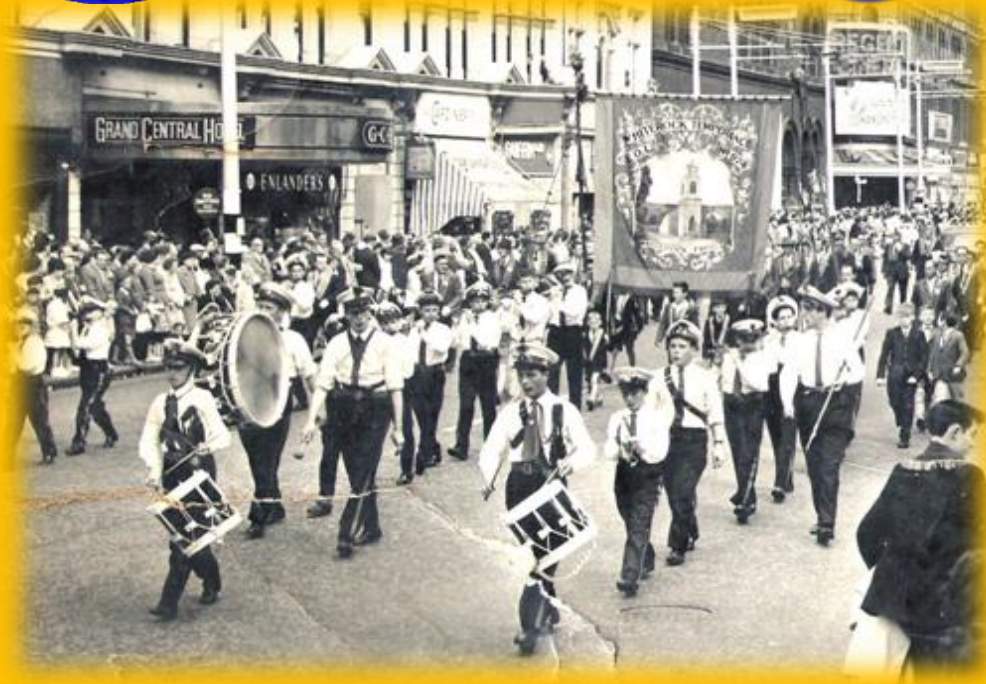


# Whiterock Flute Band

'Still Marching on after 50 Years'

## Golden Jubilee

1962 ~ 2012



The Officers and Members of the Whiterock Flute Band would like to thank all our past members, families, friends the Loyal Orders and our Communities for their supportive contribution, as this would not have been possible without your combined support over the past fifty years.



*The Whiterock Flute Band is pleased to celebrate its 50th Birthday during the same Year as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee since her accession to the Throne in 1952.*

**FOREWORD; by, Brother Ed Spence PM, Prince Albert Temperance L.O.L. No. 1892**

\* \* \* \* \*

When I was first approached by Rab Hillis, as Secretary of the Whiterock Flute Band, to assist in the compilation of a commemorative publication for the Band's Golden Jubilee Anniversary in 2012; I felt very privileged, indeed humbled, to be given the honour in penning this written perpetuity in association with the many other events planned to mark the Whiterock's Fiftieth Birthday.

For it was also in 1962, that I helped form another band based in and around the greater Shankill Area and at that time, the Shankill Flute came into being with the late Geordie Orr as our first Band Captain. So being possibly weaned in bands during that era, and indeed, with all the emotions surrounding the Golden Jubilee Year of the Signing of Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant, in 1912, fifty years previously, then the birth from such nostalgia, and the emergence of such great marching bands was very much inevitable.

The Whiterock Flute Band was one such outfit and whilst others, including my own former group have since left the musical stage, the Whiterock has stood the test of time, and in 2012, now celebrate fifty glorious years in existence and long may it continue.

Within the content of the following pages you will come across stories of laughter, humour and undiminishing camaraderie; there are others too, not so uplifting whereby sad references are made to some Band Members, who have since gone to higher glory, several of them in tragic circumstances, at the hands of sectarian, republican murder gangs, who operated at picking off 'easy targets' whilst those Lads, purely innocent members of a hard working society, grafted at their places of daily employment.

But in compiling the content for this commemorative publication I personally have found that great need, and a great want, to ensure that the names of those Lads remained uppermost in the make-up of the Whiterock Flute Band to be revered and remembered, particularly in this fiftieth anniversary year, since 1962.

With my own Lodge having engaged the Whiterock on a number of occasions for the Annual Tour of the North Procession, to me as an Orange Brother with over sixty years of membership within an organisational structured Institution, from boy to man I have witnessed at first-hand, the manner in which this Band has demonstrated its evidential emphasis on true camaraderie, and particularly of the remembrance I mentioned earlier; yes truly, one of - *'Lest We Forget Our Absent Friends'*.

The 'Rock' as a real true blue marching Band, has made many, many friends from within and without the Loyal Orders both home and afar-off and this too will be more than exemplified in the variance of the messages of - 'congratulations, good luck and best wishes' - that are dotted in and throughout the pages of this Golden Jubilee booklet.

I too take this opportunity to extend my personal congratulations to the corporate Whiterock Flute Band, its Officers and Membership, many whom I have known, or have come to know, over the years as good, sincere friends with my added thanks for now allowing me to be an integral part of your memorable fiftieth birthday year.

Here's to the next half century, and well done to you all; with more power to your elbows and fingers in your drumming and fluting the Band forward, and onward, to even more success in the future.

## INTRODUCTION:

***'Where our music is welcome we will play it loud and clear; where it is challenged, we will play it all the louder!'***

After fifty years since the Band was originally formed, that amalgam of words could sum up the 'Whiterock' and certainly an adept lead-in to this historical booklet, as we celebrate fifty glorious years as a well known, marching Flute Band.

Whiterock Flute Band was formed in 1962 and at that time practiced in the Whiterock Orange Hall on the Springfield Road in Belfast. The Band's membership came from the greater Shankill area.

The Band's first 'uniform' like many others newly starting, consisted of a basic white shirt; red tie and charcoal grey trousers, with red stripe and of course the traditional busman's hat with a white linen covering which was the choice head dress at this time. The transport depot stores in Napier Street, Sandy Row certainly had a big run in those days, selling those hats!! Since then all Whiterock's uniforms to the very day have incorporated those colours and instantly recognisable on parade with the blue Balmoral hats and distinctive orange plume/hackle.

Today the Band holds its practice evenings in the Highfield Rangers Supporters Club whilst its current membership is expansively drawn from all parts of the City.

The Band prides itself in the number of key instruments used, but the heart and soul of the Whiterock is the large rope drum which produces a very distinctive and well known sound.

Our drumming outfit is kitted out with Premier manufactured side-drums and the fluting members use the highly sought after Crown AZ's made from African Blackwood or Ebonite.

The repertoire consists mainly of traditional orange tunes played loud and proud as our heading suggests and currently we have a long-standing CD still on sale, entitled "***A Taste of Tradition***", which was originally recorded back in 1992 on the older style magnetic tape. This will soon be updated by a further planned CD recording, to be released in conjunction with the Band's 50th Anniversary this year.

Since inception the membership has had a family aspect, with a number of Fathers and Sons within the ranks; a tradition which has been mirrored down through the past fifty years.

Our longest serving member is Alex Thompson who joined the ranks in 1963 although at that time, little did he know he would become the back bone of the Band with forty-nine years service under his belt and even now, just a wee bit older, Alex seems determined to march-on.

Further to this there are another six long-standing members who can boast over two-hundred years' membership between them and they will be revealed as you read on.

As with most marching Bands the Whiterock continue to accompany all the Loyal Orders and in particular having long associations with Ulster Convention LOL No. 242 for over thirty-seven years, Britannia Junior LOL No. 32 also for thirty-six years; Beaconsfield R.B.P No. 224 for a thirty-four year period and for over twelve years we have accompanied the Belfast Campsie Branch of the Apprentice Boys' of 'Derry on their regular outings and processions. The Band has also cemented long standing bonds of friendship across the sea, and paraded on many occasions with various Lodges and Preceptorys throughout Scotland and England.

***So having given you a short insight into our fifty-year history, we hope you will enjoy reading the rest of our celebratory booklet and like every interesting 'biographies', throughout our publication we have tried to compile our progressive history in a chronology of years, however some periods will have been merged or annually out of sync in order to focus on significantly related events or repetitive occurrences. The overall content has been pulled together solely on the research/records at our disposal or specific information provided to us; however we would profoundly apologise for any failure to mention, or include, any corporate grouping or individual member.***

**Remember too; our door is always open for new members at all times.**

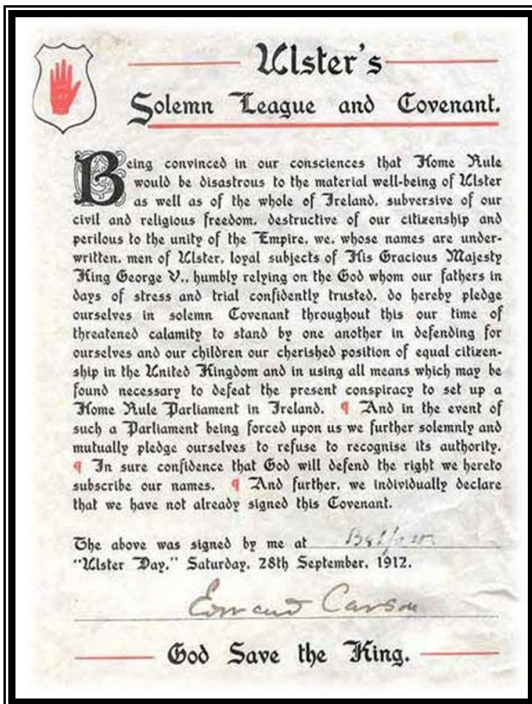


It is surely not just by coincidence, that the idea was muted to form a Flute Band in 1962; for that particular year was the Golden Jubilee of the Signing of the Ulster Covenant in 1912 and the enthusiasm spread then was highlighted by that mammoth procession and the remarkable display of hundreds of original colours and standards of 1912, amalgamated in rows for inspection within the Balmoral Showgrounds, behind the Kings Hall, on the Lisburn Road in Belfast.

It is then we might say a double celebration in 2012, for as we in the Whiterock Flute Band celebrate our fiftieth birthday this year; so during September 2012, the Centenary of that memorable occasion in 1912,

known as Ulster Day, is also being commemorated by loyal folk at home, and undoubtedly by ex-pats in other parts of the globe as well.

Within the ranks of the Whiterock Flute Band, we are pleased and proud to add our own tribute in re-producing this copy of the Solemn League and Covenant, personally signed by Sir Edward Carson at the City Hall on 28th September 1912, both in esteem and total admiration to his guidance and leadership.



## Our Queen's Diamond Jubilee

We rejoice also this year, in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Britannic Majesty, Elizabeth II's reign as our Sovereign Queen since Her accession to the Throne in 1952, now the second longest serving Monarch, only to her predecessor Queen Victoria, in the history of ruling Kings and Queens throughout these Isles.

