

KILLYMAN ROYAL BLACK DISTRICT CHAPTER No.1

Preceptory Histories

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RBP No. 4 - ULSTER'S CHOSEN FEW – BUSH

Although details of the Preceptory's early years are sketchy, its origins can be clearly traced to 14 January 1846 when a warrant was issued to Sir Knight James Hadden, who became the first Worshipful Master of the Preceptory. RBP No 4 did not at first hold their meetings in Bush, encamping in Killyman and Coalisland before settling on the Bush as its base early in the 19th Century. The title of Ulster's Chosen Few was not taken up until 1924.

Prior to the formation of the County Tyrone Grand Black Chapter in 1865, Bush No 4 was not connected to any District. However, members of Bush RBP No 4 played a major part in the first years of the County Chapter. Three of its members held inaugural County positions in 1865, namely Sir Knight Rev W J M Young, who was elected County Grand Chaplain, Sir Knight William Allen, County Deputy Grand Treasurer and Sir Knight Richard Clements, County 1st Grand Committee Member. Sir Knight William Allen became County Deputy Grand Lecturer in 1870 and subsequently County Grand Lecturer. Sir Knight Rev W J M Young was again appointed County Grand Chaplain in 1871 while Sir Knight Robert Watson followed his fellow Preceptory member Sir Knight William Allen by becoming County Deputy Grand Treasurer in 1875.

It is interesting to note that Rev William J M Young was one of three clergymen members of Bush RBP No 4, the others being Rev Simeon Gaden and Canon R G Douglas, uncle of 1st Lecturer Sir Knight Douglas Moore.

As stated earlier, preceptory records are incomplete or insufficient for a full history, but on the evidence available it is clear that Sir Knight George Falloon was its longest serving Worshipful Master, his 26 year tenure surpassing the 20 year stint of Sir Knight Wingfield Espey.

RBP No 4's first banner was unfurled in 1924 at Bush Orange Hall by local lady Mrs Thomas McClean. The banner was decorated with the appropriate scene of Moses at the Burning Bush, and also Joshua crossing the Jordan. At this time the preceptory took on the title of Ulster's Chosen Few, which was inscribed on the new banner. This banner was replaced in 1939 when Mrs McClean again had the pleasure of performing the unfurling, at Dungannon Orange Hall on this occasion. The scenes on this replacement were The Return of the Dove and, in a throwback to the early days, David and Goliath.

In 1981 the members of Ulster's Chosen Few, R.B.P. No. 4 decided to purchase a new banner. The then Worshipful Master was Sir Knight Isaac Boyd and the Deputy Master was Sir Knight Frank Clayton. The order for the new banner was placed with Mr Thomas Strain, Omagh. It was passed in the Preceptory to retain the original scenes of the previous banner were David at the Brook and the Return of the Dove and also the name of the Preceptory, Ulster's Chosen Few. The banner was unfurled at Bush Orange Hall on 22nd August 1981 by Mrs. George Falloon, wife of the previous Worshipful Master. The scissors were presented to her by Master Graham Moore. The Chairman for the ceremony was Sir Knight Ivan M. Symington, Worshipful District Master of Killyman Royal Black District Chapter No. 1.

In 1947 a tablet was erected in the Bush Orange Hall in memory of Sir Knight and Brother Robert G. White who was killed in action at Arnheim in September 1944. A further tablet was erected in 1981 in memory of Sir Knight and Brother George Samuel Gibson who was murdered at Edendork on 29th April 1979, and Sir Knight and Brother David Graham, ambushed at Gortgonis and died of his wounds 25th March 1977.

The list of Worshipful Masters of Bush RBP No 4 which can be derived from the records is as follows:-

- 1892 Sir Knight Robert Knox Lyttle
- 1896 Sir Knight Rev Simeon Gaden
- 1897 Sir Knight William McMinn
- 1898 Sir Knight Edward Irwin
- 1903 Sir Knight Wingfield Espey
- 1923 Sir Knight Thomas Neill
- 1925 Sir Knight Henry McClean
- 1936 Sir Knight Isaac Carter
- 1938 Sir Knight William Anderson
- 1941 Sir Knight Robert Anderson
- 1943 Sir Knight Henry McClean
- 1947 Sir Knight Richard Stewart
- 1949 Sir Knight Thomas Leaney
- 1951 Sir Knight Sandy White
- 1954 Sir Knight George Falloon
- 1980 Sir Knight Isaac Boyd
- 1982 Sir Knight Frank Clayton
- 1984 Sir Knight Fred Archer
- 1987 Sir Knight Thomas Abernethy
- 1990 Sir Knight Alan Kempton
- 1993 Sir Knight Douglas Moore
- 1996 Sir Knight Jim Martin
- 2000 Sir Knight Sam Kirk
- 2004 Sir Knight Derek Graham

The Preceptory is lead by the Sergeant White Memorial Flute Band. On the 3rd of May 1912 Bro Wingfield Espey proposed that the Bush Orange Lodge Scott Memorial LOL 163 start a flute band and it was decided to invite Mr William Simpson to teach the band. The band was inactive during the war years 1939 to 1945. Over the years the band has had a number of teachers, including Mr Watson Campbell who introduced Part Time Music, Mr Robert Scott, Mr Robert Lucas, Mr William Copeland, Mr John Robinson, Mr James Bradley, a band member who served in the R.A.F during the war, and Mr Albert Falloon. Sadly Mr Samuel Gibson a valued member of the band was murdered by the I.R.A in 1979. Over the years the members of the band have come and gone, but the band remains in a flourishing condition and is still marching on. It has taken part in Orange and Royal Black Preceptory parades each year and was honoured to lead the Royal Black Preceptory Demonstration in Dungannon in 1998, also the Apprentice Boys parades in Londonderry and in countless band parades throughout N. Ireland. In the early days

the only uniform worn was band caps, then they progressed to white shirts and finally to full uniform. The original name of the band was Bush Flute Band until the end of the Second World War, when the name was changed to Sgt White Memorial in memory of Sir Knight and Brother Sgt Robert G. White, who was killed in action at Arnhem in 1944.

