

# KILLYLEA



## Details at a glance

Parade starts: 10.15am.  
On parade: 150 lodges and 70 bands  
Return parade: 2.45pm.

# Village hosts largest gathering

The County Armagh Twelfth Demonstration is now very firmly established as the largest Orange gathering in the world on the day and encompasses the full range of the Orange Family. Eleven District Lodges will be on parade, with a total of 150 Private Lodges and almost 5,000 Brethren; in addition, ladies from the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland will take part, along with a number of Junior Boys and Junior Girls Lodges.

The County Armagh Demonstration can attract upwards of 40,000 spectators. Almost 70 bands will accompany the Lodges and some of the finest Pipe, Accordion, Silver and Flute Bands in the country will be on parade. There are always approximately four Scottish bands on parade at the Co. Armagh demonstration and as the "County of the Diamond" is well-renowned for the Lambeg Drum, dozens will be accompanying the Lodges, especially if the weather is favourable. Orangeism is deeply rooted within Co Armagh and there are approximately 130 Orange Halls in the County; it is by far the largest community-based organization in the area.

The County Armagh Twelfth rotates around the District Lodges in an eleven-year cycle and this year it is the turn of Killylea District LOL No. 7 to host the celebrations. The district is centred on the village and has 12 Private Lodges, with approximately 400 brethren. Two Lodges meet in the village and the other ten have their own Orange Halls, including the quaintly named Cooley Dingers LOL 289. One Lodge, Caledon LOL 177,

is obviously in Co Tyrone. The District Lodge had eight members murdered during The Troubles, including Wor. Bro. Sir Norman Stronge, former Speaker of the Northern Ireland House of Commons, and his son, Bro. James Stronge. The District Lodge will have a new Memorial Bannerette on parade this "Twelfth" which commemorates the eight Murdered Brethren; it will be carried by a member of Killylea Young Defenders JLOL 205. The brethren of Killylea District are very much looking forward to hosting the parade for the first time since 2011 and to mark the event, a special souvenir booklet has been produced. The district has recently drafted ambitious plans for the demolition of the Orange Hall and the building of a new Community Hall with proper Lodge accommodation therein.

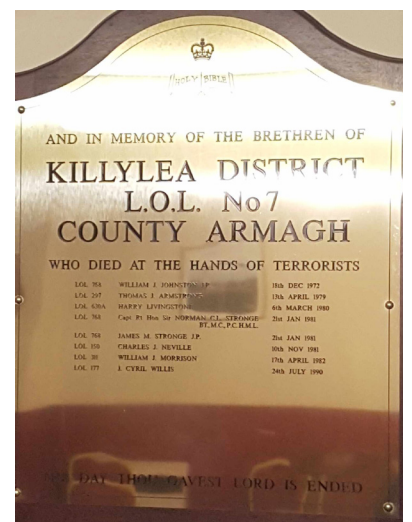
Apart from the Orange Hall at the bottom of the Main Street, the other landmark building is St Mark's Parish Church, which is located at the top of the street and hosts the District Boyne Anniversary Service on the Sunday morning prior to the Twelfth. There will be at least two new banners being carried on parade for the first time this Twelfth, that of Westminster LOL 86, Armagh District, and that Mullabrack Hearts of Steel Temperance LOL 1406, Markethill District. Two local Orange Halls have been rebuilt or refurbished and have been reopened recently - Ballytyrone LOL 104 (previous hall was burnt down in 2015) and Diamond Grange LOL 118 (after refurbishment), both Loughgall District. A number of Lodges are



Above left and right: Killylea Orange Hall and Arch.



Right: Tribute to the District's murdered Brethren.



Below: Lord Mayor, Alderman Margaret Tinsley with Colin McCusker and Jimmy Conway.



celebrating the 200th anniversary of their warranting this year, including local Killylea Lodge, Derryhaw Boyne Defenders LOL 768, who

marked the occasion with a special meeting in the Museum of Orange Heritage at Sloan's House, Loughgall, and Cargan's Memorial LOL

122 in Tandragee District. Corcrair Purple Rock-et LOL 339, Portadown District, is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year.

Bro. Hilbert Willis of Kinnego LOL 5, Loughgall District, celebrated his 100th birthday in February and a number of presentations were



made to him by the Loyal Orders to mark this significant milestone; he is the oldest Orangeman in the County.

Over the past year, Wor. Bro. Colin McCusker, Treasurer of Boconnell LOL 123 and a Lambeg drum enthusiast, along with Jimmy Conway, Local Historian, have produced plaques to mark the locations of several Orange Halls that once stood in Craigavon. There were several Orange Halls that were displaced by the creation of the new city, such as Annaloiste, Drumgor, Bluestone, Tamnificarbet and Boconnell.

As a result, Colin and Jimmy designed and produced plaques which have been erected with the support of the Lord Mayor's office to preserve this piece of history. Prior to making their way to the Assembly Field, the District Officers and County Grand Lodge Officers will place wreaths at the Memorial Plaque in the Lodge Room in memory of the brethren from the district murdered during the Troubles.

