

THE **Royal** BLACK

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- INSIDE THIS EDITION -



Rising to the coronavirus challenge – pages 4-9



Remembering Imperial Deputy Grand Master Alan Goody – pages 16-19



Some of the Royal Black HQ project team – Keith Anderson, Edgar Patterson, Richard Stewart Reid and Eric Morton – at a site meeting in Loughgall.

Building for the future

The Royal Black Institution is “building for the future” at the site of its new headquarters in Loughgall.

Work got under way in May when contractors were handed the keys to the property at 45-47 Main Street to create an exciting new base for the Institution.

Weir Bros Construction (NI) Ltd were awarded the contract to transform the historic dwelling in Loughgall into a modern facility fit for the 21st century.

However, the Aughnacloy-based firm will oversee a sympathetic renovation of the B1 Listed Building, with listed features restored to their original character.

It is hoped the work will be completed by next spring.

The Loughgall building – purchased

by the Institution in 2017 - is the first time the Loyal Order has ever owned its headquarters.

The Institution was previously based in Dublin and Belfast, before becoming a tenant in the majestic Brownlow House, Lurgan, in the late 1920s.

Last year, the Institution moved from Brownlow House to temporary premises beside the Museum of Orange Heritage in Loughgall. The move will allow senior officers of the Institution to follow the progress of the new headquarters as it takes shape over the coming months.

“Undoubtedly, the development of a new administrative base is one of the most important projects ever embarked upon by the Imperial Grand Black Chapter,” said

Sovereign Grand Master Rev Anderson.

“We hope that with state-of-the-art facilities, the Institution will be well equipped to meet the challenges of the future, and we will be better placed to explain our Christian beliefs and principles to the wider public.”

Lester Weir, from Weir Bros Construction (NI) Ltd, and who is a member of Drummond RBP 426, Moy, said he was delighted to be awarded the contract.

“I’m honoured that Weir Bros have been entrusted with the responsibility to transform this beautiful old building into modern headquarters for the Royal Black Institution,” said Mr Weir.

Full story, see pages 20-21.


*The Food Awards NI
Cafe / Bistro of the Year
(County Armagh) 2018*

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Message from the Sovereign Grand Master

There can be no doubt that our lives and the life, work and witness of our Institution have been severely impacted by the world pandemic, COVID-19. However, rather than lie down and complain about our lot, the Sir Knights of this Institution rose to the many challenges faced by society. Your response was unprecedented in the recent history of this Institution.

Large and small-scale initiatives saw the purchase and supply of Personal Protection Equipment, food hampers and other help, which was then delivered to hospitals, nursing homes, surgeries and hospices, as well as directly to many individual homes. There has been a huge number of compliments received from people across the community for the magnificent help given by the Royal Black Institution. So well done to one and all; Sir Knights and friends, you have proved that this Institution has, at its heart, Christian love and compassion for those around us. Thank-you for your example, fortitude and commitment, as reflected in the call of Jesus in Matthew 5:16: "To let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify you Father which is in Heaven."

Of course, the restrictions on public gatherings had a direct impact on our witness for the Reformed Christian Faith this summer across all our jurisdictions. This impact was felt not only by our Sir Knights but also by the bands community, who provide the wonderful music for our processions, as well as all those churches and stall holders who attend and provide food for those assembled. I would like to record my thanks for the way our Sir Knights and bands conducted themselves over the summer, and for the innovation shown by Sir Knights in the use of social media, Drive-In Services and Acts of Remembrance to mark the normal day of their processions.

Thank-you to everyone - I know it was not easy, but your response was an example to all.

During the period of restrictions, I recorded - along with two Grand Chaplains - 30 weekly video messages which attracted almost 80,000 views. Thank-you for the many kind comments left on our Facebook page. I trust that the messages were of help and encouragement to Sir Knights, their families, friends and supporters.

Letters were also written to grieving families that had lost loved ones to the virus. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them, along with all those front-line workers, NHS staff and medical research staff. May God bless you all in your work as you seek to meet all our needs.

So, what of the future? There is no doubt that this virus is going to be with us for the remainder of 2020. This news might be daunting for some, but I see it as a challenge for us as Sir Knights in the following terms:

- Innovation – Be innovative and think how you can continue to witness for the Reformed Christian Faith. Yes, we may have to do things differently, but the core objective remains the same - to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords. Remember, others will be watching to see if your Faith really guides and directs your thoughts, words and deeds. (James 2:18)
- Building – Let us all start to rebuild on the firm foundation of God's Word for the future of our Institution. This will not be easy, but our people need certainty after their lives were impacted through fear, separation, isolation, sickness, and death. God will guide and direct us if we turn and follow Him as He calls us to rebuild. Remember that when God calls, He equips. (Hebrews 13:21)



- Togetherness – Let us all put our shoulder to the wheel, do not leave it to the few, because by working together until the task is complete, we will all benefit and be Blessed. Remember our chosen charity, The Somme Nursing Home. While it might be difficult to organise events, there are many other ways to raise awareness and funds. Remember, "God loves a cheerful giver!" (2 Corinthians 9:7)

So, may God help you all to be innovative and support our rebuilding as we work together for the good of our Institution, the welfare of our fellow man and the extension of God's Kingdom here on earth. Remember the command of Jesus in the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19&20)

The Royal Black Institution

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Royal Black Institution

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE 19th FEBRUARY 2021



1 & 2: Coleraine RBDC No 1 Worshipful District Master Jeffrey Stirling and District Treasurer Mark Callaghan delivered PPE, purchased through assistance. 3: Glasgow Royal Black District Chapter No1 delivered essential supplies to various Covid-19 wards at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary Knight RH Bell Memorial RBP 267, handed over boxes of bakery goods to staff at the Mandeville Unit and the labs at Craigavon Area Hospital. tackling coronavirus, and £250 to St Andrew's Hospice, Airdrie, to support their hard work during these difficult times. RBP 296 also distributed 6: Worshipful Master Robert Moore, of William Carmichael Memorial RBP 735, along with Sir Knights Hugh Lyness and Scott Dalryple, made a

Institution rises to the challenge

A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you and praise you for all your goodness to us even at times when we did not deserve such love. Forgive us our many grievous sins, we pray, and help us to serve you in all that we say and do. We pray Lord that you will come and heal our land and our world of the coronavirus.

We remember especially those who are currently suffering from coronavirus and those that have already lost loved ones. Lord give them your peace at this difficult time.

Give wisdom Lord, we pray, to all our political leaders throughout the world as they seek to provide leadership in this crisis. We thank you for the skill and dedication of all our healthcare professionals, researchers and all those that work in essential services. Lord keep them safe as they work for our protection and supply our needs.

In these dark days of uncertainty Lord, give your comfort to all those who are in distress and worry. Give them and us a real sense of peace as we all journey through these days of uncertainty by placing our trust in you as Lord of all, knowing that you have promised never to leave us or forsake us.

Heavenly Father, come now we pray, hear our prayers for this our land and our world as we look to you the Great Physician and Healer of all who put their faith and trust in you, through the redeeming work of your Son on the Cross at Calvary.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ who showed compassion to the outcast, acceptance to the rejected and love to those to whom no love was shown. AMEN



Above & Opposite: Sir Knights from Lisburn District delivered hand sanitizer, face masks and face shields to care homes, Lagan Valley Hospital and St John Ambulance in the city. Pictured above is Worshipful District Master Brian Galbraith, left, and Deputy District Master James Shaw delivering PPE items to Lisburn Intermediate Care Centre.

Members of the Royal Black Institution have been hailed for displaying tremendous civic leadership throughout the coronavirus crisis.

Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, said he was overwhelmed by the fundraising and the work carried out by Sir Knights as they helped their communities combat deprivation, isolation and shortages during the unprecedented period of lockdown.

When the scale of the emergency first became apparent, Rev Anderson appealed to members to get involved in efforts to bring comfort and support to the suffering and vulnerable.

And he was delighted – and humbled – by the response of Sir Knights.

"From Glasgow to London, from Belfast to Raphoe, and from Portrush to Warrenpoint, our members have been creative and inventive in responding to

the challenges of this time in order to give leadership to our communities," said Rev Anderson.

"I've heard of PPE equipment being purchased and delivered to hospitals, care homes, doctors' surgeries and domiciliary workers.

"Food has also been donated to NHS staff in hospitals and care homes, along with food parcels and medication for the elderly and those who are self-isolating.

"Thousands of pounds have been raised up and down the land and many have benefited from the caring and dedicated members of the Royal Black Institution, their wives, families and friends.

"Thank-you' seems such a small word to say in response to such a magnificent effort. Well done to everyone and I know that you will be blessed by your labours."

Rev Anderson expressed deep sympathy with all those who had lost a loved one due to coronavirus.

"Many homes throughout our land have been touched with grief and sadness because of this pandemic, and I pray that each of them will know God's love and mercy as they deal with the loss of their loved one in the weeks and months ahead."

And he praised health care workers, and others working in key services, who provided medical care and kept the country running during the darkest days of the pandemic.

"Our fantastic NHS was full of heroes who provided care, support and compassion to their patients, often at great personal risk to themselves. Indeed, there were many others in numerous health settings, such as care homes, plus all those key workers like delivery drivers and shop staff, who kept going throughout the crisis and are equally deserving of our thanks and praise."

Early in the coronavirus crisis, the Sovereign Grand Master issued a prayer appeal,



donations from some of the District's preceptories, to local care homes. Thanks to Rt Wor Sir Knight Harold McCloy, of Village Blinds, for his and to NHS staff, raised by contributions from its four Preceptories. 4: Worshipful Master Leslie Geary and Treasurer Ian Freeburn, of Sir JP Chippy also donated drinks. 5: RBP 296 Hope of Airdrie, Scotland, donated £250 to University Hospital Monklands to assist their work in 22 food parcels to older Sir Knights and senior citizens, while also keeping in touch with Sir Knights via phone calls and socially-distanced visits. sizable donation of toiletries and treats for the staff and residents of Saint Margaret's Care Home in Hawick in the Scottish Borders.

during ongoing coronavirus crisis



calling on Sir Knights to sit down with their family and pray earnestly to God at 7pm on Palm Sunday (April 5).

He urged people to consider the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek

my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Rev Anderson said that his prayer initiative was "an opportunity to humble ourselves before God and to seek forgiveness for our sins, as well

as healing for our land".

He was inspired by the success of the 'Clap for Carers' initiative, which Rev Anderson described as a "wonderful" way to show our appreciation and support for the brave health workers of the NHS.

Rev Anderson encouraged

people to pray in their own homes, and they were advised not to leave their property.

Anyone taking part in the time of prayer could simply bring their own heartfelt thoughts and concerns to God. However, Rev Anderson also composed a special prayer for people to say if they wished to do so.

In the prayer, God was asked to keep health workers safe, and to give peace to those suffering from coronavirus and those who have already lost loved ones.

The prayer also asked God to provide wisdom to political leaders during the crisis.

"Our Heavenly Father is the Great Physician. He is our rock and our refuge, and upon Him we can depend in our time of trouble," said Rev Anderson.

Summer parades cancelled

As the scale of the coronavirus crisis started to become apparent, the Sovereign Grand Master and senior officers of the Institution felt it was their duty to act responsibly, and moved quickly to assist government efforts to restrict the movement of people and reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus.

On March 14, a resolution was passed by Central Committee, cancelling all meetings, events and services immediately until further notice, and throughout all Royal Black jurisdictions.

A statement called on Sir Knights "to be creative and inventive in responding to the challenges of this time in order to give leadership to our communities".

"We would also commend our members to constantly bring this whole situation before God's Throne of Grace in their private prayers," added the statement.

Then, in early May, the Institution confirmed that following ongoing review of the March resolution, all demonstrations, processions and services scheduled to take

place over the summer of 2020 had been cancelled.

This included the Scarva Sham Fight and Bangor Co Down events in July as well as August parades in Kesh, Co Fermanagh; Southport, England; Partick, Glasgow; and the annual Last Saturday demonstrations, which were due to be held in Ballyclare (organised by County Antrim Grand Black Chapter); Dromore, Co Down (City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter); Bangor (County Down Grand Black Chapter); Raphoe, Co Donegal (County Londonderry Grand Black Chapter); Killylea, Co Armagh (involving districts from North Armagh and South Tyrone); and Castlederg, Tyrone (involving districts from Omagh, Castlederg and Strabane).

Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, said: "While it is regrettable that this decision has to be taken, the coronavirus pandemic means we are living in difficult and uncertain times, and we appreciate completely our obligations under Government regulations that are likely to be

with us for the foreseeable future.

"The protection of our members, band members, and all our friends and supporters that take part in and enjoy our processions is paramount, together with our responsibility for the wider community."

Rev Anderson continued: "Our focus remains on doing all we can to assist with the fight against this terrible virus.

"It has been an extremely difficult time for many, and our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones."

He concluded: "I know many of our members and their families will feel a sense of sadness that our demonstrations this summer have had to be cancelled.

"However, we look forward with confidence in Him who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. There is no doubt that in due course our Institution will once again have the opportunity to witness through our processions, services and ongoing charity work, the wonderful saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world."

Royal Black chief leads

One of the Royal Black Institution's top figures was the driving force behind a massive coronavirus relief effort in Co Antrim which raised almost £50,000 and produced more than 55,000 face visors, over 4,000 pairs of scrubs and around 4,000 litres of hand sanitiser.

Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Harold McCloy, raised an army of volunteers to help him assemble the much-needed PPE items and deliver them to hospitals, care homes and other locations across Northern Ireland.

The Ballymena businessman and his wife, Alison, were inspired to answer the call to action after their company, Village Blinds, was forced to close temporarily due to the coronavirus lockdown.

"We wanted to do something to help in providing a product or service for our incredible NHS staff and care workers," said Sir Knight McCloy.

"With the urgent need for scrubs so highly documented, we knew this was something practical that we could help with."

The McCloy's were delighted to source 10,000 metres of cloth from William Clark and Sons, in Upperlands, Maghera. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of people, within days a fundraising campaign had generated the five-figure sum required to buy the material.

Work was able to start on cutting the fabric, with Bradfor from Rostrevor kindly offering their services free of charge. The pieces were then distributed to an "an exceptional band of stitchers", made up of around 75 volunteers spread right across Mid and East Antrim – including Ballymena, Broughshane, Cullybackey, Ahoghill and Larne. Among those to get involved were Bannside Stitchers, Cloughmills Crochet Club and Tullygarley Sewing Group.

Many of the volunteers were women aged over 70 who were professional stitchers during their working lives, and Sir Knight McCloy praised the quality of their work as "absolute perfection".

"These women deserve all the credit,"



Sir Knight Harold McCloy ASGM delivers some sanitiser to Camphill Care Home, Ballymena.

he said. "Without them, the whole thing wouldn't have been possible. We simply couldn't have done it. They are the real heroes of the operation.

"I also want to thank the people who helped me make all the drop-offs and deliveries – there were a lot of miles covered!

"And the support we received financially was fantastic. When I ordered the fabric, fundraising was not in my thoughts, but when the officers of County Antrim Royal Black Chapter heard what I was doing, within 24 hours there was £2,500 in the pot.

"Lots of people made donations, and all the Loyal Orders financially supported the project, from county level down to individuals."

In fact, the donations – ranging from £5 to the £3,860 donated by the Bann Maine West Community Cluster – simply kept on pouring in, and soon exceeded the initial target of £16,000 which was needed to cover solely the cost of buying the fabrics for making the scrubs.



Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Harold McCloy, third right, delivers 100 scrubs to The Somme Nursing Home in Belfast.

And so, with the excess funds, Sir Knight McCloy and his team began the second phase of their relief effort – face visors!

After talks with plastics manufacturer, Brett Martin, Sir Knight McCloy was able to source a weekly supply of the clear plastic screen needed to make the visors.

"Over the next four weeks we took delivery of six pallets, each containing 300 sheets of clear plastic," he said. "A local company with a CNC machine cut the plastic to the required shape and size.