RBP No. 35 - KILLYMAN SHIELD OF FAITH

RBP No. 35 is the second oldest Preceptory within Killyman District Chapter. The warrant was taken out in 1847 and had the title of Royal Black Lodge of Killyman. It wasn't until 1924 that the title Killyman Shield of Faith was adopted.

From 1924 until the present there have been only four WMs, namely the late Sir Knights Thomas Fowler, John Jenkinson and George Annesley, and the incumbent, Sir Knight Kenneth Montgomery. When the District Chapter was formed in 1866, its first meeting was held in the home of Sir Knight William Aiken of RBP No. 35.

Over the years, members of the Preceptory have been prominent in the District Chapter. In particular, the late Sir Knight John Jenkinson was DDM from 1961-1974. Other officers were Sir Knights David Frizelle District Registrar, Samuel Courtenay District Treasurer, John Richardson District Lecturer and the late Sir Knight George Annesley, who held various offices between 1937 and his death in 1995.

Many other preceptories in Killyman District Chapter have their origins within RBP No. 35. These include RBP No. 511, No. 1052 and No. 1113.

The banner for R.B.P. No 35 was painted by Mr. John Jordan of Tullywigan, Cookstown. The front of the banner represents the Second Coming of Christ and is depicted by an Angel holding the Lamb's Book of Life. The reverse side depicts Paul declaring his faith and wonderful conversion in the face of the Roman King Agrippa. It was unfurled on Friday 8th August 1997 to commemorate the Preceptory's 150th birthday. The unfurling ceremony was carried out by Mrs. Florence Montgomery., the mother of the present W.M. Sir Knight Kenneth Montgomery in front of St. Andrew's Parish Church, Killyman and was dedicated by the local Rector Rev. Alister Warke.

RBP No 52 - GOLDEN KNIGHTS OF DUNGANNON

The warrant was issued in January 1866 and the first minute book dates back to 1870. The first Worshipful Master was Sir Knight Commander Joseph Agnew. The Preceptory was known for a long time as Dungannon Golden Star. It has sat at various places, including Church Street, Thomas Street, William Street, Perry Street, Milltown, Gortmerron Lodge and the Court, Derrycreevy. The members of R.B.P No.52 are now encamped in the Lord Northland Orange Hall Castlehill, Dungannon.

The membership of the Preceptory has fluctuated over the years, but is usually around forty Sir Knights. Many Sir Knights from Dungannon have joined newly created Preceptories in the local area.

The Golden Knights of R.B.P. No. 52 unfurled a new banner, painted by Tootal, at the Lord Northland Orange Hall, Castle Hill, Dungannon on Friday 16th August 1985 at 7pm. Mrs. Sam Henderson graciously performed the unfurling ceremony, assisted by Miss Suzanne Steenson. The dedication was by Sir Knight Canon D.W. Griffith, Chaplain of Killyman District Chapter and Scripture Reading by Rev. Rodgers. The W.D.M. Sir Knight William Purdy acted as Chairman. After unfurling and dedication the Sir Knights paraded the town led by Greystone Silver Band. A good turnout from the various Preceptories within the District attended and paraded in favorable weather and afterwards all were provided with supper by the ladies.. The old banner was sold to a small receptory in Corragh, Co. Monaghan. The Preceptory has also retained a banner which was unfurled around the start of the 20th Century.

RBP No 77 - THE HANOVER – DERRYOGHILL

The warrant for RBP No.77 was granted on 27th November 1849 to Sir Knight William Nassau Dawson, Bovain by Killyman Royal Black Chapter. In its early years it was known as a travelling warrant meeting in either Bovain or Moy. Unfortunately the earliest minutes available relate to the 1880s when a David Harpar was WM (probably of Gorestown Moy) and a Francis Tweedy DM. Also on the register at this period was a Captain E. Bond of the Argory.

During the period of the First World War, RBP No.77 went into decline, and Sir Knight John Dilly Perry of Derryoghill sought and got permission to bring it to Derryoghill. Initially he ran it at his own expense but, as the expenses became unbearable, he put it to a meeting of the Orange brethren in Derryoghill that he needed candidates for RBP No. 77 and failing that he would have to hand the warrant in.

In response, twenty-two brethren put their names forward and so RBP No.77 became domiciled in Derryoghill, it may have been at this time that the prefix Hanover was added to the title.

A new banner was unfurled on Saturday 16 August 1958 in Moy. The present banner was unfurled on Friday 18th August 1989 in Moy. The banner of Hanover R.B.P. No 77, Derryoghill was painted by John Jordan of Cookstown. W.M. at the time of the unfurling was the late Sir Knight George McKenzie and the unfurling ceremony was carried out by the late Henrietta McKenzie, wife of the W.M. Dedication of the banner was performed by Sir Knight William Forsythe. The banner depicts Moses leading the children of Israel across the Red Sea and is backed by David taking the stones from the bottom of the brook.

The Hall where RBP No.77 meet was an old school house and was bought for £40 on 12th December 1906 by the local Orange Lodge LOL No. 3

Since coming to Derryoghill W. Masters are as follows:-

- Sir Knight John Dilly Perry
- Sir Knight Thomas Wylie
- Sir Knight James G McKenzie
- Sir Knight Robert E Greenaway
- Sir Knight Arthur Wilson
- Sir Knight Samuel James McKenzie
- Sir Knight William J Emerson
- Sir Knight R George McKenzie
- Sir Knight Ernest Donnelly
- Sir Knight Hans E Weir
- Sir Knight Iain McFarland
- Sir Knight S J McKenzie.

