

Launching the 2020 Designated Charity: Freddie Hall, board member, Somme Nursing Home; Billy Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar; Rev William Anderson, Sovereign Grand Master; Ernie Telford, chairman, Somme Nursing Home; David Livingstone, Imperial Grand Treasurer; Joy Guthrie, board member, Somme Nursing Home.

The Royal Black Institution is set to raise funds to help a Belfast care facility increase its capacity to provide respite care for service veterans. Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William

Anderson, is appealing to Sir Knights across the Institution to "put their shoulder to the wheel" and get behind this year's Designated Charity appeal for The Somme Nursing Home.

The nursing home caters for ex-service

personnel as well as those who have served with the police, prison, fire, ambulance service and mercantile marine.

Money donated by the Royal Black Institution will be used by the home to provide additional short-term respite care accommodation, for which there is a growing demand from ex-RIR, UDR and RUC personnel.

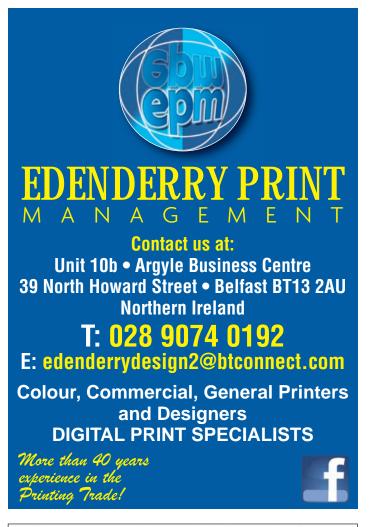
The Royal Black Institution has raised upwards of £800,000 for various designated

charities on a biennial basis since 2002.

This year, the Sovereign Grand Master is hoping Sir Knights will be able to raise £100,000 for The Somme Nursing Home.

"I have no doubt that Sir Knights will once again rise to the challenge of our latest appeal, and in doing so, help those brave men and women who gave so much throughout their lives to ensure our safety at home and abroad," said Rev Anderson.

- Full story, see pages 4 & 5.



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Message from the Sovereign Grand Master

The days are beginning to lengthen and get a little warmer as we say goodbye to the winter and look forward to the spring and summer of 2020.

However, in looking forward we are challenged to take a retrospective glance back over the uncertainties that have surrounded us during the last few months. Brexit, a new government in Westminster, the growing demand for greater regional autonomy within the UK, and the agreement to return to local government in Northern Ireland against the backdrop of amendments to our abortion and marriage laws, the Irish language, and legacy issues - these are just some of the uncertainties we have faced, and will continue to face. There is no doubt that our culture and our Reformed Faith is under attack and that the days ahead will require much patience and forbearance as we, as a Protestant people, continue to come under pressure from those personalities and groups who would simply want us and what we hold dear - to go away.

So how are we to respond to such pressure? Well, I strongly believe that we need a vision for our people map for all the Protestant people of our nation. Such a vision must include our faith and cultural identity delivering a goal that assures us that we have a future. This vision is much needed to overcome the relentless push by republicans and nationalists for a united Ireland and the break-up of the United Kingdom. Surely we, as a Protestant people, have the determination within ourselves, and along with our friends in America, Australasia and Great Britain, to overcome this tide of popularism and take control of our own destiny? We all have our part to play - to fail will consign our young people to an uncertain future.

that simply sets out a road

The Royal Black Institution will continue to play its part by providing a space for our people to pray for God's guidance and to learn and grow in the Reformed Christian Faith. Our witness for 2020 in our processions will focus on our vision encapsulated in my Vision Plan presented to Grand Council in December 2019, and summed up in the strapline:

To shape the future by preserving our heritage through a confident Institution ready to share

the Reformed Christian Faith with the world.

This work has already begun. We have delivered a copy of the Gospel of John to every member of our Institution to help them in their walk of faith. The year 2020 will also mark another milestone for our Institution as we begin construction work on the development of our new headquarters in the village of Loughgall, Co Armagh. Both these projects - along with the delivery of a training plan to provide educational support to our members - will provide many opportunities for us as an Institution to play our part in developing a secure future and focus for the Protestant people.

So, there is much work to be done. We have the capacity to deliver; now all that is required is personal commitment. I strongly believe that our Institution, by providing the opportunity for personal commitment in Faith and Practice, will create a passion that will enable our people to be confident in their future, and together we will stand in God's strength, proclaiming, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Hebrews 13: 6).



The Royal Black Institution

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DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE:

Deadline for anything other than the Last Saturday: 14th August, 2020 • Deadline for all Last Saturday coverage: 2nd September 2020

Royal Black to raise funds

The Royal Black Institution is set to raise funds to help a Belfast care facility increase its capacity to provide respite care for service veterans.

Over the course of the year, members of the Loyal Order will embark on various fundraising initiatives for The Somme Nursing Home, which caters for ex-service personnel as well as those who have served with the police, prison, fire, ambulance service and mercantile marine.

Money donated by the Royal Black Institution will be used to increase the capacity of the home, enabling it to offer new respite care accommodation, for which there is a growing demand from ex-RIR, UDR and RUC personnel.

The Royal Black Institution has raised upwards of £800,000 for various designated charities on a biennial basis since 2002.

In 2018, the Institution raised £77,500 for Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) to help the Christian outreach organisation build a new recreation centre for young people in Kilkeel.

This year, the Sovereign Grand Master is hoping Sir Knights will be able to raise £100,000 for The Somme Nursing Home.

"I am delighted to announce that our Institution-wide Designated Charity for 2020 is The Somme Nursing Home," said Rev William Anderson.

"The home is a magnificent facility which provides excellent care to our courageous veterans.

"To meet the growing demand for its services,



Discussing plans to increase capacity at The Somme Nursing Home: Joy Guthrie, board member, Somme Nursing Home; David Livingstone, Imperial Grand Treasurer; Rev William Anderson, Sovereign Grand Master; Ernie Telford, chairman, Somme Nursing Home; Freddie Hall, board member, Somme Nursing Home; and Billy Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar.

the home has developed plans to build a shortterm residential care facility within its premises – the only thing holding them back is finance.

"One of the core objectives of the Royal Black Institution is to engage in Christian and charitable outreach. We have donated hundreds of thousands of pounds to charities, large and small, over the years.

"I have no doubt that Sir Knights will once again rise to the challenge of our latest appeal, and in doing so, help those brave men and women who gave so much throughout their lives to ensure our safety at home and abroad."

The Somme Nursing Home, situated on the Circular Road, off the Holywood Road, in Belfast, can trace its

Designated Charities supported by Royal Black Institution

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	£105,000
2018 Child Evangelism Fellowship	£77,500

and embraces the core

history back to 1914 when Craigavon House, still on the site of the modern nursing home, was gifted by its owner, Lord Craigavon, to be a facility for the care and treatment of soldiers fighting in what would become the First World War.

The current home provides high quality care to residents, tailored to individual needs, values of dignity, choice, independence and privacy. e Ernie Telford, th chairman of the board fr of directors at The A Somme Nursing Home, th said: "The board and m staff of the home wish ar to acknowledge and fi thank the Royal Black p Institution for such a th generous action in th nominating the home as

its Designated Charity for 2020.

"The fundraising will enable us to increase the capacity of the home from 50 to 53 residents. At the present time, there is an increasing need for respite care accommodation and the financial support being provided will enable the home to improve this type of service for veterans of all ages."

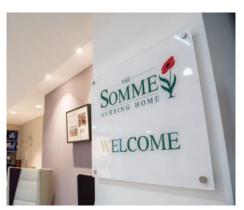
for Somme Nursing Home



The Somme Nursing Home, Circular Road, off the Holywood Road, in Belfast.



Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, shares a conversation with Ernie Telford, chairman of The Somme Nursing Home.



The Somme Nursing Home places great focus on the core values of dignity, choice, independence and privacy.



Inside the Somme Nursing Home in Belfast

A proud tradition of nursing care

The Somme Nursing Home is managed by the Trustees of the Ulster Volunteer Force Hospitals, a charity established in 1914 to provide treatment and care for service and ex-service men.

The Trust ran a number of hospitals in Northern Ireland but the need dwindled over the years. By 1969, only two were left – at Craigavon House, on the Circular Road, Belfast, and Galwally in south Belfast. It was decided to concentrate all resources at Craigavon, the UVF Hospital. Galwally was closed and the patients moved to a new wing, "The Somme Wing", which was built at Craigavon.

By the late 1980s, the UVF Hospital was in need of modernisation. The Trustees decided to close the hospital and open a registered nursing home in the Somme Wing, which was to be extended and upgraded.

As a result, the Somme Hospital opened in September 1992 and the UVF Hospital finally closed its doors. In March 1995, the name was changed to "The Somme Nursing Home".

The nursing home was made up of 35 beds consisting of six open wards, two double rooms and one single room. The atmosphere, whilst bright and cheerful, was more suited to a small hospital than a home. Numbers were dropping and it was clear that families wanted single rooms for their relatives.

In response to this, in 1998, the Trustees sold the Nightingale wards of the old UVF Hospital and the attached wall garden. The money went towards a major building and renovation progamme providing single rooms with en suite accommodation.

Today, the home caters for 50 residents in a homely environment where compassion and understanding of the needs of the ex-service resident is of paramount importance.

Admission may be for long term, convalescent or respite care.

New robes presented to

They're beautiful robes and a wonderful memorial to Millar Farr."

Frank Arnold, a past master of Greeves Memorial RBP 641, made the comment after new ceremonial robes were presented to the Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson.

RBP 641 purchased the new garments and gifted them to the Royal Black as a visible tribute to former Sovereign Grand Master, the late Millar Farr – who himself was a member of RBP 641.

Rev Anderson took receipt of the new robes at a special gathering held at the Sloan's House Museum of Orange Heritage in Loughgall on Monday, November 11.

With the old robes coming to the end of their natural life, Rev Anderson sought out Sir Knight Arnold for help in tracking down a suitable manufacturer of ceremonial dresswear.

Mr Arnold then suggested to his fellow Sir Knights in RBP 641 – based in the townland of Boland, near Dungannon – that the preceptory purchase the new robes for the Royal Black as a tribute to their own illustrious former member.

To a man, everyone in RBP 641 agreed to the proposal.

"We found a company in Belfast to make the robes - the problem was getting the actual material," explained Sir Knight Arnold.

"The material used in the old robes was grosgrain – nowadays, you can only buy it by the bale. I didn't think we needed a full bale so we opted for the material you see tonight, and it's turned out very well indeed.

"We followed the previous design exactly. I borrowed the old robes, and had them made as an exact replica, the only small difference is the front vestment was made a slightly different length, but otherwise it is exactly the same design."

Sir Knight Arnold - who was Worshipful Master of RBP 641 for 18 years and Deputy Master for 13 years before that – has enjoyed a long friendship with the Farr family.

"Actually, Millar wasn't yet in the Preceptory when I joined. I joined the same time as his late brother, Ivan.



