your individual preceptories, and our great Institution.

Millar Farr.

Millar Farr
Sovereign Grand Master

Gracious library book donation for archives

By Billy Scott

Libraries conjure up very different pictures in people's minds. For some they are just dry-as-dust collections of old books and papers, boring and not to be bothered with! For others they are invaluable collections of history and other information, which can be read with enjoyment and for profit by all who wish to learn more. For most folk, they are probably somewhere in between.

But the Royal Black Institution has recently been privileged to receive, as the gift of Sir Knight Thomas Kennedy of Stranraer and his wife, Susan, a library of books which we are proud to have entrusted to our care.

This most generous offer, initially made to our Sovereign Grand Master, Most Wor. Sir Knight W. Millar Farr, QPM, and progressed in detail by Rt. Wor. Sir Knight Rev. Nigel Reid, greatly enhances the records and resources of the Institution and will enable us to provide suitable reference and study facilities for those wishing to know more of our Reformed faith and of British history.

The collection is the result of many years of painstaking searching through antique shops, second-hand book stores and many other sources to find books and documents and value to all who are interested in, and value, our heritage as

Reformed believers and loyal subjects of our Sovereign Lady, Her Majesty the Queen.

Time and space do not permit anything approaching a full description of the library, but the bulk of its contents deal with Reformed theology and British history, although other faiths and loyalties also find a mention.

Some volumes which will catch the eye include several by Pastor Charles H. Spurgeon, the famous Baptist preacher of the nineteenth century and early copies of both the Book of Common Prayer and John Knox's Book of Common Order. Also noted is a copy of the Minutes of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland from October 1690, welcoming the arrival of King William III and Queen Mary, and several books written by the leading Anglican divine, Bishop J.C. Ryle.

Other books deal with English, Scottish and Irish church history, with the story of the British monarchy and with heroes of the Reformation and, of course, being largely of Scottish origin with the Covenanters and the Killing Times.

All of us in the Institution owe a great debt of gratitude, first to Sir Knight Kennedy for his generosity and also to Sir Knight Rev. Nigel for all his work in ensuring the safe transfer of the library to Brownlow House and its care and oversight as it is entrusted to us.



Sir Knight Thomas Kennedy (second from left) along with his wife, Susan, pictured with Imperial Grand Registrar Billy Scott and Rev Nigel Reid. Photo by Collette Dobson.



Sir Knight Thomas Kennedy shows off the book collection to Imperial Grand Treasurer, David Livingstone, and Rev Nigel Reid. Photo by Collette Dobson.

DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE:

Autumn/Winter 2017 Edition – Deadline for reports and photos (ie, anything other than the Last Saturday) is 18th August, 2017.
Deadline for all Last Saturday coverage is 1 September, 2017

Tributes paid to respected media consultant

THE Royal Black Institution has expressed its deep sadness following the tragic death of its former public relations consultant, Austin Hunter.

Mr Hunter, 64, worked as a media adviser with the Loyal Order for eight years, prior to his passing.

The distinguished journalist and ex-News Letter Editor was killed in a traffic accident in the Middle East in December. Mr Hunter was in Bahrain working in a consultancy role for the not-for-profit organisation, Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NI-Co), when he died.

Poignantly, confirmation of the PR professional's planned retirement from his role with the Institution this Spring was among the topics discussed at a meeting of Grand Council only hours before his death.

Leading tributes to Mr Hunter, Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr expressed his admiration for the leading communications expert.

He said: "Austin had an illustrious career in local journalism and public relations, and we, as an Institution, were privileged to avail of his expertise and first-hand experience in this field. His advice and guidance on many matters always proved invaluable.

"Austin was admired and respected greatly by senior officers and members alike, and such was his endearing personality, this developed into a strong and close association, and indeed friendship. His knowledge and companionship will be greatly missed."

Mr Farr offered his deepest sympathy, on behalf of the Loyal Order, to Mr Hunter's wife, Jean, and family.

Mr Hunter played a key role in developing

and improving the Institution's interaction with the local and regional media. He managed publicity regarding numerous events, including the Scarva and Last Saturday demonstrations, key meetings with stakeholders, and various charity initiatives.

He also introduced and conducted media training workshops for members throughout Northern Ireland, and other regions of the United Kingdom.

As well as providing assistance to the Royal Black, Mr Hunter also worked as a media consultant with the Orange Institution for six years, retiring in 2012.

Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, paid a fulsome tribute to Austin's "vast expertise and professionalism" throughout his tenure.

He said: "As well as being an absolute gentleman and an individual of the utmost integrity, Austin was a colossus in the field of journalism and public relations.

"Austin's experience, advice and know-how were a real asset to the Orange Institution during his period of employment. Under his guidance, our members learned that the Institution had an important story to tell and had nothing to fear from sharing its ideals to a wider audience.

"There can be no doubt the Order's relationship with the media improved immeasurably under Austin's stewardship. Such a growing rapport will be his enduring legacy towards Orangeism, and one we will seek to maintain in his memory."

In a career spanning 45 years, the Co Tyrone native held a range of influential jobs in media and public relations.

A former editor of the Belfast News Letter,

he also worked as a broadcast journalist for BBC Northern Ireland during the height of the Troubles.

In the early days of his career, Mr Hunter worked for the Strabane Weekly News, Tyrone Constitution and BBC Radio Foyle.

He was head of communications for the police in Northern Ireland during a time of unprecedented change when the old RUC was replaced by the PSNI. Prior to that, he headed up the BBC's public relations department in Belfast.

In recent years, Mr Hunter worked occasionally overseas for NI-Co, advising state bodies abroad. Prior to his death, he also played a key role in the campaign that resulted in Northern Ireland securing its first air ambulance.

Mr Hunter was named the Press Photographer's PR Person of the Year in 1997 and was awarded the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Media Relations Person of the Year Award in 1998.

In his spare time, Mr Hunter loved to spend time with his family and had an enduring love for watching cricket and hockey.

Senior members of the Black Institution were among hundreds of mourners who attended a service of thanksgiving for the former BBC reporter at Second Comber Presbyterian Church in December.

Among the many mourners were senior politicians, journalists, policemen and representatives from the local hockey and cricket community.

Mr Hunter – a grandfather-of-two – is survived by his wife, Jean, children Simon and Rachael, and brother Adrian.





GLENVIEW

NEVILLE WEIR

VICTOR STEWART

Appointment of New Assistant Sovereign Grand Masters held recently

At the most recent meeting of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth, held in Kilkeel Orange Hall, Sovereign Grand Master Mil-lar Farr nominated Rt. Wor. Sir Knights Wil-liam Baillie and Samuel Stewart as the new re-spective Assistant Sov-ereign Grand Masters.

Congratulations fol-lowed from the floor of very large gathering of Sir Knights from all parts of Northern Ire-land and the British Isles.