RBP No 83 - AUGHINTOBER RISING STAR TEMPERANCE

On 17th March 1987 a number of Sir Knights met in Aughtinboer Orange Hall to discuss the intention of creating a Black Preceptory within Killyman R.B.D.C. Discussions included the costing of a banner. A senior member of the institution, the late Sir Knight John Watt suggested and it was agreed to use Moses and the Burning Bush for the front and David and Goliath for the reverse side. The banner was ordered at a cost of £940. On June 24th 1987 R.B.P. 83 was formed and the banner order was confirmed. The W.M. Sir Knight Raymond Cuddy and the D.M. Sir Knight Ivan Burrows officiated at the unfurling ceremony at Aughtinboer Orange Hall on 22nd August 1987. The A.S.G.M. Rev. R.J. Coulter carried out the dedication and Dungannon Silver Band led the praise. Sir Knights numbering 120 then paraded from the hall led by Dungannon Silver Band and Ballymacall Flute Band.

Footnote: *In the words of the S.G.M. Look at your banner and proclaim your faith.*

Aughtinboer is a townland situated two miles west of Castlecaufield, Dungannon and is the centre of the Protestant community in the area.

The local Orange Lodge, LOL 38, is one of the oldest in Ireland. In contrast, the Preceptory is one of the youngest, having been formed in 1987. The majority of the members came on transfer from RBP No. 979 Castlecaufield. The foundation members were Sir Knight Raymond Cuddy WM, Sir Knight Ivan Burrows DM, Sir Knight John Watt Chaplain, Sir Knight David Cuddy Registrar, Sir Knight Norman Wallace Treasurer, Sir Knight Mervyn Burrows and the late Sir Knight John Burrows.

The first meeting of interested Blackmen took place in the Orange Hall on 17th March 1987 and was chaired by the first WM elect, Sir Knight Raymond Cuddy. A number of issues were discussed, one being the formation of a new preceptory.

As enquiries continued it was discovered that the original warrant for RBP No. 83 (being the opposite of LOL 38) was granted on 27th October 1857 to a Black Preceptory encamped at Clifton Street, Belfast under Belfast District No. 2. Eventually the warrant was re-issued under the auspices of Killyman No. 1 District to Aughtinboer Rising Star Temperance. The new warrant was issued by the Imperial Grand Black Chapter on 20th June 1987. The inaugural meeting was on 24th June 1987 when the warrant was passed to the first WM, Sir Knight Raymond Cuddy. The preceptory is the youngest in County Tyrone. Membership rose quickly to around forty, a number roughly equal to the current total.

On 17th March 1988 the preceptory held their first installation of officers and the first installment dinner. It was held in the HA Cuisine Room at the Headquarters of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter, Brownlow House, where the members and their families were treated to a guided tour of the historic building. A carol service has been organised for Sunday 2nd December 2007.

RBP No 426 - DRUMMOND FAITH DEFENDERS

RBP 426 take their name of Drummond Faith Defenders from the town land in which they meet. Drummond is about two miles west of the village of Moy. Their warrant was issued in 1878 and at that time they met in a building a few hundred yards from Drummond crossroads.

In 1883 some land was purchased at the crossroads and Drummond Orange Hall was built and opened in 1884. This is the hall in which the Preceptory continues to meet. Early records show that in the 1920's members met on Wednesday evenings, about once every three months (including 12th August to celebrate the Relief of Derry). At that time annual dues were 8/-. Today the Preceptory meets monthly on the first Tuesday.

In the early 1950's several members joined on the understanding that they wanted to start a new Preceptory in Boland. On 20th December 1951 a new preceptory, RBP 641, met for the first time and on 20th August 1952 they unfurled their new banner.

Drummond's most famous member was Sir Knight Thomas Dobson (1885 - 1960). Although he worked in Belfast running Dobson's Dairies on the Castlereagh Road he never forgot his roots. Money gifted by him was put towards the purchase of what is now known as Dobson Park.

The banner of R.B.P No.426 was unfurled on Tuesday 4th July 1995 by Mrs. Lorna Nelson, wife of the Worshipful Master, Sir Knight Raymond Nelson. The District Master, Sir Knight Derek Marshall presided and the address was delivered by Sir Knight Rev. David Murphy. Bobby Anderson from Coleraine started the painting of the banner, but unfortunately he died before he could finish it. It was completed by his son. The paintings on the banner are Jesus walking on the water with a sinking Peter walking towards Him and Daniel in the den of lions.

The Preceptory and Orange Lodge are very fortunate to have a band associated with the hall. Originally a flute band known as Knox No Surrender, it became a pipe band and on VE day 1945 the William Kerr Memorial Drummond went out for the first time. At present the band has entered the contest arena and some members have also entered the solo competitions for drumming, piping and drum major. The Preceptory is proud that the band accompany them to the last Saturday Demonstration.

RBP No. 511 – KILLYMAN TEMPERANCE

The warrant for RBP No.511 was issued to the then Rector of Killyman Parish Church, Rev. Edward F. Campbell, on 6th June 1890. Sir Knight Rev. Campbell, the first WM of No. 511, was also instrumental in founding the Lord Enniskillen Orphan Fund, a fund which to this day does much valuable work towards the welfare of widows and orphans of members of this institution.