New ceremonial robes were presented to Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, at a special meeting at Sloan's House Museum of Orange Heritage in Loughgall last November. Pictured are: Sir Knight Garnet Chambers, Grand Master of Ceremonies; David Livingstone, Imperial Grand Treasurer; Margaret Farr, widow of the late Millar Farr; Rev William Murphy, Grand Chaplain; Billy Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar; and Rev William Anderson, Sovereign Grand Master, wearing his new robes.

"Ivan and I were in the Territorials together. Sadly, Ivan died as a 20-year-old in 1966 from a tumour. Millar joined the preceptory thereafter. So yes, I've a long association with the Farr family."

Sir Knight Arnold was understandably proud that the robes had turned out so well in honour of a man they so greatly miss.

"Millar was the Sovereign Grand Master but he was also the greatest wind-up artist in our preceptory. You had to watch him! If he came late into a meeting, even if it was the middle of summer, he would say, 'Sorry Worshipful Master,

snow drifts in Tullyhogue.' "These robes are a great tribute to Millar from the preceptory."

At the meeting in Loughgall, the robes were dedicated by Grand Chaplain, Rev William Murphy.

Greeves Memorial decided they would like to come out of Boland for the occasion, and the meeting and supper afterwards was a great success. They were joined by fellow Sir Knights from their own locality – who Sir Knight Arnold described as "friends of Boland" - as well as a host of senior dignitaries of the Institution.

Also in attendance were members of Mr Farr's family, including his widow, Margaret.

"I am very thankful to Greeves Memorial for inviting me along here tonight," said Mrs Farr.

"It's a pleasure to be here and have my family with me. The new robes look very nice indeed. My husband would be very proud."

Rev Anderson said he felt humbled to receive the new robes and pledged that he would wear them with "great pride and dignity".

"I am delighted to receive these robes," said Rev Anderson.

"They're a wonderful gift in memory of the late Millar Farr, who served this Institution as Sovereign Grand Master for 10 years and gave it a great boost during his chairmanship.

"I will be forever grateful to Greeves Memorial RBP 641 for this kind gesture and can assure them the robes will be worn with great pride and dignity for many years to come."

Rev Anderson was also delighted that the Farr family was able to attend the evening. "It's important we show that although the life of the Institution continues, we still remember Millar – and I know his family really appreciate that.

"The wife of a Sovereign Grand Master sacrifices a great deal – her husband is always out, attending Royal Black business. So it's important we thank the family for sharing their loved one with us."

The old robes will be displayed on mannequins in the Royal Black's proposed new headquarters in Loughgall.

The new "Millar Farr robes" will now go into service with the Sovereign Grand Master, who intends to take them far and wide on official business.

"We still wear ceremonial robes in the Royal Black Institution," said Rev Anderson.

"It brings a great deal of dignity to a Grand Council meeting.

"And it is my intention, travelling around the world, to bring them with me, along with the Molyneaux Mace, so that all of the true ceremony can be seen in the various jurisdictions by Sir Knights who would otherwise have no opportunity to see them."

Sovereign Grand Master



Rev William Anderson, wearing his new ceremonial robes, sits beside Margaret Farr, widow of the late Millar Farr. They are joined by other members of the Farr family, and members of Greeves Memorial RBP 641.



Rev William Anderson, wearing his new ceremonial robes, is congratulated by Mrs Margaret Farr, widow of the late Millar Farr, a former Sovereign Grand Master. The robes were a gift from the private preceptory of Mr Farr, RBP 641, and dedicated to his memory.



Frank Arnold, Greeves Memorial RBP 641, and the Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson.



Sir Knight Garnet Chambers, Grand Master of Ceremonies, helps the Sovereign Grand Master into his new robes.



Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, in his new ceremonial robes.

Gospel Goal scores a winner with new pitchside board

ospel Goal was formed in September 2015 after a meeting in Banbridge Orange Hall, Co Down. Their mission statement is: "To proclaim the VICTORY of JESUS to the entire football scene, and WIN every player, supporter and official for HIM."

Their vision is: "To bring the Word of God to where it never was before, and thereby turn people who think that God has no relevance to them into true believers."

This is done in a variety of ways, but primarily through the erection of pitchside Gospel boards at grounds and pitches right across Northern Ireland and beyond.

At present they have been able to erect pitchside Gospel boards at: 10 NIFL Premiership grounds, including Windsor Park, Stangmore Park, Mourneview Park, the Oval and Solitude; one Scottish Premiership ground (Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow, home



Gospel Goal has erected a pitch-side Gospel board at Lakeview Park, home of Loughgall FC. The board was financed by members of Loughgall District LOL No 3 and Summerisland RBDC No 6.

of Rangers FC); four NIFL Championship grounds; and numerous lower league 3G and 4G pitches.

They have also distributed thousands of football-related Gospel tracts at games across

the country and been able to bring a Gospel message to many other football games and competitions through sponsorship and via other means.

Their latest project was the

erection of a pitchside Gospel board at Lakeview Park, the home of Loughgall Football Club. A spokesman for Gospel Goal said: "The group is indebted to the officers and members of Loughgall District LOL No 3 and Summerisland RBDC No 6 for their invaluable assistance in erecting and financing the board."

He added that they also passed on their thanks to Sam Nicholson, David Johnstone and the board and members of Loughgall Football Club for all their assistance in erecting the board.

The new board was officially dedicated by the Royal Black Institution's Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, in the presence of representatives of both Districts, Loughgall FC and Gospel Goal.

To find out more about the work of Gospel Goal, visit www.gospelgoal.com, or find them on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Gospel message delivered to every Sir Knight



Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, receives his copy of 'The Gospel according to St John' from Grand Chaplain, Raymond Adams.

Il members of the Royal Black Institution are set to receive a booklet which will help them understand the Gospel message.

"The Gospel according to St John" has been produced by the Chaplains' Committee.

Sir Knight Raymond Adams, Grand Chaplain, presented Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, with the first copy at the recent meeting of Imperial Grand Council in Cookstown.

Rev Anderson explained: "For some considerable time, it has been the vision of the chaplains of the Institution to promote and encourage all members to read God's Word daily.

"The distribution of 'The Gospel according to St John' booklet is part of that vision.

"There is a clear message in St John's Gospel which helps the reader to understand the truth about God, the truth about Eternity and the truth about making a choice to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour."

The booklet contains opening messages from the Sovereign Grand Master and the Chaplains' Committee, plus a 30-day reading plan to encourage Sir Knights to understand the Gospel message. "The booklets will be distributed to all members of the Institution free of charge, with the earnest prayer that all who read it will find God's way of Salvation for their lives now and for Eternity," said Rev Anderson.

After receiving his copy, the Sovereign Grand Master thanked the chaplains for their work and vision in producing the booklet, and urged all members of Imperial Grand Council to ensure that the publication is not only distributed, but that it is read, and that the chaplains' message at the beginning is prayerfully considered and responded to.



Attending the meeting of Imperial Grand Council in Cookstown were Richard Reid, Imperial Deputy Grand Registrar; Harold Erskine, Deputy County Grand Master of County Tyrone; Rev William Anderson, Sovereign Grand Master; William Abernethy, Imperial Deputy Grand Master; Richard Emerson, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master; Francis Beckett, Imperial Grand Mace Bearer.

Sovereign Grand Master sets out his vision

he Sovereign Grand Master has laid out his vision for the Royal Black Institution.

The Loyal Order must seek to "shape the future by preserving our heritage through a confident Institution ready to share the Reformed Christian Faith with the world", said Rev William Anderson.

The Royal Black's top official was speaking at a recent meeting of the organisation's governing body.

The Imperial Grand Council is made up of Imperial officers, together with officers from various County and Provincial Chapters from across the Institution.

December's meeting was held in Cookstown under the auspices of the County Tyrone Grand Black Chapter, who had made excellent arrangements for the gathering.

Sir Knights heard how Rev Anderson's strategy was rooted in Scripture. The Sovereign Grand Master revealed how his principal motivation came from Proverbs 29 verse 18: "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Upon his election to the top post in June 2018, Rev Anderson initiated a series of workshops across the Province. These informal seminars allowed the Royal Black's leadership team to listen directly to the views of members and hear feedback on a range of issues.

The Sovereign Grand Master said that having prayerfully considered how to deliver the outcomes from the workshops, he felt the Institution needed to focus on two broad areas of policy – voluntary work and regulatory compliance.

"If we are to achieve our vision of creating a strong and healthy organisation which can proclaim the Reformed Christian Faith, then we need all our members to be working to the highest standards across the whole of the Institution," said Rev Anderson.

"We will initiate training and educational support so that members will acquire new skills, thereby encouraging teamwork across both voluntary and regulatory areas within the Institution."

Rev Anderson said that, as an organisation in which the vast majority of work is undertaken by volunteers, it was essential that the Institution remained a viable and robust part of community and faith life. To achieve this, the Royal Black will provide a space where members can be taught the principles of the Reformed Faith and encouraged to evangelise and support others within their community.

On the issue of regulation, Rev Anderson said that a new Compliance Team would be established to make sure the Royal Black is meeting its obligations under current - and any future - legislation.

The Sovereign Grand

Master concluded that, in order to ensure delivery of their objectives, all members of Grand Council needed to ensure that there was the required response at all levels, with action in appropriate areas, backed up with prayer for strength "in the understanding that when God calls, He equips".

Rev Anderson's vision statement was received by a standing ovation, with many encouraging comments made by those in attendance.

The meeting concluded with all being thanked for their contributions.

The Imperial Grand Council meets twiceyearly, with the next meeting due to take place on Saturday, June 20 in County Antrim.



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As a Christian, I confessed my sins; so terrorists must seek forgiveness

Sir Knight Samuel Heenan was 12 years old when republican gunmen murdered his father at their rural home in 1985. Here, he tells how his Christian faith helped him deal with the horrific aftermath of his father's death, and how victims are continually retraumatised when terrorists refuse to acknowledge, repent or have justice served upon them for their evil deeds

"LEARN to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:17.

These were the words of the prophet, Isaiah, when he offered hope, comfort and instruction to those who had lost loved ones as a result of bereavement.

This portion of Scripture is particularly relevant and resonates with many in Northern Ireland and those countries affected by terrorism and its horrific aftermath.

My own father, William, was murdered by the PIRA on May 3, 1985, at our rural home in the Dromara hills. He was forced to his knees and shot twice in the top of the head. I heard the shots and watched the gunman drive off, after which I found his bloodstained body and ran half-a-mile to raise the alarm. I was only 12 years old and had experienced the loss of my mother and grandmother three years previous.

What I endured was experienced by so many other families throughout our 'Troubles'.

Terrorism leaves a terrible legacy on the victim's life, with the emotional and psychological scaring seldom subsiding. For many, those scars never get the chance to heal as individuals sympathetic to our aggressors consistently attempt to re-write the past and eulogise those who brought misery and bloodshed to our door.

This causes re-traumatism



Sir Knight Samuel Heenan is a Past District Master of Rathfriland RBDC No 7.

and ensures a range of emotions rise to the surface each time those advocating such heinous acts appear in the media.