Outgoing Assistants, Rt. Wor Sir Knights Ivan Kelly and William Rob-erts, were both present-ed with their PASGM's jewels.



Sir Knt. William Baillie, from Annalong who has recently been appointed as Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Royal Black Institution. © Photo: Gary Gardiner.

Forthcoming Events 2017

- May 6 Major Reformation Rally, Shamrock Park, Portadown @ 7.15pm (preceded by procession leaving Edenderry at 5.30p.m.)
- June 17 Grand Council – Southern Area (Richard Roberts) Memorial Hall, Mill Street, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 6SN.
- July 1 101st anniversary of Battle of the Somme - 8th annual parade held in Slamannan Starts 7pm from Slamannan Church, Service being conducted by Rev Henry L Williamson
- July 13 Sham Fight – Scarva
Lurgan R.B.D.C. No. 2 Demonstration in Bangor
- July 30 Provincial Grand Black Chapter of England Church Service - Liverpool
- August 5 Provincial Grand Black Chapter of England Demonstration – Southport
County Fermanagh Grand Black Chapter Demonstration – Lisnaskea
- August 6 Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland Annual Divine Service – Glasgow Evangelical Church
- August 12 Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland Demonstration – Kirkintilloch
- August 20 Ballyclare Royal Black District Chapter No. 6 Annual District Service – St John's Church of Ireland, Ballyclare at 3p.m. – Dedication of new regalia and bannerette
- August 26 Demonstrations
Co. Antrim Grand Black Chapter – Antrim
Summerisland/Primatial Dists/Killyman & East Tyrone – Aughnacloy
City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter – Lisburn
Co. Down Grand Black Chapter – Comber
Co. Londonderry Grand Black Chapter – Castledawson
North & West Tyrone – Omagh
- Markethill Royal Black District Chapter in conjunction with the Orange Districts of Markethill, Newtownhamilton and Richhill are hosting a Reformation weekend:**
- September 8 Luther Lecture in Richhill area at 8pm
- September 9 '5 Solas concert' in Newtownhamilton High School at 8pm
- September 10 Special Service in Mountnorris Presbyterian Church at 3.30pm conducted by Sir Knt and Bro. Rev. Nigel Reid – the four Districts to meet at 3pm to parade together.
The above Districts extend an invitation to all Sir Knights and their families to join them.
- September 16 International Lecturer's Conference – Edinburgh Tabernacle [Parish] Church, 41-42 Inverleith Gardens, Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH3 5PR
- County Armagh Grand Black Chapter and County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge Joint Festival of Flowers to celebrate Luther 500 in Armagh Orange Hall:**
- October 6 Opening Service at 7.00 p.m. (opening times 7.00 p.m. – 10 p.m.)
- October 7 Opening Times 10.30 a.m. – 9.00 p.m.
- October 8 Opening Times from 2.00 p.m. with closing service at 7.30 p.m.
- All Brethren, Sir Knights and their families and friends are all very welcome to attend.
- November 5 Ballyclare Royal Black District Chapter No. 6 Service of Thanksgiving – Templepatrick War Memorial Orange Hall at 3p.m. (meet at hall) – speaker Rev. David McCarthy, County Chaplain
- November 12-19 Primatial Royal Black District Chapter No. 4 in conjunction with the Orange Districts of Armagh, Killylea and Keady - Luther's Heritage in Armagh Orange Hall

***HOLMES DIREC-
TORS***

DR BREWSTER

EPM

VILLAGE BLINDS



Pictured at the Macmillan Cancer Support cheque presentation at Brownlow House are (from left) Billy Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar; Stefani Mearns, Macmillan fundraising manager; Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master; and Imperial Grand Treasurer, David Livingstone. Photos by Collette Dobson

Institution praised for 'incredible' MacMillan cancer charity support

The Royal Black Institution has raised £95,000 for a leading cancer charity.

The Loyal Order chose Macmillan Cancer Support as its designated charity last year, with the substantive funds going towards a local aftercare scheme for prostate cancer patients in Northern Ireland.

Members of the Institution have a distinguished record for charitable outreach, raising nearly £700,000 for various good causes on a biennial basis since 2002.

The latest amount was presented to Macmillan representatives at a function held in the Royal Black headquarters in Brownlow House, Lurgan.

Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr, praised the "magnificent" fundraising endeavours of members, stating such generosity would greatly help other males across society in their time of need.

He said: "Cancer is an insidious disease which unfortunately knows no boundaries. Macmillan does invaluable work in our community, offering specialised assistance and support to patients, and their families, often at the most difficult and challenging of times. We are delighted to provide much needed financial support for their dedicated services, and trust it will be of particular benefit to those



Imperial Grand Treasurer David Livingstone presenting the cheque for £95,000 to Stefani Mearns, fundraising manager at Macmillan Cancer Support



Sir Knights in attendance at the Macmillan cheque presentation at Brownlow House

The breakdown of money raised by the Royal Black Institution, over the past 15 years, is as follows:

2002	Chest Heart and Stroke N.I.	£66,000
2004	Action MS	£80,000
2006	Open Door Ministry in Sudan	£90,000
2008	Diabetes UK	£77,000
2010	Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda	£105,000
2012	Alzheimer's Society	£95,000
2014	Bible Society & Mission Aviation Fellowship	£85,000
2016	Macmillan Cancer Support	£95,000

individuals diagnosed and receiving treatment for prostate cancer.

"As a Christian organisation with a track record of raising money for charity, our members and supporters have once again demonstrated great compassion and kindness. Such selflessness is even more notable and

worthy of praise during a time of economic austerity."

Mr Farr added: "I would like to publicly express my gratitude and appreciation to every individual, preceptory and district who pledged money to our Macmillan appeal. By so doing they have contributed to a

worthy and vital cause. Their generosity will greatly assist Macmillan in helping those in our community affected by cancer."

Stefani Mearns, fundraising manager at Macmillan Cancer Support, said: "We would like to thank the members of the Royal Black Institution for their incredible fundraising activities on behalf of Macmillan. £95,000 will make a vital difference to our work, enabling us to build the sustainability and extend the legacy of our prostate cancer services, and provide invaluable support for men living with prostate cancer across Northern Ireland."

Remembering the Somme sacrifice



Wreath laying at Menin Gate

Sir Knight Nigel Bloomer, Ballydonnell RBP 39 and Sir Knight Eric Barrett, Ballygawley RBP 554, lay a wreath at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium on behalf of the Officers and Sir Knights of Lecale Royal Black District Chapter No 2.

The Act of Remembrance was in honour and recognition of all the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during the First World War.

JOHM GAMBLE

TRAILERTEK

Remembering the Somme sacrifice

Monaghan remembers Somme centenary



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr pictured with the Glaslough RBP banner depicting the Battle of the Somme

The north Monaghan town of Glaslough hosted a parade and service of remembrance in November to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

This unique event was jointly organised by Glaslough Black Preceptory and Emyvale Orange lodge, and attended by the Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr.