"From there, we were able to assemble the visors by attaching a foam and elastic headband. These were then coated in an anti-fog spray and parcelled up into packs of six or 24.

"Approximately 55,000 visors were produced initially, with more produced in recent weeks.

"We also purchased 1,000 litres cubed of sanitiser and set up a bottling process, making up bottles of sanitiser ranging from 185ml to 5-litre bottles. A total of 4,000 litres of sanitiser was bottled, packed and

Team effort in Fermanagh

Sir Knights in Fermanagh formed part of the 'Fermanagh Loyal Orders Front-Line Health Support Project'.

By May, the group – which included Black Chapters and preceptories, Orange lodges, WLOLs, ABOD Clubs, a band and individual donations – had raised in excess of £17,000, with the money used to buy and distribute PPE items to a range of healthcare settings.

The PPE items included 5,500 face masks, 2,000 aprons, 5,600 pairs of gloves, 800 face visors, 230 litres of hand sanitiser, 75 sets of scrubs, 20 boxes of hand wipes, and 20 packs of paper towels.

EMIGRATING?
Please contact
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of overseas jurisdictions.

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massive PPE project



Assistant Sovereign Grand Master Harold McCloy with some of 4,000 sets of scrubs his team produced for healthcare workers in hospitals and care homes.



Sir Knights in Paisley, Greenock, Port Glasgow and Johnstone presented some of Sir Knight McCloy's facemasks to the staff at Erskine Hospital, a charity very close to the hearts of members of RBP 457, Paisley.

delivered.

"Other items bought in pallet quantities included face masks and vinyl gloves.

"We then invited groups that had donated money to come back and take away the PPE items, and donate them locally into care homes and anywhere they felt needed the supply. In the end, most care homes across Co Antrim received items of some description from this project.

"Recently, we've added branded washable face masks to our list and were delighted to donate 200 masks to the



PPE items are donated to Oak Tree Manor Care Home, Dunmurry.



Norman Montgomery WDM, Robert Getty DDM, and William Barr District Treasurer, present a cheque for £5,525 from Ballymena RBDC No 2 and donations from Preceptories within their District, to Sir Knight Harold McCloy ASGM.

outreach group, Gospel Goal. The masks were branded with a short text of scripture, and were handed out by Gospel Goal as they felt was necessary."

The project received an amazing total of £47,600. As each donation arrived, the money was re-invested into buying more raw materials and stock. At the time of this magazine going to press, there was £5,000 in surplus donations, which will be handed over to charity in due course, or used to make more PPE should the coronavirus situation in Northern Ireland escalate over

the coming months.

"We had such a positive response - the whole project has been very uplifting," said Sir Knight McCloy.

"We have had many letters and phone calls from care homes thanking us for our help. It certainly touches the heart strings when you deliver a van-load of PPE to a care home that lost patients to this awful virus.

"A number of radio stations reported on the project, as well as most of the main newspapers.

"We have also had tweets from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and personal recognition from the mayor of Mid & East Antrim Council.

"One thing I have always made clear is that I did not take on this project for any honour or recognition, but that I simply felt a duty to help out during the pandemic.

"Without all the volunteer stitchers and helpers, the initial project could never have been completed in record time. To them, I am eternally thankful.

"We express our thanks to all the nursing staff in hospitals, care homes, and community carers - we were delighted to give them a little help during the huge and challenging job they undertook every day of the pandemic.

"To all the personal individuals, lodges, preceptories, ABOD clubs or anyone that donated - without you, all this would not have been possible!

"To my fellow officers in Imperial, County Antrim and Ballymena Royal Black District, I am also thankful.

"And I simply have to mention my good friend Sir Knight David Gordon, DCGM, Co Antrim, who was the man that started the ball rolling and suggested that fundraising be done.

"Thanks David, without your input the project might never have reached the heights it did!"

Online technology used to spread message

With meetings, events, parades and demonstrations cancelled due to coronavirus, the Royal Black Institution moved online to help spread its message.

Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, broadcast a weekly video message every Wednesday morning on the Institution's Facebook page.

The Imperial Grand Black Chapter produced a 30-minute online video involving a service of remembrance. You

can watch this on the Institution's YouTube channel.

Many preceptories and districts also utilised modern technology to keep open the channels of communication. Facebook was a good platform to tell followers about the tremendous acts of kindness carried out by Sir Knights during the coronavirus lockdown, and also to broadcast videos of poppy wreaths being laid at local war memorials.

Services of worship also moved online. For

example, City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter filmed their Divine Service and broadcast it online, as did County Armagh Grand Black Chapter and the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West.

And Lower Iveagh RBDC No 1 moved quickly to set up a Facebook group at the beginning of lockdown, with members kept informed of events and Imperial Grand Chaplain Raymond Adams broadcasting a Gospel message live every Sunday morning.



Imperial Grand Chaplain Rev Nigel Reid delivers a Bible reading during the IGBC's online service of remembrance.



Pictured left to right: Rt Wor Sir Knt David Livingstone, County Grand Master; Catherine O'Hara, Partnership Programme Manager, NI Children's Hospice; Sir Knt Raymond Walker, County Grand Treasurer; and Jenny Irwin, local NI Children's Hospice Representative.

£17k handed over to Hospice

A mother whose two sons died from a rare genetic condition has praised the County Armagh Grand Black Chapter after it raised £17,000 for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.

Jenny Irwin's sons, Jack and Michael, defied the odds to live into their teenage years after being diagnosed with Metachromatic Leukodystrophy as young boys aged six and two. The disease affects the nervous system, leaving the sufferer totally dependent on others.

The Irwin family, from outside Benburb, received tremendous support from the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice during Jack and Michael's illness, and Mrs Irwin was delighted to see thousands of pounds donated to a charity which is close to her heart.

"When I see that amount of money donated to the hospice, I just think it's fantastic," said Mrs Irwin.

"It's so thoughtful and kind, and it really will help families who are in turmoil.

"The charity work that the Royal Black Institution does is great, and they probably don't get the praise they deserve. It's clear that the Royal Black isn't just about parading on the Last Saturday, it is a caring organisation."

Mrs Irwin was invited along to the cheque presentation ceremony by County Armagh Grand Master, Right Worshipful Sir Knight David Livingstone.

He explained how, during coronavirus lockdown, there had been many examples at Preceptory and District levels of initiatives which had provided much-needed support to individuals, caring organisations and NHS staff.

However, concern was expressed at County level in Armagh regarding the impact the pandemic was having on the fundraising activities of hospice charities, and after careful consideration it was decided to launch a County appeal for the NI Children's Hospice.

"The response from the Districts, Preceptories and individual Sir Knights was wonderful to say the least," said Sir Knight Livingstone, who is also the Imperial Grand Treasurer.

"At a time when no meetings were taking place and the usual lines of communication were not available, a total of £17,000 was

raised.

"We are so grateful to our members for their generosity and willingness to support the work of the Children's Hospice. This amount was not achieved through fundraising events but rather by direct giving and a real desire to support our wider society in these most difficult of days."

The cheque was presented to Catherine O'Hara, Partnership Programme Manager for the Children's Hospice, by County Grand Treasurer Sir Knight Raymond Walker.

Ms O'Hara said: "We want to thank every single member of the Royal Black Institution for this wonderful gift.

"Your donation of £17,000 will help us continue to give babies and children, like Jack and Michael, the best possible care in our Hospice."

Ms O'Hara added: "Horizon House, the Children's Hospice, is the only service of its kind in Northern Ireland, caring for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. We help babies and children with extremely complex health needs that require specialist nursing care. We offer 'Supported Short Breaks' that allow families to get an opportunity to rest and relax while we take over the medical care of their child.

"Through our partnership work with the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children we can now also offer families the opportunity to leave the clinical environment of the hospital and have 24-hour care surrounded by family and loved ones. This care takes place in the Children's Hospice, or if it is possible, in the child's own home."

Ms O'Hara continued: "Northern Ireland Hospice has been delivering specialist palliative care to local people across Northern Ireland for nearly 40 years.

"Hospice has had many challenges over the years, but COVID-19 has been, by far, the biggest challenge we have ever faced. Our shops were closed for months and our fundraising events were cancelled. As we only receive a small amount of Government funding, we rely heavily on the generosity of people across Northern Ireland to allow us to continue the delivery of our service. Without your help we would not be able to help families like the Irwins, which would be devastating."

The lives of Mrs Irwin and her family were turned upside down in 2002 when two

of her four children were diagnosed with Metachromatic Leukodystrophy.

"I don't know how we would have coped if we didn't have the support of the Hospice," she told the Royal Black Magazine.

"Jack was six when he was diagnosed. Michael was a bouncy two-year-old when his test came back positive.

"Michael went for a bone marrow transplant over to England but his body rejected that, and so we knew when we brought him home that the two boys would follow the same path.

"We first visited the hospice in 2003. We were very nervous but the staff were lovely and it felt like a home from home. In fact, our boys used to call it 'the hotel' because it was such a great, fun place!

"As the boys' illness progressed, we needed more and more support. We had hospital beds installed at home, and 'Hospice at Home' saw carers come in to give my husband and I some respite.

"Jack had just turned 15 when he died in 2010, and Michael was 14 when he passed away in 2014.

"We were originally told they would not live past the age of 10, so we proved them wrong thankfully."

As well as the Hospice, the Irwin family were thankful for all the support they received from the NHS and their local community.

"We met lovely people along our journey and were very lucky with the support we did get."

In 2008, Mrs Irwin and her husband founded the Lely Center in Eglish, Tyrone, the well-known agricultural company which sells robotic milking, feeding and barn equipment.

Life is always very busy for this successful business couple, but thoughts of Jack and Michael are never far from their minds.

"They were both children with a twinkle in their eye who loved to get up to devilment! When they were fit and able they were full of beans and very lovable little characters," said Mrs Irwin.

"Every day I would think about them, about what they would be doing now.

"But I'm just thankful for the time that we did have with them."

The battle with coronavirus

The Somme Nursing Home in Belfast – the Royal Black Institution's Designated Charity Appeal – was on the frontline in the fight against coronavirus. Here, the matron of the home, LEIGH MIRANDA PATIENCE, explains how staff bravely battled through the unprecedented crisis to keep on providing first class care to residents

The Somme Nursing Home locked down early in March 2020 prior to the mandatory instruction to do so from the Department of Health. We have always prided ourselves at being at the forefront of initiatives (ahead of the game!) in all aspects of the care that we provide and made the decision based on the ultimate safety of our residents. It impacted greatly on residents' social wellbeing but we took measures to make sure as much contact with family and friends was maintained from a safe distance. Daily telephone calls were facilitated and the use of technology and social media allowed us to give some form of face-to-face contact.

Staff were anxious and concerned – the fear of the unknown gripped us all but in keeping with our good working relationships and communication, we had daily meetings which offered some reassurance during the uncertain times.

Despite all of the measures that we took, the weeks that followed were like nothing we had experienced before. Over the months that followed we had a total of 21 residents testing positive for the virus and lost 75% of our workforce to the self-isolation measures which needed to take place in order to keep everyone safe.

Sad and stressful times followed. A total of eight residents succumbed to the virus and providing full end-of-life care was difficult and distressing for everyone involved. Families would usually



Staff at The Somme Nursing Home in Belfast performed heroics during the coronavirus crisis. The home is the Royal Black Institution's Designated Charity Appeal.

have time with anyone nearing the end of their life, and the quality and quantity of this time was denied given the strict rules in place for the lockdown. Staff accommodated as much as they could, and with strict infection control and controlled access to the home, we were able to afford a little time to families and their loved ones during their last few days.

Stocks of PPE from our usual suppliers appeared to dry up overnight and there were no supplies available. What was available had gone up in price by nearly 500% and finances were strained to the limits. When the Royal Black and Rev Anderson came forward with supplies of scrubs, masks, visors and hand sanitiser, it was a huge relief, alleviating the stress and strain of sourcing these usually basic supplies. We could once again make sure that all of our infection control measures were

fully implemented and that residents and staff had the full protection they needed.

All of the staff worked long hours to cover for colleagues not able to come in. They worked over and above the call of duty, most undertaking tasks not within their own roles so that residents had all of the safety and comfort they required. Days turned into nights, and nights into days, due to the long hours being worked and the countless amount of reports and paperwork having to be written to satisfy regulators and trust bodies.

Family and friends kept us supplied with sweet treats and hand lotion (a much needed commodity given the amount of hand washing going on!) and often we would arrive at the front door to keep us going for the next 12 hours!

The home has been Covid

free now for many weeks, 13 of the 21 residents diagnosed as positive fully recovered and staff have all now returned to full-time duties. Restricted visiting has been implemented and residents are enjoying some quality time with their families once again.

We are not over the crisis by any means. Our whole approach to care and safety has had to change and we need to make sure that we stick to this religiously in order to help us keep everyone safe moving forwards.

As a charity, we were hit hard. We can accommodate 50 residents in the home and, sadly, due to losing some of our dear veterans and also due to restrictions on admissions over the last few months, our occupancy in the home has reduced by over a third.

We are now open to admissions once again and make contact daily with as many sources as possible to advise them that this is the case. We have had the pleasure of welcoming some new faces into the home already and hope that as public confidence grows and time moves on, that our home will be full once again, allowing us to provide the best of care to our elderly veterans.

We have lost but we have also learned during this year. Learned that every day and every life is valuable. That nothing compares to the value of friendship and support, and that the ethos of the home will carry on for another 100 years beyond our generation and into the next.

EMIGRATING?

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The Last Missed



**By Imperial Grand Chaplain
Raymond Adams**

Reading from Revelation
Chapter 22,
verses 17-21.

By the time this is published we will have missed the Last Saturday in August Demonstrations but in the above reading from God's Word we find three references to "The Last" which I trust you will not miss.

1. The Last Invitation.
2. The Last Promise.
3. The Last Prayer.

The reading referred to is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and it is impossible to fully understand the Word of God unless we understand the Second Coming because it is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament. To the person who understands and looks forward to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible becomes a new book. So let us prayerfully turn to this passage (please note, all Biblical references are from the KJV).

THE LAST INVITATION

In Revelation 22:17, we see the word "come" mentioned three times and there is no greater experience than to come to the Lord Jesus Christ and experience His Salvation.

God invited Noah into the ark with these words: "Come thou and all thy house into the ark for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." Genesis 7:1. Those who obeyed were saved.

In Isaiah 1:18, we have God's invitation to come for cleansing: "Come now and let us reason together said the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

And we know that it is only God that cleanses us from sin through the Blood of His



Only Begotten Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and Jesus himself extends that invitation in Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me". Those who come are cleansed from sin.

The passage before us gives God's final call and to refuse that call will result in a lost soul in Hell, so here God swings open the door of Salvation to whosoever will come. He invites sinners to come and drink of the water of life; no-one is excluded and that water of life is Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way than that of Calvary because Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me". Those who come will be with Christ in Heaven and those who don't and reject Christ will be with all unbelievers in Hell.

This is God's last invitation and it is the strongest call in this world of uncertainty.

THE LAST PROMISE

"Surely I come quickly." Many people laugh and scorn at the preaching of the Second Coming but as followers of Jesus Christ we are put "in trust with the Gospel" and that means we warn people to repent of sin and, by faith, trust Christ for salvation. When Jesus said "I will come again" in John 14:2, He was speaking truth and we know that Christ was true and is truth, and in keeping with the truth of the Bible there are three announcements made in this closing chapter of The

Revelation.

In verse 7 He says: "Behold I come quickly, blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

In verse 12: "And behold I come quickly and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be." Christ is coming again, suddenly, and is coming to bring rewards to His servants.

In verse 20 He simply states, "Surely I come quickly", and this verse makes the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ a great event of the future. The dead in Christ (those who are saved) shall be raised and the living will be changed and together will be caught up into the air to be for ever with the Lord.

If Jesus Christ should come today would He find you with a pure clean heart? Is your heart right towards yours and empty of all sorts of hatred and rebelliousness, or would you be ashamed to stand before the Lord? Remember what Revelation 21:8 says: "But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth (keeps on burning) with fire and brimstone; which is the second death."