The First Registrar was Sir Knight Douglas Greeves of Grange, an office which he held for 60 years until his death in 1950. Sir Knight Greeves was also WDM of Killyman District Royal Black Chapter and a Deputy Grand Master of I.G.B.C. Tragically, RBP No. 511 suffered the loss of his grandson, Sir Knight Eric Greeves, who was murdered by terrorists as he left his work on 15th December 1972.

The preceptory marked its centenary on 6th June 1990 by having an Encampment in the Cushnie Room at the headquarters of the Black Institution, Brownlow House. This was followed by dinner in the Banqueting Hall. This was attended by the SGM Sir Knight James H. Molyneaux and other Sir Knights from Imperial and County and District Chapters.

The first banner was unfurled at Derrygalley in 1895. It was replaced in 1955 by a banner that was unfurled at Killyman Parish Church by the last surviving founding member, Sir Knight John Gallagher.

On Wednesday 24th August 1977 the unfurling of a new banner for Killyman Temperance R.B.P. No. 511's took place. The ceremony was held at Killyman Parish Church at 7.30pm. The W.D.M. Sir Knight I.M. Symington occupied the chair and during the ceremony Miss Suzanne Mullan presented the scissors to Mrs. Wilson, wife of the W.M. Sir Knight Thomas Wilson, who then cut the tapes to unfurl the banner. The act of dedication was carried out by Sir Knight Canon D.W. Griffith M.A. The banner was painted by T.A. Strain of Omagh. One side of the banner shows Moses as he approaches the burning bush. The other side shows the arch from King Solomon's temple bearing an inscription reading Holiness unto the Lord. Within the arch is painted a Red Cross and underneath an inscription reads in hoc signo vinces, which means Under this sign (Cross of God) thou shalt conquer.

The preceptory has been honoured to enjoy the faithful service of Newmills Silver Band over many years. The preceptory has always been thankful for their association with the band, due their high standard of musical ability and their immaculate deportment.

The preceptory continues to meet in Killyman Orange Hall on the third Friday of January, April, August and October.

RBP NO. 523 - STAR OF THE EAST TEMPERANCE – DUNGANNON

The first encampment took place on 1st August 1899. The first few meetings were held in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Dungannon and from December 1899 onwards were held in the Orange Hall, Thomas Street, Dungannon until 20th October 1922 when they held the first meeting in the new Orange Hall at Castle Hill Dungannon.

Sir Knight David Hamilton a chandler from Donaghmore was elected first W.M., Sir Knight John Beatty, a law clerk from Dungannon the D.M., Sir Knight James Gilpin a shop assistant elected Chaplain and Sir Knight H. Beatty a Cabinet maker from Dungannon elected Registrar. It is interesting to note from the early records the various occupations of members: farmers, labourers, shop workers, blacksmiths, tailors, footmen, butler, groom, linen lappers etc. Over the ensuing years the numbers increased until a peak in 1966-67 when there were 76 members on the roll.

The first banner was ordered from London at a cost of £19-2-4 unfurled by Miss F. Stewart on 10th 1900 and carried at the head of the Preceptory at the 12th August Demonstration at the Killymoon Estate, Cookstown. The music was supplied by two pipers and a little boy at a cost of 25 shillings plus the cost of their train fares.

The current banner was unfurled on the morning of the Last Saturday 31st August 1991 at 9:30 a.m. at Castle Hill, Dungannon by the late Sir Knights S.T. Leaney and John G. Hobson, two of the oldest members of the preceptor, and dedicated by the Chaplain Sir Knight A.S. O'Connor M.A The leading side of this banner depicts a scene from St Matthew's Gospel Chapter 2, vv 1-3 and 7-9. The reverse depicts a scene from 1st Kings Chapter 19 vv 1-5. The banner was painted by the late Tommy Strain of Omagh at a cost of £900.

The Preceptory held a centenary service of thanksgiving on Sunday 1st August 1999 at 3.00p.m. in the Lord Northland Memorial Hall, Dungannon. This service was conducted by the Chaplain, Sir Knight Canon A.S. O'Connor M.A. with an address by Sir Knight Rev. Kenneth R.J. Hall. Four Sir Knights were presented with 50 year Long Service Medals and 6 Sir Knights with 40 year Long Service Medals by Sir Knight William Abernethy, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master.

The Worshipful Masters of the Preceptory from 1951 are as follows:-

- 1951 WM Sir Knight Courtney, DM Sir Knight R Kempton
- 1952 WM Sir Knight Courtney, DM Sir Knight Gracey
- 1955 WM Sir Knight R Kempton, DM Sir Knight W Millar
- 1956 WM Sir Knight William Millar, DM Sir Knight William Clarke
- 1963 WM Sir Knight John Steenson, DM Sir Knight William Clarke
- 1965 WM Sir Knight John Steenson, DM Sir Knight William Clarke
- 1977 WM Sir Knight John Steenson, DM Sir Knight J Heenagh
- 1980 WM Sir Knight John Steenson, DM Sir Knight Bob Wright
- 1981 WM Sir Knight John Steenson, DM Sir Knight Richard Devlin
- 1982 WM Sir Knight Richard Devlin, DM Sir Knight S J Patton
- 1989 WM Sir Knight Richard Devlin, DM Sir Knight S Henderson
- 1998 WM Sir Knight Richard Devlin, DM Sir Knight Albert Meenagh
- 2008 WM Sir Knight Keith Hardy, DM Sir Knight Norman C.E. McKinney

RBP No. 641 - GREEVES MEMORIAL – BOLAND

In early 1947 seven brethren of Boland LOL 375 joined Drummond Faith Defenders RBP 426 with a view to forming a new preceptory in Boland to replace the one that had gone out of existence in 1926. The seven Sir Knights received their degrees in Drummond and spent 3 years learning how the Black Institution worked.