The short parade took place in one of the most picturesque settings possible, commencing in the shadow of Castle Leslie and finishing at the war memorial in front of St Salvator's Church.

Around 200 Orangemen and Sir Knights, women and juniors took part in the procession, prior to an Act of Remembrance and a religious service.

Among those to lay wreaths were the Sovereign Grand Master, as well as Orange Order Assistant Grand Master, Lewis Singleton, and the Republic of Ireland Government Minister, Heather Humphreys.

Inside the church on display was an 80-year-old banner of Glaslough Royal Black Preceptory, depicting the Battle of the Somme.

"Around 200 Orangemen and Sir Knights, women and juniors took part in the procession"

The church service, conducted by Rev Betty Thompson, remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the seminal Great War battle.

It is estimated of the almost 50,000 soldiers from the island of Ireland who died during WW1, 540 of them were from Co Monaghan, evenly divided between Protestants and Catholics.

Most of the Protestants came from the ranks of the Ulster Volunteer Force, and were among the 36th Ulster Division at the start of the battle on 1 July 1916.

In attendance also were the two original colours of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the County Monaghan Volunteers. These two flags had not been publicly together since 1914.

Raffrey RBP 1139 tribute to the late Sir Knight Neill

During the recent election of officers by Raffrey Guiding Star RBP 1139, table cloths were dedicated to the memory of the late Sir Knight William Robert Neill, Past Deputy Imperial Grand Master.

The table coverings were previously dedicated for the preceptory's use by the Rev Brian Small, Minister of Raffrey Presbyterian Church, where Sir Knight Neill had played an active role as elder for many years.

County Grand Master Brian Hunter said Sir Knight Neill was part of

the fabric of the Raffrey community and that there was no better way to remember him than having his name stitched into the fabric of the table cloth that would be used at each meeting.

Among those pictured at the election of officers are Wor Sir Knight Brian Hunter County Grand Master; Sir Knight Robert Phillips WDM; Sam Haskins RBP 186 PDM; and Sir Knights of RBP 1139. Sir Knight Trevor Roy was elected as Worshipful Master and Sir Knight Neill's son, Robert, was elected as the Preceptory Registrar.



'Those things which cannot

By Rev Maurice Laverty

"A whole lotta shakin' goin' on." Remember that song, made famous by, among others Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley?

It seems, as I write this in January 2017, that there's a "whole lotta shakin goin on" in the world around us.

The USA has been shaken by the fact that someone treated with contempt and disdain at the beginning of the Presidential race is now actually President.

The UK has been shaken by the totally unforeseen 'Brexit' vote, shaking a Prime Minister and many of his cabinet out of office.

Our own province has been shaken, not over some great political issue (although there may be political undercurrents), but something as mundane as a heating boiler scheme – and I don't minimise the importance of the amount of money that may ultimately be involved and what went wrong.

The most important question – and one which the world will

not think to ask – is "Who's doing the shaking?"

In the Hebrews letter we read: 'And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.' (Heb. 12:27).

Or as the NIV puts it: The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

This year, we commemorate events that began a spiritual shaking in Europe. A young monk called Martin Luther nailed a series of 95 propositions which he had been pondering to the door of a church in Wittenberg in Germany. The ensuing shock waves spread and grew in a movement we now call the Reformation.

What happened in that period of history was a shaking of many created things, particularly man made and unscriptural rules and practices that had all but buried the essentials of Scripture and the way of salvation. What remained

was the essence of the Gospel.

These things, the truths that Martin Luther rediscovered, are the things that will remain into eternity and it is good, particularly in this year, to remind ourselves of such essentials.

But, and this is what was so important for Luther, what gave him the courage to go on in the face of so much 'establishment' opposition, was the fact that he had discovered a personal faith in Jesus Christ. After a long period of searching and inner turmoil, he came to know Jesus Christ in that deeply personal way that assured him of salvation and eternal life.

If we merely commemorate the Reformation without discovering that faith in Jesus Christ for ourselves, we will have missed the real impact.

Take time to read the excellent material produced jointly by our Orders and allow God's Holy Spirit to apply it to your own life, as He did to Martin Luther's.

Above all, read the Word of God that led him to the truth – "sola scriptura".



**CUNNINGHAM
COATES**

be shaken may remain'



GOLI

Portrait tribute to late Sir Knight

Following the refurbishment of Lurgan District Chapter Room, it was decided to name the room 'The Lutton Room' in recognition of the service that the late Sir Knight Sam Lutton gave to the Black Institution and Lurgan District.

Sir Knight Lutton became a member of Sons of Joseph RBP 207 in May 1947 and was a Lecturer until his death in April 2015. The preceptory decided that his portrait should hang in The Lutton Room and commissioned local artist M.Cordner to do the work.

Recently, the preceptory invited members of the Lutton family to attend the unveiling. Sir Knight William Cordner, District Master of Lurgan, Registrar of RBP 207, welcomed the family and other guests including Wor. Bro. D Martin, WDM; Wor. Bro. C McCusker, DDM of Lurgan Orange District, and a number of other Black and Orange District Officers.

Sir Knight D Martin offered the opening prayers after which Sir Knight Cordner invited Sir Knight Robert Lutton and Mrs Lynn Dennison to unveil their father's portrait.

Robert Lutton thanked the preceptory on behalf of the family for



Sir Knight Robert Lutton and Lynn Dennison unveil the picture tribute to their late father, Sam Lutton

honouring his father in such a way.

Afterwards a light supper was provided for all in attendance.



Sir Knights from Sons of Joseph RBP 207 at the dedication service

John Richardson – a loyal lecturer who volunteered his time and skills

By RJ Mark Diffin
County Armagh Grand
Registrar

It was with great sadness that the officers of County Armagh Grand Black Chapter learned of the death of our late Sir Knight and Brother John Richardson.

Sir Knight and Brother Richardson was a loyal and committed member of LOL and RAPC 739 and RBP 89.

John held the offices of Deputy District Lecturer of Tandragee District LOL No.4 and also Past District Master and Deputy District Lecturer of Tandragee RAPC No.4. He was also County Grand Master of County Armagh Royal Arch Purple Chapter.

John also spent many years as Superintendent of JLOL 190 and held offices from Junior District Master to Grand Lecturer of the Junior Grand Lodge of Ireland. He was also Past Master of Lily of the Valley RBP 89.

John offered his services to the Imperial



Grand Black Chapter when they started to run the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Awareness courses. He was a member of the committee and had travelled throughout the province and Scotland to help deliver these courses.

John gave freely of his time to all the Loyal Orders and also his charity fundraising when he recently raised £5,500 for the Hos-

pice by doing a bike ride around all the Orange Halls throughout Tandragee District.