May God give each reader Grace to be ready for the day when Christ returns.

THE LAST PRAYER

"Even so come Lord Jesus." (Verse 20)
Christ promised to come

again and John said at once, "Even so come Lord Jesus".

John here was speaking for himself when he prayed these words.

If we are doubtful of the truth of His word and His promises we will not be found praying this prayer. When doubt comes in it starts working on the great fundamental, foundational truths of the Word of God. Many don't believe in the true Biblical doctrine of Christ's return and for them it is not a case of "even so come Lord Jesus".

The Christ who said I am coming again will come in power and glory. The Christ who was prophesied to come as Saviour hundreds of years before He was born; the Christ who walked this earth, was crucified and died on a cross, who rose triumphant from the grave on the third day, who was watched as He went back to Glory, is the Christ who promised: "I will come again." This is the Christ who is coming for those who are ready for that great day.

He is coming with the nail prints in His hands and feet and He is coming to be KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. But if you don't know Him as Saviour it will be for you "weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth when you are tormented day and night forever and ever".

I trust you will accept the Last Invitation, trust the Last Promise and pray the Last Prayer, "Even so come Lord Jesus". Amen and Amen.



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Memorial tablet in honour of 'The Twelve Mile Snipers'

*Ulster's sons
have bled and died
Down through
the years at
Britain's side
Fought to keep
the homeland
free
Bled and died for
liberty.*

*Nineteen Sixteen
when at the
Somme
Five thousand
men they gave
their all
The battlefield
that day ran red
With loyal blood
from Ulster's
dead.*

*In thirty-nine
when war clouds
rolled
And Britain
stood all but
alone
The call for help
was not in vain
Ulster responded
yet again.*

*We left our
homes, factories
and banks
Came forward in
force to swell the
ranks
We were young
and with one
ambition
To serve the
crown and
maintain
tradition.*

*We joined a
regiment second
to none
Proud to be
known as Ulster's
sons
Served in
countries near
and far
Privileged to
wear the Burma
Star.*

*Now years have
passed and
slipped away
And old men
dream of
yesterday
Suffice for us to
reply when asked
We served our
time with the 8th
Belfast.*

A new memorial tablet was unveiled by Sons of Ulster RBP 375 on the wall of West Belfast Orange Hall on Saturday, August 15, 2020, the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, to commemorate the service of a local regiment which served with distinction in Burma during the Second World War.

The 8th (Belfast) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, was recruited in Belfast and surrounding districts in 1939 prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, but by the end of the war the regiment had volunteers from all the counties of Ulster.

After serving in France and England during the early years of the war, the regiment made the long journey via South Africa and India to service in Burma from 1942-45, becoming part of Britain's 'Forgotten Army' in the war against Japan.

The regiment took part in the Arakan campaigns, firing effectively against the Japanese Air Force and equally effectively against Japanese ground targets. The long range and accuracy of their firing earned the regiment the nickname of 'The Twelve Mile Snipers'.

Their commanding officer was Lt Col James Glencairn Cunningham, whose family owned Fernhill House.

The commemorative event held on VJ Day, with numbers limited due to coronavirus restrictions, was attended by members of the modern-day Cunningham family including Samuel and Rolli (Col. Cunningham's sons), along with grandsons Andrew, David and Jamie, with speeches held in the Spectrum Centre prior to crossing the Shankill Road to West Belfast Orange



Sir Knights from Sons of Ulster RBP 375 bow their heads in remembrance.

Hall.

The memorial tablet was unveiled jointly by Samuel Cunningham and the High Sheriff of Belfast, Cllr Nicola Verner, and was dedicated by Worshipful Sir Knight Rev Dr Billy Malcolmson BD (RBP 550), chairman of the West Belfast Orange Hall Board of Trustees.

Among those addressing the event was Danny Kinahan, whose father, Major Robin Kinahan, served as Adjutant to Lt. Colonel James Glencairn Cunningham in Burma and went on to serve as High Sheriff and Lord Mayor of Belfast.

Musical accompaniment was provided by The Regimental Band, Ulster Volunteer Force (1912). The event was organised by Sons of Ulster RBP 375, through their Registrar Sir Knight Samuel Coulter PDM. The engraved tablet was kindly donated by Sandy and Agnes Close of Woodvale Funeral Services. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Sir Knight Gary Wilson PM of RBP 375.

Among the special



The new memorial tablet on the wall of West Belfast Orange Hall.

guests were Richard Reade, whose father Major Robin Reade served in the 8th Regiment and won the Military Cross for exemplary gallantry at the famous Battle of the Admin Box; Colonel Derek Smyth of the Burma Star Association; Mrs Carol Walker MBE, director of the Somme Association; and Dame Patricia Windsor-Hawkins OBE, of St George's Memorial Church, Ypres.

A spokesman for Sons of Ulster RBP 375 said: "We wish to thank all those who supported this dignified commemoration, held on this 75th anniversary of victory over Japan and the end of the war 1939-1945.



Music was supplied by The Regimental Band, Ulster Volunteer Force (1912).

"We hope that this tablet will help to ensure that the bravery and sacrifice of these local men who served in 'The Forgotten Army' is, indeed, not forgotten but is remembered with pride and with lasting appreciation."

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Obituary

Sir Knight Fred Crawford



Dedicated, reliable and trustworthy are just some of the words used to describe the late Worshipful Sir Knight Fred Crawford, Co Fermanagh Grand Registrar.

Sir Knight Crawford was a committed member of the Royal Black Institution, an organisation that he loved, and dedicated so much time and effort to.

Having joined RBP 132 on 10th November, 1986, Sir Knight Crawford received his Red Cross Degree on 11th April, 1988. He was presented with his 30-year service jewel on 8th April, 2019. He served as WM from 1999 to 2001, and held the office of Registrar from 2002.

He was a member of the committee

of Lisnaskea Royal Black District Chapter from 2004; he was Deputy County Grand Registrar from 2007 to 2011; and he was County Grand Registrar from 2011 until his untimely passing on Thursday, 20th August, 2020.

Sir Knight Crawford was also a life-long worshipper at Kinawley Parish Church, where he was also a great servant and worker. His wife Margaret is a Diocesan Reader in Kilmore Diocese.

In every sphere of life the common trait was Sir Knight Crawford's dedication to whatever he was involved with. His employment was no different; as a staff member at the Department for Regional Development (now Department of Infrastructure), he was extremely well respected and renowned as someone who quietly and efficiently got on with his work.

Sir Knight Crawford retired from his employment two years ago, which allowed him more flexibility to carry out his voluntary work for the Royal Black Institution, Kinawley Parish Church and provided him with more time to spend with his family, particularly his grandchildren.

Sir Knight Crawford's passing is a huge shock and loss to all of us, but particularly to his family. To his wife Margaret, sons Mark and Gary, daughters-in-law Victoria and Kerry, grandchildren Emily, Eva, Amelia, Archie and Harry, brothers George and Geoffrey and sister Lettie, we extend our sincere sympathy and trust that much of Sir Knight Crawford's positive characteristics can be reflected throughout all within society.

Obituary

Sir Knight Rev Dr W Warren Porter

We regret to record the passing on Sunday, 2nd August, 2020 of Worshipful Sir Knight Rev Dr W Warren Porter at the age of 93. Sir Knight Rev Dr Porter had for many years been an Imperial Deputy Grand Chaplain before standing down because of ill-health.

Throughout his many years of service he had been an enthusiastic and active member of our Institution and his addresses, from both pulpit and platform, always emphasised the Bible-based, Christ-centred focus of our Institution. A faithful member of Agivey Knights of Ulster RBP 843 in Coleraine District, Co. Londonderry, he was always available with good advice and a sensible approach to practical problems.

Possessed of a ready wit and the ability to recognise the real difficulty in a complicated situation, he was highly regarded and much appreciated wherever he went.

Expressing his sympathy to the family, the Sovereign Grand Master said that Sir Knight Rev Dr Porter had been an exemplary member of our Institution and "we will greatly miss his contribution and guidance, particularly on faith issues, always shared with his usual wit and humour that ensured those listening took note of his comments".

"My thoughts and prayers are extended to his family, ever mindful that we sorrow not as those without hope at this time," said Rev William Anderson.

Poppy wreaths laid on VE Day

With VE Day commemorations severely restricted due to coronavirus measures, Deputy Lay Chaplain Kirk McDowell and Registrar Ryan McDowell used their daily walk to place a poppy cross at the mural for Polish servicemen at Foxglove Street in Belfast on behalf of RBP 861 Westbourne Church Volunteers on the evening of Thursday, May 7.

The following morning, on the 75th anniversary of VE Day itself, the two Sir Knights then hiked up to the former Lisnabreeny American Military Cemetery, off the Cregagh Glen, and laid a poppy cross at the memorial there.

Meanwhile, a small delegation of District Officers from RBDC No 4 Ballymacarett, Belfast, laid wreaths at the Foxglove Street mural and then proceeded to the nearby Willowfield WW1 Memorial to lay wreaths at around 11am, as these would have been the two memorials observed later that night had No 4 District been able to have its annual VE Day parade. Deputy District Master Harry Whiteside said a few brief words of remembrance.



Officers from RBDC No 4 Ballymacarett, Belfast, lay a poppy wreath at Willowfield Memorial: Deputy District Master Harry Whiteside, District Master Fred McKee, Deputy District Chaplain Tam Boyd and District Registrar William Craig.



It was a tremendous day for the Royal Black Institution in Queensland, Australia, when four members of Elijah RBP 295 received their Red Cross Certificates.

'Support from my friends in the Imperial Deputy Grand Master Alan Goody died in July after a interviewed by the Royal Black Magazine. The following article is

/// I don't feel any anger about my situation. Not at all. I feel blessed."

Sir Knight Alan Goody is talking on the phone from his home in Fairlie, a coastal village in North Ayrshire, on a scorching hot afternoon in June. The heat, combined with his medication, left him feeling exhausted earlier in the day, but a lunchtime nap helped to refresh his energy levels.

Sir Knight Goody is battling the terminal illness, Mesothelioma, the result of exposure to asbestos during this working life.

Aged 68, living with such a debilitating disease is certainly not how he planned to spend retirement, but Sir Knight Goody harbours no bitterness about his condition.

"I could have fallen off a scaffold at any time in the last 50 years and

lasted half-an-hour, so I've been lucky," he said.

"I went through life never going near a doctor or a hospital. And then, walking home from church, I noticed I was struggling with my breath - I had never realised there was a hill between my house and church! My wife Heather urged me to go to the doctors. Finally, I gave in and I went.

"When I was diagnosed, the doctor said 18 months. It's now been two-and-a-half years.



Sir Knight Goody and wife Heather with his gran on their wedding day.

"Things have been very good. It's just recently that things have turned bad. But I've done very well."

Sir Knight Goody is the Imperial Deputy Grand Master and a Past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master. He has given a lifetime of service to both the Orange Order and the Royal Black Institution, although he's always focused on the latter ("you cannot serve two masters," he laughs).

The year 1975 was a big one for this working class man from the East End of Glasgow. Not only did he join the Orange Order (Pride of Scotland LOL 169) and the Royal Black (RBP 263 Govan) but he also married his darling wife,

Heather, that year.

He gained his Red Cross Degree in 1977, and was Worshipful Master of RBP 263 from 1984-87.

From 1991-1998 he was Worshipful District Master of Govan Royal Black Chapter, and in 1993 became a qualified lecturer.

He served as Grand Master of Scotland in 2001-02, before transferring to his current preceptory, RBP 457 Paisley, where he was Worshipful Master in 2014-15.

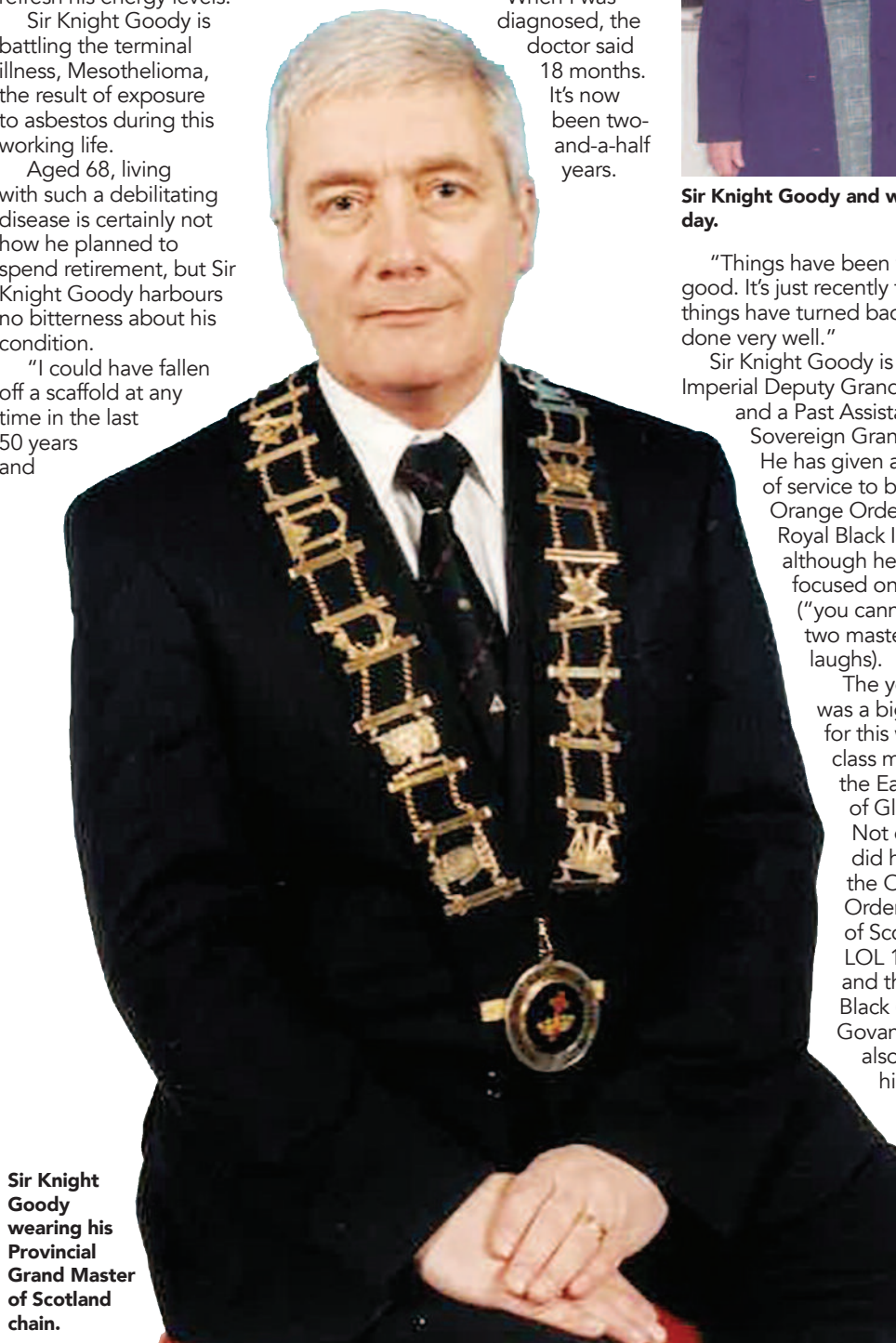
In the past, he represented Ghana at Imperial level.

He is presently a member of Johnstone LOL 10.

Over the years, Sir Knight Goody has made many friends from all over the United Kingdom through his association with the Royal Black. And he's particularly thankful for the love, concern and support they've shown throughout his recent illness.

"The number of friends from the Institution who've come to my door to visit has been incredible. And it's unbelievable the phone calls I've had," he said.

Among his many great friends is Rev William Anderson, the current Sovereign Grand Master. They were brought together by the then Sovereign Grand Master, Jim Molyneaux, in the mid-nineties, who thought that, being the same age, the two men would strike a bond



Sir Knight Goody wearing his Provincial Grand Master of Scotland chain.