It's right as Christians that we protect the memory and integrity of our loved ones against this onslaught – something, sadly, many within the hierarchy of the church have failed to do in the past.

As victims, it's imperative we remain strong, seek assurance, and take comfort from our creator who understands our pain.

His one and only son, the Lord Jesus Christ, paid the ultimate sacrifice on the cross at Calvary and bore the sins and wickedness of our world. The words of Isaiah instruct Christians and those within the church to offer prayerful and pastoral support to victims and be there as their voice.

As a young man, God spoke to me over a period of time; his conviction was all-empowering



William Heenan, 51, was murdered by the IRA in 1985.

and in the stillness of the night I trusted Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord.

As Christians affected by terrorism, we must be a witness and example to the vulnerable and those still in pain. It's imperative we use our experience to help others while seeking solace and comfort in the Saviour when we experience our own challenging times.

"Cast all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

He stood with me and many others as we faced the trials and tribulations of life. He was our immovable rock on which we leaned throughout those difficult periods.

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he is mindful of that pain and God's sustaining grace and comfort.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4.

As Christians we must be truthful and faithful to the Scriptures in what they command us to do with wrong-doers. It's a requirement that justice is served on the perpetrator, which brings closure to the victims, and it's a must that the church expresses and reaffirms that Biblical requirement to provide comfort and reassurance, especially by those in positions of authority.

As Christians we confessed our sins before the Lord, expressed repentance before we received his forgiveness. The church must also reinforce that message to the perpetrators of terrorism and those who do grievous wrongs against vulnerable and innocent people.

The perpetrators of evil must demonstrate remorse if they are genuine, seek restitution from their victims through repentance, and seek the ultimate forgiveness from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This true peace affords us fellowship, healing and the sure and certain hope of eternity with our Saviour.

Sir Knight Samuel Heenan is a Past Master of his own private Preceptory, Legananny Crimson Heroes RBP 1086, and a Past District Master of Rathfriland RBDC No 7.

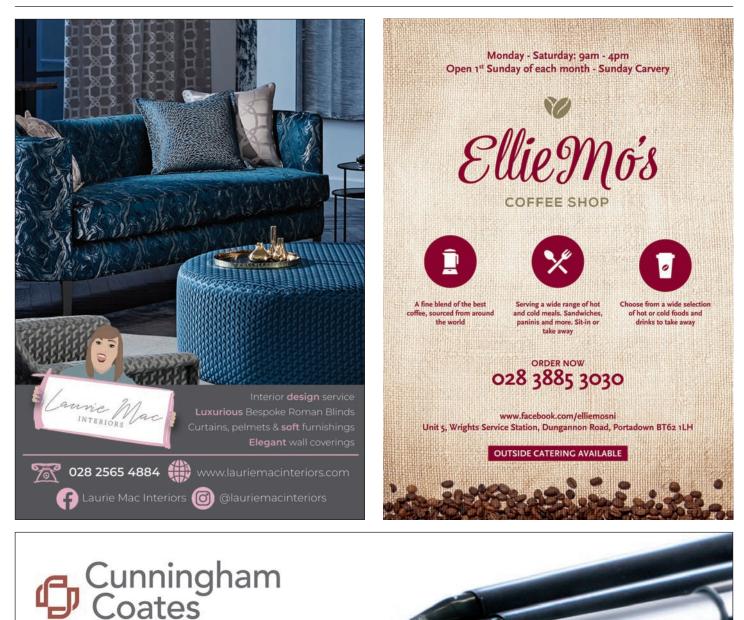
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> Deadline for all Last Saturday coverage: 2nd September 2020



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High standard on display at lecturers' conference

The leader of the Royal Black Institution has hailed an international gathering of Sir Knights as an "undoubted highlight" of his term in office to date.

Rev William Anderson made the comment after his return from the 76th International Lecturers' Conference in Manchester last September.

The event brought together members of the Loyal Order from across the UK, plus there was also a delegation from America in attendance.

Rev Anderson, who was elected to the Royal Black's top post in June 2018, said: "This was undoubtedly a highlight for me since I took up the position as Sovereign Grand Master.

"It was wonderful to be able to meet and greet Sir Knights from throughout Northern Ireland, Scotland and England together with three Sir Knights from America, making it a truly international gathering of Sir Knights.

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank the large number of Sir Knights who made the effort to travel to Manchester for the weekend of events that had been so well arranged for us by the Provincial Grand Chapter of England."

The conference on Saturday, September 21 represented a trio of "firsts" for the Institution:

- it was the first time the conference was held in Manchester;
- the first time the conference was held in a church;
- and the first conference in which Sir Knights from the United States took part.

The American presence was a particularly heartening development because it was only eight years ago that numbers had dwindled so low that the Institution was almost completely lost in the US.

But today there is a renewed interest in the Royal Black across the Atlantic, with membership growing rapidly to the extent that the US will host the International Lecturers' Conference in 2023.

The majority of conference



Grand Lecturer Ian McCafferty, Sir Knight Samuel Stewart (USA), Sir Knight Cal Stephens (USA), Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson, Sir Knight Ronald Horne (USA) and Assistant Sovereign Grand Master William Ballie at the 76th International Lecturers' Conference in Manchester.

delegates and their wives travelled to Manchester on the Friday, staying at the Macdonald Manchester Hotel. After breakfast the next day, delegates were transported by bus to Alkrington & Providence United Reformed Church, kindly granted, where the conference got under way at 10.15am.

Degrees were exemplified by teams from England, Scotland and the US.

The Imperial Grand Lecturer, Sir Knight Ian McCafferty, congratulated all participating Sir Knights and thanked them for their dedication and commitment to the Royal Black Institution. He said the three teams had given their presentations to a very high standard.

The Sovereign Grand Master also thanked all the Sir Knights for the excellent standard of lecturing exhibited at the conference. In particular, he congratulated the team from Scotland – it was, he said, the most moving explanation and presentation of a portion of Scripture he had ever witnessed.

Past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master Sir Knight Alan Goody said he had been attending the conference for the last 32 years but this was the best he had ever experienced.

In his closing conference remarks, Rev Anderson reminded Sir Knights that the Institution was based on Biblical teachings and the degrees were an expression of the Reformed Christian Faith. The conference was closed with prayer and the National Anthem.

Later that evening, the delegates were joined by their wives for a meal in the Macdonald Hotel.

Addressing those present, Rev Anderson took as his theme that of "teamwork".

Manchester, he said, was renowned for two football teams, one in red and one in blue. But they achieved their individual success over the years by teamwork. He encouraged all present to find out God's purpose for their lives and in doing so to work with Him to achieve what He required of them.

Rev Anderson also encouraged all present to share their concerns and experiences with one another. So many people today are struggling with issues in their lives. "We need to reassure them that God loves them but most of all He desires that they turn to Him and follow in His ways," said Rev Anderson.

On Sunday, the Sir Knights joined with the congregation at Alkrington & Providence United Reformed Church for morning worship, during which Rev Anderson was the guest preacher.

The Sovereign Grand Master took as his text a verse from Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven".

He reminded the large congregation of the need for people in the outside world to see and witness how God had changed their lives through their actions and words.

Many Sir Knights left the hotel on Sunday afternoon to make their way home, however a few extended their stay until Monday afternoon.

This year's International Lecturers' Conference will be held in Co Monaghan, with the 2021 conference in Tyrone. Scotland will host the event in 2022 before the conference goes to the US in 2023.

Royal Black making a healthy

Green shoots of recovery are starting to bear fruit for the Royal Black Institution in America.

From virtual extinction just nine years ago, the Institution is making a comeback in "the land of the free and the home of the brave".

Interest is growing, preceptories are being established, and Sir Knights are being trained up as lecturers.

Many of the men now deciding to join the Royal Black in the US have no recent connection to Northern Ireland or the United Kingdom whatsoever.

Instead, they are drawn to the Institution because of its stand for the Reformed Christian Faith.

One man who has been at the forefront of spearheading efforts to encourage this American revival is Imperial Grand Lecturer Ian McCafferty.

Sir Knight McCafferty, a member of Garvagh Star of Bethlehem RBP 504 in Co Londonderry, has been there from the start of this latest Royal Black resurgence in the US. In fact, he's been over to the States four times since 2011, and is returning this July for the initiation of new members in Las Vegas.

"At its lowest, the Royal Black in America had all but disappeared, with three members and no preceptories," explained Sir Knight McCafferty.

"Now there are five preceptories and probably 55-60 members, with hopefully another 12 joining in July. Whilst it is still very small, the fact it has grown from nothing to five preceptories and 55-60 members in nine years is quite significant."

The turnaround started in Philadelphia in 2011 when four preceptories were established.

A fifth was set up in the Carolinas in 2014.

"Even in the old days, when the Royal Black was bigger in the States, there had never been anything as far south as the Carolinas," said Sir Knight McCafferty.

"In July 2020, I'm delighted to say, we are going to Las Vegas where there is a big Orange lodge, who are nearly all school teachers. There's around a dozen men coming to



Imperial Grand Lecturer Ian McCafferty and his assistants David Hargy and David McBurney are pictured with Sir Knights in Williamsburg in the United States. Included in the picture are Cal Stephens (back row, third right) and Professor Scott Buchanan (front row, far right).

Vegas from various parts of the US to join the Royal Black."

The five Preceptories in America are:

Sons of Liberty RBP 1776 – Pennsylvania;

Old Dominion RBP 1607 – Virginia;

Great Lakes RBP 2011 – Ohio and Chicago;

McKinley RBP 1690 –

California; Carolina RBP 1670 – South

Carolina. Sir Knight McCafferty

attributes this remarkable growth to the "sheer enthusiasm" of the Americans themselves.

"It's inspiring," he said. "You can almost feel the energy and commitment in the room when you're with them, even though they are not steeped in the history of the Royal Black, and there's no parades."

And the Grand Lecturer is also impressed by the talent which the Royal Black is accruing in America.

"The calibre of the men who are joining the Royal Black in America is exceptional," he said.

"There are ministers, law enforcement officers, lawyers, businessmen, a college professor. A lot of them have no connection at all to Northern Ireland. They're interested in joining the Royal Black Institution simply because of its Biblical stance.

"This is encouraging because I feel it's key to how we grow and maintain the Royal Black in America – history has shown we cannot simply rely on recruitment to the Royal Black being a family tradition, because it eventually dies out."

Watching the Institution grow in America has been a privilege, said Sir Knight McCafferty, and he's loved every minute of it. But as the Imperial Grand Lecturer responsible for the teaching of degrees, it's also been hard work!

"Four of us were over to teach some guys on one occasion," recalled Sir Knight McCafferty. "We started at 6.30am. Then we went for breakfast – the guys were even practising as they walked to breakfast! We worked until lunchtime when we grabbed a sandwich. Then we worked again until 6pm.