On 5th November 1951 they took out warrant No. 641 to be encamped at Boland in the District of Killyman. On the suggestion of some District Officers, it was agreed to name the new Preceptory Greeves Memorial in memory of the late Sir Knight RD Greeves, a member of RBP 511, WDM of Killyman R.B.D.C. No.1 and County Grand Master of Tyrone, who had died a few months earlier.

The foundation WM was the late Sir Knight RA Ferguson, who held the position until 1995, a total of 44 years. Sir Knight Ferguson was still active in the Preceptory, District Chapter and County Grand Chapter until his death in 2001.

The Preceptor's first banner cost £81 and carried a portrait of the late Sir Knight RD Greeves. The banner was unfurled by Mrs Clegg Greeves, daughter-in-law of the late Sir Knight Greeves on Wednesday 20th August 1952.

A new banner of Greeves Memorial R.B.P. No. 641 was painted by J.N. Hargy of Ballymoney and unfurled by Mrs R.A. Ferguson, wife of the Worshipful Master, on Wednesday 20th August 1980. The Dedication was by Sir Knight Rev. Canon W.G.H. Williams MA, District Chaplain. The front of the banner shows Moses leading the children of Israel across the Red Sea surmounted by a small portrait of the late Sir Knight Robert Douglas Greeves, from whom the preceptory takes its name. The reverse of the banner is a painting of Belshazzar's Feast surmounted by a small Red Cross and Crown representing Civil and Divine Law.

Greeves Memorial has been headed by 4 bands since being formed in 1951. A long association was held with Augharan Pipe Band, until Boland formed their own Accordion Band in 1964. Boland Accordion Band was renowned for its musical excellence and high standards and was invited to play at a number of high profile community events. However, the band was forced to close in 1991 as many members were moving away to university rendering the necessary weekly practices impractical. For a short time the Preceptory was led by Churchill Silver Band, but another strong link was formed with Ballyreagh Silver Band in 1994. The Fermanagh band have been leading the Preceptory ever since.

In November 1960 the Preceptory joined with the Orange Lodge in a project to build a new Orange and Black Hall. It was opened on Saturday 16th June 1962 by the late Sir Knight and Brother Joseph Brodison JP WDM Killyman District LOL. No.1.

Following three arson attacks during the 1990s, the last of which severely damaged the building, the hall was renovated and updated, providing members with modern facilities and security. The Re-opening and Dedication took place on Saturday 9th June 2001. Right Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr re-opened the hall and Sir Knight and Bro. Rev. E. Culbertson D.G.C.I. performed the dedication.

In addition to the monthly prayer meetings, two open religious services are held per year, one in June and the other in November. The collection at these services goes

to support charities. In recent years the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association and Action MS have benefited.

An annual variety concert promoted by Boland Hall Management Committee is held to provide the local community with entertainment and the members look forward to many more such events in the future.

Some Sir Knights of particular note are:-

- Right Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr is a Past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master (serving from 2000-2003) and has been WDM of Killyman R.B.D.C. No.1 from 2000-2005 and was elected Sovereign Grand Master in 2008.
- The Registrar, Sir Knight James McFarland, is an Imperial Deputy Grand Master and was the County Grand Lecturer until 2003. He served as WDM of Killyman R.B.D.C. No.1 (1988-1994) and as District Lecturer.

RBP NO 882 - STAR OF BETHLEHEM – KILNACART

The first encampment of the Preceptory was held on Wednesday 7th January 1948. A warrant had been issued in the name of Sir Knight I. M. Symington of RBP 979 on 29th December 1947. The first meeting consisted of 17 members with some 95 visiting Sir Knights from other Preceptories. A District Chapter meeting was opened with Sir Knight R.D. Greeves, County Grand Master, presiding and Sir Knight W.J. Hall, District Master, in the vice chair, assisted by the following Sir Knights: Rev. Stanley Thompson, S.K. Wingfield Espey, S.K. George Little, S.K. Moses Busby, S.K. Jack Frizelle, S.K. Harry Mackey, S.K. HJ Bennett and S.K. Thomas Orr.

After ceremony according to ritual the County Grand Master handed over to Sir Knight Ivan Matthews Symington the warrant empowering him to hold a Royal Black Preceptory No.882 encamped at Kilnacart. The District Chapter was then duly closed and Preceptory No. 882 opened with Sir Knight RD Greeves presiding and Sir Knight Moses Busby in the deputy's chair.

An installation of officers was carried out by Sir Knight WJ Hall as follows:

- WM - Sir Knight Ivan Symington
- DM - Sir Knight WJ Dalton
- Chap - Sir Knight David McIntyre
- Registrar - Sir Knight Joseph Reid
- Treasurer - Sir Knight JH Symington.

The first banner of the Preceptory was purchased in February 1948 from RBP No. 52 Dungannon and the first outing of the Preceptory was to the Royal Black demonstration in Ballygawley in August 1948.

A new banner was unfurled on Friday 19th August 1955 by Mrs I.M.Symington (Falkland) and dedicated by the Rev. Baker, Rector of Derrygortreavy Parish Church. The scissors were presented by Miss Gladys Devlin. (Paintings on the banner were of Arise and Eat and of Royal Black Emblems).

On 31st July 1958 Sir Knight William Mewhore, being home on holiday from Australia, presented the Preceptory with a beautiful mallet on behalf of his brother George. On 22nd July 1962, Sir Knight Joseph Mewhore presented a further mallet on behalf of his brother William.

On 24th September 1977 the Preceptory suffered a sad loss when Sir Knight Robert Bloomer was murdered by IRA terrorists. A memorial tablet was erected in Kilnacart Orange Hall and dedicated at a memorial service held on Thursday 29th November 1977.