Royal Black has been incredible'

brave battle with Mesothelioma. Weeks before his death, he was published with the kind permission of the Goody family.



Sir Knight Goody with Imperial officers and his preceptory RBP 457 Paisley, Scotland.

and be a force for good in the Institution.

He was right.

"William was Assistant Sovereign Grand Master and came over to attend the Scottish Lecturers' Conference. Jim told me in a note beforehand that he would make a good impression on me. That was Jim bringing me and William together, and we've never looked back.

"We've been great friends ever since and have worked together greatly. I'm just sorry that this illness has not allowed me to work together with William at the very top and take the Institution in the direction that we feel it should go. William is well equipped to take forward the Christian challenge, and I could maybe give him some ideas outside the ministry."

Sir Knight Goody is delighted to see work is under way on the new headquarters in Loughgall, a project he feels was long overdue. And he's a great believer in new blood coming through at the top levels of the Institution.

"We've got the right leader in William. But I would like to see young men coming forward and taking up positions

at Imperial level. That's not a criticism of anyone, because the people who are there have done a marvellous job. But I'd like to see us bring on young people with fresh ideas.

"And we've got to say to people, 'Don't be afraid to make mistakes.'"

He is also a strong advocate for the Institution making use of modern technology, for example, in the area of teaching degrees.

"It needs to be controlled from headquarters, but I'm all for rolling out this wonderful technology. But you've got to crawl before you walk and run. And you've got to take your membership with you.

"It's all a big, big challenge, but we'll overcome it, and hopefully I'm still about to see it."

A regular visitor to Northern Ireland for parades and Grand Council meetings, he's spoken from the platform at Last Saturday demonstrations in Loughgall, Dundrum, Newry, Ballynahinch, Ballymena, Lisburn, Ballymoney, Ballinamallard, and Coleraine. He's given speeches at demonstrations in Govan, Renfrew and Johnstone, was a



Deputy Imperial Grand Master Alan Goody with Sovereign Grand Master William Anderson in 2019.



Sir Knight Goody with Scottish officers and the Sovereign Grand Master at Scarva.



Sir Knight Goody and family - from left, Alison, Rachel, Heather, Callie, David, Alan and Andrew.



Sir Knight Goody with a youth leader taking a service in Uganda.



Royal Black mission team presenting a cheque to Doctor Rory, Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda.

regular at Southport, and has spoken at Scarva three times ("don't tell anybody that, they'll all be jealous, you're lucky if you get speaking there at all and I've spoken three times!").

He joked: "I seem to be the kind of guy who gets a tap on the knee and told, "Alan, will you fill in a couple of minutes - we're too early."

Although there have been many highlights down the years, one of his most memorable experiences as a Sir Knight came in 2011 when he was part of 17-man squad that went to Uganda as part of the Institution's Designated Charity Appeal. The incredible total of £105,000 had been raised to help fund building projects at Kiwoko Hospital.

Sir Knight Goody described his time in Uganda as "humbling".

"We went for three weeks and it was a great experience. The people there are so happy. What they have is what they want - not like us, we're always wanting more. They're wonderful people. And when it came to recording how the money was spent, they accounted for everything, down to the last screw.

"Four of us had electrical experience, so we did electrical work. One day, myself and a young lad Andrew, he was 15 at the time, were in the maternity ward fixing broken sockets, and there was a girl in bed with her knees up ready for the new arrival. So I said to Andrew,

'We'll go, and come back later.'

"We're heading out the door, and the next thing there's a nurse shouting at us, "You missed one, you missed one." She was more concerned with getting the socket fixed! So we had to go back and fix the socket.

"Thankfully we got it fixed before the baby arrived - and I'm glad to say everything went well with the delivery!"

Sir Knight Goody is adamant, however, that despite his trip to Uganda, or his many spells in high office, his greatest achievement in the Royal Black has been his work teaching new lecturers, "because that will live on. That is the Institution".

He added: "There wouldn't be an Institution without the Christian teaching of the lectures. Whatever else we do or have done, it will only be a wee story in the history of the Royal Black Institution, but the Christian teaching of the lectures will always live on."

Sir Knight Goody enjoyed a happy childhood growing up with his father, mother and two sisters in Bridgeton in Glasgow before moving to Easterhouse.

"In my eyes it wasn't a good move but in those days you moved house to get an inside bathroom. Easterhouse was a modern housing estate but there were no schools or shops."

His mother looked after the family home and worked as a cleaner at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.



Sir Knight Goody at the Reformation Wall, Geneva.

His father was a boiler fireman, shovelling coal all day to keep the heating going in a factory.

"But it was a job. And if you had a job, you kept that job."

Like all men of that era, his father desperately wanted him to do better than he had done, and encouraged his son to find a trade.

So at 14, Sir Knight Goody left school to become an electrician. He worked at Scotts Electrical and everything was fine until the firm started taking on oil rigs contracts.

"I didn't want to go to the rigs. I was a young man, just married, bringing up a family. So I joined Glasgow City Council as an electrician. I was earning good money and home every night.

"I also found that if you worked hard, you could get promoted. You've got to be able to recognise an opportunity in life and seize the day. I saw a way of moving up. The council sent me for qualifications. I ended up with a post-graduate diploma, and I became a manager.

"When I was doing my diploma, I was on the course with architects etc, but I was getting headhunted because of my presentations – which I was good at because I was used to talking in front of people in the Loyal Orders."

Sir Knight Goody stayed with

the council until he retired.

He and his wife raised a daughter and son – Alison, now aged 41, and Andrew, 38 – and are the proud grandparents of 14-year-old Rachel, David, 12, and one-and-a-half-year-old Callie.

"Callie is the real highlight at the minute. She definitely rules the roost," laughed Sir Knight Goody.

His own father was not in the Loyal Orders "but he followed the bands – and you only had to open our windows in Bridgeton to hear the bands go past".

Sir Knight Goody also grew up following Rangers.

"If you come from Glasgow, all you do is play football – and for me, that was Glasgow Rangers.

"I was in Barcelona in 1972 to see them win the European Cup Winners' Cup."

It was with his friends from football and through church that Sir Knight Goody accepted an invitation to join the Orange Order.

And it's his membership of the Loyal Orders, and in particular the Royal Black, which he credits with strengthening his Christian faith.

"As a boy in Bridgeton we went to the Congregational Church. But there was nothing like that in Easterhouse – it was a desert. We moved to Ruchazie and that's where I met Heather –

her father was the Boys' Brigade captain in Ruchazie. I wasn't his best boy – I was challenging! But that was where I really picked up on religion – going to the BB camps. And it's amazing how that sticks with you.

"I joined Ibrox Parish Church – that was where I first took my oath to Christ.

"I've a deep relationship with God now. I have my own relationship. I see prayer as private whereas others would be very outgoing, but I think it takes all sorts to make the world. I now have a relationship with Christ as my Saviour – and I don't think you need anything more. Now, that doesn't just come from one place, it comes from a lot of places – and in particular, the Royal Black Institution. That has taken me closer to Christ than anything."

As the interview ends, Sir Knight Goody had these words for any young men thinking of joining the Royal Black Institution.

"My advice would be to have a look at me and my story: a simple man who was born in the East End of Glasgow, brought up with nothing – Christmas was an apple and an orange – but you can see what I've made of myself. And where would I be without the Royal Black?"

"We're not 'anti' anything in the Royal Black. We're not against Roman Catholics as

such. We wouldn't be for Rome. We would be against the teachings of Rome, but not in a violent way."

He added: "The Royal Black Institution can make good men great, but it can make great men even better."

Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, said Sir Knight Goody is "a great personal friend, a great visionary Sir Knight, but most of all he is a faithful soldier and servant of his Saviour Jesus Christ".

Rev Anderson added: "He always takes time to respond to issues within our Institution, but when he speaks, what he says is always worth listening to, and his wisdom always opens up a path to a positive resolution.

"His personal support and encouragement has provided me with great fortitude to meet my role as Sovereign Grand Master and I will continue to work in the strength of my Lord and God to lead this Institution forward as we witness for the Reformed Christian Faith. Sir Knight Alan Goody would expect no less of me – in fact, he would be the first to let me know that I needed to continue to move forward.

"With Sir Knights like Alan Goody throughout our Institution, I have no doubt that the required positive forward movement will continue to be achieved."



Sir Knight Goody with long-time friend Raymond Flannigan (Past Master RBP 1144 Kilmore) at a Last Saturday demonstration.



Sir Knight Goody with his grandchildren David and Rachel in Southport, England

Laying firm foundations

DID YOU KNOW:

In 1610 the Plantation of Ulster came into effect. The manors of Loughgall and Carrobrack were granted to Lord Saye and Sele. In 1611, he sold these lands to Sir Anthony Cope, of which 3,000 acres were represented by the Manor of Loughgall.

The village of Loughgall developed slowly under the benign guidance of the Cope family, assuming a distinctly English appearance.

During the 18th and early part of the 19th century, a number of houses were built in the elegant Georgian style of architecture. It is thought that the property at 45-47 Main Street, Loughgall, was built in the period 1820-1830.

The Copes actively discouraged the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor by buying several pubs in the village and closing them down. This included the property at 45-57 Main Street, known as the Tavern, where they opened a coffee house.

One of the most notable owners of the Loughgall property was Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, a senior British Army officer and former Chief of the Imperial General Staff, who fought in both world wars.

The last family to live in the property were the Huey family. Mrs Huey ran a successful antiques business, supported by her husband and family. Following the death of Mrs Huey, the property was vacant and was put up for sale. It was bought by the Royal Black Institution in 2017 and will be sympathetically transformed into the organisation's new headquarters, with work scheduled for completion in Spring 2021.



An artist's impression of the new Royal Black headquarters in Loughgall.

WORK is taking place to create exciting, modern headquarters for the Royal Black Institution.

Earlier this year, a building contractor was appointed to see the innovative project through to completion.

Weir Bros Construction (NI) Ltd, Aughnacloy were awarded the contract to transform an historic property in Loughgall into a modern new base for the Institution.

Builders moved on site at the end of May and - barring any delays due to possible future coronavirus restrictions - it is hoped the work will be completed by next spring.

Under the design plans, the B1 Listed Building, situated at 45-47 Main Street in the Co Armagh village, will be sympathetically renovated, with listed features restored to their original character.

However, the project will also see the current building - understood to date back to 1820 - substantially refurbished to include a host of modern facilities and amenities, which will allow the Royal Black Institution to flourish in the 21st century.

Sovereign Grand Master,



Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, hands over the keys to Lester Weir, from Weir Bros Construction (NI) Ltd, who have been awarded the contract to build the Royal Black Institution's new headquarters in Loughgall. Also included are Imperial Grand Registrar Billy Scott, left, and Imperial Grand Treasurer David Livingstone.

Rev William Anderson, said: "Weir Bros Construction is a highly-experienced firm with an impressive track record of delivering new church buildings and Orange Halls, so I am looking forward to seeing the finished product next year."

Plans for the new headquarters include the construction of administrative offices, a library to house the Institution's collection

of books and artefacts, a new hall with associated kitchen and toilets, an exhibition area, and an outdoor memorial space. Car parking facilities will also be provided.

The Loughgall building - purchased by the Institution in 2017 - is the first time the Loyal Order has ever owned its headquarters.

The Institution was previously

and building for the future



based in Dublin and Belfast, before becoming a tenant in the majestic Brownlow House, Lurgan, in the late 1920s.

Last year, the Institution moved from Brownlow House to temporary premises beside the Museum of Orange Heritage in Loughgall. The move will allow senior officers of the Institution to follow the progress of the new headquarters as it takes shape over the coming months.

"Undoubtedly, the development of a new administrative base is one of the most important projects ever embarked upon by the Imperial Grand Black Chapter," said Rev Anderson.

"We hope that with state-of-the-art facilities, the Institution will be well equipped to meet the challenges of the future, and we will be better placed to explain our Christian beliefs and principles to the wider public."

The keys to the property were handed over in May to Lester Weir, from Weir Bros Construction (NI) Ltd.

Mr Weir is a member of Drummond RBP 426, Moy. He said he was delighted to be awarded the contract – and couldn't wait to get going!

"I'm honoured that Weir Bros have been entrusted with the responsibility to transform this beautiful old building into modern headquarters for the Royal Black Institution," said Mr Weir.

"From the outset, when I first saw the design, I knew immediately that I wanted our company to be involved.

"When it's finished, all the character of the original house will have been retained, but when you step inside, and travel through to the rear, that's when you'll discover it's a special building with a modern feel, and with some really great facilities."

The Sovereign Grand Master and his team have been keeping a close eye on the building work over the summer months, and are delighted with the progress.

Rev Anderson added: "Although our summer demonstrations, services and meetings had to be cancelled due to coronavirus, I hope that these plans for our new headquarters will reassure Sir Knights and our supporters that the Institution is looking forward with confidence to a bright future ahead."



Construction work is well under way at the new headquarters in Loughgall.



The new headquarters in Loughgall is a B1 Listed Building, and great care is being taken to retain original features and character during the redevelopment project.

A lifetime of devotion

A look at the extraordinary experiences of Imperial Grand Chaplain Canon WILL MURPHY who

By his own admission, Rev Canon Will Murphy was uniquely placed to see "both sides of the coin" during the Troubles.

As a serving member of the RUC Reserve, he was part of a police force responsible for bringing to justice those paramilitaries who were intent on wreaking death and destruction on Northern Ireland.

And as the Church of Ireland Chaplain in the Maze prison, it was his job to walk among those same sectarian killers and offer them Christian ministry and pastoral care.

Needless to say, it was a challenging time, and much as he would have liked to remain in the RUC Reserve, it gradually proved impossible to continue with this dual existence for security reasons.

He left the force in 1989 after 10 years but continued his role at the Maze until 2001, 19-and-a-half years in total. For his work in the notorious H blocks he was awarded an MBE in 1998.

Devotion to God and country has been the hallmark of Canon Murphy's life: in addition to the RUC Reserve and the Maze chaplaincy, he served seven years with the Ulster Special

Constabulary (B Specials); was Chaplain to the Church of Ireland Ministry to Deaf People for over 40 years; held the post of Connor Diocesan Director of Ordinands for 27 years; and was a TA Padre from 1989 to 1998. A Past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master in the Royal Black Institution, he has been an Imperial Grand Chaplain for 40 years. And, somehow, in the midst of all that, he found time to raise two daughters and a son with his wife Joan.

"It's been a fairly busy old life," he chuckled down the phone, speaking from his home in Maghaberry, Co Antrim.

It all started on a poultry farm outside Lurgan, in the townland of Derryadd. Born in 1943, the eldest of six, Canon Murphy said his mother and father gave

them a "very happy childhood".

He joined Abraham's Chosen Few LOL 230 a year early, at the age of 15, and the following year became a

member of King David's Morning Star RBP 353.

"The good men of Derryadd didn't hold much store in the rules surrounding age requirements," laughed Canon Murphy, who remains a member of the same lodge and preceptory to this day.

On both initiation nights he was joined by his great friend William Hamill, and the pair started another adventure together when they joined the B Specials at the tender age of 18.

"Because we were under 21, we had to get the signature of the local JP, Tom Robinson, in Ardmore," said Canon Murphy.

"It was January 1962, and the IRA border campaign was still going.

"I enjoyed the B Specials. It certainly wasn't a financial thing – you got 10 shillings per patrol, and 10 shillings for drill or shooting practice, paid twice yearly. But we would have done it for nothing.

"I joined out of love for my country and because we were under IRA threat."

Nowadays, Canon Murphy is the Senior Chaplain to the Ulster Special Constabulary Association. It disheartens him greatly to see the B Specials maligned every time the force is mentioned in the public sphere.

"Sadly, we just have to live with it. They're weren't the force they're being made out to be. But then republicans are maligning everything – it's part of their ongoing agenda."

He resigned from the B Specials in 1969 when it became clear from the Hunt Report that the force was going to be disbanded.