"After dinner, the guys asked, 'Could you come down for an hour to do a bit more?" Typically, we were teaching degrees from 6.30 in the morning until 10 o'clock at night. So there's a lot of hard work during our visits to America, but it's very rewarding.

"Teaching degrees to a class in Northern Ireland would take place over two-and-half-years, in order to memorise and recite the degrees to a high standard. Some of these American guys pick it up incredibly quickly. When you see men pick it up accurately and quickly, it really encourages you. You think to yourself, 'My work here has been useful'."

Sir Knight McCafferty's work – and those of his assistants William J Campbell, David McBurney, David Hargy and Thomas McAlister – certainly has been useful.

Not only has he helped breathe new life into the Institution in America, he has developed a successful network of lecturers, so much so that the International Lecturers' Conference will be held in the United States in 2023.

"To be heading to the States in 2023 is of major significance for the Institution as a whole," said Sir Knight McCafferty.

"It has generated huge interest - I know Sir Knights who are already saving money for the trip!

"In fact, I think 2023 will be a real watershed moment for the Institution worldwide."

return in the United States



Professor Scott Buchanan, RBP 1670 South Carolina, seated front row, second right, attends the monthly meeting of RBP 504 in Garvagh Orange Hall last October.

wo Sir Knights working to strengthen the Royal Black Institution in the US are members of Carolina RBP 1670 in Charleston, South Carolina.

Both men are also members and Past Masters of President Rutledge LOL 1776, also in Charleston.

Charles A 'Cal' Stephens, 40, is a computer engineer for the US Navy. Married to Vitré, he is the father of two boys - Chase, aged seven, and two-yearold Whit. He is currently Registrar of RBP 1670 and is also a Royal Black lecturer.

Scott Eugene Buchanan, 50, has been married to Kelea for 27 years and has two daughters. A college professor, he is Pursuivant in RBP 1670.

The preceptory has 15 members and meets three to four times a year in downtown Charlestown at the Carolina Yacht Club. The preceptory is currently focused on increasing membership and becoming self-sufficient from a lecturing perspective.

"My primary ambition is to be able to bring in new members and perform quality degree work," said Sir Knight Stephens. "I believe being able to create a path for more members to be initiated will allow us to expand the number of preceptories in the USA."

Sir Knight Stephens was one of the international delegates who attended the Lecturers' Conference in Manchester last September.

[']"It was wonderful to watch England and Scotland put on some really first-class degrees," he said.

"I thoroughly enjoyed getting to meet other Sir Knights. It was also a real treat to meet the Imperial Grand Master and have him serve as chaplain for the USA degree team."

Sir Knight Buchanan agrees that he, too, is keen to see the Royal Black

Institution grow in America.

"This is especially important as our society becomes increasingly secular," he said.

Sir Knight Buchanan is a Professor at The Citadel (a college in South Carolina) where he lectures in Political Science.

He is currently on sabbatical as Fulbright Chair at the University of Helsinki.

He struck up a friendship with Imperial Grand Lecturer Ian McCafferty when the Northern Ireland man attended meetings and workshops of the Institution in the US.

Last October, the college professor delighted members of Sir Knight McCafferty's private preceptory when he flew into Northern Ireland – from Helsinki – to enjoy fellowship with RBP 504 at their monthly meeting in Garvagh Orange Hall, Co Londonderry.

Sir Knight Buchanan – who lists genealogy and gardening as two of his favourite past-times - grew up in Talbot County, Georgia, where his family has lived for seven generations.

"My brother and I own the farm that belonged to my father and grandfather. Parcels of that farm date back to my greatgreat-great-great grandfather Buchanan."

Indeed, Sir Knight Buchanan suspects that his ancestors were originally from Ireland.

"I am able to get my earliest known documented ancestor to the 1750s, when he was already in the US. However, I suspect his father came from Northern Ireland."

He added: "I have ancestors who have fought in every major war the US has been involved in, from the French and Indian War through to Vietnam, with the exception of the Korean War."

Sir Knight Stephens can trace his heritage back to the settlement of Jamestown in 1607.

But he also believes there a link with

King William III.

"Family tradition holds that my ancestor, William James, originally from Wales, and who settled in Williamsburg County in South Carolina in 1732, fought with King William in the Glorious Revolution. He immigrated to South Carolina from Knockbracken, County Down, with his wife Elizabeth Witherspoon, a descendant of John Knox."

Sir Knight Stephens was born in upstate South Carolina in a small town about two hours from Charleston. He grew up on a farm. His father raises Hereford beef cattle as a hobby and has between 50 to 70 head, depending on the time of year.

A graduate of Clemson University [the 2016 and 2018 National College Football champions], Sir Knight Stephens said that in their dealings with friends and family they "typically emphasize the Christian fraternal aspect" when it comes to explaining their membership of the Orange Order and the Royal Black Institution to people not familiar with either organisation.

Faith and religion are important to both men. Sir Knight Stephens worships at the French Protestant (Huguenot) Church in Charleston, while Sir Knight Buchanan is a Presbyterian.

"My faith is the most important thing to me and the outwardly Christian mission and nature of the fraternity attracted me to the Royal Black," said Sir Knight Buchanan.

The college professor said that being a member of the Institution allows him to feel a closer attachment to his Ulster roots.

"The other attraction is being surrounded by a community of fellow Christian men," he said.

With men like Sir Knights Buchanan and Stephens working for the Institution's cause in the United States, it's clear that the Royal Black is in safe hands – and has a bright future ahead.

Assistant Sovereign Grand Master appointed

Ballymena businessman has been appointed Assistant Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution.

Harold McCloy, 50, dedicated his term of office to his late father, Harry, who died suddenly in October, having been a member of the Loyal Order for almost 65 years.

Sir Knight McCloy - who also holds positions at preceptory, district and county level within the Institution - was appointed to his new role at the halfyearly meeting of the Imperial Grand Council in Cookstown in December.

"I wish to dedicate my term of office as ASGM to my late father, Harry McCloy," he said.

"My dad encouraged and supported me in my roles of office. If he had been alive today, this latest appointment would have made him very proud, but I know he is in his heavenly home looking down upon us."

Sir Knight McCloy is managing director of his own business, Village Blinds, based in Ballymena. Founded 28 years ago, the firm employs around 35 members of staff, and supplies products across the UK and Ireland.

He joined the Institution in 1997 and is a member of Mount Horeb RBP 270, encamped at Cullybackey, having proudly served as Worshipful Master for a two-year term. He is currently the preceptory's Treasurer.

Within Ballymena Royal Black District No. 2 (Co. Antrim), Sir Knight McCloy has held various offices over the years, including Deputy District Master (2011–2014) and District Master (2014–2017).

He is the Grand Treasurer of Co Antrim Grand Black Chapter, and at Imperial level sits on the Admin and Finance Committee. He also represents the members from Togo and Ghana on Central Committee.

Sir Knight McCloy has been married to his wife, Alison, for almost 30 years, and they have three grown-up children – Phillip, 27, Judith, 23, and 20-year-old Christopher.

"To hold my various offices, I need a very understanding wife! I thank Alison for supporting me and encouraging me over



Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson, left, congratulates Harold McCloy on his appointment to Assistant Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution.

the years. Without this support, I just couldn't give my jobs my all," he said.

Sir Knight McCloy also runs a small, part-time business, 7 Towers Regalia, which supplies all types of Loyal Order regalia, with a share of profits going to charity.

"To have the honour of being appointed ASGM and to serve as one of three Assistants to our Sovereign Grand Master has been the highlight of my almost 30 years of membership," said Sir Knight McCloy.

"I promise to serve this wonderful Institution to the best of my ability, and I look forward to travelling to new places and getting to know many more members within new regions."

Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, hailed the appointment of his new Assistant as a "great boost" for the Institution, adding: "I wish Harold God's richest blessing as he takes up his new responsibilities and I look forward to working alongside him in the three years to come.

"I know he will bring hard work, energy and enthusiasm to his new role, and his appointment is just reward for the great commitment he has shown over the years to the ideals and ethos of our beloved Institution."

Sir Knight McCloy replaces Sir Knight William Baillie who had completed his three-year term as an Assistant Sovereign Grand Master.

The Royal Black Institution has three Assistant Sovereign Grand Masters who each serve a three-year term – Harold McCloy, Richard Emerson and Colin Berry.

Re-structure taking place Down Under

The Dominion Grand Black Chapter of New Zealand and the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of New South Wales are to amalgamate their resources under a new warrant to create the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Australasia.

The Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth has a long history in New Zealand and Australia. It has been said that many Preceptories never recovered following the Great War. Particularly in Australia, there is a history of 'Boom and Bust', with mining towns becoming cities overnight and disappearing as the mines became worked out.

At its peak, Australia had Provincial Grand Black Chapters in each State, and New Zealand had a Dominion Grand Black Chapter covering both the North and South Island.

Both the DGBC of New Zealand and the PGBC of New South Wales have long and distinguished histories.

The DGBC of New Zealand was founded in 1906 and has had many distinguished members of the Royal Black Institution in the past. Currently, Sir Knight Rod Biel is a member of Grand Council, as were Bill Irvine and Robert Campbell. The New Zealanders held alternate meetings in the North and South Islands respectively.

The PGBC of New South Wales was founded in 1871. It now incorporates the Queensland Preceptory encamped in Brisbane. In June 2007, a meeting the PGBC of New South Wales was held in Brisbane for the first time. Subsequently, the half-yearly meeting has generally been held in Brisbane and the annual meeting in Sydney, a round trip of 2,000 km.

The PGBC of New South Wales has members of the Grand Council, currently Sir Knights Hilton Wickham, John Morrow and Herbert Mailey.

The Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Victoria is not at this time participating in the re-structure although the option is always open should they wish to do so in the future.

Initial discussions regarding a re-structure took place at a meeting of the then Sovereign Grand Master and his principal officers, with the Master of the PGBC of New South Wales and his deputy, in Northern Ireland back in 2009.

Indeed, it would eventually transpire that both the DGBC of New Zealand and the PGBC of New South Wales had individually come to the same conclusion - that there was a need for a restructure, and that the interests of both would be advanced by amalgamating into a joint Provincial Grand Black Chapter. Informal discussions started in 2015 in Liverpool. These discussions continued over the years until 2019 when a formal request was made to the Imperial Grand Black Chapter for the formation of the PGBC of Australasia. The IGBC Grand Council granted the request in December 2019 and kindly granted both the DGBC of New Zealand and the PGBC of New South Wales a special dispensation allowing them to keep for their original warrants for posterity.

For many years, members from New Zealand and Australia have been attending meetings of the Royal Black Institution and the Loyal Orange Institution in both countries. The cost to fly between the East Coast of Australia and New Zealand is cheaper than to fly to the West Coast of Australia.

The PGBC of Australasia will have Preceptories operating in the New Zealand North Island, Queensland and New South Wales. It is hoped a Preceptory in South Australia will be established in the near future. The PGBC of Australasia will continue to cater for unattached members - as everyone knows, it is a big continent, for example, RBP 295 in Brisbane has one Sir Knight who has a round trip of 1,200 km to attend meetings.