On 29th March 1979 the Preceptory presented Sir Knight Ivan Symington with a barometer in appreciation of his 30 years faithful service as Registrar. Sir Knight Symington acted as Registrar a total of 38 years from 1950 to 1988.

In April 1980 the Preceptory presented Sir Knight William Reid with a beautiful clock in appreciation of his long service as Treasurer.

A new banner was unfurled on 15th August 1980 by Mrs William Reid and dedicated by Sir Knight Canon WGH Williams, Castlecaufield. The scissors were presented by

Miss Jennifer Bloomer. The painting on the front of the banner is taken from 1st Kings, Chapter 19 - Arise and eat and the painting on the reverse is taken from Exodus, Chapter 3 and depicts Moses and the burning bush. The Banner was painted by J.N. Hargy, Ballymoney.

From the formation of the Preceptory in 1948 until 1961, RBP 882 was always led by Kilnacart Flute Band. This was then changed to an accordion band which has continued to lead the Preceptory on parade to the present day.

On 1st November 1998 a 50 year thanksgiving service was held in Kilnacart Orange Hall conducted by Rev. A.J. Parkhill (BA), rector of Clonfeacle Parish Church. To mark the occasion a beautifully decorated cake bearing the Preceptory's number was baked by Mrs Elizabeth Frizelle.

In March 2004 two young Sir Knights, Desmond and Alistair Bloomer, brothers, became WM and DM of RBP No. 882.

RBP No 979 - GOLDEN STAR TEMPERANCE – CASTLECAULFIELD

The first meeting of the Preceptory was held in the Rev. George Walker Orange Hall Castlecaulfield on 30th January 1919 when a number of Sir Knights from different Preceptories were proposed and seconded to become members of the new Preceptory. A meeting of the new Preceptory was held in the Orange Hall on 25th February 1919 with Sir Knight WJ Bennett presiding and Sir Knight John Bartney in the vice chair. The first election of officers was held.

The Preceptory was first led on parade by Castlecaulfield Pipe Band on 12th August 1919 to Stewartstown.

In 1926 the preceptory decided to meet in different Orange Halls, alternating between Cullenfad, Donaghmore and Castlecaulfield. This continued until a decision was taken to make Castlecaulfield the permanent and sole venue for meetings.

The Election of Officers meeting in 1939 resulted in the election of Sir Knight Joe Campbell as W.M, a post he held during World War II.

On 19th March 1954 the Sir Knights of RBP 979 were given the opportunity to purchase the old school in the village. This was done, at a cost of 575 pounds. Repairs cost a further 519 pounds and fourteen shillings. On 2nd July 1955 the Sir Knights of RBP 979 met at the new Black Hall and were led in parade by Dungannon Silver Band to the house of Sir Knight M.O. Patterson, where a large number of Officers and Sir Knights of Killyman R.B.D.C. were waiting to join them for a parade of Castlecaulfield to celebrate the opening of the new hall. The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Strong of Tynan.

In 1987 a number of Sir Knights left the preceptory in order to establish a new Preceptory at Aughintober.

On 13th August 1996 the hall was attacked by the I.R.A. It was petrol bombed and was almost completely destroyed. A meeting of the Preceptory was held in the Parish Hall each month for four years until funds were raised to build a new Black Hall.

The banner of Golden Star Temperance R.B.P. No. 979, encamped at Castlecaulfield, was painted by Thomas J. Robinson, Belfast. It was unfurled on 5th August 1989 by Sir Knight James Molyneaux I.S.G.M. Rachel Campbell presented scissors to Mrs. M. Patterson, who cut the ribbon. The banner was dedicated by Canon Livingstone and Worshipful Master at this time was Sir Knight Keith Patterson with Sir Knight Alan Jardine as Deputy Master.

On 23rd June 2001 the opening and dedication service for the new Black Hall took place. The most Worshipful Sir Knight W.J. Logan, Sovereign Grand Master performed the opening ceremony. The Preceptory was led by Dungannon Silver Band for a parade of the village and Dungannon Silver Band have led the Preceptory in parades since 1955. The new Black Hall is now used as a meeting place for the local L.O.L. and branch of the Apprentice Boys, as well as being used by the local unionist community. The preceptory continues to flourish and meets on the last Friday of every month.

RBP No 991 – DERRYCREEVY

RBP No. 991 was formed in 1919. The foundation members had been initiated into the Institution in Drummond RBP No. 426 some years earlier and because a number of them were attached to Derrycreevy LOL No. 460, they felt the need to form a Preceptory in Derrycreevy. Derrycreevy lies a short distance from the site of the Battle of Benburb, which took place in 1646.

The warrant was issued on 4th June 1919 to Sir Knight Alex Reid of Curran, near Derryfubble. He became the first WM and retained the position until his death in 1973, a period of some fifty-four years. He was the driving force behind the early success of the Preceptory.

Sir Knight Archie Reid replaced him in 1973 and retired in 1997 being replaced as Wm by Sir Knight Jim Long.

The Preceptory has maintained a membership around 40 for a long period of time. Records show that twelve new candidates were received in the first year and that a further twelve had been initiated by 1925.

There have been two banners in the history of the Preceptory. The current banner, cords and tassles of Derrycreevy R.B.P. No. 991 cost £106-11s-6d. It depicts The Boy David on the front and Daniel interpreting the Dream on the reverse. The banner was unfurled on the morning of the Last Saturday of August 1965 by a member Sir Knight Johnnie McGirr and dedicated by Rev. J.C. Faulkner, Minister of Benburb Presbyterian Church.

The preceptory meets in Derrycreevy Orange Hall on the second Thursday of every month.