By this stage he was a chief technician in biology at the new University of Ulster in Coleraine, having earlier spent a year at Stranmillis College where he discovered that teaching maths "just wasn't my calling".

It was while working at the University of Ulster that he became a Church of Ireland lay reader at Agherton Parish Church and soon felt called to full-time ministry. Within a year, he had made the move to theological college in Bristol (1969-73), and upon his return

to Northern Ireland took up the position of curate at Lisburn Cathedral.

In 1979, after six years in Lisburn, he was then appointed Superintendent of the Ulster Institute for the Deaf, a post which later became Chaplain to the Church of Ireland Ministry to Deaf People.

That same year, Canon Murphy joined the RUC Reserve.

"I saw everybody praying for police officers in churches, and I just thought, well, why not join?"

"I had wanted to join the UDR but I was told there were three categories of people who are not allowed to carry arms in the British Army – chaplains, criminals and the insane!

"So I tried the RUC. I went along to Lisburn RUC station and asked the lady behind the desk for an application form. I was wearing my clerical collar at the time, and when I told her the application was for me, she just stood there with her mouth open!

"I joined in Lisburn. I had a very enjoyable time in the RUC Reserve. There was great comradeship."

During his decade with the RUC Reserve, there were some particularly poignant moments, such as breaking the news to a mother at 1am that her son had died in car crash, and searching for the missing schoolgirl Jennifer Cardy.

Canon Murphy soon realised that the role of a police officer also involved a great deal of pastoral care. In fact, as a Director of Ordinands, he always felt that ex-RUC officers "made great clergy".

In 1982, Rev Murphy was asked by the Bishop to go to the Maze prison for a six-month term – and ended up staying there for almost 20 years.

"So I had the two ministries. For a number of years, Sundays were four services. I'd take a service in the H block on a Sunday morning. Then drive to Belfast for a service at 11am with the deaf church. Back into the compounds at 2pm. And back to Belfast for 7pm.

"Fortunately I was young enough to stand the pressure."

He formed a unique relationship in the Maze with the Roman Catholic Chaplain, John

Canon Will Murphy has served as an Imperial Grand Chaplain for 40 years.



n to God and country

which saw him play a valuable role inside – and outside – the Maze prison during the Troubles.



Canon Will Murphy served in the RUC Reserve for 10 years

Murphy.

"We just seemed to hit it off and got on really well. We had a job to do. We ended up going quite often to Dundonald House to see prison authorities about various issues, to try and keep the peace inside the prison - because if there was trouble in the prison, it spread to the outside."

Although Canon Murphy enjoyed his work in the Maze, he does admit it was "quite strenuous".

"It was a challenging environment. There were people on both sides who had committed murders. I sensed great evil in the place – a Satanic kingdom, I would call it. If you put that number of murderers together, it's not a good place."

"I personally didn't feel threatened, but that was probably my own foolishness. I went around everywhere."

"Specifically my ministry was to Church of Ireland prisoners. And staff had their own clergy. But that's not the real world. If any man asks for a word, you don't refuse."

Despite the presence of evil, Canon Murphy saw evidence of God's work inside the notorious prison.

"God was at work inside the Maze, though maybe not in huge numbers."

"Becoming a Christian in jail did not qualify prisoners for early release, as some people thought. In fact, it probably made their life inside even harder."

"However, a number of former prisoners from my Bible Class went on into Christian ministry - one went into the Presbyterian



Canon Will Murphy was a TA Padre from 1989 to 1998

ministry, one went into the Free Presbyterian ministry, and others went into missionary work.

"If a prisoner becomes a Christian, and then becomes a minister, what influence has he had? We'll never know this side of eternity. So while the numbers are small, the outcome might be huge."

A "unique and fulfilling" part of his ministry involved attending family funerals on behalf of a prisoner.

"I would go to the funeral, and in a strange way the family saw in me the son who wasn't allowed out. And when I went back to the Maze and told the prisoner what had happened, he felt like he had been there."

"When prisoners are in a group they can be great, big, hard men. When they are in a cell on their own and they've been told their mother is seriously ill, they can cry. They're human, no matter what their background."

How did he feel when people on the outside said that paramilitary prisoners should be locked up and the key thrown away?

"That was the standard response, especially from fellow clergy, but you have to remember they had maybe buried a policeman the week before. I knew where they were coming

from but my job was to go in and see people who had been sentenced, and minister to them - it wasn't my business to ask what they were in for."

Canon Murphy thanks God that his faith never wavered during all those years working in the Maze, and that he was kept in good health "which is remarkable because the prison was very unhygienic - I was sitting in cells with men where the only toilet was a pot".

A huge thrill for Canon Murphy came in 1998 when he was awarded an MBE for his chaplaincy work in the Maze. He was invested with his honour by the Queen in Buckingham Palace on St Patrick's Day.

Other highlights include 11 years as a Chaplain in the TA, and a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to America in 1983 when he visited Washington and Los Angeles to observe work with deaf people and life in US prisons.

Throughout all these highs and lows, Canon Murphy always had the support and encouragement of his wife-of-51-years, Joan, "a good Fermanagh-born woman who's been a tower of strength, even when I wasn't able to talk about much of my work because it was confidential".

They are the proud parents

of daughters Kathryn, a paediatrician, Hayley, a musician, and son Paul, a teacher in Singapore.

Another constant in his life, of course, has been his membership of the Royal Black Institution.

"We're a very positive, outward-looking organisation based strongly on Biblical principles," insisted Canon Murphy.

"Our services make a great impact and are great opportunities. The Designated Charity Appeal is brilliant. And the chaplains' committee has produced a number of excellent publications in recent years."

"I think it is a fantastic missionary organisation with great leadership."

Reflecting on his experiences and achievements, Canon Murphy agreed he has always been bound by a strong sense of duty – to God, his family, his country, and the Loyal Orders.

This sense of duty still guides him to this day. But where does it originate?

"I suppose it comes from a strong church and family background," he said.

"The B Specials were also a good starting ground."

"They instilled a great sense of loyalty and devotion to the country."

Lights, camera, action! Sham

Organisers of the Scarva Sham Fight enlisted the help of a director and cameraman to mark this year's "Thirteenth" after the event was cancelled due to coronavirus.

They produced an hour-long video which was broadcast online, allowing people to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Sham Fight in the comfort of their own homes.

The annual clash between King William and King James – together with the large-scale procession of bands and Sir Knights through Scarva village – attracts crowds of upwards of 100,000 people on July 13 each year.

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Royal Black Institution cancelled all meetings, services and processions throughout the summer – including Scarva, which this year was due to be held on July 14.

The Sham Fight organisers whole-heartedly supported the decision in the interests of public health, but they were determined not to let the day pass without commemorating the occasion in some way.

And so the Scarva-based preceptory which organises the huge event, Sir Knight Alfred Buller Memorial RBP 1000, pieced together a 60-minute film which was broadcast online at 11.15am on Tuesday, July 14 – the exact moment the parade was due to get under way.

Andrew Boyce, Worshipful Master of RBP 1000, said: "As soon as it became clear there would be no Sham Fight this year, we started coming up with ideas as to how we might mark the day, without the possibility of breaching any coronavirus restrictions.

"We settled on the idea of putting together a film which would encompass many of the features of the traditional Thirteenth celebrations – plus a few interesting extra segments."

With the technical assistance of Bessbrook-based Sideline Films, Sir Knight Boyce and his team produced the hour-long programme, which included religious messages from Imperial Grand Chaplain Rev Nigel Reid and County Grand Chaplain of Armagh, Rev Edwin Frazer; historical features on Scarva and the Sham Fight; and



Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, records a segment for the Sham Fight video.



The Scarva Sham Fight video was broadcast online on July 14.

highlights of last year's parade.

Members of RBP 1000 were filmed laying a wreath at the village war memorial, while mezzo-soprano Emma Brown specially recorded *Abide With Me* and *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross* from her church in the Netherlands.

And, of course, viewers got to cheer as footage was shown from a previous Sham Fight in which – as always – King William emerged victorious over his old foe, King James.

"It was with a heavy heart that we had to cancel this year's Royal Thirteenth celebrations – it's the first time the celebrations have had to be postponed since the Second World War," said Sir Knight Boyce.

"The coronavirus pandemic brought pain and despair to many households. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones, and we pay tribute to all those NHS heroes and other key workers who have been fighting on the frontline against this horrible disease.

"Although there is much sadness in the community, we hope our film brought a little bit of cheer to our friends and supporters."

John Adair, a member of the Sham Fight organising committee, and who plays King William each year in the thrilling re-enactment, said: "It's was strange not planning a Sham

Fight this year.

"The cancellation left a huge void in our own lives – we enjoy the craic and camaraderie that goes along with all the preparation, and, of course, the big day itself.

"But we understand why the event had to be cancelled. Perhaps it's a good thing because I believe King James was doing some extra training in the New Year!"

Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, Rev William Anderson, who also featured in the video, said: "This was a wonderful initiative by the Sham Fight organisers and they are to be commended for their forward-thinking approach to a difficult situation.

"I know many people felt great sadness that there was no Scarva this year, but we have had to remain vigilant in the fight against coronavirus, and hopefully we'll return to Scarva

Fight celebrated on film



next year when the celebrations will no doubt be bigger and better than ever."

Also featured in the film was Scarva host, Sir Knight Alfred Buller, who issued a plea for donations to a Just Giving page in aid of St John Ambulance, which provides medical cover at the Sham Fight each year.

On the actual morning of July 14, Scarva village was unusually quiet, and instead of massive crowds and a multitude of bands, Sir Knights and stall-holders thronging the streets, the only activity took place at the war memorial, where members of RBP 1000 maintained the Thirteenth tradition of laying a wreath in memory of local members of the security forces murdered during the Troubles.

The Scarva Sham Fight video can be viewed on the Royal Black Institution's YouTube channel.



Viewers still got to cheer King William's victory over King James.



Sir Knight David Boyce, Chaplain of RBP 1000, reads from Psalm 20.



A highlight of the film was a recording of *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross* by Mezzo-soprano Emma Brown



Sir Knights take a break between filming for their Sham Fight video.



Mezzo-soprano Emma Brown recorded two hymns and the National Anthem for the video.



Imperial Grand Chaplain Rev Nigel Reid delivers a religious message.



On the morning of Tuesday, July 14, members of RBP 1000 laid a wreath at Scarva war memorial.



Worshipful Master of RBP 1000, Andrew Boyce, delivering the opening remarks.

Obituary

Sir Knight Paul Kinnear



Sir Knight Paul Kinnear

Past District Master and District Chaplain to No 6 RBDC Shankill Road, Worshipful Sir Knight Paul Kinnear sadly died on 6th November, 2019, after a chronic infirmity bravely borne.

Sir Knight Kinnear was a long-serving and faithful member of George Telford Memorial LOL 1118 in No 7/8 Clifton Street District Lodge, and Treasurer of Queen Victoria Temperance RBP 550 in his own parent Shankill Road District Chapter.

Sir Knight Kinnear had been confined to a wheelchair after being seriously injured during an incident in 1978, as he walked past Black's Road in south Belfast.

During Sir Knight Kinnear's funeral service, held on Monday, 11th November last year, Rev Colin Gracie related a story that he and the congregation of Finaghy Methodist Church had heard when Sir Knight Kinnear was well enough to attend the regular prayer meetings.

Sir Knight Kinnear was looking at his mobile phone, as he always did in order to locate his favourite King James Version of the Biblical app, and in turn showed everyone a picture he had come across whilst browsing, and which was also shown again on a large screen to the congregation at the funeral service. It was of a young boy's tombstone in the form of a sculpture, of the lad leaping up and out of his wheelchair and rejoicingly looking up to the heavens.

Showing everyone the picture, back at that prayer meeting, Sir Knight Kinnear then openly remarked: "That's me!"

That particular tombstone had been arranged by Ernest and Anneke, the parents of Matthew Stanford Robison who was given only hours to live when he was born in 1988. Due to a lack of oxygen and other associated complications during his birth in Salt Lake City, USA, Matthew was left with severe disabilities. Still, Matthew defied

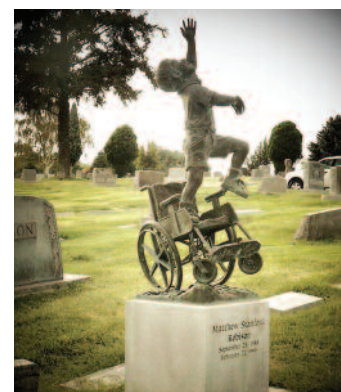
the odds and lived for almost 11 years. In order to transform Matthew's grave into a place of happiness, a year after his son's death, Ernest fabricated a touching statue that now stands in memoriam of the young boy's courage.

The inspirational sculpture depicts Matthew climbing out of his wheelchair, healed from his earthly burdens as he moves toward heaven. In the years since its completion, young Matthew's grave has become a source of inspiration for folk grappling with disabilities.

Sir Knight Kinnear's funeral followed the Order of Service that he had requested prior to his death, with many fellow Brethren and Sir Knights suitably attired, amongst a host of family, friends and the congregation in a packed church.

Alongside the main officiator, Rev Colin Gracie, who referred to Sir Knight Kinnear as "an Oak of Righteousness", were Worshipful Sir Knight Rev Billy Malcolmson of RBP 550, a very close friend of Sir Knight Kinnear, and Rev Corinna Heron of Dunmurry Presbyterian Church, each assisting in the praise, plaudits, acclamations and salutations for Sir Knight Kinnear's inspirational Christian life and times.

Sir Knight Kinnear had also



The tombstone of Matthew Stanford Robison which inspired Sir Knight Kinnear and was mentioned during his funeral service.

chosen the four hymns - Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, To God Be The Glory, Will Your Anchor Hold, and I Cannot Tell, which were all included on that Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month, when the service commenced with an Act of Remembrance at 11 o'clock, 101 years after The Great War guns fell silent on that November day in 1918.

A truly fitting tribute to a brave, faithful and honourable Sir Knight and Brother, who fought the good fight, right to the end .. yes, Sir Knight Kinnear truly was "an Oak of Righteousness".



Obituary

Sir Knight Ronald (Ronnie) Brown

After a lifetime of dedicated service to the Royal Black and Loyal Orange Institutions, Worshipful Sir Knight Ronnie Brown joined with His Saviour and Lord in the Heavenly Grand Orders on 25th December, 2019.

Sir Knight Brown served the Royal Black Institution with distinction for 70 years through the office of Imperial Deputy Grand Lecturer, whilst also being a member of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter's Irish Lecturing Examination Board for 19

of those years.

As City Grand Lecturer and Deputy City Grand Lecturer within the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter, Sir Knight Ronnie also held the posts of Worshipful District Master, District Lecturer and a variety of many other District Offices throughout a period of 35 years within No 3 Royal Black District Chapter, as well as being Past Master and Past Registrar of Burning Bush RBP 1197 and a PM and former Treasurer of both Great Northern True Blues LOL and RAPC

964.

Worshipful Sir Knight Ronnie Brown was highly respected and well known throughout the Royal Black Institution and, as a prolific Lecturer, he was acknowledged as one of the best in his vocation.

A total perfectionist, whether he was personally conferring Degrees, tutoring other Sir Knights or in his duties as a member of the Examining Board, Ronnie readily impressed on all Lecturers, when conferring the various degrees of our

Institution, to do so in strict accordance with the code, even down to the smallest detail or the shortest word.

His fastidious and meticulous minute-taking and record-keeping, both as a Registrar and in his Treasurer duties, remain legendary.

A committed Christian, Ronnie was an Ordained Ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church having served on the Kirk Session of Great Victoria Street for 51 years. He was both a past Congregational Committee Secretary

and Convenor of the Freewill Offering Recording Committee, as well as a member of the church choir.