Following the long established pageantry associated with the Act of Coronation on 2nd June the following year in the historic Westminster Abbey London, Her Majesty spoke these instilling words to the Nation. *'Throughout this memorable day I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and*

*prayers were with me. I have been aware all the time that my peoples, spread far and wide throughout every continent and ocean in the world, were united to support me in the task to which I have now been dedicated with such solemnity.*

*The ceremonies you have seen today are ancient, and some of their origins are veiled in the mists of the past.*

*But their spirit and their meaning, shine through the ages never perhaps, more brightly than now. I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine.*

*Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust.*

*There is also this. I have behind me not only the splendid traditions and the annals of more than a thousand years but the living strength and majesty of the Commonwealth and Empire; of societies old and new; of lands and races different in history and origins but all, by God's Will, united in spirit and in aim.*

*Therefore I am sure that this, my Coronation, is not the symbol of a power and a splendour that are gone but a declaration of our hopes for the future, and for the years I may, by God's Grace and Mercy, be given to reign and serve you as your Queen.*

*It gives expression, as I pray it always will, to living principles, as sacred to the Crown and Monarchy as to its many Parliaments and Peoples.*

*I ask you now to cherish them and practise them too; then we can go forward together in peace, seeking justice and freedom for all men.*

*As this day draws to its close, I know that my abiding memory of it will be the inspiration of your loyalty and affection. I thank you all from a full heart. God bless you all.'*



**We pray that God will bless Her Most Britannic Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in this auspicious Diamond Jubilee year of her long reign over us.**



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## BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Whiterock Flute Band was formed on the 21st February 1962 and came into existence directly following a proposal made in an open Lodge Meeting of Whiterock Temperance L.O.L. No. 974, by two of its Brethren, Andrew Johnson (Snr) and Jack King, that a newly formed Junior Flute Band be granted full permission to take on the Lodge's title, 'Whiterock.'



The first elected Chairman in fact was, Andrew Johnson the original proposer of the motion which led to the Band's formation; along with nominated committee members, Billy Simpson and Joe Proctor.

It was Andy who suggested that he could recruit fifteen or so interested Junior Lodge Members with a little help of course from the Senior Brethren.

Davy Williamson recalls as a member of the popular Boys Brigade Flute Band at that time he was also asked to join the new outfit.

**It is believed that among other,**

**foundng Band members included fluters:- Roy Fleming; Andy Fleming; Joe Fleming; David Sales; Billy Simons and Trevor Haskins.**

**Harry Cleland and Joe Proctor played the big Bass Drum with Dessie Buchanan as leading side-drummer; Tom McClure (side marshal); David Williamson and Samuel Nelson among others, made up the former membership.**

Of course, being from the immediate area, we automatically held our practice nights in the nearby Whiterock Orange Hall.

**WHITEROCK FLUTE BAND PARADING WITH WHITEROCK TEMPERANCE LOL 974 ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1962. NOTE; THE MASSIVE CROWDS WATCHING IN ROYAL AVENUE AND THE COWBOY MOVIE - 'THE COMANCHEROS' - WAS SHOWING AT THE NEARBY CINEMA**





***Once the Band had established itself by taking those first tentative steps into the marching Band arena, an agreement among the members on May 16th that year saw us undertaking our first outing on Saturday 29th June 1962, accompanying L.O.L. No. 974 to the annual Whiterock Parade within and throughout our local catchment greater Shankill area.***

Norman Hunt (a member of the Hillview; which is recorded as the being the oldest Flute Band on the Shankill to this very day), taught the Band the main rudiments of playing, musically.

**The Band started off by learning eight to twelve tunes, to get us going, including Blackboard of my Heart; Abide with Me and of course, the National Anthem.**

Leading drummer Dessie, who was also a member of Whiterock Orange

Lodge, recalls learning to play the side drum in the Orange Hall's kitchen with tutor Alex McQuaid; whilst in the main hall, Norman Hunt was giving separate lessons, teaching the fluters.

### **~ DONATED ~**

**The Springfield Methodist Church played a vital role in our formation alongside the kindness of other accommodative Bands associated with the Church, when they provided the 'Rock' with its first and much needed set of drums, obtained through Jimmy McClean.**

As mentioned in our lead-in, the uniform consisted of a white shirt; charcoal grey trousers with a red stripe, a white-topped busman's hat and a red tie.

**We certainly looked the bees knees back then!!**

The 'John Brown' type flutes by Boozey and Hawkes were purchased

for just thirty-bob (£1:50) each in those days.

Arty Shaw joined the Band a few years later and held the post of Secretary.

**Two years after the Band was formed the Orange Sashes were purchased along with the Balmoral Type headgear and the now distinctive Orange Plumes.**

A set of the famous Carlton Gaelic Side Drums were also obtained generously paid for by Arty himself as a gift to the Band.

The large rope drum, which was an original Lambeg, cut down to size and bought from Johnston's Drum Makers, Donegall Road in 1969, and known back then as 'Big Bertha'.

The leather tension buffs, were made by some of the Band members who worked in Mackie's Foundry.

An interesting wee story about the drum's transport from Johnston's to the Band Room certainly caused a bit of panic during that time.

Well the big drum was lashed to the roof of the Roy Graham's car, as you do in those cases, and with Arty in the passenger's seat, off they both went northwards.

**However half way up the Grosvenor Road, the car ran out of petrol; so you can imagine the sight of the lads standing there with an orange and blue bass drum on the top of the vehicle and them in the middle of a nationalist**

**area, in the mid sixties. Not a good idea, says you.**

We never heard how the outcome came about but suffice to say the drum managed to get to its journey's end in good stead and safely in time for the Twelfth Day.

Incidentally Brian Stewart who joined the Band in the late sixties, originally as a flute player then progressed on to 'Big Bertha' explained that he carried the big lady to the Field at Edenderry in the early 1970's on his own the whole day and was bruised for weeks afterwards.

***Andy Johnston (Snr), a highly engaged and busy Member within Whiterock Lodge, was also deeply involved in the running of the Band although he did not actually play a musical instrument.***

Later in years Andy's son Drew joined the ranks as a cymbal-player.

The majority of members came from in and around the then predominantly Protestant upper Springfield Road, New Barnsley; Moyard and, Highfield Estates as well as various other neighbouring 'prodie' areas of West Belfast.

**The Band has always had a strong family tradition from its foundation days back in 1962 and this has been a regular feature down through the years.**

The chart shown on the next page truly shows that family lineage from Sire to Son so to speak.

**Did you know that .. Her Majesty, our Queen was born on 21 April 1926, just eight years after the end of the Great War which began in 1914.**

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***Best Wishes to the Whiterock  
on reaching its 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Year in 2012.  
Well done.***

1962 ~ Whiterock Flute Band, still Marching-on after 50 years ~ 2012

<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Sons</u>	<u>Brother</u>	<u>Son in Law</u>	<u>Brother in Law</u>	<u>Nephews</u>
Andrew Johnston	Drew				
Alex Orr		Jackson		Jackie Coulter	
Arty Hill	Andy				
Alan Webb	Ryan				
Alex Thompson		Ivan	Robert Wellington		
Billy Coleman		Roy			
Billy Harrison	Stephen	Jackie			Mark and Simon
Bill Beck	Graham				
Billy Daly	Lloyd & Lydon	Paul			
Billy McKeown		Roy and Norman		Tommy Harrison, Tommy Crawford	Thomson Harrison
Denis Buchanan		Norman			
Davy Fisher	David				
Denis McNab	Neal				
David Sales		Denis			
David McCoubrey	David				
Eddie Hill		Trevor			
Eddie Dunlop	Joe				
George Grace	George				
George Greenhill	Lesley				
Gordon Rowntree	Gordon, George & John	Gordon			
Gary Millen	Garth				
Gary Clifford	Gary and Nathan				
Harry Larkin		Dickey			
Joe Proctor	Joe and David				
John Branagh	Jim	Norman			
Jack King		Billy			
Jim Anderson	Kyle				
John Madden	Scott , Matthew	Neil			
John Hamilton	Colin				
John McClatchy		Jim			
Matt Meikle	Matthew and Stuart				
Rabbie Moore		Jim			
Roy Graham		Davy			
Ronnie Thompson	Ronnie				
Raymond Buchanan	Raymond and Darren	Earl			James McMullan, William McMullan, William Knowles
Robert Gourley	Paul	Edward			
Roy Massy	Robert	Moe			
Rab Hillis		Jonathan			Curtis Clark, Johny Reid
Tommy Farrell				Rab Aiken	



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Traditionally the Band assembled at, and/or left the homes of Band or Lodge members frequently to traverse their way down the upper Springfield Road to meet the parent Lodge or District, usually at the nearby West Belfast Orange Hall.

### ~ CIVIL UNREST ~

However due to the civil unrest throughout the City during the early seventies, many Band members and their families were threatened and intimidated out of their homes by on-going republican violence and all had to flee the safety of their homes to nearby and several overseas areas. *(See later story)*

Following the traditional Whiterock parade in 1969, which is held every year on the last Saturday in June, one of the Band's founding members, the late Joe Proctor returned home to find that his cottage had been destroyed in an arson attack by nationalists who had invaded his home at Springfield Park; fortunately Joe and his family later found a new residence in the Glencairn area.

### ~ ENGAGEMENTS ~

In the early years of our formation the Band spread its wings for experience and took on various engagements with other Lodges. One such association was unusual as it involved two Lodges in the one day; during the 1963 Twelfth of July procession.

On that occasion the Band led Springfield Temperance LOL No. 948 to the field at Finaghy and on the return journey back, fronted the Whiterock Temperance Lodge 974.

From our record research it was discovered that both Lodges actually spilt the Band's engagement fee for the overall day, of £80:00 between them.

This picture shows the Band leading Springfield Temperance Lodge, No. 948 with their Banner depicting Springfield Methodist Church - *(the building still stands on the Road at its junction with Workman Avenue)* - on its main frontage whilst on the obverse, David at the brook, with his sling and five stones, with which he slew Goliath.



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## WHITEROCK ~ L.O.L. No. 974

**As a tribute to the Loyal Orange Lodge which gave us our first big break and ultimately put us 'on the Road' to our fifty year future, this is a short history of the Whiterock L.O.L. No. 974; No. 9 District Lodge, Shankill Road.**

The Whiterock Lodge was formed in 1921 with the warrant being taken out in the signatures of the founder members, Bros. David Saulters, John Reid, Charles Carmont, William and Charles Wharry along with William McCartney. The Grand Master of the Order at that time was Brother James Stronge.

**The Lodge was formed by the original six members who were Brethren within Andersonstown Temperance LOL 673, based in No. 5 District Lodge, Sandy Row.**

This Lodge met in the reading room of what became later known as the St Lawrence Hall situated on the Andersonstown Road, in west Belfast which later and remains to this day, infamously known as the Felons Social Club, membership of which is reserved for convicted and imprisoned Irish Republicans (IRA).

During that era the normal Twelfth of July route for the Lodge would have been via the Falls road, Broadway, Donegall Road to Sandy Row to assemble with No. 5 DLOL and the same route reversed for the journey home after the walk to and back from the Field.

In 1921 however, a majority of the Brethren decided to change the regular way home on the Twelfth by parading straight up Stockman's Lane, from the Lisburn Road and

direct to their Hall instead of back to Sandy Row and then onwards.

**A number of the Lodge Brethren were totally against such a move and decided there and then that they would form a new Lodge and hence the warrant of Whiterock Temperance LOL No. 974 was subsequently requested and formally instituted thereafter, on 7th October 1921.**

The Lodge number was the original of a dormant warrant in 1907, based in Woodford, Parsonstown in King's County but re-issued to the Whiterock Lodge. Parsonstown itself was later renamed 'Birr' in 1922 shortly after partition and the King's County name situated in the midlands of the Irish Republic, became County Offaly.