He also raised £12,250 for Marie Curie and Macmillan by doing a 24-hour Royal Arch Purple Lecture around the 11 Districts in County Armagh.

To his wife, Jenny, children and grandchildren, our County pays them heartfelt sympathies in the knowledge that John rests in Jesus' loving arms.

MELVILLE & CO

County Londonderry banner unfurlings



The unfurling and dedication of a new banner for Ballynenagh Knights of the Crimson Arrow RBP No. 1112, South Londonderry Royal Black District Chapter No. 4.



Desertmartin Knights of the Link and Chain RBP 576 celebrated their 40th anniversary with a new banner unfurling and dedication. Following a parade and religious service, the banner was unfurled by the Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Knight Millar Farr.



Sir Knights from Westbourne RBP 861 presenting their bannerette to Jonathan Mattison (left), curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage.

Bannerette donated to museum archives

A Royal Black Preceptory has donated its old bannerette and seal to the Museum of Orange Heritage in Belfast.

Members of Westbourne Church Total Abstinence RBP 861 made the gesture following the dedication of their new bannerette at Schomberg House.

The East Belfast preceptory's new bannerette bears Westbourne Church and the number of men who signed the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant there on one side, with Moses at the Burning Bush depicted on the

other.

The dedication service took place last year with the District Master of Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No4, Tam Boyd, unveiling the new bannerette.

Curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage, Dr Jonathan Mattison, received the bannerette on behalf of Grand Lodge.

Following the dedication service and tour of the museum, an Act of Remembrance took place at the nearby Somme Drive War Memorial.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF THIS MAGAZINE:

Autumn/Winter 2017 Edition

Deadline for reports and photos (ie, anything other than the Last Saturday) is **18th August, 2017.**

Deadline for all Last Saturday coverage is 1 September, 2017

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** for a quotation.

Drew Nelson – A towering figure with a strategic vision

The Loyal Order fraternity and wider unionist community was deeply saddened by the death of senior Orangeman Drew Nelson last October.

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland – also a member of Quilly Star of Bethlehem RBP 10 – passed away following a short illness.

The Dromore solicitor was widely known and respected throughout Northern Ireland and further afield, predominantly due to the progressive and leading role he played within Orangeism since elected to office in 2004.

Paying tribute, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, said the Institution had lost one of its greatest ever advocates.

He said: "Drew was a towering figure within the Orange fraternity, whose commitment and devotion to the principles of Orangeism are simply unrivalled. No other individual, over the course of the past decade, has done more to champion the cause of the Institution and its membership. His contribution to promoting a tradition he was immensely proud to represent, was truly outstanding.

"Whether it be in the Lodge room, the boardroom or the confines of the highest political office, Drew was in his element. His well-informed, articulate and thoughtful viewpoint would always captivate his target audience.

"Whilst never compromising his beliefs as a principled and unashamed Unionist, Drew's pragmatism and strategic vision played a key role in the Institution's evolution as a major stakeholder in this province, and its ongoing community outreach."

During his period of office, Mr Nelson was part of Orange delegations which met senior political and civic figures, including successive First Ministers and Secretary of States, US ambassadors, Taoiseach Edna Kenny, former Irish President Mary McAleese, the then leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland, Cardinal Sean Brady, and the SDLP, among others.

Drew lobbied extensively on behalf of the Institution, including at Stormont and at Westminster, as well as travelling further afield to promote and represent Orangeism. This included a ground-breaking trip to Ghana in 2005 to meet with members of the Institution in west Africa.



The Queen's University law graduate was a solicitor for 35 years. He was also a former president of Dromore Chamber of Commerce.

A former part-time officer with the Ulster Defence Regiment, Drew previously completed an army commission course at Sandhurst University.

Prior to his high-profile position with the Orange Institution, Drew was an Ulster Unionist councillor (1993-97) and a former chair of Ban-

bridge District Council. He unsuccessfully stood for the party in the 1992 Westminster election in South Down. He left the UUP in 2004.

Previously, he was District Master of Lower Iveagh District in Co Down. Drew was a member of Listullycurran LOL 616.

Up until his death, Mr Nelson was the chairman of the Orange Community Network while his hobbies included researching both Orange and Irish history, and travelling.

Such was the esteem in which Mr Nelson was held, upwards of 1,000 Orangemen accompanied his remains prior to the funeral service.

Senior figures from political and civic society were also in attendance, with the then First Minister Arlene Foster paying a personal tribute.

Following the funeral service at St John's Parish Church, Hillsborough, Mr Nelson was laid to rest in the adjoining churchyard.

Rev Mervyn Gibson in new senior role

Rev Mervyn Gibson – a member of the Royal Black Institution – has been elected as the new Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

The Presbyterian Minister, and Sir Knight with Westbourne Church Total Abstinence RBP 861, succeeds the late Drew Nelson in the senior role.

Rev Gibson will work alongside Grand Master Edward Stevenson and Deputy Grand Master Harold Henning at the head of the Institution, who were also both re-elected at the Grand Lodge meeting in Eglinton in December.

Rev Gibson said: "I am extremely honoured to be elected as the Grand Secretary by my fellow brethren at Grand Lodge, but humbled to be following in the footsteps of those who have served in the post previously.

"Words are inadequate to describe

Belfast Sir Knight takes up senior Orange role

the dedication and commitment of my predecessor, the late Drew Nelson. His legacy and influence will live long within our ranks.

"I think of two family friends, John McCrea and the late Walter Williams, who also previously held the post, serving the Institution faithfully. I am looking forward to following in their footsteps and serving the Orange Institution as they did."

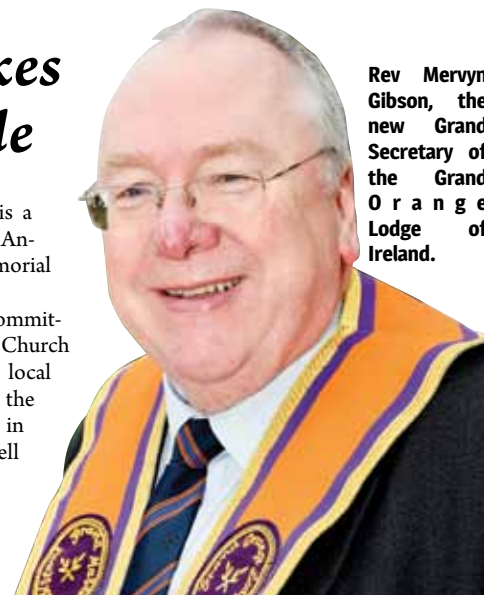
Rev Gibson is a minister at Westbourne Presbyterian Church, East Belfast.

The father-of-two and grandfather,

married to Lynda, is a member of Thomas Andrews Junior Memorial LOL 1321.