But above all, Ronnie was a devoted family man, a loving and caring husband to his wife Mena during their 67 years of happy marriage, an adoring father to his daughters Shirley and Sandra and his son Sir Knight Robert (Bobby), as well as to his sons-in-law and daughter-in-law, and to his adoring grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Obituary

Sir Knight Thomas George Proctor



Sir Knight Thomas George Proctor passed away peacefully on the afternoon of Saturday, 11th April, 2020 in Hockley Nursing Home where he had resided for several years and, because of Covid-19 regulations, was buried privately the next day – Easter Sunday – in Armagh Presbyterian Cemetery.

Thus came to an end a long life, well lived, of a man who was widely known and well thought of throughout the entire community.

George's father, Joseph Proctor, had been a member of the 36th Ulster Division and fought at the Somme. He, too, had lived to an advanced age and at the time of his death was the last surviving veteran of the Somme in the Armagh area.

George also saw active service – in World War II – having joined the RAF in 1944, serving mostly in Middle East locations and becoming, at the time of his death, the last surviving veteran of World War II in the Armagh area.

He never forgot those service connections, remaining a member of the Armagh Branch of the Royal British Legion and, while health permitted, never missed Remembrance Sunday on the Mall. He was rightly honoured by the RBL for his contribution and was also honoured by the

RAF Association of whose Armagh Branch he had been a founder member.

Shortly after his return to 'civvy-street' George married Irene and they enjoyed 64 years of happy married life, blessed by two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne. Their 60th anniversary was marked by a card from the Queen – something which George appreciated enormously.

George also served his community faithfully in public life, being for many years an Ulster Unionist councillor on the former Armagh Urban District Council.

Then there were the Loyal Orders – where to begin?

George was a life-long member of Armagh True Blues LOL 109 which he served faithfully and in many capacities; he was a member of Armagh District LOL No 5, of which in due course he became Worshipful District Master and represented the District at Grand Lodge for a number of years and was honoured by the Friends of Sloan's House – the Orange Museum in Loughgall – by being elected an Honorary member.

The Junior Orange Institution was also close to his heart. He served the Armagh Junior Lodge as its Superintendent for many years, eventually becoming Armagh County Grand Master.

He became a member of Wilson Memorial RBP 1077 on 15th July, 1947 while home on leave from Port Said and he loved to recall how, the very next month, he talked his C.O. into giving him leave again to come home to take part in the Last Saturday demonstration in Lurgan.

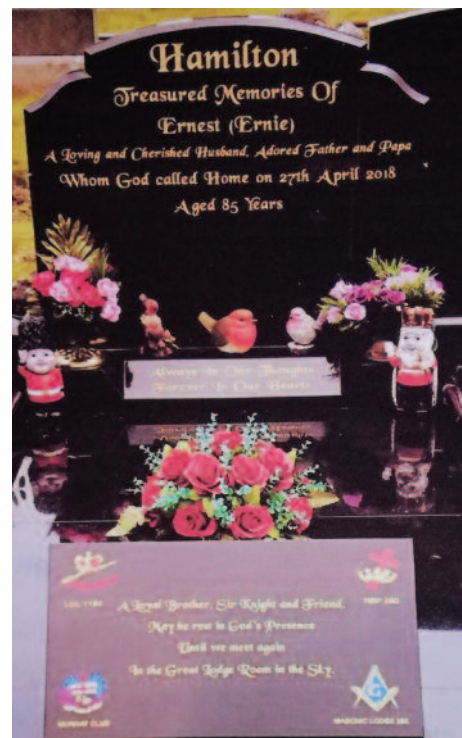
He was demobbed early in 1948 and from then he attended virtually every meeting. He served the Preceptory as Registrar, Treasurer and Worshipful Master (the last for three separate terms) and was always at the heart of its activities.

He was for many years a faithful and committed member of Armagh Baptist Church and there too he was ever present – a faithful, friendly, welcoming figure.

Much more could be said but must await another occasion and so we simply express our heart-felt sympathy with his daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and the wider family circle and repeat the Scripture verse on his death notice in the local paper.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant,

Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord".
Matthew 25:21.



The special marble plaque placed on Sir Knight Hamilton's grave by his family.

Special plaque tribute to loyal Sir Knight



Sir Knight Ernest Hamilton.

A special marble plaque has been placed on the family grave of Sir Knight Ernest Hamilton, Donemana RBP 260, by his wife Mary and extended family.

The plaque pays tribute to Sir Knight Hamilton for his lifelong dedication as a member of RBP 260 and the other organisations he held most dear.

Following his funeral in April 2018, his family, whom

he adored, erected the plaque on his grave. 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".

Sir Knight Hamilton's wife Mary also presented an Honours Plaque to RBP 260. The plaque was dedicated to her husband's memory from the Hamilton family.

The plaque records past masters of 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.

Deadline for all copy for the next issue of this magazine is Friday 19th February 2021

United in an Act of Remembrance

Despite the cancellation of all parades, Sir Knights still maintained the tradition of laying a wreath in remembrance of those had made the ultimate sacrifice



Banbridge District No 6 conducted an Act of Remembrance at the town War Memorial, as is tradition on the morning of 'The Thirteenth'. Piper James Frazer played, and led those gathered in the National Anthem.



Provincial Grand Master of England Eric Dickinson, Deputy Provincial Grand Master Paul Taylor and Provincial Grand Treasurer William M Owens travelled to Southport on August 1 to lay a wreath at the cenotaph in memory of the Fallen on what would have been their annual parade to Liverpool and Southport.



On August 1, with the annual Co Fermanagh demonstration – which was due to be held this year in Kesh – cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions, a short service was instead held at Kesh District Orange Hall, led by Sir Knight Rev Rodney Beacom with representatives from each of the County Districts and the host Preceptory, Tubrid RBP 1235, Music was provided by members of Tubrid Pipe Band.



On the morning of July 14, to maintain the tradition of laying a wreath during their morning parade before heading to Bangor for their demonstration, Worshipful District Master of Lurgan Royal Black District Chapter No 2, Sir Knight Andrew Hamill, laid a wreath at the cenotaph in Lurgan. Pictured, from left, are County Grand Master Rt Wor Sir Knight David Livingstone, Worshipful District Master Wor Sir Knight Andrew Hamill, District and Imperial Grand Chaplain Rt Wor Sir Knight Canon Will Murphy, and Deputy District Master Wor Sir Knight Ashley Hall.



The officers of William Carmichael Memorial RBP 735 (The Lothians RBDC No 9), on what should have been the day of the Annual Relief of Londonderry demonstration in Partick on August 8, visited war memorials within their encampment area at Gorebridge and Hawick to lay wreaths in remembrance of those who gave their lives for King and Country.



District Officers from Portadown Royal Black District No 5 held a short Act of Remembrance on the morning of July 14, as they would normally do before heading to Scarva.



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Driving home the message of the Gospel



Bangor RBDC No 13 held a Drive-In Service at Bangor Abbey on Sunday, August 23. The preacher was Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson.



The scene at Bangor Abbey, where Bangor RBDC No 13 held a Drive-In Service.



Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson delivers his sermon at Bangor RBDC No 13's Drive-In Service.



A Sir Knight tuned in to 88.1FM and listening to the Drive-In Service at Bangor Abbey.



Sir Knights who helped out at Ballymoney RBDC No 5's Drive-In service.



The platform party at Ballymoney RBDC No 5's Drive-In service.



Ballymoney RBDC No 5 held a Drive-In service at Mosside Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 23.



Worshipful Master Sam Allison and Sir Knight Stewart Robinson, Registrar, both from Newtownstewart RBP 203, pictured at Omagh RBDC No 4's Drive-In Service on Sunday, August 16, held at Cloughfin Orange Hall, Sixmilecross.



Members of Cloughfin RBP 58, Sir Knights Stephen Taylor, Freddie Kyle and Irwin Anderson, pictured at Omagh RBDC No 4's Drive-In Service.



91-year-old Sir Knight Thomas Ewing, of Dervaghroy RBP 405, and his wife Margaret at Omagh RBDC No 4's Drive-In Service in Sixmilecross.



Sir Knight Stewart Hall, Omagh RBP 185, and his dad, Sir Knight John Hall, Pettigo RBP 549, at Omagh RBDC No 4's Drive-In Service in Sixmilecross.



Platform proceedings are underway at Ballymena RBDC No 2's Drive-In Service held at Ballee Playing Fields on Sunday, August 23.



Ready for Ballymena RBDC No 2's Drive-In Service to start at Ballee Playing Fields.



Listening to the message at Ballymena RBDC No 2's Drive-In Service.



A special breakfast event was held in Bangor Orange Hall on the morning of the Last Saturday, organised by County Down Grand Black Chapter and hosted by Bangor RBDC No 13. Guest speaker was Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson.

Poppy wreaths laid at war memorials on Last Saturday

Sovereign Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, has paid tribute to Sir Knights after a low-key Last Saturday which saw the day marked with a number of wreath-laying ceremonies at war memorials around the Province.

Under normal circumstances, upwards of 17,000 members of the Royal Black Institution – accompanied by bands – would have been on parade on August 29 at six locations: Ballyclare; Dromore, Co Down; Bangor; Raphoe, Co Donegal; Killylea, Co Armagh; and Castlederg.

However, following the Institution's decision earlier this year to cancel all its summer processions, some preceptories marked the Last Saturday with an Act of Remembrance at their local cenotaph, adhering to the 15-person outdoor protocols and abiding by social distancing guidelines.

A religious drive-in service was held at Nutts Corner, organised by Antrim RBDC No 3.

A number of districts and preceptories also marked the day by publishing short videos online.

Rev Anderson, who attended a special breakfast event in Bangor Orange Hall, said: "The Last Saturday was a sombre occasion for our Institution without our traditional demonstrations taking place.

"We dearly missed the opportunity to witness for the Reformed Christian Faith. However, it was important that we played our part to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19, and that's why all our summer demonstrations, including the Last Saturday, were cancelled.

"On the Last Saturday, some Sir Knights laid wreaths at war memorials, and it was important to remember the Fallen who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today.

"I thank all those Sir Knights who put their shoulder to the wheel to help their communities during the coronavirus pandemic, and commend them for their observance of the regulations at wreath-laying events. I know they will continue to play a positive role in society, whatever the future holds with this virus, and hopefully we can return to holding our parades as normal next year."



Ballymoney RBDC No 5 held a short service and laid a wreath at the town's War Memorial.



The officers of Antrim RBDC No 3 organised a drive-in service on the Last Saturday at Nutts Corner.



Lough's Followers RBP 318 at Burnside Orange Hall on the Last Saturday.



Members of Ballymacarrett RBDC No 4 held a sponsored charity walk of East Belfast War Memorials on the Last Saturday in support of the Royal Black Institution's designated charity appeal, the Somme Nursing Home.



William Johnston Memorial RBP 559, Bushmills, held an Act of Remembrance on the Last Saturday.



Prince Albert Temperance RBP 813 held an Act of Remembrance and wreath-laying service in Shankill Memorial Garden Park on the Last Saturday. They were joined by Sir Knight Roy McCartney WDM, RBDC No 6, who laid a wreath on behalf of the District Chapter.



Members of RBP 52 and RBP 523 jointly laid a wreath at Dungannon War Memorial.



The officers and Sir Knights of Lower Iveagh RBDC No 1 remembered the Fallen, with a wreath laid at Dromore War Memorial by Sir Knt Sam Newell WDM, assisted by Sir Knt Ian Dunlop DDM.



South Londonderry RBDC No 4 held an Act of Remembrance and wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Plaque in Moneymore. Sir Knt Hugh Stewart CGM conducted the Act of Remembrance and Sir Knight Trevor Anderson WDM laid a wreath.



In the shadow of the Mourne Mountains, Mourne RBDC No 8 held a drive-in service in Annalong Orange Field on Sunday, August 30.

Banner climb to top of Bessy Bell

Brethren of Kirlish Golden Lights RBP 666 gathered at Kirlish Orange Hall on the morning of the Last Saturday. Due to coronavirus, the traditional demonstration scheduled for Castlederg had been cancelled.

Officers of RBP 666 still decided to mark the day by walking up Bessy Bell, the 420m high mountain in the Sperrins, County Tyrone.

After the morning meeting, the preceptory then travelled to Drumquin village to rendezvous with family and friends before making the short distance along the Drumquin to Newtown Stewart Road to the Baronscourt estate. The ascent

then began in dry but breezy conditions.

At the top of Bessy Bell, named by Scottish immigrants after a girl from Perthshire who died from the plague during the 1600s, the breathtaking views were appreciated by everyone before embarking on the leisurely descent.

Back at the hall a very welcome tea was kindly provided by Linda Buchanan, wife of Tom Buchanan MLA.

Sponsorship from the walk will be used to support the Royal Black Institution's 2020 designated charity, the Somme Nursing Home for service veterans.



Sir Knights Raymond Baxter, Tom Buchanan, Sam Dennison and Keith Kerrigan unfurl the preceptory's banner at the top of a breezy Bessy Bell.

Lord Molyneaux – a

On the centenary of the birth of Lord Molyneaux, and 75 years after former Sovereign Grand Master, focusing in particular on his military

Between 1971 and 1998 James Henry Molyneaux was Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution.

His leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party, from 1979 until 1995, spanned some of the worst violence and political turmoil of the Troubles.

As one obituary put it, he was "the shrewd and stubborn face of Ulster unionism".

James Henry Molyneaux was born on August 27, 1920 at Killead, Co Antrim, the only son of William Molyneaux, a poultry farmer, and his wife Sarah (née Gilmore). He was educated at Aldergrove School where remarkably he was the only Protestant pupil.

Serving in the RAF from 1941 to 1946, he became a member of a nine-man specialist group of commandos. They landed on D-Day to reconnoitre for airfield sites on the beachhead, and had Spitfires landing within three days. His unit assisted in the liberation of Belsen – Molyneaux suffered nightmares for years – and, as the war ended, were sent to prevent the Germans destroying V2s (the long-range guided-ballistic missiles developed by the Nazis) at Peenemünde before Allied forces could seize them.

Demobilised, Molyneaux took up employment in his uncle's printing business in Crumlin and joined the Orange Order; he joined the Unionist Party when Unionist ladies met at his Orange hall while he was fixing the heating system. He became Deputy Grand Master in 1964.

In that same year he became a member of Antrim County Council and honorary secretary of the South Antrim Unionist Association.

When Sir Knox Cunningham stood down as MP for South Antrim in 1970 Molyneaux was prevailed upon to succeed him. In the General Election he secured a majority just shy of 40,000. In 1974, he became leader of the Unionist MPs at Westminster and in 1979 succeeded Harry West as party

leader.

In 1983 he became the MP for the newly-created Lagan Valley seat, which he represented until he stepped down at the General Election of 1997. He was also appointed a Privy Counsellor in 1983, probably the political distinction he valued most. Knighted in 1996, he was awarded a life peerage the following year. He declined an honorary degree from Queen's University, Belfast, in protest at its discontinuing the National Anthem at degree ceremonies.

His recreations were gardening and music. When out canvassing – an activity which, unlike many politicians, he evidently enjoyed – he liked nothing better than admiring a well-kept garden and talking about it with its proud owner.

For social functions, he possessed a great fund of amusing stories. The one about how he had arrived on a doorstep in his constituency to find a large and energetic dog was a particular favourite. When he was invited in for tea, the dog came too, spattering the spotless parlour with mud. As he got up to leave, the farmer's wife asked: "Aren't you going to take your dog with you?"

Three great influences may be discerned in the making of Lord Molyneaux of Killead: his paternal grandfather, the Second World War and his Christian faith.

James Henry Molyneaux exerted a benign and profound influence over his young grandson.

Grandfather lived on the other family farm at Seacash and grandson would visit him daily. Grandfather took both *The Times* and *Daily Telegraph*, read them over breakfast and then discussed world affairs with his grandson. The conversation might begin: "Well James Henry, I do not like the way they are handling the balance of payments or Britain is going off the Gold Standard."

Not understanding what exactly the balance of payments or the Gold Standard

were did not constitute an insurmountable problem. All the young man (or more accurately the boy because Britain abandoned the Gold Standard in September 1931) had to do was ask and an explanation would be forthcoming, and in this way the future parliamentarian received his earliest political education and acquired a fascination for national and even international politics.