**Parsonstown was originally named after the Parsons Family, settlers in the Kings County in 1620. The elder of the Family became the Earl of Rosse, the Third Earl who was an astronomer who had built a six foot telescope in 1917 and which, at that time, was the largest in the world.**





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*For further details please contact Alex Thompson; 02890 714120*

**“The Home of Whiterock FB for over 30 years”**

The first Worshipful Master of Whiterock Temperance was Brother William Beattie whose family home was close to where Springfield Park is now, with the house close up to the gates of the former Bleach Works.

**The same record in the September minute shows that nine members were also suspended for non-payment of dues, which were a sixpence; a tanner as it was called then; (two and a half pence in today's decimal money).**

The Lodge met in the West Belfast Orange Hall from October 1921 until 18th June 1958 when it was decided to move to the newly built Whiterock Orange Hall on the Springfield Road.

The cost of building funds was raised through many great concerts held in the Luther and St. Matthew's Church Halls aided by various Jumble Sales, Daffodil Teas etc.

**The Hall's Foundation Stone was laid on 27th July 1957 and officially opened a year later by Sister Jean Jardine in the presence of the Belfast Grand Master, Worshipful Brother Sir George Clarke, the Grand Secretary Brother Harry Burdge and Brother, Alderman Sir Robin Kinahan.**

At the first meeting in the new premises, dated 9th July that year there was an attendance of thirty-eight Brethren and during the Twelfth shortly after, fifty members were on parade, fronted by the Caine Memorial Flute Band made up of about forty plus personnel.

The cost of engaging the Band was sixty quid, which was divided equally between the Whiterock and

Springfield Lodges as the two Lodges always met up together at a 'big tree' sited on the corner of Isadore Avenue and the Springfield Road.

Being a stickler for decorum and tradition, the Lodge showed its mettle and particularly after one incident following the return Twelfth parade in 1952, when the Master decided to disperse at the West Belfast Orange Hall instead of marching back up the Springfield as was the norm on coming back from the 'Field'.

***In those days hundreds of local folk and supporters would have lined the Springfield Road to welcome the return of the Band and Brethren to the New Barnsley area.***

However that particular year the supportive crowds were sorely disappointed by the Master's decision not to march back up the Springfield and so shortly afterwards the Members in unison, voted to relieve him of his lofty position as well as dispensing with his membership of the Lodge.

**Prior to the opening of the Whiterock Orange Hall, dues and levies were collected in Brother McCartney's house at the yellow Row in New Barnsley and a few of the members who enjoyed a wee snifter would afterwards retire to Kelly's saloon bar at the top of the Whiterock Road.**

***During the earlier years the Brethren had to go home by crossing over the fields because of the regular shootings from rebels during the riots of 1921 and history certainly repeated itself again in the mid-sixties when the houses in Dunboyne***

Park were occupied by nationalists who objected to the Orange Brethren parading up the street so they decided to block off one end, before the cops arrived with dogs, so much so that a unearthly row erupted.

In 1966 the then District Officers unfortunately refused to travel to the Orange Hall to either elect or install the Lodge Officers, despite the fact that the Whiterock Members never failed to meet regularly in the Hall.

So at a specially convened meeting, a somewhat unpleasant proposal was put to the forum as to whether or not Whiterock Lodge should remain within the jurisdiction of No. 9 District Lodge in West Belfast or transfer the warrant to the nearby Co. Antrim District of Glenavy .

By a mere single democratic vote the membership decided to remain within the Shankill District.

**The Whiterock parade is now a regular date in the annual calendar of events which is looked forward to by many, including 974, and despite the unprecedented stand the Lodge took in 1966 against their parent District, it has since been to its betterment which in turn has remained by the Brethren's faithful and dedicated conviction within the local jurisdiction in the Shankill Citadel; West Belfast Orange Hall.**

**Now in its ninety-first year since the warrant was instituted, the future looks good with the Lodge roll book, strong in numbers and even stronger within Orangeism in the Whiterock outpost of Loyalist West Belfast.**

## **~ The Whiterock Parade ~ A Short History by Brother Bobby Foster.**

Long before the Whiterock Parade as we know it today, became an annual event in the parading calendar, Whiterock Lodge L.O.L. 974 regularly paraded along the Springfield Road right back as far as 1922, just after Northern Ireland became a self-governing entity.



**Whiterock Orange Hall, foundation stone laying in 1957**

The Whiterock Parade or to give it its proper title 'the No 9 District Parade to Whiterock' first took place in 1958 to officially open the new Orange Hall building.

A previous parade to lay the foundation stones had taken place a year earlier and the

changes that have occurred to the original route from the troublesome year of 1969 are, by and large regarded through design, though many would agree, by threatening enforcement as the parade certainly enjoyed a very happy period through most of the early sixties.

Originally the parade would have taken a normal break in the surrounding fields behind the hall, where the area was laid out with various stalls etc and even a full carnival turned up during one celebratory year.

The building of nearby Dunboyne Park and the ensuing nationalist protest however was an omen of what was to come.

Before looking at the subsequent alterations and changes, we must first of all take an in-depth look at how the demographics of the Springfield have changed.

After the start of civil unrest in August 1969, when republicans attacked the Apprentice Boys parade in Londonderry, which subsequently emanated into thirty-five years of murderous sectarian conflict, most of the road's length between Mayo Street and Workman Avenue soon became evidently derelict on both sides.

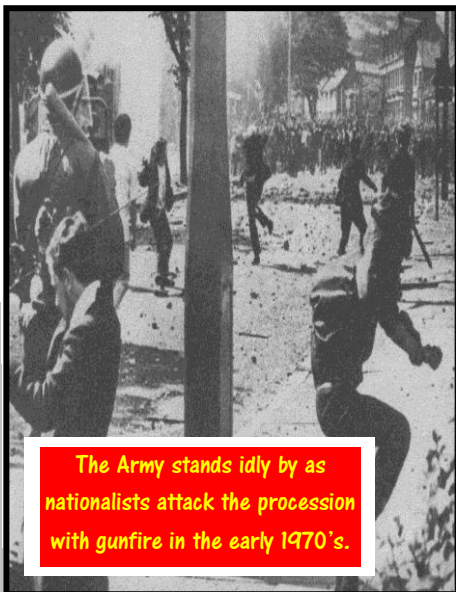
Protestants, who had lived on the road or in the adjacent side streets, were forced to move out en-masse due to intimidation and fear.

Sometime within the following decade, decisions were then made that eventually led to the situation which currently exists to this very day.

One of those decisions was the placing and building of a so-called 'peace wall' on the Mayo Street side of the Springfield towards the Shankill. This barrier, which in essence completely severed and totally shut off all the streets that ran from the Woodvale area directly onto the Springfield. It not only hemmed in the people who had lived in and around the Springfield for generations, but it also condemned the road to a single nationalist/catholic/republican identity, by cutting off any access to Protestants.

It also caused an exodus of Protestant shop owners from the main Springfield Road, in effect amounting to ethnic cleansing of Protestants from the Springfield Road.

The question however, is why was the wall built only on one side of the road when both sides were derelict; who was responsible; who did the



planning; who was consulted and what was the final agenda by those who gave the go-ahead for the wall to be built in the first instance?

All in all, it added up to one thing; the Springfield was being designed to have an overall nationalist identity. Even today the walls or peace lines still run up along only one side of the road, ensuring no unionist expansion onto what is a major arterial route into the City.

So bearing in mind these historical facts, the changes to the parade can now be looked at in context.

Most of the main parade around the Shankill has to all intent and purposes remained except were redevelopment may have caused alterations.

The processional changes which came into being from 1969 onwards affected those streets encompassed with the traditional outward route opening directly onto the Springfield traversing on to the Whiterock but chronologically changed or forcefully amended, from the former established, traditional route, either by the authorities or at the whim of nationalists, over the years were:

- Argyle Street/Cupar Street to Mayo Street, then to Ainsworth Avenue, next to Workman Avenue and finally Workman Avenue only opened up for a small number of Whiterock LOL & No. 9 District Officers, with other local and visiting Orange Lodges being rerouted by the Parades Commission, giving in to serious threats of trouble from Republicans.



**Derelict Protestant houses on the Springfield Road**

**The return journey, after arriving at the Whiterock Orange Hall, has also been greatly affected by either physical attacks or even just the threat of**

**attacks from the same nationalist hordes. These amendments to the previous traditional routes, have included:**



**Happier times, during the Whiterock parade on the West Circular Road in the early 1960's**

- The procession having to turn at the Springfield Park White Cottages; and then along the Springfield Road.
- At one stage the parade organisers, to assist the on-going threatening situation,

for one year, unilaterally changed the venue to Glencairn Park.

- Turning the parade at Whiterock and going back down to the West Circular Road. (Voluntarily changed by the organisers, due to parade congestion).
- Finally, and the current curtailed route of parading up and along Dunboyne Park and through the Highfield Estate.

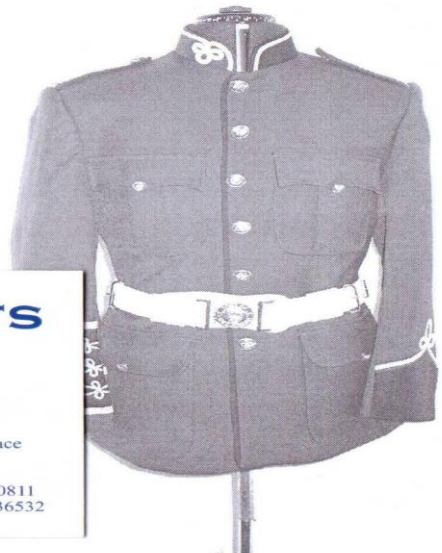


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## 'MARCHING THROUGH THE YEARS'

At the tender age of fourteen Alex Thompson joined the Whiterock in 1963, originally as a Junior Drum Major and during the Band's Golden Jubilee Year, will be the longest serving member having achieved forty-nine years service by 2012. In retrospect little did he know then, that over the years he was to become the backbone of the Whiterock Flute Band.



During that time, Alex has continued to ply his highly developed trade-skills maintaining the Band's core stock of twenty-eight, highly sought after Crown AZ flutes, which are made exclusively from ebonite and African black wood.

Thankfully Alex continues to assist in caring for our flutes whilst at the same imparting the delicate skills needed for their future maintenance, teaching the craft to Raymond Buchanan, William McCart and James McMullan.

charged to meet a nationalist solicitor, whom he recommended, based in Londonderry and would, *we were assured*, present a good case.

**Guess what however; the Catholic Advocate subsequently lost us the case with both Band and Club members being fined; in addition, suspended sentences were also meted out by the Magistrate.**

In 2002 and as a token of esteem, Alex received an engraved crystal bowls in recognition of his dedicated services to the Whiterock.

## LONDONDERRY

One unforgettable occasion that Alex recalls in particular during his long association, occurred during the 1969 Apprentice Boys' parade in Londonderry when the Band was arrested along with several members of the ABOD Club, for contravening a Government ban on parades that year.

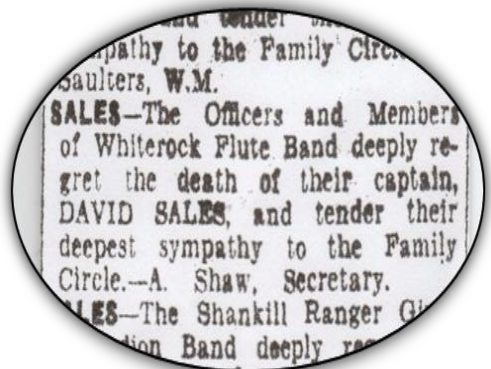
As the only Band in the procession that day the RUC were forceful in pressing charges against both the Band and Club Officers and summoned to appear later at Londonderry Magistrate's Court.