Rev Gibson is committed to seeing the Church made relevant in local communities and the Gospel lived out in practical terms, as well as preached.

In his spare time, Mervyn likes going to the cinema and walking.



Rev Mervyn Gibson, the new Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

IN BRIEF

Library storage required

Donations of suitable shelving or bookcases for the Institution's library will be very welcome. For further information, please contact headquarters.

Books catalogue - assistance appeal

Help in completing the cataloguing of the Institution's library from Sir Knights with relevant skills would be very welcome. For details, please contact Sir Knight Rev. Nigel Reid on 07843 661230.

Prayer Breakfast

The next Prayer Breakfast has been arranged for the morning of Saturday 4 November 2017. Further details later. Please keep the date free.



Sir Knights from Corcrair RBP 141 pictured with at the dedication of their new banner.

Corcrair banner unfurling and dedication

The Sir Knights of Corcrair RBP 141 recently unfurled their new banner at a dedication service at Corcrair Orange Hall, Portadown.

The unfurling was carried out by two long-serving Sir Knights, Malcolm Fulton and James Lutton. The dedication was conducted by the District Chaplain, Sir Knight Rev Maurice Lavery.

Also present were the County Grand Master Sir Knight David Livingstone, County Grand Registrar Sir Knight Mark Diffin, Worshipful District Master Sir Knight Robert Wallace, District Registrar Sir Knight Alan Burns, and Sir Knight David Simpson MP.

Proceedings were chaired by the Worshipful Master of RBP 141 Sir Knight Clifford Chambers.

Following the ceremony, the new banner was paraded through Corcrair estate, led by Portadown Defenders Flute Band.

Following the parade, supper was provided in the hall.

The Preceptory would like to thank all those who gave so generously to their banner fund, both on the night and through its sponsored cycle.

New candidates installed



Tassagh Temple of Royalty RBP 82 was delighted to recently initiate two new candidates at Tassagh Orange Hall. Front row (from left) Sir Knights Alex Patterson, Treasurer; Harold Wylie, Lecturer and DM of RBP 1187; candidates Christopher Kennedy and Neil Hawthorne; John Herron WM and Ronald Watt, Chaplain. Back row (from left) Sir Knights Robert Johnston; Stephen Herron; Cecil Dickson PM; Robert Wright; James Rountree PM; Stanley McCarten and James Johnston

Belfast Sir Knights to host annual parades

Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4, Belfast, will host its third annual Protestant Martyrs Service on Sunday, 7 May, 2017 in Bloomfield Congregational Church.

The parade will move off at 2.30pm from Templemore Avenue

and the preacher be the Rev Frank Bennett.

The District will also have its annual VE parade around east Belfast on Friday, 12 May, 2017 leaving Templemore Avenue at 7.30pm.

All Sir Knights are welcome to both events.



Brownlow election for Armagh preceptory

Aughnagurgan RBP 658 held their annual election meeting recently in Brownlow House, Lurgan.

The election conducted by Sir Knight, William Copeland, Markethill RBP District Master, returned all officers to their respective offices.

Those being as follows: WM Sir Knight Trevor Geary; DM Sir Knight Thomas McBirney; Chaplain Sir Knight William Hughes; Registrar Sir Knight Richard Gibson; and Treasurer Sir Knight Trevor Kennedy.

Hosted by Sir Knight David Martin, members were given an insight

into the history of Brownlow House and how the property had been built as a 'calendar' house, with 365 rooms and windows, 52 fireplaces and a lake of 52 acres, 12 chimneys, 24 corners and 60 doors.

As well as receiving a tour of the museum, Sir Knights also had a symbolic photograph taken in front of the original painting of the scene from the Battle of the Boyne by Benjamin West, featuring King William III and the mortally wounded Frederick Schomberg, 1st Duke of Schomberg.



The late Sir Knight George Blair is presented with a Biblical plaque and pen set to mark his 90th birthday by members of Macosquin Smith's Defenders RBP 256.

Poignant 90th birthday presentation

Macosquin Smith's Defenders RBP 256 recently presented Sir Knight George Blair with a Biblical plaque and pen set to mark his 90th birthday.

Sir Knight Ivan Kelly, Past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master,

and Sir Knight Kenneth Hutchinson WM, made the respective presentations.

Both spoke about Sir Knight Blair in glowing fashion, remarking on the fact that he was still the Lay Chaplain of both the district and his own preceptory.

Sir Knight Blair said

he was humbled by the gifts and thanked Sir Knight Kelly and the preceptory.

Shortly after the presentation Sir Knight Blair passed away suddenly at home, the preceptory would like to extend their sympathy to his family.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF THIS MAGAZINE:

Autumn/Winter 2017 Edition
Deadline for reports and photos (ie, anything other than the Last Saturday) is **18th August, 2017.**
Deadline for all Last Saturday coverage is 1 September, 2017

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 for a quotation.

Special encampment for RBP 54

The Sir Knights of Grip Fast the Light RBP 54, from Markethill, Co Armagh, held a special encampment in December.

The purpose of the meeting was to present long service medals to two Preceptory members, as well as to hand over the proceeds of the Preceptory's charitable appeal for 2016.

Worshipful Sir Knight W.A. Spence, Worshipful Master of RBP 54, presented 60 year and 50 year service bars to Worshipful Sir Knight David McCullough, PM, and Sir Knight Victor Johnston respectively.

The Worshipful Master also had the pleasure of presenting £1,000 to each of RBP 54's chosen charities for 2016, namely the Grand Master's Appeal for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Royal British Legion.

A special Somme Commemoration was produced by the Preceptory solely to fund this charitable initiative. This was struck in memory of the four Sir Knights belonging to RBP 54 who served during the First World War. The design for the medal is drawn from both the symbolism of the Black Institution as well as public imagery from the First World War period.

The medals come complete with a presentation box and leaflet explaining the medal's significance. A small number of these are still available from the Preceptory registrar.

With this year being the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, RBP 54 are also looking forward to playing a central role in the witness, of the Biblical truths, of the Reformation in the Markethill area.

The Preceptory will be running a number of



Sir Knight David McCullough (left) receives his 60 year service bar from Worshipful Knight W.A. Spence.

initiatives throughout 2017 to highlight the importance of the Reformation while raising funds for the Sunday Schools in Markethill.

This will include a men's breakfast on Saturday, 25 March 2017, at 9.30am in the church hall at Mullabrack Church of Ireland. The guest

speaker will be the Reverend Canon Neville Hughes and all Sir Knights and the wider public will be made most welcome.

Further details can be found on the Preceptory's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gripfastthelight



Sir Knight Victor Johnston was (left) was recognised for his 50 years' service.



Representatives from RBP 54 presenting a cheque for £1,000 to the Royal British Legion at the December meeting.