RBP No. 1052 – MOYGASHEL

Two Sir Knights, namely Bob Byres and Thomas Black were on their way to a meeting of RBP No. 35 in Killyman when they were caught in a downpour. While sheltering from the rain, they decided to try and obtain a warrant to start a Preceptory in Moygashel and, despite being soaked to the skin, the pair cycled to Killyman and put the suggestion to the members of RBP 35. Sir Knights in Killyman agreed and proceeded to set up RBP 1052.

The first meeting was held in Moygashel on 11th July 1921. Sir Knight RD Greeves WDM occupied the chair with Sir Knight James Davis in the Vice Chair. The Preceptory began with 35 members. Dues were 1/= per month. A dance was held on 12th August with visitors paying 2/6, the proceeds to put new shutters on the window of the Orange Hall.

On 27th December 1922 it was decided to order a banner from Wm Bridgett and Sons. Colours were crimson with black fringes and one side depicted Adam and Eve and the other Joseph made Chief Ruler.

On 9th August 1923, the new banner was unfurled by Captain Barcroft's wife at her home in Stangmore Lodge. The second banner was unfurled Saturday 25th August 1960 at the Church of Ireland Hall and was used until 15th June 1996.

A new banner of Moygashel R.B.P. No. 1052 was unfurled on 15th June 1996 in Moygashel Church Hall (now St. Elizabeth's Church). The unfurling ceremony was performed by Rt. Wor. Sir Knight Alan Rainey and the banner was dedicated by Canon D. Swann. Officers of the Preceptory at the time were: W.M. Sir Knight Ashley Rutherford, D.M. Sir Knight Andrew Smyth, Chaplain Sir Knight Simon Dilworth, Registrar the late Sir Knight William Malcolmson, Treasurer Sir Knight Alan Belshaw.

RBP No 1113 - ULSTER RED CROSS – BALLYNAKELLY

Situated in the parish of Brackaville the townland of Ballynakelly or Ballynakilly as it appears on D.O.E. papers has had at least five different spellings over the past 300 years. In the original plantation papers, when the area was given to Sir Robert Hepburn, it was referred to as Ballinakelly.

On the 18th December 1922 a new Warrant was issued to Ulster Red Cross Knights R.B.P. No. 1113. The foundation members were:-

- Sir Knight Richard Stewart
- Sir Knight Robert Stewart
- Sir Knight Anthony Frizelle
- Sir Knight John McClung
- Sir Knight Alexander Field
- Sir Knight Thomas McKay
- Sir Knight Thomas Newell
- Sir Knight Robert J Cardwell
- Sir Knight Thomas McNewell
- Sir Knight Joseph Archer
- Sir Knight Hugh Hamilton
- Sir Knight Samuel Dilworth
- Sir Knight William Dilworth
- Sir Knight Joseph Orr
- Sir Knight Walter Orr
- Sir Knight Joseph Newell
- Sir Knight Robert Carroll
- Sir Knight William J. Cardwell
- Sir Knight Ezekiel Cardwell
- Sir Knight John Dilworth.

During the life of the Preceptory a number of banners have been unfurled, the original banner depicting Moses at the Red Sea and the third shows the Red Cross with the Preceptory title. The late Sir Knight Sydney Orr was Wm at the 2nd unfurling and Sir Knight Gavin Little was WM for the most recent banner unfurled on Friday 5th August 1994 by Mrs. A. Little, the mother of the Worshipful Master. The banner was painted by Strain of Omagh and dedicated by Rev. Hugh Ross, Newmills. DM at the time was Sir Knight Curtis Stewart.

RBP No 1147 - BLOOMHILL OLIVE BRANCH OF PEACE

On Wednesday 25th June 1924, a number of Sir Knights from Mullnagore, Sherrygroom, Aughalargue and Dungannon came together to form RBP 1147. The first WM was Sir Knight Thomas John Robinson and there were 15 members on the roll book.

The first banner was unfurled on 12th August 1924 by Miss Pat Kinley of Bloomhill House, two pipers from Belfast leading the parade. By February 1925, ten new members had been enrolled, including what are referred to as the Belfast members with Sir Knight Charles Burton becoming WM until 1930. During these years, the Preceptory met in various venues including Augharan Hall and were led by two pipers (at a cost of £1 each) or by bands such as Augharan Pipe Band, Henderson Memorial Pipe Band, Killyman Conservative Flute Band, Newmills Brass Band and Donaghmore Flute Band.

In 1930, Sir Knight Joseph Brodison Senior became WM. The WM steered the Preceptory through a very bad patch in the early thirties when it nearly folded and then during the war years, with twenty members going off to fight and he had built it up to over sixty members by the time his son Sir Knight Joseph Brodison became WM in 1954.

In 1952, Bloomhill Accordion Band first led the Preceptory and at a cost of only £6. That same year, a new banner was unfurled by Bro Joseph Allen Cookstown and as the WM was unwell, the Preceptory carried the new banner to his home at Moneyveigh so that Sir Knight Joseph Brodison Senior could see it.

In 1954 Sir Knight Joseph Brodison took over as WM from his father and Sir Knight James Irwin became DM.

In keeping with the community and caring or charitable role of the Black Institution, it is recorded that in 1963, Sir Knight Herbie Archer persuaded the Preceptory to set up a voluntary fund to help locals at Christmas and the minutes indicate that one local lady received 5 cwt of coal.

Throughout the seventies, there was hardly a meeting went past without a vote of sympathy to those friends and members of the Preceptory who had been bereaved as a result of the troubles. This trend continued with the murder of Sir Knight Stanley Hazelton just before Christmas 1979.

The minutes of 5th February 1986 included a news item on an outstanding war hero, Sir Knight Sam Brodison M.M. He was a commando in WW II, landed 16 times behind enemy lines and fought with the partisans in Yugoslavia. They adored him and referred to him as: Stari Vojnik - the fearless one.