Prior to the court appearance, along with the Apprentice Boys we all met with a prominent legal-eagle at a meeting in the former Unionist Hall (*since demolished*) in Tennent Street.

He in turn arranged for those

## DAVID SALES

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1966 the Band was struck with an unimaginable tragedy, when our Band Captain, David Sales, was very seriously injured by an industrial accident at James Mackie & Son's Engineering Foundry on the Springfield Road,



### David's place of employment.

**Sadly David was to die from his injuries two days later.**

On the 6th July the following year; and with the consent of the Sales family, the Band displayed, **David Sales Memorial Flute Band** 'Whiterock' on the bass drum skin and black ribbons were worn in memoriam.

**The picture below with David's name on the bass drum was taken outside Eddie Dunlop's home in Weir Street, off the Shankill Road.**

**Rear left: Joe Dunlop (in suit), Joe proctor, Gilbert Watson, John McClatchy, Rabbie Moore, Roy Graham, Dennis Sales, Davy Graham, Arty Shaw, Norman Buchanan, Eddie Dunlop, Sydney Johnston, Roy Coleman and Andy Johnston (Snr; in suit)**

**Front Row: Davy Williamson, Harry Larkin, Billy Coleman, Johnny Rankin, Alex Thompson, Ricky Scott, Drew Johnston, Jim McClatchy, Albert Lowry, Dessie Buchanan and Eddie Hill.**

**A young Drew Johnston (picture fifth right front row), joined the Band as a fluter in 1964 and remained with us for over thirteen years, until 1977.**

Drew recalls that his dad, along with Joe Proctor and David Sales, on behalf of the Lodge, purchased the Band's second bass drum (*shown in the picture*) for the princely sum of twenty-six pounds in Dungannon.

**The flutes were purchased from Jimmy Hillis who at that time, lived in Cambria Street off the main Woodvale Road in Belfast.**

The drum was further donated back to the Band, by the Whiterock Temperance Lodge in 2008, after both parties split from their previous association, over thirty-four years ago.

**At that time the elected Band Officers comprised, Rabbie Moore; as Captain; Arty Shaw, Secretary and Dennis Sales was lead drummer.**

Then a second tragedy struck the Band, when Albert Lowry another of our founder members, sadly died in an industrial accident, also at his place of work in the former Everton School complex on the Crumlin Road.

**1969**

**In 1969, Billy (Kid) Harrison joined the Band and like Alex**



**Thompson, he too was an enthusiastic and dedicated member who assisted the Band in its continuing success over the years.**

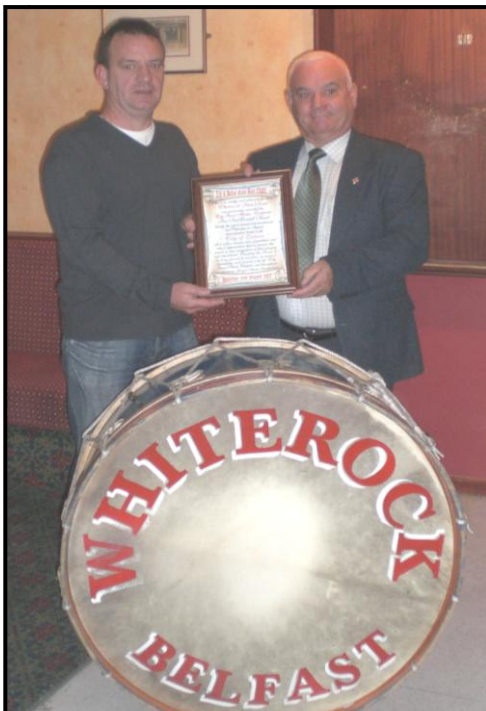
Kid and Alex can recall purchasing a half-lambeg style bass drum manufactured by Frank Orr which weighed fourteen kilos.

Frank Orr (Jnr) still maintains his father's long standing, drum-making tradition at the family home base in Tandragee, County Armagh, and as well as being a supplier of goatskin heads for the drum, also looks after our drum repairs and maintenance as and when required.

**Kid as our Treasurer, along with Alex unselfishly gave a lot of time in their commitment to the running of the Band; not just on practice nights or parades; but on the on-going basic Band requirements such as purchasing musical instruments or equipment, uniforms, engagements, travel arrangements overseas or coach hire locally; they also organised our much needed fundraising, and other financial income, events.**

When Billy retired in or around 1993, it fell to Rab Hillis to undertake this role with Alex and Jim Anderson, one with which he has continued to date.

**Billy remains our Band President and within these pages we are ultimately proud and pleased to record our combined and truly grateful thanks to Billy Harrison for his dedicated support, past and**

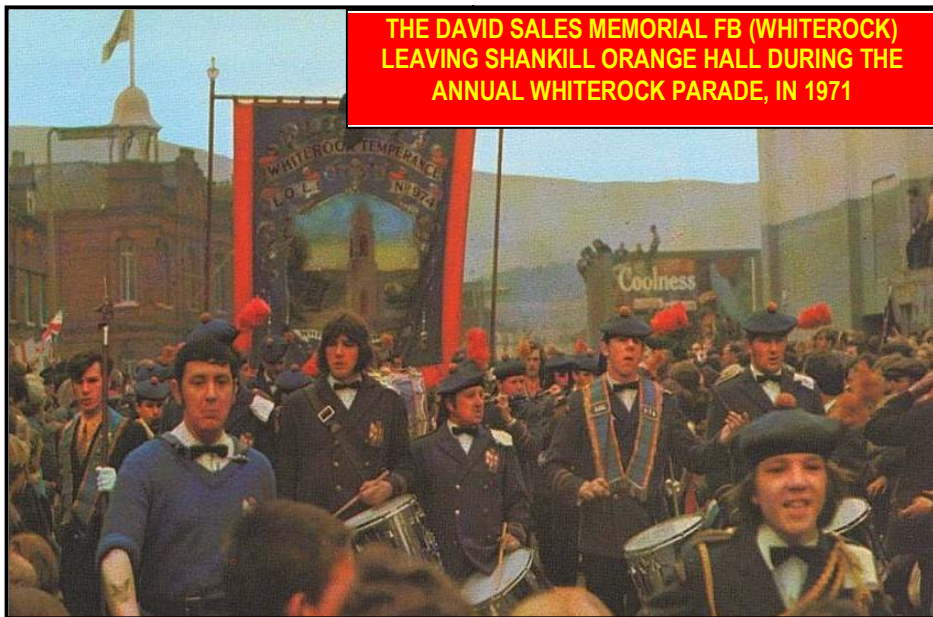


**Ivan Thompson Band Chairman, receiving the award from City Grand Master W/Sir Knt. Billy Mawhinney, for being the Best Band on Parade (Discipline and Deportment), during the City Grand Chapter's 2007 'last Saturday in August Demonstration'**

present, especially during this Golden Jubilee, celebratory anniversary of our fiftieth birthday.

## **1970**

**Ivan Thompson, Alex's younger brother and another long standing servant to the Whiterock, joined the roll during 1970 and recalls that at that time, practice nights were held in the Springmartin Community Centre.**



**THE DAVID SALES MEMORIAL FB (WHITEROCK) LEAVING SHANKILL ORANGE HALL DURING THE ANNUAL WHITEROCK PARADE, IN 1971**

Ivan remembers that it was his duty to collect the hall keys every Monday night, and as he kept the bass drum and cymbals in his bedroom at home, would bring the instruments back and forth each week on practice nights.

**1971**

**Our picture above shows the Band leaving the West Belfast Orange Hall on the Shankill en route with the Annual Parade to celebrate the official opening of the Whiterock Orange Hall on the Springfield Road in 1958.**

***Drummer Norman McKeown (shown in the main picture, left, without a hat) was murdered by a sectarian IRA bomb attached under his car, parked outside the family home at Dundonald on 17th October 1988.***

**NIGEL SMITH**

**Sadly another Band member, young Nigel Smith, was also murdered by the IRA as he worked as a security guard during the renovation of the former Anderson & McAuley building in Donegall Place, on 23rd May 1994.**

He was just nineteen years of age when he was cowardly shot down in broad day-light at the Fountain Street rear entrance to the premises, in Belfast.

Presumably, if not undoubtedly, like many other hard working Protestants trying to make a wage during the conflict, he was set up by so-called republican supporters, employed on the same site.

When Nigel's Mother, Kate was informed that the Band's Golden Jubilee booklet would include



reference to her late Son, she expressed her delight that even after eighteen years since his openly sectarian murder, his band colleagues in the 'Rock' still have Nigel in their utmost thoughts.

**Nigel joined us as a teenager, being recruited as a Cymbal player at just fourteen; he then led the Band for a while before progressing on to the flute.**

In or around 1991 Nigel joined the Royal Artillery within the ranks of the British Army; unfortunately six months into his basic training he received a back injury and was medical discharged.

Kate jokingly told us that Nigel never really 'passed out' of the army; but he so loved the Band.

***Being from a Band associated family herself, as her dad was also in the Weir Street Flute Band, Kate recalled that when Nigel was on parade she used to call out to him***

***to remember his left foot from his right and to get into 'step' .***

Brother Geordie Grace (second drummer from the right in our previous picture) who joined the Whiterock in 1968 is seen wearing his Lodge No. 974 collarette.

***Geordie remembers vividly the weekly disco the Band held every Thursday Night in local the Springmartin Community Centre, to help raise funds for the Band.***

It is believed that Andy Townsley, who was also recognised as a top quality leading drummer, helped Geordie to organise this weekly event in the Springmartin C.C.

Alex Thompson tells us that the Disc Jockey, DJ Len, at that time was resident at the Wellington Park Hotel.

***Pity about that, but can you just imagine or picture if big Geordie had been the resident DJ – we know what he could have been called, 'the swinging GG' - boom, boom!!***

**1973 / 74**

**Following an unfortunate disagreement between the Band and Lodge, we decided to revert back to our founding name, as the 'Whiterock'.**

**Afterwards the Band were engaged for the Twelfth with a Lodge based in No. 3 District, Clifton Street, called Crumlin Road Brotherhood L.O.L. No. 1243 which, within the next few years became a dormant warrant; so with this now happening we undertook the Twelfth Day, 1975 engagement to accompany a Lodge in Sandy**



**Row District; Ulster Convention L.O.L. No. 242 a partnership which has to date, in 2012, lasted thirty-seven years.**

Our photograph shows Band Secretary Tommy Farrell presenting the Worshipful Master of the Lodge with a framed picture (above) of King William III, on the Twelfth of July Morning 1990 during the Tercentenary of the Boyne Victory in 1690 and in recognition of the anniversary date in which the Whiterock Flute Band had accompanied the Sandy Row Lodge for the previous, fifteen continuous years.

## **Ulster Convention LOL 242 Sandy Row District No 5**

During the 1890's there was a large rally of Protestant Churches of all the denominations in the Botanic Gardens University Road, following the rally some of the men not all Orangemen got into conversation, the conversation soon came around to the troubles in the South with the home ruler's and the way Protestant People were moving from areas away from R.C.'s who had moved in just as we have seen in parts of Belfast and large scale in Londonderry. This group of men who got to know each other well some from the Lisburn Road, Donegall Road, Sandy Row and Grosvenor Road all decided to start a new Lodge, as they all had the same interest of self help and all been on call of each other when trouble came from the wrong type of neighbours. The name chosen for the Lodge was Ulster Convention LOL 242 the same name as the rally held in the Botanic Gardens where the men had originally started their discussions which led to the lodge formation.