Representatives from RBP 54 present funds in support of the Grand Master's Appeal for Macmillan Cancer Support to Co Armagh District Officers.

ARTHUR J GALLAGHER



Pictured with a framed photograph of the late Sir Knight Hugh Alexander Cushnie MBE, JP in the H. A. Cushnie Room, Brownlow House, are Mr Cushnie's son Allen (left) and son-in-law John Acheson (right). Photo by John Kelly

Remembering the former Grand Registrar

The H. A. Cushnie Room of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter, Brownlow House, Lurgan, was named in memory of the late Sir Knight Hugh Alexander (Alex) Cushnie MBE, JP, as a tribute not only to his long service as Grand Registrar but also to the fact that he was Secretary to the House Management Committee for 45 years.

Mr Cushnie, a leading member of the Royal Black Institution, was born in Clones, County Monaghan, and, in his early years, was employed in railway administration.

When he was appointed Imperial Grand Registrar of the Black Institution he came to live in Lurgan as it was a full-time position. It was an office he held from 1936 to 1978. At the time of his death, on 16 March, 1980, aged 77 years old, he was Imperial Deputy Grand Master and, for 18 years, had been County Grand Master for County Armagh.

Alex lived at nearby Windsor Avenue and during his years as Grand Registrar, he worked in Brownlow House, the world headquarters of the Black Institution. He was also an Or-

angeman and was County Armagh's representative on the committee of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. He was prominently associated with the Unionist Party and served as a member of Lurgan Borough Council for a number of years. Alex was also a Justice of Peace and was awarded an MBE in 1952.

He was a close friend of North Armagh MP, the late Sir William Allen, and was with him at a meeting in Belfast in December 1947 shortly before Sir William was involved in an accident as he alighted from a tram in

Belfast. He died two weeks later.

Shortly after Sir William's death, Alex was one of 12 people who formed a preceptory in his memory, namely the Sir William Allen Memorial RBP No 19. The close friendship between Alex and Sir William Allen was such that Alex named his son Allen after him.

Alex, his son Allen and son-in-law John Acheson were all members of that preceptory and were also members of Elizabethan Temperance LOL No 278, both of which meet in Brownlow House.

Joseph Trueman – A respected administrator with an unrivalled knowledge and an infectious enthusiasm for the Loyal Orders

Joseph (Joe) Trueman joined the Orange Order in May 1947. In 1949, he was appointed Secretary in Clantilew Bible & Crown Defenders LOL 101, and served in that position with distinction for 63 years until his retirement in 2013.

A prolific and unassuming worker behind the scenes for the Loyal Orders, over the years he built up an unsurpassed personal knowledge base of the regulations and history of the Orange Institution. Somewhere along the way he also became the Lodge Lecturer and up until recent years would have been seen at the County Lecturer's conference.

He joined the Royal Black Institution in August 1948, receiving his Red Cross Degree in October 1949. Shortly after this date he acted unofficially as Assistant to the Registrar for some 62 years.

He was appointed District Registrar of Summerisland RBDC No. 6 in 1952, a position he held for over 20 years.

In 1991 he was elected Deputy District Master and in 1993 to the highest Office within the District as District Master, a position he held for four years.

Following a period as Imperial Deputy Grand Treasurer he was appointed Imperial Grand Treasurer in 1985, an office he held again with distinction until his retirement in 1998.

His knowledge of all matters concerning operations of the Royal Black Institution was unmatched and many members of all standing sought his wise council frequently.

Joe's forte was in administration. He was primarily involved in setting up and organising the affairs of the Ulster Unionist Party, initially in the Tartaraghan Ward. After moving up to the then Portadown Borough, which was succeeded by the Craigavon Borough, he was elected to Craigavon Borough Council as an Ulster Unionist Candidate in 1989, culminating in his election as Mayor in May 1991.

His enthusiasm on all matters concerning the Loyal Orders was infectious. His opinions were widely sought and valued and he has left an indelible mark on all that he had been involved with.

Two words could describe Joe - he was "unpretentious" in everything that he did and he required no "acclamation".

His death last October came as a shock to many but most of all to his many friends at 'The Back of the Hill'.

His Service of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's Parish Church, Tartaraghan, saw the Church filled to capacity and attended by many dignitaries from all walks of life.

To his wife Avril and daughter Susan we extend our deepest sympathy in the hope that God's Grace will help to see them through their grieving period. To his brothers, Sir Knight Cecil and Sir Knight George, we also extend our sincere condolences.



Long Service Medals



At the February meeting of Pomeroy Rising Star RBP 259, a number of Sir Knights were presented with 50-year service medals. Back Row (from left) Sir Knights Norman Irwin, David Millar (Worshipful District Master, East Tyrone RBDC No.5), Richard Emerson (County Grand Master, Co. Tyrone), Sam Johnston, Alec Moore and Rodney Smyth (Worshipful Master, RBP 259). Front Row (from left) Sir Knights Tommy Boyd, Willie Cardwell, James Reid and Franklin Kelly



At the same meeting of Pomeroy Rising Star RBP 259 a special presentation was made to Sir Knight Ronnie Moore in recognition of his 40-years service as Treasurer. Pictured (from left) are Rodney Smyth (Worshipful Master, RBP 259), Ronnie Moore (Treasurer, RBP 259), Richard Emerson (County Grand Master, Co. Tyrone) and Colin Ramsay (Deputy Master, RBP 259)



Sir Knight Wilfred Evans, of Pride of Richhill RBP 133, was recently presented with his 60-year service jewel by Markethill Deputy District Master, Sir Knight Jim Steenson



County Down Grand Master Sir Knight Brian Hunter presents a 50-year long service medal to Sir Knight Robert Dickson PM PDM. The presentation took place at the September meeting of the District Chapter in Ballyrobert Orange Hall under the auspices of RBP 605



At the District election of officers meeting at Moneyreagh Orange Hall, under the auspices RBP 424, 50-year long services jewels were presented to Sir Knight George Marshall WM PDM and Chaplain Sir Knight James Jordan PM. Also present were County Grand Master Brian Hunter, Deputy County Grand Master Colin J Cunningham, County Treasurer Thomas Smyth, Worshipful District Master of Comber RBDC No.10 Sam Haskins, and Deputy District Master Robert Phillips

Luther anniversary is a reminder to 'live the faith'



By Billy Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar

Things will never be the same again – a sentence we use regularly to describe events, which, in the great scheme of things, may not really be all that important. But sometimes an event occurs which fully deserves to be described in these terms but its importance is only recognised afterwards.

Such an event was the action of a German monk and university teacher by the name of Martin Luther when he nailed his 95 theses, or subjects for debate, on the church door at Wittenberg on All Saints' Eve, 1517 (what we call Halloween). Luther had become concerned at what he saw as the errors of the church of his day and, initially, sought only to have these errors corrected. But the Church authorities chose rather to seek to silence him than to change current practices. This eventually resulted in his excommunication and the formation of a Reformed Church in Germany which came to be known as the Lutheran Church.