Those behind the re-structure believe this is a great opportunity to fully align all Preceptories and ensure they are working to the current rules and regulations of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter; it will allow Sir Knights around Australasia to meet up; and it will be a point of contact for the IGBC to help promote and advance the cause of the Royal Black Institution in Australasia.

District Chapter celebrates 125th anniversary in 2019

Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2019.

The District's Working Committee organised a series of events throughout the year on the District's behalf, culminating with two events in November.

When the District held its first ever meeting on November 29, 1894 it was decided to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, which, apart from a brief period in the early 2000s when it met on the third Thursday, it still does.

The District held its 125th anniversary meeting on Thursday, November 28, 2019 and marked the occasion by presenting a cheque to its nominated charity for 2019, which was the local Survivors of Suicide Group.

No.4 District wished to support a local charity in its anniversary year, and chose Survivors of Suicide having been made aware of the excellent work this group does in the area.

The District Chapter is grateful for all the support it received during the year from people in East Belfast, and elsewhere, for its fundraising activities, which included people supporting events like charity quizzes. Thanks also go to the Union Jack Shop for donating ballot prizes.

The District Chapter is also grateful to Survivors of Suicide for attending its November District meeting to receive a £1,500 donation.



The letter from Buckingham Palace received by Ballymacarrett RBDC No.4.

The following evening (Friday, November 29, 2019) - the exact anniversary of the District Chapter's first ever meeting - the District held its 125th anniversary dinner in the Auld House, Moneyreagh.

District Master Fred McKee welcomed everyone in attendance, with Chris Cunningham, City Grand Registrar of the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter, acting as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Before commencing with the meal, District Deputy Lay Chaplain Tam Boyd said Grace.

Following an excellent three course meal, the chairman of the 125th Anniversary Working Committee, Ryan McDowell, proposed the Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen, during which he read a letter from



Ballymacarrett RBDC No.4 presents a cheque for \pm 1,500 to their nominated charity for 2019, Survivors of Suicide.

the Buckingham Palace Loyal Greetings Officer extending best wishes to the District Chapter for their anniversary dinner and expressing an interest in the District's charitable activities.

The letter, signed by Miranda Hansen Lise, said: "Her Majesty was interested to learn of the series of events which have taken place throughout the year and of the beneficiary of your anniversary appeal ... The Queen sends her best wishes to all concerned for a most memorable and enjoyable Dinner marking this most significant milestone in the history of Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter."

District Registrar William Craig then proposed a toast to the Royal Black Institution, which was responded to by the Sovereign Grand Master, Rev. William Anderson, who addressed the dinner on the work and purpose of the Order and extended his best wishes to the local District Chapter.

The City Grand Master of Belfast William Elliott then proposed a toast to Royal Black District Chapter No.4, which included some history relating to the Black Institution in Belfast. This was responded to by Chris Cunningham who gave some history relating to the District.

As a final act of commemoration, Rev Jason Lingiah, from the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland, then dedicated new flags for the District Chapter (a Union Flag and an Ulster Flag) in anticipation of being the lead District for the Belfast Black Saturday parade in 2021, which will mark the centenary of Northern Ireland.

Deputy District Master Harry Whiteside proposed a vote of thanks to everybody who had taken part in the anniversary event.

The dinner concluded later on in the evening with the singing of the National Anthem.

Ballymacarrett banner display and thanksgiving service

A n interesting event took place last September to mark the 125th anniversary of RBDC No 4 Ballymacarrett, Belfast.

Held in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall, the event took the form of a banner and bannerette display. Also on show were Royal Black certificates and other artefacts.

The banner display was held in conjunction with a thanksgiving service which involved four speakers talking on four of the banner themes.

Rev Mervyn Gibson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, explained the Bible story relating to the Burning Bush emblem; Rev William Anderson, Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, explained the emblem of the Open Bible; Mark Lawlor talked about the Bible story of David and Goliath; and Chris Cunningham explained the emblem of the Red Cross.

A retiring collection took place in support of the Survivors of Suicide charity.

Åfterwards, Rev Anderson said: "This event highlights the important work of our Institution in teaching our people the fundamentals of their faith as well as taking the opportunity to reach out to those struggling with mental health issues."



Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson and others who attended a special thanksgiving service in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall.

Event 'shines a light' on Royal Black

group of Queen's University students were given an interesting insight into the history, values and traditions of the Royal Black Institution when they attended a special event at Brownlow House in Lurgan.

"Shining a Light on the Black Institution" was an informative evening which involved thoughtprovoking talks from three guest speakers: Rev William Anderson, Sovereign Grand Master; Rev Nigel Reid, Imperial Grand Chaplain, and Dr Jonathan Mattison, Curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage.

The event was organised in conjunction with Queen's Orange Society and Lurgan Royal Black District Chapter No 2, and supported by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Youth Development Officer.

In addition to the QUB students, who also enjoyed a tour of the historic Brownlow House earlier in the evening, a very good attendance saw the room packed with interested members and non-members of the Institution.

Welcoming everyone along to the event - held on Tuesday, January 28 - was principal organiser and host, Ross Hall. The Lurgan man, 22, is a member of the Apprentice Boys, Orange Order and Royal Black. He joined Johnson Memorial RBP 189 in 2015 and is District Registrar of Lurgan RBDC No 2. He is also a past chairman of Queen's Orange Society.

Mr Hall gave an outline of the Drew Nelson Legacy Project, which aims to empower young people and equip the next generation of community leaders. The project was set up in memory of the Orange Order's former Grand Secretary, who died in 2016.

Mr Hall spoke about his



Guest speakers at the 'Shining a Light on the Black Institution' event in Brownlow House: Rev Nigel Reid, Imperial Grand Chaplain; Dr Jonathan Mattison, Curator of the Museum of Orange Heritage, and Rev William Anderson, Sovereign Grand Master. Also included in the picture is Ross Hall, event organiser and District Registrar of Lurgan RBDC No 2.

affinity to all three Loyal Orders and appealed to each of them to push forward and develop young talent, before adding: "The future is Orange, Black and Crimson."

The first guest speaker was Dr Jonathan Mattison, who gave an interesting account of the history of the Royal Black Institution, including how, in the early years, the Royal Black Institution and the Orange Order did not enjoy the harmonious relations with each other which they do today.

In his address, the Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, spoke about the present-day activities of the Royal Black Institution and his vision for its future.

He explained to those gathered that the Royal Black is a worldwide Institution. Its core objective is to witness for the Reformed Christian Faith. Parades are only ever held to and from a service of worship. The Royal Black Institution,

said Rev Anderson, exists to give its members the opportunity to study Holy Scripture; increase knowledge of the Reformed Faith; engage in Christian and charitable outreach; and to continue and further develop social and responsible citizenship.

His vision is to see the Royal Black Institution "shape the future by preserving our heritage through a confident Institution ready to share the Reformed Christian Faith with the world".

He explained how this ambition is rooted in Scripture, as found in Proverbs 29 verse 18: "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Rev Anderson's action plan would see the Royal Black Institution seek to: extend the influence of the Reformed Faith; grow its worldwide membership; empower its members; encourage charitable giving; and improve standards.

He revealed the Institution is about to launch its next Grand Master's Appeal, which has raised almost £800k over 16 years for a number of good

July 14

August 1

August 1

August 8

August 29

August 29

August 29

August 29

August 29

August 29

causes.

The final speaker was Rev Nigel Reid, Grand Chaplain and the minister of Tullyallen and Mountnorris Presbyterian Churches.

Rev Reid told how, in today's confusing world, the Royal Black Institution can provide stability, direction, guidance and encouragement.

The teaching of the Institution is Bible-based and Christ-centred, and it promotes traditional Protestant values, he said.

Rev Reid spoke about the Institution's many symbols. At the heart of the Royal Black Institution, he said, is the symbol of the Red Cross, which reminds him of God's love for us that He gave His only begotten Son; God's forgiveness; and the opportunity of a new beginning in Christ.

"If you are looking for help and guidance, you can find it in the teaching of the Royal Black Institution," said the Grand Chaplain.

The event then broke for tea and sandwiches, followed by a question-and-answer session in which the three speakers took questions from the floor, before closing with prayer.

Afterwards, Rev Anderson said: "This was an excellent evening and I commend Ross Hall and the organisers for putting together such an interesting programme.

"I was delighted to take part, and, in particular, I was delighted to address so many young people in the audience.

"I am sure everyone learned something new about our wonderful Institution, and I hope they were reassured that we are a strong and vibrant organisation, willing to robustly stand up for the Reformed Faith, and ready to play an active part in our communities."

LIST OF PLANNED 2020 PROCESSIONS

Scarva Sham Fight
Fermanagh
England
Scotland
Antrim
City of Belfast
Down
Londonderry
Districts of East Tyrone, Aughnacloy, Killyman Primatial, Summerisland
Districts of Omagh, Castlederg, Strabane

LOCATION Scarva Kesh Liverpool/Southport Partick Ballyclare Dromore Bangor Raphoe Killylea Castlederg

Loughkillygreen RBP 204 celebrates 150 years

oughkillygreen RBP 204 marked its 150th anniversary with a religious service last May.

The service was preceded by a parade, led by Loughkillygreen Accordion Band.

Amongst those present were the Imperial Grand Registrar, Billy Scott; the Fermanagh County Grand Master; the Cavan County Grand Master; District officials; members of Drumreagh RBP 527; and a large attendance of Sir Knights and family members from the surrounding area.

A religious service was held in the hall, led by Sir Knight Abraham Storey. This was followed by afternoon tea and a display of historic items related to the Preceptory.

Following the service, the Imperial Grand Registrar presented a Bible to the Preceptory. The members of this small border Preceptory were overwhelmed by the support they received on the day and wish to thank all who attended.

The sum of £524 was raised and this was donated to the Air Ambulance charity.

Later, the Preceptory was delighted to receive an invitation from RBP 1000 to attend the Thirteenth in Scarva.

For the first time in its history, the members of RBP 204 paraded in Scarva, led by Drum Accordion Band. The band and Preceptory were delighted by the reception and welcome they received on what was a magnificent day.

Maurice Allen WM said: "It was a fine way to pay tribute to those Sir Knights who founded the Preceptory 150 years ago."



Members of Loughkillygreen RBP 204: Back row: Registrar Geoffrey Allen, Jonathan Allen, Billy Stevens, Gordon Hutchinson, William Allen, Ivan Wiggins, Simon Wiggins and Stanley Hall. Front row: Chaplin Meredith Moore, DM Gary Smyton, WM Maurice Allen, and Norman Brown.



Waringstown RBP 1037 with Lurgan District officers WDM Andrew Hamill, DDM Ashley Hall and Registrar Ross Hall, having been presented with their new centenary ties at their election of officers.

Waringstown RBP 1037 celebrates 100 years

Waringstown RBP 1037 began their centenary year celebrations at the start of 2020 with the presentation of new Preceptory ties and embroidered collarette badges at their election of officers. Joining the Sir Knights for the special occasion were Lurgan district officers WDM Andrew Hamill, DDM Ashley Hall and Registrar Ross Hall.