Unfortunately we have no written record of the starting of our Lodge as with a many other old lodges records they had been given to the waste paper drive during the war to help the war effort. It was also common practice during the Second World War to remove all inflammable material from buildings in case of fire bombs as I'm sure you're aware Belfast suffered its fair share of this tactic during the War.

Jumping to not so long ago in our lodge history the mid 70's our lodge committee were in the position of trying to secure a new band for the 12<sup>th</sup> July, the committee had been in contact with numerous bands night after night with no luck from North, South, East and West Belfast failing to successfully secure an engagement, on one of the evenings very dejected we returned to my house in Coolbeg Street, over a cup of tea we were wondering where to try next with even the suggestion of trying bands from Scotland, while we were in the living room my niece Lorraine came in, she asked her Aunt what the men were in for, on being told they were trying to get a band for the 12<sup>th</sup> July she said my husband (Billy Kid Harrison) band were not engaged as far as she knew. We looked at this as a God Send and moved right away making contact with the Whiterock Flute Band, during initial discussions with the Band it became apparent they had new uniforms on order for that 12<sup>th</sup> July and were raising the funds for the final payment, on hearing this the Lodge committee to help ensure they were ready put forward the full booking fee upfront to assist the Whiterock Flute Band, this we the members of LOL 242 feel was the best handshake we had ever made, as the members of the Whiterock Flute Band have been most faithful to both LOL 242 and Sandy Row No 5 District, and as everyone knows whilst on Parade the Whiterock never stop playing music and their conduct is impeccable always being a credit to themselves.

I would also like to thank the Whiterock Flute Band for their long support of our Junior Lodge Britannia JLOL 32 whom they take on all their outings free of charge.

We the members of Ulster Convention LOL 242 would like to take this opportunity to thank the Whiterock Flute Band for their support over the decades and wish them every success for their up and coming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Gods Richest Blessings for the next 50 years.

Yours Fraternally

William McBride

**GOOD WISHES FROM  
BRITANNIA JUNIORS**

## ***Britannia Junior LOL 32***

Britannia JLOL was formed in the Sandy Row district of Belfast on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1926 and is affiliated to Ulster Convention LOL 242. Both lodges have a long and proud history with the Whiterock Flute Band.

The band has been accompanying LOL 242 on its annual Twelfth of July parade for over thirty five years and has also accompanied them to various other parades. Whiterock Flute Band has also accompanied our own JLOL Britannia 32 for over thirty five years to our annual Easter Tuesday parades and our annual first Saturday in August parades to Portrush. The band has been very generous to our lodge as each year they give a very generous financial donation to us at our August parade.

A number of JLOL past Worshipful Masters and ex members on leaving the lodge have joined the Whiterock Flute Band, these being:

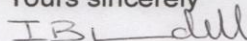
**Past Worshipful Masters:** James McMullan, Raymond Buchanan, William McMullan, Darren Buchanan, William Knowles, Thomas McAllister, Jonathan Gaynor and Scott Madden.

**Ex-members:** David Fisher, Kyle Anderson, Jim Branagh, Jonathan Reid and Matthew Madden.

The officers and members of JLOL Britannia 32 send their congratulations to the Whiterock Flute Band on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and are proud to be part of their celebrations.

I would like to extend our lodge's very best wishes to the band and for their continued success in the future.

Yours sincerely



**BRITANNIA J.L.O.L. 32.**

Ian Blundell  
Superintendent

**1977**

In 1977 the intake of new members proved invaluable to our ranks as many of them went on to become long serving and

dedicated Whiterock Bandsmen; they included; Jim Anderson, Raymond Buchanan, Dennis McNab, Rab McDougal and William (Bucky) Reid.

1962 ~ Whiterock Flute Band, still Marching-on after 50 years ~ 2012

Jim Anderson played the side drum and went on to become Band Treasurer and Captain for many years until 2007 when he resigned as Treasurer; later, in 2010 he retired from the Band (above) but to this day Jim remains a true and loyal friend to the 'Whiterock'.

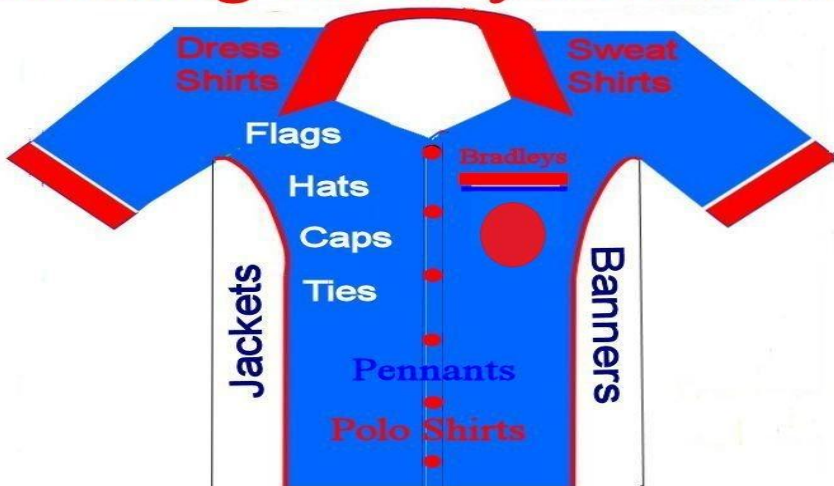
Dennis McNab played the bass drum for the best part of his early years in and remains a dedicated member and with Raymond, both are long serving members to this day. Bucky Reid retired in 2002

In fact in 2012, Dennis, Rab and



Raymond will have completed thirty-five years of faithful service in the 'Whiterock', particularly and

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significantly ingratiating, that it occurs during the Band's Golden Jubilee Anniversary Year.

## REFLECTIONS OF 1981

When asked for his reflection on his time in the Band, with a piece that could be included in our history booklet, Billy Daly chose the year 1981 in which to ponder and reflect his own memories of that year.

*'When you are young, most things pass you by; but in your latter years when members are talking about things that happened a while ago, they all come flooding back as if they happened just yesterday.*

Coincidentally, the thirty-year rule in withholding from sight a lot of classified documents, opened up at the end of last year revealing, with many of the happenings in the corridors of power in 1981 the year Billy was referring to in his recollections.

*In my view that particular year will be remembered by all and sundry for differing reasons; such as the Republican hunger strikes; Prince Charles and Lady Diana getting married; and the ongoing bombings and shootings day and daily.*

*But for the Members of the Whiterock Flute Band it was travelling over to Scotland three times in five weeks.*

**First of all we paraded on the 1st of July, a Wednesday night, in Belfast with the Ulster Convention Lodge during the Sandy Row District's annual Somme Remembrance Day**

***procession; with everyone really looking forward to the following Friday, as we were off to Scotland and in particular to a place that up to then, I had never heard off, called Grangemouth.***

*We all set off for Larne, and boarded the Stranraer Ferry with several other Bands who, on arrival, were either getting picked up by luxury coach or travelling further on, by train.*

***The Whiterock was travelling in style, furniture that is, (pictured below) only the sticks had been removed from the back of the vehicle to allow us to get in; so we hopped on board this removal van; not a large one mind you, but big enough to pile everyone into the back; and began what was to literally become, a real adventure.***

*Our secretary and treasurer at the time, Tommy Farrell and Alex Orr were in the back of the van with us until the first 'toilet' stop; everyone was complaining except Tommy and Alex who managed somehow to get into the front passenger seat before we made off again.*

*The rest of us were all sitting on long benches and a few seats but the*



smell of diesel fumes was truly overpowering and with it being so stuffy inside and the heat unbearable, the tailgate had to be lifted open a wee bit to let in some air. Anyhow we finally made it to our destination in Grangemouth after a few hours or so.

However when we arrived outside the local Rangers Supporters Club and the tailgate was finally lifted right up, all our faces were blackened by the fumes from the van's exhaust; but we didn't really notice or care at the time, as the large carry-out we had with us was almost finished by then..

So we got all the Band's gear off along with the uniform bags and other what-nots. Just at that, Alex and Tommy appeared at the back of the van looking for their own gear.

**As I was the last one to get out of the van, Alex told me not to forget his new blazer which had been hanging over the back of a chair in the rear of the vehicle.**

When I lifted it up it I noticed that it had a friction burn that you could put your fist through and it was only when I jumped out of the van that he saw the burn in the jacket,

I fell as I was getting out, and Alex tried to kick me for laughing at his new, but now ruined, jacket, which perhaps did not give a good, first impression to the Lodge members who were standing on the footpath outside the Club, watching us performing. I don't know who laughed the most the Band or the Lodge members, but it did really break the ice for what turned out to be, a good weekend's enjoyment.

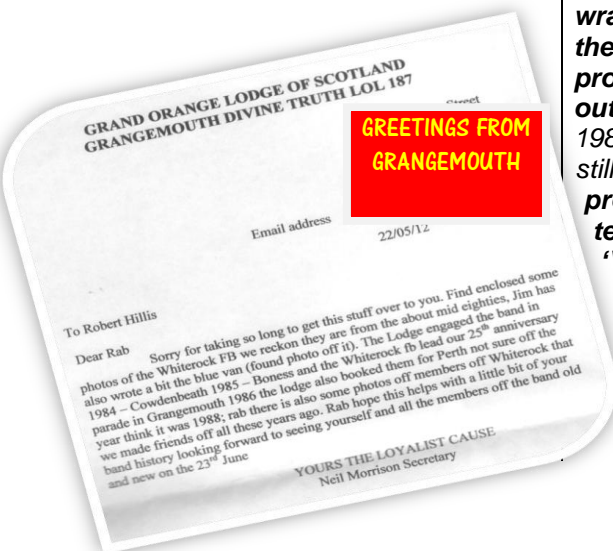
We had a great parade in Bo'ness with the Band playing brilliantly, as always, although I think I'm being too modest there.

The entire people of Grangemouth could not have been more welcoming and many of us have retained friends still to this day.

Throughout the journey home nobody complained about the van, maybe because we hadn't sobered up by then. So back at Stranraer someone got the bright idea of asking Billy Owens to dress up.