If James Molyneaux was always at heart "a shire Conservative", his grandfather was disproportionately responsible. If he was also an integrationist, who favoured Northern Ireland being ruled in the same way as Wales and Scotland, with nothing more than an

administrative regional council in Belfast, that too was down to his grandfather's focus on national rather than local politics.

In the late 1930s, that "low dishonest decade" as W H Auden described it in his poem "September 1, 1939", Molyneaux



man of loyal service

VE Day, historian GORDON LUCY takes a look at the life of the service during World War Two and his role in the liberation of Belsen

was an admirer of Anthony Eden who had resigned as Foreign Secretary in February 1938 in protest at Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement.

Although Molyneaux continued to work on the family farm until 1941, the war had

already impinged on his life. RAF Aldergrove was built on Molyneaux land and in April and May 1941 Belfast experienced the Blitz. The fires burning in Belfast and the clouds of smoke rising above the city were almost certainly visible from the family farm. It was a combination of these two factors which prompted him to join the RAF.

In 1989, Ann Purdy, a News Letter journalist, published "Molyneaux: the Long View", a book largely based on lengthy interviews with the man and well worth reading. She correctly identified the extent to which his wartime experience shaped his character.

Speaking about the liberation of Belsen,

Molyneaux explained:

"It was a pretty harrowing experience. It was worse than anyone could ever have

imagined. Unless you had seen it with your own eyes you would not have believed the suffering and you certainly would not want anyone else to see it."

Molyneaux then supplied a very minor (in one sense) yet revealing detail: "A very simple thing was that you were handed a roll of insulating tape which you used to silence the horn of the jeep so that you would not, by accident, sound it. This was because driving slowly through the camp, there were bodies lying all over the place around which you had to swerve but there were also all the poor people who were staggering along these roads in some sort of coma. It was not unknown, at the beginning, that when drivers sounded their horns to make them gently get out of the way for their own safety that they just dropped dead with shock."

The size of the camp and the sheer obscenity of thousands of people crumpled together dying came as an enormous shock to the young Molyneaux. He was outraged by the inhumanity of the SS troops in the camp. Forced to carry out relief work and dig mass graves, they still sought to ill-treat the camp survivors. Of course, they were no longer allowed to get away with such behaviour.

Fifty years later, at the age of 75, he returned to Belsen with a documentary team to reflect on man's inhumanity to man.

Molyneaux also spoke to Ann Purdy about the friends he lost during the war, especially those who were killed in an air raid on the beachhead shortly after his arrival in Normandy and the Canadian friends killed during the ferocious battle for Caen. These deaths too made a profound impact on him and left him with a strong sense of having to pay something back for surviving. This goes a long way to explaining his strong commitment to public service.

Some of Molyneaux's colleagues were critical of his lack of emotion at, for example, the murders of his parliamentary colleague Robert Bradford, his talented young protégé Edgar Graham and his friend, the Shadow Conservative Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Airey Neave. Molyneaux believed it was important to keep one's emotions in check. This was partially a legacy of the war but it was also a generational thing. Ulstermen of Molyneaux's generation did not regard displays of emotion as a virtue nor did they wear their hearts on their sleeves. He himself survived at least two murder bids.

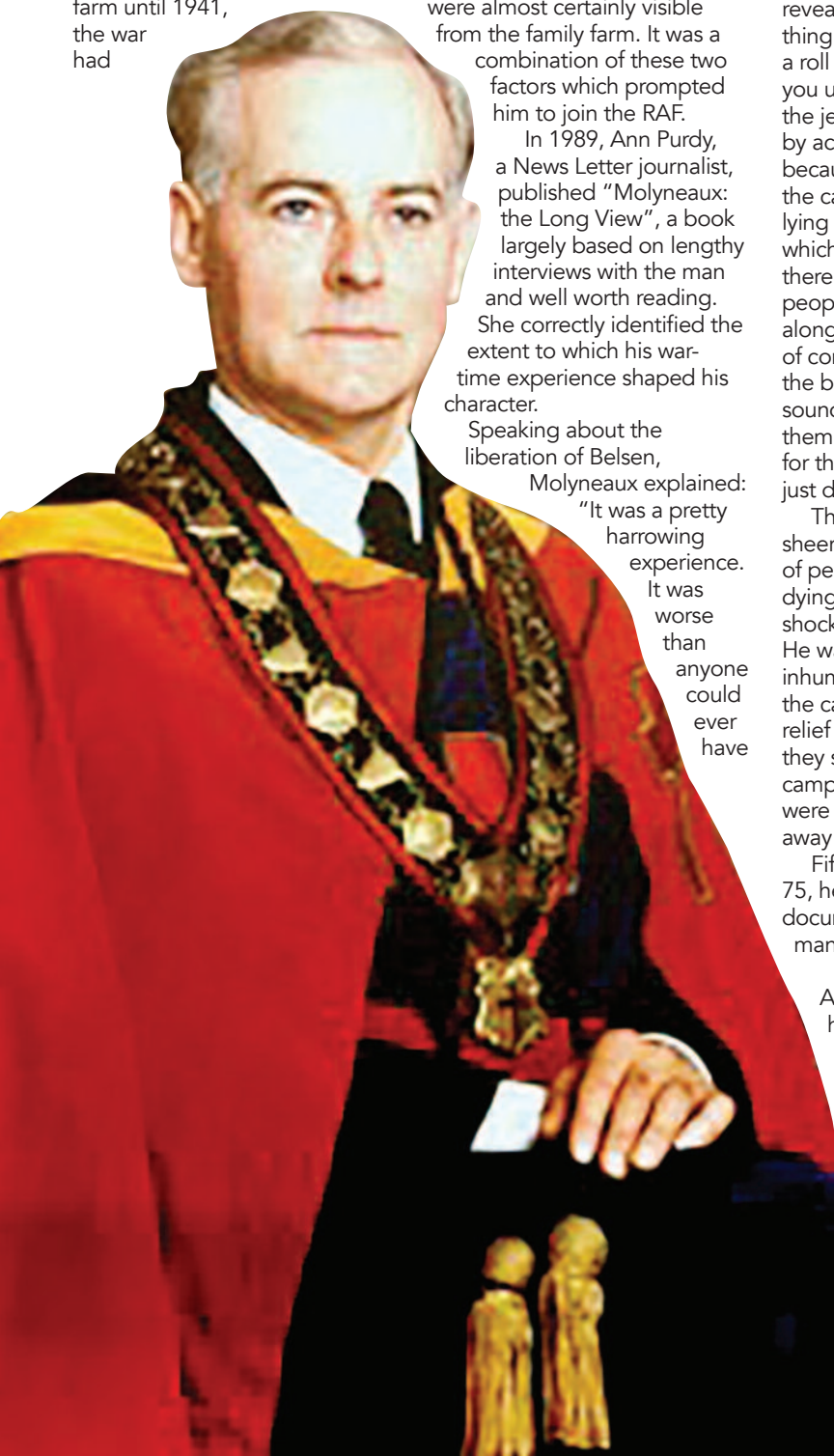
In the early 1990s, Molyneaux found himself denounced by a parliamentary colleague as "a Judas Iscariot" on account of his acceptance of the Downing Street Declaration. It was a hurtful jibe which cut deeply. Yet Molyneaux's response was, "I would not be unforgiving. I'm too much of a Christian for lack of forgiveness."

Molyneaux's strong and sustaining Christian faith was central to his life. At his funeral service in March 2015, the Right Revd Alan Abernethy, the then Bishop of Connor, described him as "a man of loyal service to the Church and wider community".

"As a parishioner of St Catherine's, Killead, Aldergrove, since childhood, weekly worship and choir membership were integral to his life, the hallmarks of someone who made a faithful contribution to his local, as well as the wider, community."

The Bishop concluded by observing: "I wish to express gratitude for his service to God and the Church, and to acknowledge the distinctive part he played in political life here, as well as in his role in the RAF during the Second World War, and the liberation of Belsen."

With the 75th anniversary of VE Day still fresh in our minds, on the centenary of his birth we should do likewise.



Dedication and loyalty remains strong in Ontario West



A brief history of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West by Provincial Grand Registrar, MW Sir Knight Michael Thomas

Burning Bush RBP 1202 (Toronto) on parade at Derry Day 1979 in Grand Valley.

Our story begins just prior to the year 1877 when the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West was part of what was the Grand Black Chapter of Western Canada (composing RBPs in all of Ontario).

The first major note was a visit from the Sovereign Grand Master, William Johnston of Ballykilbeg. He was received warmly and visited the various encampments.

The Institution as a separate body was detested by a prominent Orangeman, a Past Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Canada, Ogle R. Gowan. He placed a motion on the floor of the 1873 Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West meeting. He noted other groups that were now operating outside the control of the Grand Orange Lodges, such as the Orange Young Britons, Knights of Malta, the Irish Black Order and the Scotch Black. Gowan was upset that some Orange lodges gave recognition and legitimacy by allowing these groups to parade with the Orange Institution.

Gowan wanted them all under the control of the Grand Orange Lodge, so that the Grand Orange Lodge of Canada had full control over every loyalist society and body "in support of Protestantism, Loyalty, and British Connexion [sic]."

It was quickly ruled out of order by the Provincial Grand Master, a fierce and prominent Sir Knight from Toronto, D'Arcy Boulton. Indeed, there was no great support

for Gowan's motion or views, and in 1874 a warrant was issued to form the Grand Black Chapter of British America.

Geographically, Ontario is a vast area, 1.076 million km² in total. In 1877 it was split into today's Provincial Grand Chapters of Ontario West and Eastern Ontario respectively. Our first meeting in 1877 as the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West was held in Orillia, Ontario.

Over the latter half of the 19th and 20th centuries, the Institution grew in Ontario West with new preceptories, and a number of prominent men joined the ranks. It was this rise in membership which led to the decision to hold a procession, the first ever of the Royal Black Knights in Canada. It occurred on August 12, 1912 in Toronto. The papers dubbed it "Another Twelfth", as it was held in commemoration of the relief of Londonderry.

The Black parades were large affairs throughout the years, overshadowing the Twelfth of July demonstrations in size. Towns and cities across Ontario would see the Sir Knights in their black bow ties, collarettes and aprons parade down their main streets. Demonstrations were held right up until the last parade in Palgrave, 2012. The dwindling numbers were evident, with only 75 on parade. To build numbers, Black Knights were joined by Orangemen, Orangewomen and the Apprentice Boys of Derry. It poured rain as the hamlet hosted the walk to no spectators on the streets. The whole parade

was headed by a single piper. After that year, local municipality requirements would make it impossible to ever parade again.

Loyalty to country and monarch is embedded in the members of the Institution. When war came in 1914 our members enlisted for King and Country. They did not wait for conscription to fulfill their duty. Sadly, many would not return. Thanks to the records from the time, we have a list of all our Sir Knights who did not return. Ontario West Provincial Grand Black Chapter have 95 Sir Knights to the war. Their names lost since been written in a book and read every convocation; their sacrifice was not in vain. Again, Sir Knights from Ontario West would see action in World War Two, Korea and various peacekeeping missions.

During the Third Home Rule crisis for Ireland, we were not silent nor unaware of the situation. Letters and statements opposing Home Rule was common from this Provincial Chapter from 1912 and continued to the 1920s. The Sir Knights felt a close affinity to their Ulster brethren and used every opportunity to raise a voice for them.

Ontario West opposed supporting, with funds from public tax dollars, the separate Roman Catholic School system in Ontario. They also voiced objection to the Pearson Liberal government when they introduced a new, distinctly Canadian flag. Even though adopted and first flown on February 15, 1965, for just over two decades Ontario



Officers of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West pictured at Port Elgin in 2019.

West Provincial Chapter would not recognize, carry, nor display the new flag. It has since been accepted, though reluctantly by some Sir Knights.

Over its history, a total of 177 warranted preceptories have been in Ontario West, several predating the Provincial Chapter and its precursor, the Grand Chapter of Western Canada. The first warrant in what we know as Ontario West was Maiden RBP No. 96, which was encamped at Toronto, now dormant. Preceptories were found throughout the western portion of Ontario and it was not just restricted to that of southern Ontario, as is the case now. Several Preceptories were encamped in the Muskoka region. As well, northern Ontario saw the Sir Knights establish preceptories in places such as Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Kirkland Lake, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, Kenora, Timmins, Timiskaming and several on Manitoulin Island.

From the 1970s, the Provincial Chapter began to see a decline in membership and size. Historically the Royal Black in Ontario West accounted for 30% of the Orangemen. As the Orange Order saw a decline, the Royal Black too would follow suit. Unlike the Orange, the Royal Black over the next 40 years saw a decline that was fast and decisive. Now the Institution has a senior age membership and death has made a huge mark upon us. Over the last decade we have experienced the greatest decrease in our history. From 15 preceptories in 2010, we are now just five active preceptories, and for the first time are below 100 Royal Black Knights.

Nevertheless, one cannot end a history of Ontario West, no matter how brief, without mentioning the one man who for the last 60 years or so

was synonymous with the Royal Black Institution. That man, dubbed in Ontario West as "Mr RBP", was the late MW Sir Knight Lynn E. Jones, HIDGM. A character of sorts to all who remember him and recall his "unique style", Lynn was instrumental in keeping the lecturing flame alive in the Province and provided the framework of understanding and lecturing of degrees that continues in use to this day within Ontario West. It was a heavy loss in September 2015 when our dear Sir Knight passed.

Despite the decline, the spirit and enthusiasm for the Institution remains high here. Men still do join, and degrees are still commonplace throughout Ontario West, which operates today under the auspices of the Grand Black Chapter of Canada, which in turn operates under the control of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth. Indeed, we are anticipating eight Sir Knights will receive their Red Cross degrees on Good Friday 2021.

The Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West is exploring new avenues to engage members. In 2014, we held the Take Five Gospel outreach service in Toronto. September 2019 saw the first ever Past Grand Masters' Night, which is planned to become an annual event. Other ideas are still in the thinking stage and we continue with our e-newsletter. It has been a hit both internationally as well as locally. We still maintain supporting a charity at the annual convocation. Over the last three years we have given \$1,500 to Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada.

Through it all we continue to strive forward and rest in the knowledge that our God will keep us for as long as He has work for us to do!



MW Sir Knight Lynn E Jones, known in Ontario West as "Mr RBP".



Banner of the former King Hiram RBP 297 encamped at Mono Mills.



A meeting of Tuxis RBP 1091 in the old Waldemar Orange Hall in November 2013.



A meeting of the former Rev Canon Walsh RBP 111 in Brampton in 2013.

Degree Day hosted in Niagara Falls

The fall officers' meeting of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West was held in the Niagara Falls Orange Hall on Saturday, October 5, 2019.

Following the meeting, a luncheon was served by the local preceptory, Arbah RBP 159, by MW Sir Knight Brian Thompson, Honorary Deputy Grand Master of British America.

At 1pm, the Provincial officers assisted Arbah RBP 159 in exemplification of a number of degrees. To assist other preceptories, an open invitation was given to send any travelling Sir Knights along. In all, five Sir Knights were present to receive degrees: Sir Knights Ken Hughes (Tuxis RBP 1091), Garry Chandler (Tuxis RBP 1091), Rev Quenton Little (Inniskilling RBP 834), Robert Stewart (Arbah RBP 159) and Neil Marshalsey (Tuxis RBP 1091).

The degrees were exemplified and conducted by MW Sir Knight Michael Thomas, the Provincial Grand Registrar of Ontario West, who was assisted by Rt Wor Sir Knight John Thomas, the Provincial Grand Lecturer of Ontario West. The meeting was chaired by Wor Sir Knight Fred Penney, Past Preceptor of Arbah RBP 159. MW Sir Knight Brian Thompson HDGM BA occupied the Deputy's chair and Provincial Grand Master of Ontario West, MW Sir Knight Ron Sharpe, took the chair of the Chaplain.