To celebrate RBP 1037's centenary year, a number of other events have been planned.

A rare black oak will be planted in the grounds of the local primary school, with a suitable plaque being placed beside the tree. There will also be a 'Banners and Bouquets' festival and service in Holy Trinity, Waringstown on the weekend of May 9-10. The church will be open on the Saturday from 10am until 7pm with the banners and bannerettes of Lurgan District on display, along with the message of the Gospel portrayed by means of a flower arrangement with each one.

A retiring collection will be divided between the 2020 Designated Charity Appeal and the Holy Trinity Fabric Fund. There will be free tea/coffee and biscuits on the day. On the Sunday, Sir Knights will parade from the end of the Clare Road at 3pm for a service in Holy Trinity at 3.30pm, which will include a special item from the Chapter Choir. All Sir Knights and families will be made most welcome.

Waringstown RBP 1037 will, of course, be looking forward to the 13th in Bangor, the Last Saturday in Bangor, and to conclude the year they plan to go to Sloan's House, Loughgall, for their monthly meeting and a bite to eat.



Moneygore RBP 825 celebrated its 70th anniversary with a special dinner in Moneygore Orange Hall last November. Seated left to right are: Sir Knight William Conn, PM RBP 825; Sir Knight Billy Maxwell, DDM Rathfriland; Sir Knight David Ervine, WDM Rathfriland; Sir Knight Trevor McBurney, County Grand Master; Sir Knight Ivor Walsh, County Grand Registrar; and Sir Knight Timothy Ervine, DM RBP 825.



Cutting the specially-baked cake to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Benraw Guiding Star RBP 40 at a special dinner in Benraw Orange Hall are Sir Knight Scott Stevenson, Sir Knight Joseph Gibson and Sir Knight John Herron.

Anniversary parade and service

Sunday, May 31: 125th anniversary parade and service of Mount Horeb RBP 27 (Banbridge District).

Donaghmore Presbyterian Church, Newry, commencing at 3.30pm. Service conducted by Sir Knight Rev Mark Wilson. Parade moving off from Donaghmore/ Tullymurry Road junction at 3pm.

Obituary



Sir Knight John Dalton (Maguiresbridge RBP 1018) passed away peacefully on January 8. He is pictured here on his 100th birthday last June when he was presented with a Bible from his Preceptory. Pictured left to right are: Sir Knight Ernest Dalton (son); Sir Knight Bertie Boles Reg; Sir Knight Alex Kelly WM; Wor.Sir Knight Eric Morrison DCM; Sir Knight John Dalton; and Sir Knight David Parkinson DM.

Sir Knight John Dalton

t was with great sadness that the members of Maguiresbridge Golden Star RBP 1018 learned of the death of Sir Knight John Dalton.

Johny, as he was known, passed away peacefully on January 8, 2020.

He was a Preceptory member for 75 years and a member of Maguiresbridge LOL 1524 for 80 years.

A farmer all his life, Sir Knight Dalton also served as a member of the security forces and was a founder member of Maguiresbridge Silver Band. Last June, he celebrated his 100th birthday and was presented with a Bible by his fellow Sir Knights from RBP 1018.

He celebrated Christmas and the New Year with his dear wife and family. His grandchildren were a great joy to him.

Sir Knight Dalton was a wonderful man to have known. He and his family faithfully attended Maguiresbridge Methodist Church.

Deepest sympathies are extended to his wife and the entire family circle.

Memorial bench unveiled in Glasgow park



Sir Knights are joined by family members of the late Harry McColl at the official dedication of a memorial bench in Pollok Country Park.

n Saturday, December 21, a memorial bench in Pollok Country Park, Glasgow, was dedicated in memory of a highly-regarded and much-loved Sir Knight and Brother, the late Harry McColl.

Present at the ceremony, alongside Sir Knight McColl's family, were members of his Preceptory, RBP 437 Pollokshaws Golden Knights, as well as representatives from RBDC No 7 (Govan), RBDC No 11 (James Martin Memorial) and RBDC No 1, including the David Hastie Memorial Lecture Class which Sir Knight McColl was such an important driving force behind.

The dedication ceremony was led by Sir Knight Ian Girvan, Provincial Deputy Grand Lecturer, with prayer led by Sir Knight Rev Michael McCurry.

The Act of Dedication was carried out by Sir Knight Henry Dunbar, Past Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland.



Mrs Mary Hamilton presents an Honours Plaque in memory of her late husband, Sir Knight Ernest Hamilton, to Donemana RBP 260.

Generous gift presented to Donemana RBP 260

n Honours Plaque has been presented to Donemana RBP 260 by Mrs Mary Hamilton, wife of the late Sir Knight Ernest Hamilton. The plaque was dedicated to his memory from the Hamilton family.

The plaque records Past Masters of the Donemana preceptory, an office which the late Sir Knight Hamilton attained. In his 55 years' membership of the Royal Black Institution, Sir Knight Hamilton was also District Master for Strabane RBDC and a long-time officer for Country Tyrone GBC.

On the evening of the presentation, Mrs Hamilton was accompanied by her daughters and granddaughters, who spoke lovingly of their late father and grandfather. Sir Knight Colin Campbell WM, Donemana RBP 260, gratefully accepted the generous and practical gift and paid tribute to the service of Sir Knight Hamilton. This was echoed by Sir Knight Derek McDermott, Strabane District Master. Also present were visiting District Officers and Sir Knights from Killyclooney and Sollus Bready preceptories. Sir Knight Hamilton was a life-long member of Kildoag LOL 1164, Donemana RBP 260 and the Donemana Branch, Murray Club, of the Apprentice Boys of Derry, as well as other organisations of which he was a dedicated member.

His funeral in April 2018 was attended by many members of the Loyal Orders from across the province and the Ulster Unionist leader, who helped carry his coffin.

His family, whom he adored, erected a plaque on his grave as a fitting tribute to someone who lived for his family and the organisations which he held most dear. It reads: "A Loyal Brother, Sir Knight and Friend, May he rest in God's Presence until we meet again In the Great Lodge Room in the Sky."

Obituary

Sir Knight James McDonald

t was with deep regret that the Sir Knights of Morning Star RBP 160, encamped in Coatbridge, Scotland, learned of the death of Sir Knight James McDonald.

Sir Knight McDonald, who died in July 2019, was the epitome of what a member of the Royal Black Institution should be. He joined RBP 160 in June 1966 and received the degree of Red Cross in December 1970. He became treasurer in April 1974, a position he held until his death.

Among his many friends in the Loyal Orders was the late Sir Knight and Wor Bro Dawson Baillie.

Red Cross Presentations



Sir Knight David Annett, centre, is presented with his Past Master's certificate by Charles Martin, Worshipful Master RBP 251 Star of the East Ballymartin, and Richard McKee, Deputy Master.



Red Cross certificates are presented to Sir Knights of RBP 34 Red Cross Sir Knights of Annalong. From left: Robert McConnell (Deputy District Master), Newell Edgar (Deputy County Grand Lecturer), Matthew Campbell (recipient of Red Cross certificate), Leslie Campbell (recipient of Red Cross certificate), Edward Graham (County Grand Pursuivant) and William Baillie (Assistant Sovereign Grand Master).



Sir Knight James Hawthorne, from Young's Memorial RBP 1187 receives his Past Master's certificate from Preceptory lecturers Thomas Hopps and Samuel Potter, who are also District Lecturers for Primatial RBDC No 4.



Sir Knights from Drumshemuck RBP 132, Fermanagh, who received their Red Cross certificates: Geoffrey Graham, Gary Wilson, Clive Wallace, Andrew Beatty, Rodney Willis, and Jonathan Willis



Sir Knights Timothy and Andrew Martin, of RBP 251 Star of the East Ballymartin, receive their Red Cross certificates from Preceptory lecturers, Stanley and Charles Martin.



Red Cross certificates are presented to David Cartmill, Mark Scott and Ryan Halliday, members of RBP 548, encamped at Belleek. Also pictured is Worshipful Master Tom Patterson. Thanks are expressed to District Lecturers Jim Finch, Robert Preston and Bobby Hamilton.

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Exploring the Black

University student JAMES FRAZER has carried out extensive research into the history of the Royal Black Institution. Here, he explains what motivated him to explore this topic, and he reveals some of his interesting findings



Sir Knight James Frazer is currently studying for a PhD in History at Queen's University.

Y name is James Frazer. I am 23 years old. I live near Rathfriland, Co. Down, and worship at Brookvale Presbyterian Church. I joined the Royal Black Institution in 2017 and I am a member of Mount Horeb RBP 27, Donaghmore (Banbridge District), in which I hold the office of Registrar.

I am currently studying for a PhD in History at Queen's University, Belfast. Last year, I completed a Master of Arts in History. For this, I was required to write a 20,000word dissertation on a topic of my choice. I chose the Royal Black Institution in Ireland c.1797-1914, focusing on its origins, historical development, geographic spread, membership, and function.

Being a member of the organisation, I naturally had a desire to find out more about the history of something in which I had a keen interest as a Sir Knight. I also believed that there was very little known about Royal Black history both in academia and the public sphere and an element of mystery, perhaps even myth, continued to pervade – I wanted to get to the bottom of the Institution's history. Academically, the topic also fitted with my research interests.

To date, my research has primarily focused on political

and religious history in nineteenth-century Ireland. I am particularly interested in popular loyalist history (which few scholars have engaged with) as well as evangelicalism in the Church of Ireland (which may seem a strange interest considering I am Presbyterian!). For example, I have previously conducted research on the Battle of Dolly's Brae and the Irish 'Second Reformation' movement.

Although it is not possible to provide a detailed history through the medium of this article, I will summarise my findings and hopefully whet the reader's appetite.

FORMATION

The Royal Black Institution was formed around 1797 as a means of providing additional degrees for the Orange system advancements imparting religious, moral, and esoteric instruction to members. Although September 16, 1797 is a potential date of formation, there is insufficient evidence to confirm the exact time and place that the Order was founded. This lack of evidence is most likely due to the confidential nature of the organisation and its small membership at this time. It may also reflect the fact that it did not have the sanction of official Orangeism or gentry figures, who were content with just two orders of Orange and Purple, with initial leadership being provided by the likes of artisans, small merchants, and farmers.

The degrees of the Institution developed over a number of years and appear to have been influenced by religious principle, the rituals of the Boyne Society (a precursor to the Orange Order), and freemasonry.

Regarding the latter, it is important to note that the influence of freemasonry does not constitute imitation and it is likely, given the prevalence of unofficial masonry in Ulster at this time, that elements were adapted and given alternative meanings within the Black Institution, particularly the emergence of distinct biblical themes.

For instance, knighthood in Masonic orders such as the Knights Templar is inspired by the chivalric orders of the Crusades. However, in the Royal Black Institution, an early member noted that knighthood in the Black Institution was based on an appendant part of the Black degree called 'Gold', which has since disappeared. It described the elevation of Joseph by Pharaoh when he "took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck", thus making "him ruler over all the land of Egypt" (Genesis 41:42-43).