The spread of Luther's ideas, helped by the relatively recent invention of the printing press, resulted in the formation of many Reformed churches across Europe, including a reformed Church of England and the Calvinistic or Presbyterian system

"As our Grand Masters regularly remind us, both Institutions are Bible-based and Christ-centred and these resources serve as a great purpose in helping us to both live the faith we profess and give an answer for the faith that is in us."



The Luther 500 resource pack made available by the Royal Black and Orange Institutions. Photo by Collette Dobson.

in Switzerland and Scotland.

These events were the most important changes in the life of the church since the days of the Apostles, and their outworkings continue to this day.

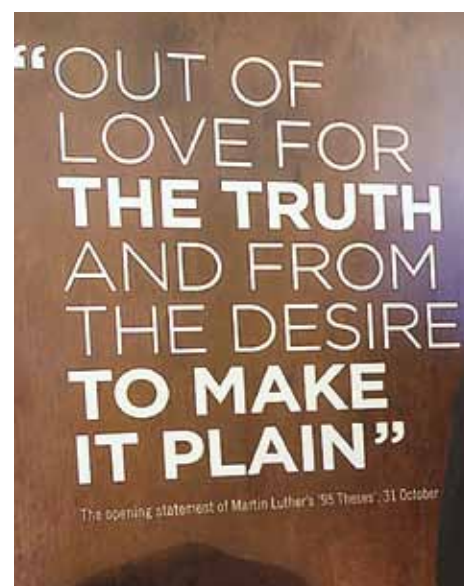
It is, therefore, greatly to the credit of the Chaplains of our Loyal Orders (specifically the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and the Royal Black Institution) that they have put together a resource pack for use throughout the Institutions to promote and explain our faith.

As our Grand Masters regularly remind us, both Institutions are Bible-based and Christ-centred and these resources serve as a great purpose in helping us to both live the faith we profess and give an answer for the faith that is in us.

Our best thanks are due to all the members of the Joint Chaplains Committee and, in particular, to Sir Knights and Brothers Robert Campbell and Rev. Nigel Reid, for the work that has been done in this regard. We have been both challenged and encouraged to promote our faith and speak for it and we owe all concerned a great debt of gratitude.

Individual booklets and packs are available from both Schomberg House and Brownlow House and all the information contained in the pack can also be downloaded from the project's website - www.luther1517.org. In addition, information is available from the official Facebook page, Luther 500.

The first public event in connection with Luther 500 will be a Reformation Rally in Shamrock Park, Portadown, on Saturday, 6 May 2017 at 7.15pm following a procession from Edenderry, which leaves



at 5.30pm. As well as members of the Orange and Black Institutions, invitations to attend and participate have been extended to the Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter of Ireland, The Apprentice Boys of Derry, the Independent Orange Order, the Loyal Orange Women's Association of Ireland and the Junior Orange Order.

Let us all join together on that occasion to show publicly our commitment to our faith and heritage.



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr (right) and Orange Grand Master Edward Stevenson re-enact Luther nailing his theses to the door. Photo by Collette Dobson.

Convenor of the Luther 500 committee and Imperial Deputy Grand Chaplain, Robert Campbell, explains the context and significance of the Christian outreach project being promoted by the Loyal Institutions to mark this year's Reformation anniversary



Written by Robert Campbell

In 1517 an unintentionally pivotal moment in world history was sparked by an unknown lecturer from the insignificant and recently formed University of Wittenberg.

He nailed up an overly long academic paper on the castle church door, hoping to start a debate amongst theologians. Somehow, Martin Luther's document - the 95 Theses - started a religious revolution instead of a debate!

What would become known as the Reformation centered on a simple question - how does a sinner become acceptable before a holy God? Justification became centre stage. The events of 1517 and onwards became irresistible, with each attempt to shut Luther down making it worse; his excommunication was publicly burnt, while the Diet of Worms created a fearless hero. It was the questions Luther asked and the answers he rediscovered that made these events unstoppable. The Reformation could not have happened without Luther - under God he was the conduit!

As we continue to move through the 'decade of centenaries' it could have been easy to miss the 500th anniversary of Luther's '95 Theses' protesting the misuse of indulgences.

However, in 2013 the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and Imperial Grand Black Chapter decided to work in partnership to mark this event.

Work commenced using a simple set of rules - be finished by summer of 2016; create what we do not already have; avoid heading for the shallows

to rehash existing material; and create appropriate resources that are useful and usable.

We needed to do much more than mark a date on the calendar, and we needed to do much more than highlight a few events or people, as exciting as they may be.

In its most basic form, 'Luther 500: Rediscovering the Gospel' is a set of booklets in printed or digital format. Each booklet is very different in style and objective. We have history, devotional, explanation, theology and object lessons. These are intended to be used collectively or by individuals.

During the process of writing and designing the materials, there was always the idea of acting like a winger crossing the ball, creating opportunities for others to bury it in the back of the net, while hoping people wouldn't passively watch as it passed them by and fly harmlessly out of play.

As Protestants, we say we have no saints, but some of the Reformers come dangerously close to Protestant beatification, this would have hor-

rified them. We could celebrate the translations of the Bible and not read the book; we could highlight 'justification by faith alone' whilst believing our own works are good enough to save us; we create hideous caricatures of 'our enemy' while painting 'our side' as an angelic host; and most horrifically we tell the story of the Reformation in separation from the story of the gospel. So, we must purposefully keep reminding ourselves and retelling others what the Reformation was actually about.

The Reformation is a story of rediscovery, with the Gospel being central. It is easy to reframe this by dwelling on positive effects, whether political, financial, educational or ecclesiastical. A story that centres on our personal sinfulness and the crucified and risen Christ may be much less palatable, but is much more important. The events of 1517 focused on a problem and an answer - our need of justification and the means of justification. This is the throbbing heart of the Reformation that still beats today.

Cheques & Charity Presentations

Support for the Grand

Sir Knights have again shown their generosity by raising vital funds to



Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 based in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall in East Belfast present a cheque for £2,016 to the City of Belfast Grand Master, Billy Elliott, in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. The funds were presented at the Belfast Grand Black Chapter's Annual Mission Praise Service in Ballysillian Independent Methodist Church.



Dr Cooke Memorial RBP 1138, Maghera South Londonderry District No 4, raised £450 for the Grand Master's Appeal through the proceeds of their Christmas carol service. Pictured (from left) Sir Knights Rev Rhys Jones, chaplain; Thomas Linton; David Montgomery, District Treasurer; Peter Cooks, treasurer; and Stephen Richardson, worshipful master.