**Well, wee Billy is a very thinly matchstick thin person, so anyway we rolled his trousers up past his knees; then rolled his sleeves up, wrapped him in one of the blankets they would normally put around to protect the furniture, then we got out of the van - remember this was 1981 and the IRA hunger-strikes were still going on in Long Kesh - and proceeded to walk to the ferry terminal, with us all chanting .. 'Victory to the blanket-men'.**

**The police were not amused nor had they any sense of humour but that was the end of the Whiterock's first weekend in Scotland, we had arrived, and although we have had many**



*more enjoyable times since, that one really does stick out in my mind'.*

*On another Scots trip, everyone caught the early morning ferry on the Friday*

*from Larne, really looking forward for a good weekend, overby.*

*When we arrived in Stranraer we were picked up by a nice coach, not that old furniture van this time, but*

WHITEROCK FLUTE BAND BELFAST

**HOW THE GOOD OLD MEMORIES ALL COME FLOODING BACK**

IN 1981, I WAS HONOURED TO BECOME THE WORTHY MASTER OF LOL 187, HAVING HAD A PROBLEM WITH A FLUTE BAND THE PREVIOUS WALK THE LODGE WERE LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT, ONE NIGHT IN THE RANGERS CLUB IN GRANGEMOUTH, MYSELF AND SOME OF THE BRETHREN WERE DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM IN THE COMPANY OF OUR GOOD FRIEND TOMMY FARRELL, WHO SAID THAT HE COULD SPEAK TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ( WEE BAND ) HE PLAYED WITH IN BELFAST TO SEE IF THEY WERE AVAILABLE AND WILLING TO COME ACROSS. HAVING RECEIVED A CALL FROM TOMMY TO SAY THE BAND WOULD TAKE THE BOOKING, I WENT TO OUR NEXT MEETING FULL OF ENTHUSIASM AT THE PROSPECT OF HAVING AN ULSTER BAND PARADING IN GRANGEMOUTH, UNFORTUNATLY THE MAJORITY OF THE LODGE DID NOT SHARE MY FEELINGS, THE COST BECAME THE MAJOR PROBLEM AS THE LODGE WAS LOW IN FUNDS AT THE TIME, JUST AS THE LODGE WAS ABOUT TO MAKE A DECISION, I CAME UP WITH THE ( BRAINWAVE OF THE YEAR ) I EXPLAINED TO THE LODGE THAT INSTEAD OF PUTTING A BUS ON TO BRING THE BAND FROM THE FERRY I WOULD USE MY FURNITURE VAN, ( ACTUALLY IT WAS MORE LIKE A THREE-QUARTER SIZED FURNITURE VAN ) IF THE TRUTH BE KNOWN, TO MY SURPRISE YOUR BAND AGREED TO ACCEPT THIS IDEA WHICH HAD BEEN ILL THOUGHT OUT TO SAY THE LEAST. FINALLY THE DAY CAME AND I SAT AT THE FERRY TERMINAL WITH MY VAN WHICH INSIDE I HAD FITTED OUT WITH TABLES AND CHAIRS ( NO EXPENCE SPARED THERE THEN ) AS I WATCHED YOUR BAND MEMBERS COMING TOWARDS THE VAN WITH ALL THEIR DRUMS, UNIFORMS AND BAGS I LOOKED AT THE SPACE INSIDE THE VAN AND THOUGHT OOPS! THIS COULD BE TIGHT. ANYWAY I MANAGED TO CRAM EVERYBODY IN EXCLUDING TOMMY FARRELL AND ALEX ORR WHO OFFERED TO SIT IN THE FRONT CABIN WITH ME JUST TO SHOW ME THE WAY BACK TO GRANGEMOUTH NOW THAT'S FRIENDSHIP FOR YOU, NOW THE DAY IN QUESTION JUST HAPPENED TO BE THE HOTTEST DAY OF THE YEAR AND BEFORE WE LEFT SOME OF THE BOYS ASKED IF I COULD LEAVE THE ROLLER SHUTTER DOOR UP I EXPLAINED THAT THE WAY I DRIVE EVERYBODY WOULD BE LYING ON THE ROAD AFTER THE FIRST MILE, WE HAD ONLY GOT AS FAR AS GIRVAN WHEN I HEARD A LOT OF BANGING COMING FROM THE BACK, I SAID TO TOMMY THAT I HAD BETTER STOP AND CHECK THAT EVERYTHING WAS OK, WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR I WAS MET WITH SO MUCH SMOKE AND HEAT THAT YOU HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE BOYS HAD JUST SWAM ACROSS FROM BELFAST SUCH WAS THE HEAT INSIDE THE VAN AFTER A FEW MORE STOPS WE MADE GRANGEMOUTH IN ONE PIECE AND THE RETURN JOURNEY WENT WELL ( I THINK )

THE NEXT YEAR, 1982, I CONTACTED TOMMY WITH THE VIEW OF HIRING THE BAND FOR MY SECOND YEAR ON THE CHAIR, WHEN I SPOKE TO TOMMY I FELT A BIT OF APPREHENSION IN HIS VOICE, HE SAID THAT THE BAND WOULD LOVE TO ACCEPT THE BOOKING BUT FELT THAT MY VAN WAS ON THE SMALL SIDE BUT SAID IF I COULD PUT A MINIBUS ON ALONG WITH THE VAN THAT WOULD DO THE TRICK, AFTER WIPING AWAY THE TEARS I AGREED . THIS TIME I HAD FITTED A WOODEN FRAME WITH A DOOR APPROX THREE FOOT HIGH ACROSS THE BACK SO THAT I COULD LEAVE THE ROLLER DOOR UP THIS OBVIOUSLY DID THE TRICK AS, TO MY AMAZEMENT NEARLY ALL THE BAND WENT IN THE VAN. WHEN YOU LOOK BACK AT THE THINGS YOU DID IN THESE DAYS YOU WONDER HOW YOU MANAGED TO GET AWAY WITH EVERYTHING , I PUT IT DOWN TO MORE LUCK THAN JUDGEMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE BY SAYING THAT NOT ONLY WAS I HONOURED IN BEING THE WORTHY MASTER OF LOL 187 FOR THESE TWO YEARS BUT TO ALSO SAY THAT I WAS

PROUD TO HAVE HAD THE BEST FLUTE BAND FROM ULSTER PARADING WITH ME, WHICH HAS LEFT ME WITH GREAT LASTING MEMORIES AND ALTHOUGH THE MEMBERS HAVE CHANGED, EVERYTIME I SEE OR HEAR THE WHITEROCK I STILL BELIEVE YOU ARE THE BEST BAND IN ULSTER (EVEN WITHOUT TOMMY FARRELL )

again, not the last you will hear of it.

We were dropped off at Motherwell Orange Hall where we were met by members of the Lodge trying to sort out digs for our Members.

So after a few drinks one of the Brethren took four of us to his house, Roy Graham, Raymond and Earl Buchannan and myself.

**After leaving our gear and getting something to eat, we headed up to the Orange Hall as we had arranged to meet the furniture van bringing our two bass drums and the side drums that had been left there the weekend before.**

The gear was sorted out but as no one could take the small bass drum we just decided to take it along with us at the end of the night.

As the night drew to a close the larger than life man we were staying with and who was also built like a house as well as us four, started to make our way home.

We were walking down the street towards the house when a crowd came from nowhere and began to call us 'Orange b's' - trying to provoke a reaction.

Surprisingly, the big man we were staying with, even with his size and broad shoulders, cleared off real sharpish down the street, leaving us on our own: of course Earl said 'come

on let's get stuck into them.'

**He was a real gag, but what I didn't mention beforehand was that Raymond was holding the carryout and I had the bass drum on one hand and at the same time trying to hold the bould Earl upright with the other.**

After a few minutes they jumped us and the bass drum got busted and with a couple of punches being thrown, some connected, before the gang disappeared into the night.

That was the same weekend Billy Harrison brought an extra suitcase with him which contained five fancy dress animal type outfits.

**The Lodge held a dance on the Saturday night after the day's demonstration, and at that period one of the classic hits was 'the birdie-song.'** Anyhow we all scampered into the toilets and changed into the outfits and when we returned onto the dance floor and proceeded to do the 'birdie' the crowd thought we were all totally loopy!!

On the Sunday back to Stranraer we were running late so when we got on the ferry it was packed although we got some seats in the lounge.

There was well over a hundred people in the queue for a drink and the bar hatch really small in those

Re: WHITEROCK F.B Call back All Ex Members 2012

I remember when I was a wee boy and the Whiterock walked around my scheme in Bellshill to pick up the district master of the time Iain Gibb, I followed them all the way up the main street and I got my arse skelped for doing so, I can honestly say that's where the love of flute bands started for me, my auld da (god rest him) wouldn't let me join a band until I was 16, which I did :), but it was about 7 or 8 years after seeing the mighty Whiterock walking through the West End of Bellshill.

One wee request for next year, go back to low tension top skins it suits you way better than the highs.

All the best for your 50th Anniversary!

SUPPORTIVE COMMENT ON ULSTER BAND FORUM. WEBSITE - THANKS

days.

However Geordie Greenhill, no to be outdone, put on one of the fancy dress outfits and we all started singing and clapping. With the crowd and bar staff laughing and otherwise occupied with our antics, Geordie ambled behind the bar and ordered twenty odd pints bunking the long queue. But what a character and because of the manner in which he had used the joviality, no one took offence even though he kept doing that until we got back to Larne.

### ONE FAMILY – 70 YEAR'S OF COMBINED SERVICE

**Raymond Buchanan joined the ranks as a flute player, and later on accepted the position of Quartermaster, an office which he retains to this very day.**

Over the years, Raymond has tutored the learner classes alongside John Branagh and William McCart; he has also taught his two sons, Raymond and Darren, although the latter prefers to be one of our bass

drummers and a good quality one at that.

**Between them the Buchannan's have given seventy-year's service to the 'Rock', with Darren having sixteen; Raymond thirty-five and young Raymond nineteen years respectively under their belts.**

### OUR LONGEST - SERVING 'LEADING TIP'

**Alex Orr joined the Whiterock in 1975 and was regarded as a top quality side-drummer by all who knew him.**

Alex recalls with pride and reverence, learning his own personal skills from being taught by (*and in Alex's own words*) .. 'the Master' ~ Robert Hillis (Snr).

Robert's son Rab later joined the Whiterock in 1991 and with the Alex's blessing progressed to the Band's leading drummer in 1995 shortly after Alex retired.

**Alex had been leading 'tip' for twenty years from 1975 – 1995.**



Left: Darren, Raymond & Raymond (Jnr)

He is pictured below; right hand side of the drum corps; with Drum Major, Billy Daly leading the Whiterock down Mountjoy Street.

Billy also became Band Secretary and Captain for many years before he was elected as our Treasurer in 2007.

**Billy's two sons Lloyd and Lyndon followed in their Dad's footsteps to become members.**

**1978**

Developments during 1978, proved to be one more memorable period in our early history, for it was during that particular year we accepted an engagement to parade on 'the last Saturday in August' accompanying R.B.P. 224, Beaconsfield encamped within No 6 Royal Black District Chapter in the Shankill Orange Hall.

It was through our continued annual engagements, that in 2003 and as our

previous picture shows, the Band received an inscribed silver salver from the Sir Knights as a token of appreciation for a remarkable twenty-five years of association with, and service to, R.B.P. 224.

The Band reciprocated by presenting The Preceptory with an anniversary medal in respectful appreciation.

**We continue to accompany the Beaconsfield Preceptory each year on the 'last Saturday in August.**

This year will mark a remarkable thirty-four years of continuous engagement and the Whiterock Flute Band is certainly pleased to acknowledge our association with this short, but sincere tribute to R.B.P. No. 224, within our Golden Jubilee Booklet.

**BEACONSFIELD  
R.B.P. No. 224**

The official warrant of Preceptory No. 224 was issued in January 1880 to Sir Knight



Joseph Creaney and at that time the Preceptory was encamped with No. 1 Royal Black District Chapter.

In 1896 it transferred to No. 5 District and then in 1906 moved together with R.B.P. No's 550 and 635 to form the present day Shankill Road District Chapter, No. 6 based in West Belfast Orange Hall, when the building opened in 1898.

Old minute books from 1924 show that the Preceptory had previously been meeting in the Old Derby Orange Hall, which was strategically placed above the first level of the shops in Agnes Street running the full length from, the Shankill Road to Huss Street.

For many years the Beaconsfield Preceptory has enjoyed the reciprocal friendship of Morning Star R.B.P. No 160 from Coatbridge in central Scotland and attending each other's Royal Black processions during the month of August is now a regular event.

We know that Beaconsfield takes pride in having a most highly esteemed member on its roll-book, namely (above) the immediate Past Grand Master of the City Grand Black Chapter of Belfast, Presbyterian Minister, Right Worshipful Sir Knight and Brother Reverend Victor H Ryan.



## APPRENTICE BOYS' MEMORIAL L.O.L. No. 1317

As a continuing member of the Orange Family and holding an active warrant for over one hundred years so the Apprentice Boys Memorial LOL No. 1317 has had the fortunate pleasure of engaging many Bands over all those years, but a particularly mention must be said of our association with the Whiterock Flute Band.