In June 1986, the minutes record yet another sad legacy of the troubles - the murder of Sir Knight David Wilson at the Cross in Donaghmore.

In February 1987, two swords were purchased by the Preceptory in memory of the late Sir Knight Joseph Brodison. In July 1987 a case was presented to the Preceptory in memory of Sir Knight David Wilson.

In November 1987 founder member Sir Knight Wm McFarland sadly passed away.

In February 1996, the Preceptory ordered a new banner from W.M. Magowan, Garvagh at a cost of £1100 and it was decided to have a portrait of Sir Knight Joseph Brodison on the front of the banner with Moses and the Burning Bush on the back. In March 1997, the new banner was ready and it was brought to Sir Knight Frank Brodison so that he could see it. The Ferry family donated new ropes and tassels for the banner. The new banner was unfurled in memory of Sir Knight Joseph Brodison JP on 22nd August 1997 by Mrs. Annie Wilson (sister) and Mrs. Violet Brodison (wife of Joseph). The dedication was by Rev. Hugh Ross in Tullaniskan Parish Church car park. The DDM of Killyman RBDC, Sir Knight Millar Farr acted as Chair.

In August 2001 the Preceptory raised £250 for Chest Heart and Stroke (Killyman Royal Black District Charity Appeal) and £390 towards Bloomhill Hall repair fund.

On 16th August, Sir Knights Wilfred Robinson and Kenneth Wilson were presented with 50 year bars.

New Officer collarettes were presented to the Preceptory by Sir Knt Paul Robinson (registrar) and dedicated in our hall on the morning of the 2006 'Last Saturday' demonstration.

£250 was forwarded to the Open Doors Ministry for the 2007 charity appeal for missionary work in the Sudan.

A charity band concert was organized on 25 April 2008 in the Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown after one of the Preceptories younger Sir Knights was diagnosed as contracting leukemia. A sum of £3500 was raised and presented to the Patients Comforts Fund, Hematology Unit, Belfast City Hospital.

RBP No 1168 - BENNETT MEMORIAL TEMPERANCE – CARRICKLONGFIELD

A meeting of RBP No 1168 was held on Friday 5th November 1926 to make arrangements to form a Preceptory in Carricklongfield. The first encampment was held on Wednesday 15th December 1926 with Sir Knight W J Hall Deputy District Master of Killyman District No.1 presiding assisted by Sir Knight J J Hazlett MA, JP, Deputy Grand Master of Ireland. It was proposed by Sir Knight Matthew Morrow and seconded by Sir Knight Alan Stevenson that the title of Bennett Memorial Temperance be recommended to the District Chapter.

The Preceptory first paraded in Cookstown on 12th August 1927 led by Carricklongfield Accordion Band. This band led the Preceptory until 1937 and Caslecaulfield Pipe Band then led the Preceptory until 1939. During the war years of 1939-1945 Carricklongfield Flute Band led the Preceptory. Mullintor Pipe Band led the Preceptory in 1946 and 1947. Carricklongfield Pipe Band led the Preceptory from 1948 to 1952. Then Edentilone Pipe Band served from 1953 to 1955. Carricklongfield Pipe Band once again assumed the role in 1956 and still leads the Preceptory to the present day.

The first election of officers was held on 21st March 1928 resulting in Sir Knight Hugh John Bennett W Master, Sir Knight Matthew Morrow D Master, Sir Knight Thomas Bloomer Chaplain, Sir Knight Alan Stevenson Registrar, Sir Knight John Gowdy Treasurer. On 17th February 1938, Sir Knight William Latimer was elected Deputy Master and on 20th November 1938 it was agreed on the proposal of the W M Sir Knight Hugh John Bennett that the Warrant be renewed as it was still under Boland RBP No. 1168. On 15th February 1940 Sir Knight Samuel Dougal became Deputy Master. On Sunday 1st November 1942 Sir Knight Uriah Brush of Aughnacloy Black District Chapter started a lecturer's class with five candidates. Sir Knight Thomas Montgomery was elected Deputy Master on 15th February 1945.

Sir Knight William Graham became Deputy Master on 21st April 1952. Sir Knight Alan Stevenson, who served as Registrar from the Preceptory's inception until 10th April 1953, was replaced by Sir Knight Thomas Marshall. On 16th February 1956 Sir Knight Ewing Walsh was installed as Deputy Master. The WM Sir Knight Hugh John Bennett was presented with a Bible and a rocking chair on being elected W M for the 31st time. Sir Knight W J Bennett was installed WM on 21st April 1961 and replaced his father who had served for thirty-five years. On Thursday 20th February 1964 Sir Knight Fred Jardine became Registrar.

In December 1965 a new banner was ordered to replace the first banner which had been used for forty years. Our new banner was unfurled on the evening of Friday 29th July 1966 by Miss Edith Bennett, daughter of our late WM, and was dedicated by Reverend Patterson of Newmills. Sir Knight Stanley Morrow was installed Deputy Master on 20th April 1967 and it was agreed that the holders of the offices of WM and DM be changed every two years. On Thursday 4th April 1968 Sir Knight Stanley Morrow was installed WM.

The first recorded purchase of a banner is on 29th July 1966 from Purse of Randalstown at a cost of £125 -16s - 0d. Our next banner was unfurled on Saturday 19th August 1989, the ceremony being performed by Mrs. Irene Marshall, wife of

the then Worshipful Master. The banner was dedicated by Canon A. S. O'Connor, District Chaplain and first paraded in Killylea on Saturday 26th August 1989. Sir Knight W.S. Bennett, who is depicted on the banner was the father of the first Worshipful Master Sir Knight H.J. Bennett.