Much of the Institution's early history was marked by disunity. Not only did distinct Irish, English, and Scottish forms of the Black movement develop, the Institution in Ireland at one point had three separate governing bodies. The reconstitution of 1846 restored unity in the Black movement and helped it to expand. The other major development in the period was the role of the Black Institution in forming a Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter of Íreland in 1911, giving the Institution stability in the source from which it recruited members.

The relationship with the Grand Orange Lodge before the mid-1860s was strained because of their opposition to the existence of the Black Institution. Although religious suspicions may have been at play, their opposition was more likely based on a desire to have sole control over popular loyalism or legal issues connecting the Orange and Black Institutions. It could also be because they believed the elaborate degree system of the Black Order challenged social norms as it gave ordinary Orangemen the opportunity to advance above their gentry superiors in the Grand Orange Lodge.

LEADERSHIP

The leadership of William Johnston of Ballykilbeg between 1855 and 1902 was hugely important for the development of the Institution. Not only did he bring about further unity in the organisation, he helped to settle disputes between the Institution and the Grand Orange Lodge. In addition, as a minor gentry figure, his leadership brought greater respectability to the Institution and made it more acceptable to broader loyalism.

The membership of the Institution was relatively small but grew steadily throughout the period with 4,896 members in 1876 and rising to 14,785 by 1914. The membership was also expanding worldwide as the Black Institution became part and parcel of the Orange diaspora – like the British Empire, the sun never set on the Black Institution.

As stated, this is only a brief overview of my findings. This has been a deeply fulfilling project and I am indebted to many people who have encouraged and helped me along the way. I decided to call my dissertation "A Grand Black Order of Orangemen", which is the earliest recorded name for the Institution. However, I also believe that it speaks of the character of our Order - an Institution that is united by faith, loyalty, and fraternity and committed to the propagation and defence of the biblical truths upon which we are firmly founded.

Sir Knight Frazer's dissertation on the Royal Black Institution in Ireland c.1797-1914 will be available to view at the Royal Black's new headquarters in Loughgall.

Long Service Awards



Sir Knight William Matchett and Sir Knight Jackie Forde, from Olive Branch RBP 393, receive their 60 year jewels. They both joined the Royal Black Institution on March 20, 1959 and now join 10 other Sir Knights from this Preceptory who currently hold this prestigious award. Also in the picture are, left, Deputy Master Kyle Taylor, and, far right, Thomas J Hume, Worshipful District Master, Summerisland RBDC No 6, who assisted with the presentation.



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Long Service presentations at RBP 267



Sir Knight Raymond Walker, DDM Portadown RBDC No 5, centre, presents 40 year service jewels to Sir Knights from R H Bell Memorial RBP 267: Jim Dunlop, Winston Conn, Robert Adair and Gary Adams.



Sir Knight Brian Morrison, from R H Bell Memorial RBP 267, receives his 50 year jewel from Sir Knight Raymond Walker, Deputy District Master of RBDC No 5.



Sir Knights Everett Browne and Freddie Woods, from R H Bell Memorial RBP 267, receive their 60 year jewels from Sir Knight Raymond Walker, Deputy District Master of Portadown RBDC No 5.

Long Service Awards



Sir Knight John Hamilton receives his 70 year jewel from Primatial WDM, Gordon Wakenshaw and Breaghey RBP 264 WM, Thomas Marshall. They were joined by other officers of Breaghey RBP 264: David McCune, Robert Scott and Joe Morrison. Sir Knight Hamilton joined the Institution on January 3, 1949.



Sir Knight James Lattimer, of Knights of St Andrew RBP 476 Wishaw, is presented with a 20 year service medal by PGBC Grand Master, Stephen Frame and Worshipful Master, Sir Knight Jim Simpson RBP 476 at the preceptory's annual dance in Wishaw District Orange Hall last November. The evening's entertainment was provided by Glencairn Dance Team, from Glenarm, who have been coming to Wishaw for over 20 years, and singer Carol Paris.



Sir Knight Robert Jardine, centre, from RBP 251 Star of the East Ballymartin, receives his 50 year jewel from Worshipful Master Charles Martin and Deputy Master Richard McKee.

Sir Knight Gerry Dorrans receives 70-year service jewel

The August monthly meeting of John Patrick RBP 157 (Coleraine District No 1) was a happy occasion as Sir Knight Gerry Dorrans received his 70-year service bar.

He was also presented with a piece of suitably-inscribed crystal glass in recognition of his faithful service as Registrar by Past Deputy Imperial Grand Master Ivan Kelly, who congratulated Sir Knight Dorrans on his wonderful achievement, thanking him on behalf of the Royal Black Institution and wishing him many years of good health to wear his long service jewel on his colours.

Worshipful Master of RBP 157, William Adams, paid tribute to Sir Knight Dorrans for his loyal and distinguished time in the Institution, thanking him for his continued attendance at monthly meetings where his wise council is always very welcome. He also paid tribute to Sir Knight Dorran's wife, Rachel, and daughter, Rae, who as members of the ladies' committee for a long number of years had both been a great help to the Loyal Orders in Ballywillan.

Sir Knight Dorrans, in replying, said he had enjoyed every minute of his time in the Orders connected with Ballywillan, but if he was to pick a favourite it would be the Royal Black. He said that during his time as Registrar he always knew what was going on but that this presentation had come as a great surprise to him - the present officers were doing a great job, he said, and tonight proved that they could keep a secret!

As Sir Knight Dorrans had reached the ripe young age of 89 two days previously, and the ladies' committee were brought into the meeting and



Sir Knight Gerry Dorrans with his 70-year service jewel.

all sang Happy Birthday. Tea, sandwiches, pastries and cake were then partaken, and some chit-chat brought the evening to a close.

Sir Knight Dorrans was born on August 18, 1930. He lost both his father, Thomas H Dorrans, and brother Tommy in separate tragic accidents. Both men had been WM of John Patrick RBP 157.

Sir Knight Dorrans went on to join Ballywillan Sons of William LOL 1022 in 1948. On June 21, 1949, he was proposed as a suitable candidate for the Royal Black Institution, and on August 15, 1949 he was one of 14 young men to be initiated into John Patrick RBP 157. He received his degree of Red Cross on June 16, 1950.

On February 19, 1952 he was elected to the office of Registrar, a position he carried out for 50 years. He was soon called back into action, however, and returned to the post for a second time, serving a further year-and-a-half, making a grand total of 51 years and six months as Registrar.

He carried out this very important task diligently and loyally to many Worshipful Masters over this long period of time.

Sir Gerald Templer – the

The Royal Black Institution is building its new headquarters at 45-47 Main Street, Loughgall, a property which was formerly inhabited by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. Here, historian GORDON LUCY examines the remarkable life of a military man who fought in both world wars, but whose greatest achievement was the defeat of the Communist insurgency in Malaya between 1952 and 1954

ERALD Walter Robert Templer was born on September 11, 1898 at 15 Wellesley Road, Colchester, the son (and only child) of Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Francis Templer, of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and Mabel Eileen Templer (née Johnston).

Walter Templer was a Loughgall man whereas his mother was the daughter of Major Robert Johnston from County Antrim and was descended from a west of Ireland family.

Young Templer spent much of his boyhood in Co Armagh.

He was educated at Wellington College, the school in Berkshire which was founded as a national memorial to the Duke of Wellington, and at Sandhurst. His time at Wellington was not the happiest period of his life because as a small boy who was not good at games he was severely bullied. As he later admitted: "I loathed and detested my four years at Wellington." Nevertheless, he conceded that he had made numerous friends there.

On the other hand, Templer enjoyed Sandhurst enormously, and claimed that he "was a completely undistinguished cadet from every point of view and passed out – nobody failed at that stage of the First World War because we were so badly needed as cannon fodder – in July 1916, a couple of months before my eighteenth birthday".

On August 16, 1916 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in his father's old regiment but because he was still too young and ineligible for overseas service he was sent to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion based in Buncrana, Co Donegal.

In mid-October 1917, now aged 19, he was sent to the 7th/8th (Service) Battalion on the Western Front, the carnage of the war of which he was fortunate to survive on at least two occasions. First, shortly after his arrival, his battalion took part in the Battle of Cambrai. His battalion suffered very heavy casualties but he did not take part in the battle.

Secondly, on March 20, he

passed out while in the trenches, suffering from acute diphtheria. The following day the Germans launched their Spring Offensive. While he was hospitalised in England, his battalion sustained over 770 casualties out of a strength of some 800 men. He did, however, participate in the victorious Allied advance of August 1918 to the end of the war (the so-called 'Last Hundred Days').

Although he emerged physically unscathed from the Great War (and he appreciated that he was fortunate to have done so), the Great War could scarcely fail but to leave its mark. Many years later he wrote: "I still sometimes in my sleep at night hear the screams of the wounded horses, galloping on the ground, tripping over barbed wire, and treading on their own guts. It was a terrible thing to have to witness, worse in some ways than the human casualties."

A week before his death in October 1979, aged 81, Templer had this dream again, just over sixty years after the end of the Great War.

In the inter-war years he saw service against the Bolsheviks in the Caucasus, attended the army's staff college at Camberley (where he excelled and impressed his instructors including Bernard Law Montgomery) and served in Palestine during the Arab revolt of 1935-6. It was here in the rocky hills of Judea he came to grips with "the mind and method" of terrorists and guerrillas. Although the antagonism between Arab and Jew in Palestine distressed him, he regarded the posting as the best job of his life. His endeavours did not go unnoticed: he was mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the DSO (a comparatively rare distinction for so junior an officer).

On a completely different note, Templer was also an accomplished athlete and had been chosen as a reserve for the 1924 Olympic squad.

During the Second World War, Templer had rose from brevet colonel in 1939 to a general in 1945.

In 1940, he went to France as an intelligence officer on the staff of the British Expeditionary Force. After Dunkirk he was responsible for raising and



smiling tiger of Malaya

training the 9th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment before taking on command of a brigade in the Home Service Division.

In 1942, he was given command of the 47th Division as a major-general. Shortly after, he commanded II Corps as the Army's youngest lieutenantgeneral.

Between 1943 and 1944 he commanded the 56th Division in Italy, which saw severe fighting in operations around Anzio. He briefly commanded the 6th Armoured Division before being wounded when a land mine blew up the army lorry in front of his staff car while travelling in convoy. The contents of the lorry fell on top of him and damaged his spine, and he was evacuated to England.

He spent the rest of the war on intelligence duties with 21st Army Group as well as heading the German Directorate of SOE (the Special Operations Executive). In the latter role he devised an operation to assassinate Hitler but by this stage the Allies had decided – correctly – that Hitler was a greater liability than an asset to the German cause.