*But first of all here's a wee historical background of the Lodge.*

The original warrant number, 1213 was first issued to a Brother, Colonel Slack, at Drumhawbo, County Leitrim in 1823 before it was moved to Belfast in 1866 under Brother Thomas Smith.

At that time the Lodge was called **Crimson Banner**.

In 1877 it was then domiciled with No. 1 District Lodge in Belfast and during a two-year period under the chairmanships of separate Worshipful Masters Brother James Morrow, in 1890 (*when we had twenty-three members on the books*) and Brother John Wilson (*21 members*) in 1891, the name was eventually changed to the Apprentice Boys' Memorial Lodge, perhaps suggesting some sort of a split within the ranks at that time.

*It is understood the original banner portrayed Britannia on its obverse side with the 'Relief of Derry in 1689' on the reverse.*

However in 1925 after being raised by W.M. Brother Charles Crone in open meeting, it was agreed following a proposal from Brother Thomas Campbell, supported by Brother Nat

Fulton, to renovate the colours whilst at the same time replacing Britannia, with the 'Closing of the Gates in 1688' thus having both episodes of that great defiant era in the north west against James's Forces, shown in entirety on the Lodge's Banner and also aptly associated with the overall Lodge's Title, *Apprentice Boys' Memorial*; whilst the Banner is truly believed to be the only one in existence to depict both, such portraits together.

The actual purchase cost then was four pounds and eight copper pennies, whereby the Brethren were then levied two shillings (20 pence) each to pay for the new colour.

**The Banner was unfurled by the County Grand Master, Rt. Wor Brother Sir Joseph Davidson on 1st July 1926 at Bridgett Brothers, the manufacturer in Pakenham Street, off Donegall Pass; which was then followed by a procession to the Orange Hall, led by Agnes Street**

### **Temperance Flute Band, for a social evening.**

From the early 1970's, the Lodge has had an affiliation with the Rock through on-going associations and friendships of various Band Members who are also involved with LOL 1317.

**This perhaps began with Brother Jim Anderson (PM) who was Treasurer of Whiterock Flute Band for over twenty years, and has just recently retired after thirty-five continuous year's service.**

Following on from Jim, were David Anderson (fluter), James Cowan (drum major), Robert Wellington (bass drummer) and more recently Robert Courtney (fluter), William Algie (drum major), John Branagh (fluter) and Steven Irwin, (fluter), all of whom were members of both the Lodge and the Band.

**The Officers and Brethren of the Lodge would like to record their combined appreciation; having engaged the Whiterock Flute Band from 1997 to 2005 on the annual Tour of the North Parade.**

The Lodge considers this a privileged pleasure and through those years, many, many friendships have been continually formed and cemented.

**The Officers, Brethren and Friends associated with the Apprentice Boys Memorial LOL 1317 would like to take this open opportunity to wish the Whiterock Flute Band a very happy Golden Anniversary for and throughout 2012.**



## OLD BOYNE ISLAND HEROES L.O.L. No. 633

Over the years we have enjoyed relationships and engagement with the above Orange Lodge many of us being personal friends with some of the Lodge Brethren for longer than one can ever remember.

And so it was also pleasing to receive the following kind remarks from Brother Davy Warren, long time Past Master and Secretary of Lodge No. 633.

*"Dear Rab - I write to confirm our intention to support the Whiterock Flute Band in every way with regards to their forthcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. The permission to display the 633 Banner is no problem and also our Lodge Bannerette of twenty years back also if required. We have been attempting to ascertain exact dates in the late 1960's, when the Whiterock accompanied our Lodge and also the early 1970's. The photo you sent, is of Raymond Woods, however it*



*is either 1972 or 1973 and was outside 216 Tennent Street on either the Whiterock Day or the 12<sup>th</sup> July morning and this is one of the dates we are speaking to older members about and especially the late 1960's period as we want to be exact.*

*Some photos have been passed to you earlier mate and I gave one to Ed McAdams recently which I hope you received. Before closing can I wish you*

all the best on behalf of the above Lodge with the planned celebrations and the Band every success for the future.”

Yours in the Cause.

Davy Warren PM (Sec)

### SHANKILL ~ L.O.L. No. 1069

LOL 1069 was at one time under the jurisdiction of Killead District Lodge in Antrim in 1820 although very little is known for a number of years thereafter due to the controversy on the suppression of ‘secret’ societies during that time and indeed up to the year 1836.

However the Orange Institution was re-organised during the years, 1845/46 with many warrants being re-instituted after.

The annual returns for the County Grand Lodge of Antrim for the year 1856 showed that the Killead District Lodge No. 76 comprised of several Lodges which were based on the Shankill Road.

In 1872, however the Killead District was further divided into two individual Districts. No. 1 was made up of the county based Lodges with No. 2 taking over the Shankill Road LOL’s.

This arrangement operated until 1878 when most of the Shankill Road Lodges were transferred to No. 9 District to become part of the County Grand Lodge of Belfast.

1069 has within its ranks W/Brother Charlie McCullough and the late



W/Brothers Abie Kilpatrick and Archie Sloan.

### DESMOND BOAL Q.C

At one time, Ulster’s foremost leading lawyer, Desmond Boal QC who was also a former member of the original Stormont Parliament and Reverend Ian Paisley were also members of LOL 1069.

Currently No. 9’s District Master is Worshipful Brother Fred Worthington who, during his term of office, is also the present Worshipful Master of Royal Black District Chapter No. 6, based in the West.

The Whiterock Flute Band has accompanied LOL 1069 on many occasions over the last 30/35 years and we are pleased to see that the Band has gone from strength to strength in the Premier Band League within that time.

The Officers and Brethren of LOL 1069 sincerely congratulate the Band on attaining its Golden Jubilee Year in 2012, indeed during

what is a truly memorable year all round for the Ulster people; and extend our combined thanks for their accompaniment, their encouragement and enthusiasm given to us all, and may the bonds of friendship that has grown betwixt the Lodge Brethren and the Whiterock Band and its membership over the many years, continue to strengthen and maintain for the years to come.

In this memorable Anniversary Year since the Signing of Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant, so let us proudly remember our forebearers who, without hesitation, stood faithfully and solidly behind Sir Edward Carson to add their names in dedication to the Cause of Ulster during that immortal year, of 1912.

*Brother Davy Yorke, Secretary of Shankill LOL No. 1069, sends his good wishes*

I have happy memories of walking behind the Whiterock Band on sunny afternoons at the annual Whiterock Parade. The Band was always smartly turned out in their blue uniforms and hats, playing the old and beautiful melodies of our fathers and grandfathers.

It was always a pleasure to write to Billy Daly, as Secretary of the Band with the annual invitation to accompany our Lodge on this special day and to join us for mixed minerals and sandwiches during our sing-song after the procession, not forgetting the 3 in 1 Draw.

As the Band grew in strength and notability through Belfast, Ulster and Scotland they became major contributors to the musical scene throughout the Loyalist calendar.

When the Band awards were introduced by the Loyal Orders, the Whiterock again were continually mentioned in the various classes, when the trophies were being handed out.

I thank Billy and the Band personnel for allowing me to make this brief but sincere contribution to the Whiterock, a Band that we should look up to for the time and efforts given by all the members.

It is our wish within LOL 1069 that the 'Rock' will continue to have added success, particularly during this memorable Fiftieth Jubilee Year since 1962.

To the wives and sweethearts and their respective families, for their support, sacrifice and commitments have also made the Band what it is, and in perhaps somewhat difficult times over the years, we in 1069 thank you most sincerely.

Brother David Yorke.

Secretary

1962 ~ Whiterock Flute Band, still Marching-on after 50 years ~ 2012

**Message of Support from Matt & Joan from Newcastle.**

We had been over to Belfast a few times before but this occasion we met up with Kate and Dee in the Rex Bar on the Shankill. They asked us along to a 'Sash Bash' event being held in the Rangers Club where we really enjoyed the afternoon, so much so that we managed to find the Band's Treasurer to make a donation to their funds. At that time we didn't give him our names as we wanted just to remain anonymous, but through the course of the next few weeks, the Band Secretary Rab Hillis, discovered our details and wrote us a very nice letter. This became the start of a long association since, with the Whiterock Flute Band and since then we have formed a friendship which has grown very strong. Rab makes sure we get a DVD of the 'Sash Bash' every year and sends us texts and telephones about the Band's progress as well as exchanging Christmas Cards etc. The 12<sup>th</sup> of July in 2009 was our fiftieth wedding anniversary and that year's 'Sash Bash' the Band presented us with a beautiful engraved crystal clock, a lovely monogrammed photo album and a smashing anniversary card, signed by all the Band members. Now that's what we call real 'friends'. We look forward to June this year when the Whiterock Flute Band holds its fiftieth anniversary year celebrations, moreso now because we missed last year's functions and parades due to ill-health; so, we have all the more reason to look forward to June 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Belfast this year for the Band's 'birthday bash'. Every good wish and good luck,  
Matt & Joan Nimmo

**WHITEROCK FLUTE BAND PICTURED WITH MATT & JOAN NIMMO**



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*We would like to congratulate the Whiterock Flute Band on reaching their Fiftieth Anniversary and wish them many more for the future*

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*Davy would like to extend his congratulations to the Whiterock Flute Band on reaching its 50th Anniversary in 2012, with very best wishes for the future.*

## RAB HILLIS ~ MY OWN REFLECTIONS ON 'THE WHITEROCK'

**Rab Hillis joined the Band as a flute player twenty-one years ago in 1991.**

In recalling his days prior to joining the Whiterock, Rab vividly remembers Raymond Buchanan coming to his parent's home in Disraeli street during the 1980's for his dad (Rab senior) to tune up the Band's newly acquired Royal Scots side drums.

Young Rab's first parade with the 'Rock' was leaving Billy 'Buck' Owens home on the West Circular Road on Whiterock Day June 1991.

Rab was elected to the position of the Band Secretary in 2007 and here he is (*on the right*) pictured below in 2010, with Chairman Ivan Thomson presenting a four hundred pound donation to Richard of the Agnes Street Artability project on the Shankill.

**I have often heard people say it's just the same old Whiterock with the same old Hats and playing the same old tunes!!!**

Well my personal time among the band scene started when I was just four years of age, playing a triangle

As years drifted past I can always remember the Whiterock for the distinctive single solid

beat combined with side drumming of a four beat intro from singles into double forties, 6/8 tempo.

This combination made the chemistry to crowning the 'Rock' whilst not forgetting the volume from the African Blackwood Crown A/Z flutes, as the wind section warmed up with the volume increasing depending on the key fingering skill of the individual flautist, within our ranks.

**Indeed the Whiterock was certainly very distinguishable from afar-off because of the Band's style of music and, of course, the sight of the distinctive orange plumes which stood out a mile because of the manner in which they were adorned on our blue-bonneted Balmoral head-dress; as evidenced in the bottom left picture.**

Our bass drum, as everyone knows by now, plays a real big part - (*no deliberate puns were intended*) - within the Band's corporate identity, although on several past occasions we have given the 'big lady' a day off

### CHEQUE PRESENTATION TO ARTABILITY IN AGNES STREET



to allow other substitutes a wee chance on parade.

And in the wee piece on 'the Boot' such reference is expanded on one who has had the opportunity to carry and play such an instrument, regularly.

On those occasions we played an alternative screw tension or even one of two, smaller rope drums we have in our toolbox, and from a distance many folk can remain under the impression that it was still the 'big drum' we were playing at that time.