County Antrim Grand Black Chapter raised a total of £4,000 for the Grand Master's Appeal. Pictured (from left) are Sir Knights David Gordon, Deputy County Grand Master; Kenny Hull, County Grand Master; Harold McCloy, County Grand Treasurer; and Ivan Kelly, Past Assistant Grand Master.

Cheques & Charity Presentations

Master's Charity Appeal

support Macmillan Cancer Care - the Institution's designated charity...



Sir Knights from RBP 82 make a presentation of £500 to Primatial Royal Black District Chapter No 4 Worshipful District Master, Gordon Wakenshaw, in aid of the Grand Master's Appeal for Macmillan Cancer Support.



The Officers and Sir Knights of Markethill Royal Black District Chapter No. 3 recently presented a cheque in aid of the Institution's designated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, to the amount of £4,000. It was received on behalf of Co Armagh Grand Black Chapter for the charity by Sir Knt Roger Gardiner, Deputy County Grand Registrar. The money was raised by the 10 Preceptories within the District Chapter over the year and at District events such as the annual Christmas Carol Service. Pictured are senior District Officers and representatives of the various preceptories.



At a recent meeting of The Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth held in Kilkeel Orange Hall, Most Wor. Knight Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master was presented with a cheque which was the collection from the carol service and other events to go towards the Institution's designated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. Pictured seated (from left) are Sir Knt. Sammy Heenan, WDM No 7; Rt. W. Sir Knt. Brian Hunter, C.G.M.M.; Most W. Sir Knt. Millar Farr, Q.P.M., S.G.M.; Rt. W. Sir Knt. William Baillie, A.S.G.M.; and W. Sir Knt. Colin Cunningham, D.C.G.M. Photo by Gary Gardiner



Notes from England & Scotland



Long service presentations at Liverpool North-End and Bootle District

Liverpool North-End and Bootle District No 6, England, recently held a church service and presentation ceremony to mark the long service of a number of Sir Knights.

The occasion was an opportunity for the Institution locally to show its appreciation to the members for the service each had given to their respective preceptories and district.

The religious service was held in Bootle Protestant Church and was officiated by Sir Knight Ian Thompson.

Provincial Grand Master of England, Sir Knight Stephen Taylor, made the presentations of long service medals and bars.

Among the recipients was Sir Knight William Tritton (RBP 253) who was presented with his 70-year bar in recognition of his sterling service. He served as registrar with his preceptory for 35 years and also succeeded his father as district chaplain.



Sir Knights from Liverpool North-End & Bootle District No 6 at the long service presentation ceremony.

Others recognised included Sir Knight Wolfe (RBP 354) who received his 40-year bar, having held various roles within the province, district and his preceptory.

District Master Sir Knight Dickinson (RBP 354) and District Registrar Sir Knight Harding (RBP 253) received 20-year and 25-year medals respectively. Provincial Chaplain Sir Knight Phil-



Sir Knight William Tritton (left) is presented with his 70-year bar by Provincial Grand Master of England, Sir Knight Stephen Taylor.

ip Rimmer was presented with (RBP 1070) his 30-year bar.

Following the presentations, the district held a fundraising social evening in aid of Macmillan nurses, held in Bootle

Support for Dementia



Sir Knight Angus Ward PM RBP 118 making a presentation for £250 to the Broomlee Special Needs School in north Glasgow. The preceptory also donated selection boxes for the children and chocolates for the staff.



Members of RBP 740 Rev. James M. Moutray Memorial - encamped at Kirkintilloch, Scotland - recently donated £750 to Erskine Park Home. The specialist dementia unit is part of the Erskine ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen's hospital. The money was raised last year during RBP 740's annual sponsored walk from Kirkintilloch to their District Chapter encampment in Maryhill, Glasgow.



Notes from England & Scotland



Attendees at the Coatbridge service included Provincial Grand Master of Scotland, James G McLean, and Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland, Jim McHarg.



Sir Knight Henry Fordyce (left), Provincial Grand Registrar Province of Scotland, and Sir Knight Reginald Chadwick, Provincial Grand Registrar Province of England, with the Luther exhibition at the Coatbridge service

Luther on show at thanksgiving service

The 18th annual service of praise and thanksgiving hosted by Morning Star RBP 160 Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland, was once again a success.

The yearly event was held at Coatbridge Orange Hall in February, and included an exhibition marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

In attendance were a large number of Sir Knights, Brothers and Sisters representing a number of local Preceptories and Lodges.

Also represented were the Provincial Grand Master Sir Knight James G McLean; the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland, Jim McHarg; and Grand Mistress of the Ladies Loyal Orange Association of Scotland, Jean Logan.

They were joined by members of the local churches, along with clergy, to share in the evening of worship.

The service was led by Rev Jonathan Abernethy-Barkley, minister of Shotts Congregational Church,

whose message reflected on the Reformation. The praise included a performance by soloist Kirsten Stoddart.

The offering of £400 was presented to Rev Abernethy-Barkley, which will be utilised for the work of his Church and also the local primary school in Shotts.

The Luther display was provided by Sir Knight Reginald Chadwick, Provincial Grand Registrar of England.



Some of those who took part in the media workshop and safeguard training in Liverpool. Also pictured is the Imperial Grand Treasurer David Livingstone (far left) and Paul McCarroll (standing far right).

Liverpool hosts media workshop

The Provincial Grand Black Chapter of England hosted a media workshop and child protection training in March.

A good turnout of Sir Knights and representatives from the Orange Ladies Association attended the one-day event in Liverpool.

The workshop was delivered by media consultant Bryan Gray, and included a

positive discussion on the best ways to engage with the media. Paul McCarroll gave a talk on the importance of child protection within the Institution.

Imperial Grand Treasurer David Livingstone also travelled from Northern Ireland to offer his support, and presented participants with certificates to mark their attendance.

Reformation Day Service



On Reformation Sunday Ballyclare RBDC No.6 and Sixmilewater District LOL No.10 held a joint service to celebrate the Reformation in the McCalmont Memorial Orange Hall, Ballyclare. The preacher was Sir Knight and Brother, Robert Campbell, County Chaplain, County Antrim Grand Black Chapter. Mr Campbell is pictured (seated, centre) with Kenneth Hull, County Grand Master County Antrim Grand Black Chapter, and other senior Sir Knights and Orange brethren.

Red Cross Presentations



District Lecturer Sir Knight Jackie Fairburn (second left) presenting Sir Knight David Knox RBP 998 with his Red Cross. Also included are visiting Sir Knights Matthew Gray of Mount Shepherd RBP 978 and William Singleton from Grip Fast the Light RBP 54.



Six Sir Knights from Samuel Frickleton VC Memorial RBP 1917 recently received their Red Cross Degrees. The preceptory held the special meeting in Slamannan Parish Church following refurbishment.

JPS TAKEAWAY

ELLIE MO'S

***REGAL FABRICA-
TION***

ST JAMES PALACE