After the war, he was the military governor of the British zone of occupied Germany with the task of feeding the population and administering territory where the social and economic infrastructure had completely collapsed. Infuriated by the failure of the Oberbürgermeister (lord mayor) of Cologne, to take practical steps to improve physical conditions in his city, Templer sacked him for his laziness and incompetence. Actually the mayor was neither but had chosen to concentrate on political matters. The mayor was none other than Dr Konrad Adenauer, the future and first Chancellor of West Germany. Happily, Adenauer did not take



Black Institution will transform into its new headquarters. It was formerly inhabited by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. it too personally. Whenever Adenauer visited London, he would always send Templer a case of the best hock.

In 1952, on the advice of Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis, Winston Churchill appointed Templer as High Commissioner and Commanderin Chief in Malaya with the task of defeating the communist insurgency there.

Ironically it was the British who trained and armed the insurgents to fight the Japanese during the Second World War. Chin Peng, the terrorist leader, had even been awarded an OBE for his war service.

One of Templer's outstanding qualities was his clear and analytical mind. He had an enviable capacity to boil a problem down to the essentials.

He appreciated that without a clear political goal, there can be no military victory. Once he had a clear aim, he stuck to it tenaciously. He re-read his list of goals every morning while shaving to remind himself what they were.

He believed passionately in unity of command, forcing policemen, civil servants and soldiers to work together and to share information – whether they liked it or not.

From his time in Palestine he recognised the paramount importance of intelligence. His motto was: "Better a welltargeted ambush than endless jungle bashing." Again, this was a lesson learned from his time in Palestine, even if there were no jungles there. Furthermore, unified intelligence allowed the terrorists to be identified, tracked and attacked. Thereby the hunters became the hunted.

Sound political analysis, good intelligence and well-planned military operations would deliver success. In 1952 he famously observed: "The answer [to the uprising] lies not in pouring more troops into the jungle, but in the hearts and minds of the Malayan people ... the shooting side of this business is only 25% of the trouble and the other 75% lies in getting the people of this country behind us."

He is credited with coining the phrase "hearts and minds".

A key element of this strategy was the creation of new villages for the Chinese community away from the jungle where they



Gerald Templer on the cover of Time magazine in December 1952. Templer's progress against the Communist insurgency in Malaya led Time magazine to dub him "the smiling tiger" and to declare "the jungle has been stabilised" by the end of 1952

were intimidated and terrorised by the Communist insurgents. He encouraged the Chinese to become landowners and offered them citizenship to give them a stake in the country. By winning the "hearts and minds" of the local population he was able to isolate the terrorists so that the terrorists either surrendered or fled across the border. So much so that when Templer moved on in October 1954, government control had been re-established over most of the country.

In 1955 he became Chief of the Imperial General Staff (a position which he retained until 1958) and in the following year he was promoted to field marshal. This was a profoundly unhappy period to be CIGS because it coincided with Suez Crisis and defence cuts.

In retirement, the creation of the National Army Museum became his principal project. He devoted a great deal of time and energy to fundraising for it. That the Museum exists today is largely down to his efforts.

Between 1965 and 1979 he was President of the Society for Army Historical Research.

In 1965 he succeeded Alexander of Tunis as Constable of the Tower of London.

He also was the honorary colonel of a number of regiments, including the Royal Irish Fusiliers (since 1946), the Malay Federation Regiment (from 1954), the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles (from 1956), the Royal Horse Guards (from 1963) and the Blues and Royals (from 1969).





Ballynahinch Royal Black District Chapter No 5 presents a cheque for £317.80 to Grace Williams, Air Ambulance NI. The money was raised at a church service collection. Included in the picture is WM Sam Nelson, DM Andrew Graham and Deputy County Grand Master Mervyn Kernaghan.



A cheque for £412 is presented to Alli Rodgers from NI Chest, Heart and Stroke by members of Lower Iveagh RBDC No 1. From left: Gordon Elliot, Treasurer; Sam Newell, WDM; Colin Cunningham, Registrar and CGM; Ian Dunlop, DDM; and Raymond Adams, Grand Chaplain. The money was raised from a collection at Lower Iveagh's annual church service.



Tassagh Temple of Royalty RBP 82 have donated £600 to Craigavon Area Hospital Acute Services. The money was raised at the Preceptory's Annual Divine Service and at a collection on the evening of the Last Saturday. Pictured handing over the cheque to hospital staff are, back row, Sir Knight Stanley McCarten, Mrs Sandra McCarten, and Sir Knight David Brownlee, Registrar. Seated, front row, is Sir Knight Alex Patterson, Treasurer.



Parkinson's Support Fermanagh and Parkinson's UK have received cheques of £475 each following their collection at the Fermanagh Royal Black Institution Saturday event in Brookeborough. Pictured are Tom Elliott (County Master); Myrtle Hemphill and Brendan Friel (Parkinson's Support, Fermanagh); Gary Wilson (Parkinson's UK); and Fred Crawford (County Registrar).



RBP 18 and RBP 1012 presented two cheques of £360 each to Colleen Milligan for Air Ambulance NI, the collection from their annual Songs of Praise service held in Tullylish Parish Church. Front row: Norman Wylie, DM RBP 1012; George Ruddock, WM RBP 1012; Colleen Milligan, Air Ambulance NI; Warren McCullough, WM RBP 18; Edward Campbell, DM RBP 18; and John Walker, Registrar, RBP 18; Back row: Thomas Adamson, RBP 18; Harry Adamson, RBP 18; William Woods, RBP 18; and William Robinson, Treasurer RBP 18.



Ancient Sons of William RBP 118 'Scotland's First' had the pleasure of attending the Nativity play at Broomlea Primary School, a wonderful Glasgow school which caters for 51 children of differing needs. It was great to watch the children and staff enjoy the Christmas story. Donations were presented to the school by Sir Knights Ian Girvan RWM, Angus Ward PM and Alex Thomson DM.

Spring/Summer 2020





At a recent meeting of Drumshemuck RBP 132, a cheque for £1,000 was presented to Mrs Ann Harland, Diabetes UK Northern Ireland, Fermanagh branch. This was part proceeds of a very successful Gospel Concert held in Derrylin Hall on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Included in the picture are Sir Knights Brian Graham, WM; Ian Latimer, DM; Wayne Patterson, Treasurer; and Fred Crawford, Registrar.



As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of Elijah's Chosen Few RBP 208 Kilkeel, a special collection took place at a service held in Mourne Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 30, 2019. A grand total of £850 was collected on the day, with the money divided equally between the Cancer Fund for Children and the Christian Institute. Pictured are the Christian Institute's NI officer Callum Webster receiving a cheque for £425 from Deputy Master Noel Graham; and Worshipful Master Bill Power presenting a cheque for £425 to Cancer Fund for Children South Down organiser Tanya Jackson. Looking on are Registrar Robert Newell and Treasurer Ivor Wilson.



A collection at the annual Songs of Praise service in Loughbrickland Presbyterian Church, organised by King Solomon's Rising Star RBP 402, raised £650 for Marie Curie. Pictured left to right are: Sir Knight Neil Ledlie, Treasurer; Worshipful Master George Cromie; Phil Kane, Marie Curie; and Deputy Master Trevor Fegan. Picture: Billy Maxwell.



At their November meeting, Pride of Richhill RBP 133 presented a cheque for £250 to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust's Neonatal Unit. Left to right: Donald Burnett, Edwin Pillow, WM Kyle Quinn, DM William Nellins, Paul Nellins and Scott Hayes.



Macosquin Smith's Defenders RBP 256 donated £200 to Coleraine & District MS Society. Pictured are David King, DM; Kenneth Hutchinson, WM; Alastair McAfee, Lead Co-ordinator, Coleraine & District MS Society; Mark Kelly, Treasurer; Harry Moore, Registrar; and Adrian Millen, Pursuivant.



Tullyconnaught Guiding Star of Bethlehem RBP 508 have presented cheques totalling £500 to local charities in memory of two Sir Knights who died, Charles Adams and Cecil Gray. Receiving cheques for £250 were Valerie Castaneda, seated second left, from the Mandeville Unit in Craigavon Area Hospital, and Eileen McCallister, seated second right, from the Southern Area Hospice, Newry.



Hillhall Golden Star RBP 1074 presented Hillhall Presbyterian Church with £600 towards their heating installation fund. Pictured left to right: Treasurer Paul Stevenson; Deputy Master Lindsay McCrudden; Worshipful Master David Myles; Rev Paul Jamieson, from Hillhall Presbyterian Church; Registrar Stephen Martin; and First Lecturer William Brennan.

Old friends meet up with Young's Memorial

oung's Memorial RBP 1187 enjoyed the presence of some old friends amidst their company at the Last Saturday in Dungannon.

Raymond Dunwoody, a Past Master of the Preceptory, and his wife, Odessa, had returned after eight years working for the New Tribes Mission in Papa New Guinea.

They started out at Lae, where they served 14 months, before managing the missionary guest house in Lapilo for seven years where they catered for new missionaries, and came to be regarded as "Granda" and "Nanny" to a lot of missionary children.

Having retired from their service in Papa New Guinea in June 2019, it left them free to join with the preceptory at the Rock, Drumnacanver, Armagh, and they enjoyed the Last Saturday demonstration in Dungannon with the Sir Knights of Young's Memorial RBP 1187. Afterwards, they joined with the Preceptory for the evening meal and celebrations in Young's Black Hall where, in years gone by, Odessa would have been busy preparing for the return of the Preceptory, which was headed by her husband Raymond as Worshipful Master for many years.

The officers and Sir Knights were enormously pleased and honoured to receive the Dunwoodys back to RBP 1187 where they had both done sterling work in previous years.

Raymond and Odessa have since answered the call of duty again and have taken up a new role at the New Tribes Mission UK headquarters in North Cotes, England. Their new role, interacting with new missionaries, will be both different and challenging to their previous duties.

The members of RBP 1187 wish them both God's richest blessing and happiness in their new roles, and look forward to enjoying their company once again in future years to come.



Raymond and Odessa Dunwoody.





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Sir Knights of RBP 502 Derrylileagh pictured at the dedication of a display cabinet, containing the Holy Bible, presented to the Preceptory by the late Miss Susan Kerr in 1911. Left to right: Herbie Anderson, Treasurer; Stephen Boyd, Chaplain; Gordon Beacom, WM; Rev E Cairns, Rector of Mullavilly; Robert Greenaway, DM; and Ian Devlin, relative of Miss Kerr



A very successful Lecturers' Conference was held by the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland on Saturday, January 18 in Partick Orange Hall. During the afternoon, the Degrees of Royal Mark, Royal White and Crimson Arrow were conferred to a high standard. Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, Imperial Grand Lecturer, Ian McCafferty, and Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Harold McCloy, presented Q&A Lecturer Certificates to Sir Knights Duncan McKissock, Adam Dickson, Robert Townsend and Alastair McKay, a preliminary certificate to Sir Knight David Jamieson, and Full Lecturer Certificates to Sir Knight Jamieson and Sir Knight McCurry.

D. R. Brewster LL.B. SOLICITORS

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