This was a wonderful afternoon and a great assistance to the preceptories in Niagara Falls, London and Grand Valley. Arbah RBP 159 has another Sir Knight needing advancement. Also, Tuxis RBP 1091 was preparing to welcome two new candidates to their preceptory earlier this year.



Ron Sharpe (GM of Ontario West), Bil Segui (PGM Ontario West), Brian Thompson (PGM Ontario West), Dan MacDonald (PGM Ontario West), and Edgar Carman (GM of BA).

Ontario West Past Grand Masters' Dinner

A good turnout of Sir Knights, families and friends were present on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 233 in Orangeville, Ontario, for the Past Grand Masters' dinner.

There were over 30 in attendance, which far exceeded expectations, and the Provincial Grand Black Chapter was extremely pleased.

The evening recognised the work of Past Provincial Grand Masters, three of whom were in attendance that evening, namely, MW Sir Knight Brian Thompson, Honorary Deputy Grand Master of British America; Rt Wor Sir Knight Rev Dan MacDonald; and MW Sir Knight Bil Segui.

The evening was hosted by the sitting Provincial Grand Master, MW Sir Knight Ron Sharpe, who was delighted to see the good attendance with members from all Preceptories in Ontario West. The MC for the evening was the Provincial Grand Registrar, MW Sir Knight Michael Thomas.

A highlight of the evening was that the Grand Master of British America, MW Sir Knight Edgar Carman, was able to attend, and this made the occasion even more special for the Past Provincial Grand Masters.

Following a time of gathering and mingling, the evening was called to order by the MC, MW Sir Knight Michael Thomas, who asked all to be upstanding for the dignitaries. It was a thrill to have Bro Shawn McKinlay, of Maple Leaf LOL 1396 (Ravenna), attend as the piper for the evening. Thanks to Rt Wor Sir Knight Bill Thompson who organised this portion of the evening. The Provincial Grand Master, along with the Grand Master of British America and the Past Provincial Grand Masters, were piped into and around the room.

MW Sir Knight Ron Sharpe welcomed all to the dinner. Following the singing of the National Anthem, O Canada!, grace was offered by Rt Wor Sir Knight Dan MacDonald and the gathered guests enjoyed a roast beef dinner, with catering supplied by the Ladies Auxiliary of Branch 233 of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The special portion of the evening began with a time of praise. MW Sir Knight Michael Thomas led the assembled group in five hymns to the glory of God. Everyone was in fine voice and filled the legion hall with "Up From The Grave He Arose"; "Are You Washed In The Blood Of The Lamb?"; "At The Cross"; "Jesus From His Home On High"; and "Christians Go And Tell Of Jesus".

At this stage, the service of the three Past Provincial Grand Masters was reviewed. Following each retrospective, the Past Grand Master was called forward and presented with a special gift. Provincial Grand Master, MW Sir Knight Ron Sharpe, handed them a Past Master's jewel of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth as a thank-you from the Provincial Grand Chapter for all they had done.

After receiving their jewels, each Past Provincial Grand Master offered their thanks and a word of reflection. MW Sir Knight Carman, Grand Master of British America, then addressed the audience with a few words.

The final part of the night involved a talk by MW Sir Knight Michael Thomas on the third Home Rule crisis and the signing of the Ulster Covenant in 1912, as that day marked 107 years from the event taking place.

The night closed with thanks being extended and the Royal Anthem sung. A grand night in Orangeville!

A benevolent Institution



By Sir Knight James Frazer

The Royal Black Institution has a long history associated with its benevolent function – an outward expression of its religious commitments and camaraderie within the society. In fact, it appears to have been particularly advanced in this area at one point in comparison to its sister organisation, the Loyal Orange Institution.

Dr Jonathan Mattison, a historian of Orangeism, argues that benevolence was "embedded in the very sinews" of the Royal Black Institution through its degree system, teaching important lessons about charity and the importance of "looking after a fellow Knight in death, as in life". Indeed, the earliest surviving warrants of the society, dating back to the early 1820s, described the Institution's "sole and only purpose" as "relieving our distressed and oppressed loyal Protestant Brethren round the globe".

The charitable role of the Black Order offered something unique to lower and middle-class Protestants which was not provided through their Orange membership for most of the nineteenth century. The first reference of a benevolent function is in the minute book of the Grand Black Lodge, based in Dublin, on November 2, 1818: "The Committee of the Grand Black Lodge No 1 find Brother John Mollock guilty



Another example of the benevolent nature of the Royal Black - Members of Markethill Royal Black District Chapter No 3 present a cheque for £300 to Anne Dalzell from the Southern Area Hospice, the proceeds of the District Fellowship Christmas Carol Service in December, held in Newtownhamilton Orange Hall. Pictured are the District Officers and Sir Knights with Mrs Dalzell. Front row (left to right): Sir Knt Roger Gardiner, Dep Dist Treas; Sir Knt Gilbert Pierson, Dist Treas; Sir Knt Jim Steenson, Deputy District Master; Mrs Anne Dalzell; Sir Knt William Copeland, Worshipful District Master; Sir Knt Samuel Courtney, Dist Reg; and Sir Knt Ronnie Black, Dist Lect.

of the charge of holding over the sum of 2/11 from a sick Brother."

This example indicates that there were consequences for not contributing to the charitable outreach of the society and the rules of the Grand Black Lodge in 1822 further declared "that any member who absents himself [from meetings] for a series of time, without a proper reason, shall be excluded from all benefit, in the way of benevolence, or by the exertions of his Brethren, to which he would be entitled from the Lodge had he paid due respect to its duties".

Little had changed by the reconstitution of the Black Order in 1846 with the organisation stating in its rules and regulations that it had both a "religious and benevolent object". The charitable function of the Institution continued throughout the nineteenth century and became more efficiently managed with the establishment of "Benevolent" or "Mutual Funds" attached to some Preceptories, many of

which continue today. These funds were used both by members and families of the Preceptory attached thereto, as well as other Preceptories. For example, at a meeting of Armagh City Grand RBP No 8 on August 12, 1869 it was proposed that "the Sir Knights subscribe six pence each to the relief of Sir Knight Samuel Smith of Preceptory No 54 Market-Hill and the deficiency if any to make it £1.0.0. to be taken from the [treasurer's] box".

Compared to the Black Institution, the Orange Order had no comparable means of relief for its members. In general, the gentry of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland had been content to just support charitable bodies associated with the Irish Protestant churches. However, a drive was made within the Orange Institution from the 1860s to provide for its membership. This was motivated by the support provided by the Black Institution as well as friendly societies for their members, and culminated in the establishment of the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orphan

Fund in December 1887. As a result of Black contributions to the charity and increasing harmony between the loyal orders, the Grand Black Chapter of Ireland was "entitled to four votes in perpetuity for the admission of orphans to the benefit of the Fund" from December 1895.

In recent decades, members of the Royal Black Institution have continued to show the benevolent character of their society by raising almost £800,000 for several charities since 2002. Furthermore, the charitable and proactive efforts of Sir Knights have been evident in responding to the challenges of COVID-19. This benevolent function is intrinsic to the concept of fraternity and the fraternal role of the Royal Black Institution has become increasingly important since its formation around 1797.

As the Worshipful Master of the McSpadden's RBP No 186, Glasgar, recognised in 1880: "I am more than ever convinced that there is something in the order that unites us in friendship and brotherly love."

Sir Knight James Frazer is a member of Mount Horeb RBP 27, Donaghmore (Banbridge District). He is currently studying for a PhD in history at Queen's University and has previously researched the history of the Royal Black Institution.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE:

Deadlines for all editorial, photos etc is Friday 19th February 2021

Legacy of churchman lives on in east Belfast

This year marked the centenary of the death of Reverend William Witherow, a highly respected minister in east Belfast.

Rev Witherow, who was a native of Banagher, Co Londonderry, was installed as the minister of Westbourne Presbyterian Church on March 1, 1883, an office he held until he resigned on November 4, 1919, presumably because of ill health. He then died on April 22, 1920.

Rev Witherow seems to have been very active in the community, with Westbourne Church having to enlarge itself during his ministry, including with the provision of a school in what later became the church halls. He was also a staunch unionist having been involved in Ulster Day in 1912 and in earlier years with the Ulster Defence Union.

It is notable that Westbourne Presbyterian Church was the venue for 3,371 people to sign the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant. His current successor is the Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Rev Mervyn Gibson, who might be seen as being of a similar nature in terms of community activism.

Westbourne Presbyterian Church dedicate their morning service every second Sunday in June as Witherow Sunday. The service is always open to anybody interested in attending and usually includes attendees from the local Orange and Black Districts (in regalia), particularly



Rev William Witherow

from Witherow Memorial LOL 1337 and Westbourne Church Volunteers RBP 861, both of which formed just after Rev Witherow's death, suggesting he was well regarded in Orange and Black circles within east Belfast.

Westbourne Church Total Abstinence RBP 861 (original preceptory name) was formed as part of Rev Witherow's legacy of service to east Belfast and Westbourne Presbyterian Church. The preceptory continues to have several members who belong to the Westbourne congregation, including Rev Mervyn Gibson.

The Christian doctrine which Rev Witherow spent his life maintaining and spreading hopefully finds continued expression through the ongoing existence of RBP 861 and the wider Royal Black Institution.



Members of Erin's First Royal Blues RBP 1, Tandragee, enjoyed a special dinner at Sinton's at the Bridge, Scarva, earlier this year, during which their banner was re-dedicated.

Installation of officers at Corcrair RBP 141

Corcrair RBP 141 held their installation of officers on Monday, March 9 in Carleton Street Orange Hall, Portadown.

Sir Knight Malcolm Proctor was installed as Worshipful Master and Sir Knight Keith McClatchey as Deputy Master. The installation ceremony was conducted by Portadown Worshipful District Master Sir Knight Robert Wallace, assisted by District Committee member Sir Knight Billy McClean.

Outgoing WM Sir Knight Rodney Forsythe was presented with his Past Master's Jewel and Certificate by the WDM and newly-installed WM. Sir Knights then enjoyed a fantastic and very informative tour of the hall and a marvellous evening was finished off with a delicious supper.

The preceptory thanked the volunteers of Portadown Heritage Tours for all their efforts and made a donation towards their ongoing work.



All the Sir Knights who attended Corcrair RBP 141's installation of officers in Carleton Street Orange Hall, Portadown.



Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson presents Sir Knight Sydney Beckett with a special certificate to mark his 100th birthday.

Sir Knight Sydney Beckett 100 years young!

Sir Knight Sydney Beckett celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday, 28th August, 2020.

Sir Knight Beckett joined Kilmore Dove of Peace RBP 1144, in Lurgan District, on 14th February, 1949, and received his Red Cross Degree on 13th November, 1950.

Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson joined family and friends on his special day and presented Sir Knight Beckett with a special certificate to mark his 100th birthday and his 71 years of membership of

the Royal Black Institution.

He told Rev Anderson that the secret to a long life is "hard work!"

Sir Knight Beckett was very proud of the birthday card he received from Her Majesty the Queen and it took pride of place among the many cards and letters of good wishes he had received.

Rev Anderson said Sir Knight Beckett was "a truly remarkable man who has lived his life through a period of immense change", and he wished him every blessing for the future.



Imperial, County and District Officers and Sir Knights of RBP 997 following their Centenary Church Service on Sunday October 20, 2019.

RBP 997 celebrates centenary

Mullaglass Link and Chain RBP 997 was formed by members of LOL 117, who were members of other preceptories in Newry District and decided they wanted their own preceptory encamped in Mullaglass.

The warrant for Mullaglass RBP 997 was issued on October 15, 1919 to Sir Knight Henry Scott, the preceptory's first Worshipful Master.

At the meeting of the newly-formed preceptory on November 21, 1919, eleven new members were initiated. They included Sir Knight David Whiteside, great-grandfather of the current Worshipful Master. Sir Knight David Whiteside was actually initiated by his son, Sir Knight Harry Whiteside, who had transferred into RBP 997 on its formation.

At the half-yearly council of the Grand Black Chapter of Ireland held in Liverpool on July 15, 1927 permission was given for the preceptory to assume the title of 'Link and Chain'.

The preceptory had the pictures 'Return of the Dove' and 'Arise and Eat' on their previous banner and their current banner was unfurled in 2012.

RBP 997 places great emphasis on family connections within the preceptory and have several members with third - and even fourth - generation family connections.

Sir Knight Colin Whiteside, the current Worshipful Master, previously held the position of Treasurer in the preceptory for 22 years from 1986 to 2008. He is currently an Imperial Deputy Grand Treasurer.



Senior Sir Knights Richard Adamson and Robert J Lutton cut the centenary cake at the RBP 997 Black Ball held on October 25, 2019 watched by Sir Knights David and Jonathan Whiteside, the great, great-grandsons of Sir Knight David Whiteside, the first Sir Knight initiated into RBP 997 after its formation in 1919.

Beaconsfield RBP 224 reaches 140 years

This year marked the 140th anniversary of Beaconsfield RBP 224.

The preceptory in its current form started in 1880 when No 1 District, Belfast, applied for the renewal of No 224, which was granted to Sir Knight Joseph Craney and was encamped in the Derby Memorial Orange and Protestant Hall, located in Agnes Street.

In 1881, RBP 224 was granted the title 'Beaconsfield Preceptory'. According to the report books, RBP 224 moved from District No 1 to District No 5 in 1895 where it remained until 1906 when, together with RBP 550 and RBP 669, it founded Royal Black District Chapter No 6, which is encamped in West Belfast Orange Hall and where it still sits regularly.



Beaconsfield RBP 224 in 2018 - Deputy Master Billy Scott, Sir Knight David Galway PM, Bing Larmour PM, Sid Anderson PM, Treasurer Jim Anderson PM, Chaplin Bill Graham, Worshipful Master Willie Shaw, Ivan Graham PM, Billy Pettigrew (RBP 160), Phillip Larmour PM, Registrar Dennis Larmour PM and Bucky Reid PM.



At the last meeting of Chinauley RBP 994 before the coronavirus lockdown, WDM of Banbridge Royal Black District Chapter, Sir Knight Andrew Maxwell, presented Red Cross Certificates to Sir Knights Jonathan Watson, Ian Adair, Stephen Adair, Ross Adair and Ryan Adair.



At a special meeting of Benraw RBP 40, Sir Knight Joe Gibson was presented with a 60 year jewel by Sir Knight John Smyth PCGM. Front Row: Jonathan Maxwell PM, Joe Gibson (with his 60 year jewel), John Smyth PCGM, Eddie Patterson, Treasurer. Back row: Ryan McCracken DM, Matthew Gilmore, Geoffrey Bradford PM, Alistair Woods WM, David Harte, Mike Delahay PM.




Sir Knights of Pomeroy Rising Star RBP 259 who received 70, 50 and 40 year service medals. Back row (L-R): Ronnie Moore (50yr), Trevor Brimage (40yr), William Moore (40yr), Samuel McElmurry (40yr), Ian Hayes (50yr). Middle row: Trevor Rainey (40yr), Colin Ramsay (DM), Rodney Smyth (WM), William Kelly (40yr), Victor Ramsay (40yr). Front row: David Millar (WDM, East Tyrone RBDC No.5), Wilfred Somerville (70yr), Joe Boyd (70yr), Sovereign Grand Master Rev William Anderson.




At the February Meeting of Olive Branch RBP 393, Encamped at the Birches, Sir Knight Noel Jones was presented with his 50 year jewel having joined the Royal Black on January 19, 1970 and having given exemplary service to the Institution since then. He is pictured receiving his jewel from the Worshipful District Master of Summerisland RBDC No 6, Sir Knight Thomas J Hume, and the Worshipful Master of RBP 393, Sir Knight Stewart Brennan.



Ronnie Duncan, Worshipful Master of Tildarg RBP 1111, presents a cheque for £200 to Ward Sister, Deirdre Totten, of the Macmillan Centre at Antrim Area Hospital. The money raised was from the joint annual church service of Tildarg RBP 1111 and Ballyboley RBP 334, based in Ballyclare Royal Black District Chapter No 6.



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