The Lodges of the host District will gather at the Assembly Field on the Armagh side of the village and when the first visiting Districts have arrived, the main parade will commence at approximately 10.15am, led by Tannahill LOL

6 and their Flute Band. Killylea District will be followed by Richhill, Newtownhamilton, Portadown and Lurgan Districts. Then Markethill, Armagh, Loughgall, Keady, Bessbrook and Tandragee Districts will parade as they arrive, and by 12.30pm, all Districts should be in the Demonstration Field on the Caledon side of the village.

The parade route is as follows: Assembly Field – Armagh Road – Main Street – Killylea Road – to the Demonstration Field.

There is car parking provided at Elm Park Road,

Fellows Hall Road, in the Demonstration Field and at Kennedys Road, with parking for persons with a disability available in the Demonstration Field. Toilet facilities will be available in the centre of the village and in the Demonstration Field. First aid facilities will be provided along the parade route and in the Field.

In the field, all the usual stalls and food vendors will be set up. There will be a number of activities for children and as always impromptu band and Lambeg Drum rehearsals.

Platform Proceedings:

The Chair will be taken at 1.45pm by the County Grand Master, Rt Wor. Bro. Denis J Watson JP, and proceedings will commence with the traditional religious service, conducted by Wor. Bro. Rev. Dr. Alan McCann, County Grand Chaplain. He will be assisted by a number of other Chaplains; the solemn Act of Remembrance will be undertaken by Wor. Bro. Rev. Edwin Frazer, Deputy County Grand Chaplain, and the Address will be given by Wor. Bro. Rev. N. Reid, new Deputy County Grand Chaplain. Killylea Silver Band will provide the musical

accompaniment for the two hymns.

After the service, the Twelfth Resolutions will be proposed and passed. The first on "Faith" will be proposed by Wor. Bro. Jim Copeland, County Grand Treasurer; the second on "Loyalty" by Wor. Bro. Brian Morton, Killylea District Master; and the third on "The State" by Wor. Bro. Roger Gardiner, County Grand Secretary.

The platform proceedings will then conclude with the customary Resolution of Thanks, introduced by Wor. Bro. Lawson Burnett, Deputy County Grand Master,

and the County Shield for the Best Band on Parade will be presented. The return parade is scheduled to commence from the Demonstration Field at 2.45pm, with Lurgan District LOL No. 6 being the first to leave. The parade route will be the reverse of the morning parade. The County Officers will review the parade at an appropriate place along the return route. Each District will depart at the allocated time and board the buses on the Armagh Road. Killylea District will be the last to leave the Field at approximately 4.45pm.



## Pre-Twelfth events

**Thursday, 4th July:**

Concert in Killylea Church Hall, commencing at 8.00pm, featuring the Military Wives Choir, Gospel group – "Heart and Soul", and hosted by Radio Presenter, George Jones.

**Sunday, 8th July:**

Annual Boyne Anniversary Service in Killylea Parish Church (pictured left) at 11.30pm.

**Tuesday, 10th July:**

Mini-12th Parade and Family Fun Evening, commencing at 7.30pm.

## Welcome from the District Master Wor. Bro. Brian Morton

As Worshipful District Master of Killylea District LOL No. 7 and on behalf of the Officers and Brethren throughout our District, can I welcome all to this the 334th Anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, the largest gathering of Orangemen on the day, anywhere in the world.

We particularly welcome our County Grand Master Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson and his fellow County Officers and pray that God will continue to bless them all in their endeavours to promote the wonderful work of the Orange Institution throughout County Armagh.

Plans for this day began in

November 2022 and it is now with great excitement and anticipation that we look forward to the "fruits of our labour".

We want to thank each and every Lodge and Band along with their supporters for being with us to celebrate this historic occasion and pray that you have an enjoyable and memorable day. Our day would not be the same without the enthusiasm of our spectators and we pray that you too will have a wonderful day.

When the thoughts of a booklet was discussed it was thought by those involved that we, as an organisation, should not look back, but look forward and we have

encouraged our Lodges to use as a theme Progression and Development. No longer is our Institution just a one day organisation, but an organisation that becomes enveloped within the community throughout the entire year. When we look at Lodges, how many times do we see activities happening within those halls, whether it be dances, quizzes, socials, games, talks, crafts and so the list goes on. Halls have become a real hub for the local community, a meeting place for our Protestant people. Of course to have a future, we need the younger people to become involved in our Institution and thus we

need to engage with them. Our Junior organisation is a great basis for the Institution leading our young men of the future to what is important in life, whether that be spiritually or physically. I myself was a member of the Juniors, cycling from home to attend, not knowing then that one day I would be privileged in holding the position of Worshipful District Master.

We need to engage with our local schools letting those who teach our children know of the support they have from the Orange Institution. We also need to think of others outside the Institution, people in need of help. We can help

them through events that would help them financially by taking part in activities to raise necessary funds to support charitable groups and bodies, something we have highlighted in our booklet.

In conclusion, can I thank all those who have worked so hard in making today possible. Without the support of all our Lodges and their members it would have been impossible to host this Demonstration. Can I thank all those who have contributed in any way to this Book, especially our advertisers, sponsors and funders and hope that this book will be an encouragement to all.

# KILLYLEA



- 1** Parade Start Point
- 2** Field
- 3** Parade Dispersal Point
- P** Car Parking
- Family Activities
- Stalls
- Food and Catering
- First Aid
- Toilets