**However on closer inspection or nearer proximity, surprisingly discovered that it was one in fact of the subs, given a wee airing, though still with the same volume which he vowed never to drop below that certain level of decibel!!**

Other bass drummers who have strapped on the 'big drum' can tell you it weighs a fair tonne and a very exhausting experience; you can undoubtedly beat her all day but if you haven't the technique, then you're wasting your time!

As leading tip walking at the front of the Band I often see the expression and delight on people's faces when the Band approaches.

**Comments such as - wait till you hear this drum' whilst pointing towards the bass drummer; and then the shouts being heard from many spectators, with supportive calls such as -'come on the Rock', whilst enjoying each moment as the Band passes by.**

The repertoire of our music consists mainly of traditional tunes, '*maybe old but forever beautiful is what the people want*', and to which spectators have often been seen and heard vociferously singing along to, while we march past.

***As times move forward other outfits, wish to keep up with modernisation and competition contesting, believing that their repertoire of new tunes needing updating on a daily basis.***

Within the Whiterock we restrict ourselves to a choice of tunes whilst adapting our music to suit our flutes and drums, the tools which we require to maintain our traditional 4/5 drum beat and in line with the aforementioned tempo.

***This therefore involves a lot a time spent rewriting the sheet-music, adjusting and keeping up with the Bands style.***

Certainly we have, on many an occasion, looked at changing our traditional hat and plume styling; and at times the Band has generally questioned itself; should we change to peaked hats and move with the times or retain the status quo?

But on each, we keep coming back to the former and in that respect if we did change over to peaked hats, then it wouldn't be the Whiterock that folk have come to know, would it?



However we did change in some instances in the past, and have moved on with regards different styles of jackets such as shirt, tie and the double breasted jacket to the military styled button neck tunics.

Again however and taking into consideration, the views of the younger generation, both from their aspect and equal input in debate, the Whiterock has decided to do a full circle and return to the traditional smartness of shirts and ties and this dress mode will be proudly worn on this year's annual Whiterock Day as an occasion also to mark our Golden Jubilee Anniversary during 2012.

Over the years the Band has maintained its personnel numbers and considering that we have now reached our fifty years in existence, have kept an average of around eighteen to twenty flutes, two bass and six side drummers and two young cymbal players along with one Drum-Major.

That is evident in the concise Band Personnel through the decades and listings, published within the inside colourful cover of our commemorative booklet.

But then every good flute band knows that, when you're blowing professional Crown A/Z flutes, then twelve flautists at least, is plentiful.

## ROBERT WELLINGTON

Robert or as we all know him 'Boot' (for obvious reasons, one can suppose) joined with us in 1989 during a time when the Band had a number of good

quality bass drummers in its ranks like Billy (Kid) Harrison, Windsor McCullough, Dennis McNab, Gary Millen and Davy Fisher.

Mind you we needed some real bravehearts to carry the big drums we have used throughout our fifty-year history, in fact just carrying the drum is a day's work in itself never mind playing it for twenty-miles to the field and back.

However not one to shirk a challenge and perhaps daunted at first, 'Boot' soon tamed her to proliferation and over the years has marshalled and maintained that auld rope-drum to keep her in great shape from one outing to another.

Within his twenty-three years service the 'Boot' has also held the position of Chairman during his time in the Band.

## MUSICAL RECORDING

In 1992 we produced our first ever musical recording, which was produced at the Shankill Activity Centre's studio on a Sunday afternoon.

This came about after Norman Branagh had worked on the compilation of a list of tunes which he felt the Band would like to play in this historic step into the recording studio.

So after a few weeks practicing, the big day came upon us quite quickly and with us well prepared and practiced, off we went.

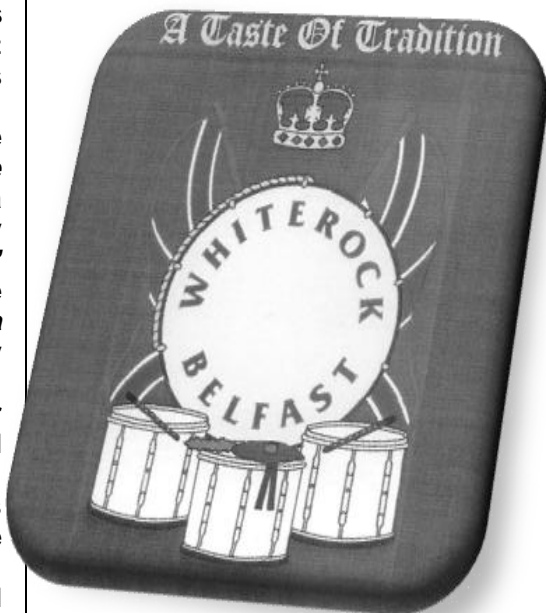
The liquid refreshment order for the playing members whilst they spent the day in the studio were two large ice buckets along with cold bottles of Becks; Budweiser and some Harp for Raymond Buchanan.

It took a couple of tunes to get us warmed up then set the tone just as we have wanted, from the bass drum and flutes and before you knew it, the 'Rock' boys were literally *'rocking all over the world'*, and our first trip to a recording studio was finally complete and a *'Taste of Tradition'* – a twenty-four melody repertoire mix of traditional tunes, was a *final wrap and in the can*, as they say in the musical business.

The rear of the record cover itemised the tunes we played and is reproduced on the right.

The Lads followed up a good day's playing with a social evening in the nearby Bootle Street Club.

To date over three thousand copies of our first recording have



## WHITEROCK FLUTE BAND

1. Boyne Water/Salisbury
2. Strangers
3. Aghalee Heroes/Battle of Garvagh
4. Barley & Oak/Boys of Derry
5. Dolly's Brae/Glory, Glory/Shire Reel
6. 18th Dec/Wee Spot in Europe
7. Orange & Blue/Sweet Maid
8. Shanghai
9. Sash/Lily/No Surrender
10. Scotch Way/Old Kent Road
11. Kick the Pope
12. Tandragee/Earl of Beaconsfield
13. Billy's March/100 Pipers
14. People of the Shanfill
15. Anchors Aweigh/Stars and Stripes
16. Cock of the North/Birdie
17. Britannia
18. Rangers Melody
19. Boys in Blue/The Skins
20. Marie's Wedding/Bagpipes
21. Springtime Pride
22. Shepherd's Boy
23. Tipperary/Home Fires
24. McBriars

*A Taste of Tradition*

been purchased by a Band loving public; so thank you all for making this a huge success over the years.

**1999**

After thirty-seven years, in 1999 and following months of discussion among the Band members, we agreed to move away from our long-time, traditional uniform which had previously been comprised of a double-breasted jacket; white-shirt and tie, with a change to a new-style military look, high button-up neck jackets.

With an ever increasing number of younger members joining we wanted to ensure that everyone was happy as to how we progressed as a playing unit with everyone on board.



**PICTURED OUTSIDE RAB HILLIS'S HOUSE PRIOR TO THE WHITEROCK PARADE IN 1999**

More importantly however, everyone agreed that the Band's hitherto identifiable Balmoral style hat with its distinctive orange hackle and Royal Blue coloured dress had to be retained.

We also changed from the previous Royal Scots side-drums to the more modern white Premier made HTS 700.



**ON PARADE, WHITEROCK DAY 2004**

1962-Celebrating 40Years 2002



HIGHFIELD WHITEROCK DAY 2002

On the Twelfth Day that same year The Band received the late Brother Tommy Passmore Memorial Shield for 'Style and Department' during the County Grand Orange Lodge procession in

the Belfast procession.

Ten years ago, during our fortieth anniversary celebrations, held in the long time Band Practice Rooms at Highfield Rangers Supporters Club, several long serving personnel received engraved crystal bowls as the Band's recognition of over twenty-five years membership to :

Alex Thompson with over 39 year's service; Alan Webb, 30; Jim Anderson and Raymond Buchanan for 25 years serving as Treasurer and Quarter Master respectively

This was followed with presentations to Rab McDougal and Dennis McNab both also with twenty-five years long service. This was encapsulated in our happy looking picture on the next page.





This is also a perfect time for the Whiterock Flute Band to thank the Officers and Members of the Highfield Rangers Supporters Club for allowing us the use of the premises and other facilities over the past thirty-five years and equally, for the Club's support when holding various functions during that time; we are truly, truly grateful to all concerned.

**2004**

So, come two years later and into 2004 the Band decided that it was time (*not for the first either*) for a 'New Uniform'

The choice was to Royal (Craigavon) blue jacket, with navy blue trousers; white belts and finished off with new shirts. This time we moved away from the gold braid to silver.

The corps of side drum also received a complete overhaul undertaken by Alan Webb and Rab Hillis with a newer and more updated badge and

logo being applied to them, to round off the finished articles.

That year the Band left Billy Daly's home at Springmartin, keeping in line with the Whiterock's long standing tradition, of leaving a member's house on the designated Whiterock Day calendared annually as the last Saturday in June.

## **ULSTER RANGERS CLUB**

It was the late Ned Casement, Rab Hillis's Father-in-Law and a Member of the Core Officer base, who introduced the Band to the rest of the Club Committee for us to engage the main function room for what has become a series of events and in particular, the regular and popular, 'Sash Bash',

Many functions have been held in the Club over the past twelve years now and each has proven to be most successful as a spring board in raising much needed finance through

booking great artists for the events, thanks to Rab Hillis' good contacts within the entertainment world.

**Traditionally, the Band holds its annual events over Easter, a Sash Bash the day after the Twelfth and a Saturday afternoon Cabaret following the completion of the Apprentice Boys Remembrance Parade to the City Hall.**

Over the past ten years or so, we have also helped to raise much needed funds for the Conlig based, Somme Heritage Centre near Newtownards.

**One of the day's highlights and something that everyone looks forward to, is seeing Rab Hillis joining the ever popular, Sylvia Pavis on stage, as a duet to sing the Glasgow Rangers Anthem; 'the Penny Arcade'.**

And to think that this all started out with Lloyd Larkham making a CD for the bus journey to Scotland during the annual Boyne celebrations, when Rab played it repeatedly and repeatedly, over and over again.

Once even, and as a pay back, big Jim Anderson donated fifty quid to call Rab back on to the stage in the Ulster Rangers with a three hundred crowd cheering like mad.

This came about because Rab had encouraged a 'knackered' Jim to sing whilst over in Larkhall the previous week when, after what seemed a very long weekend on parade and an-over imbibing of mixed minerals; the big man was literally exhausted, but all the same he gave it his best shot and went down a proverbial storm.

So he certainly evened the score on Rab later on in the Rangers Club.

**So this would be the ideal spot within our Commemorative Publication for our Golden Jubilee Year, to openly express in print, our utmost thanks to the Officers, Committee and Members of the Ulster Rangers Supporters Club based on the Shankill Road for their supportive encouragement and tremendous assistance shown and given to us on each occasion which is very much appreciated by everyone associated with the Whiterock Flute Band.**

**In that regard we would also include our absolute debt to Tommy McKeown who helped us to start the initial 'Sash Bash', whilst at the same time introducing us to other local, great entertainers such Sylvia Pavis; Big Derek and Billy Hanna. We would also add our hearty thanks to Colin Beckinsale and Philip of the Maiden City Beat from Londonderry for their continued support over the years.**

As a mark of appreciation and in memory of Ned Casement, who passed away in 2007, the Band shortly afterwards, presented the Club with an esteemed framed picture of their friend during one of our functions.

## **HANDS ACROSS THE SEA**

**The Whiterock and the Netherton Road Flute Bands have had long standing; close friendships and personal**



**THE WHITEROCK AND NETHERTON BANDS WHOOP IT UP IN THE PONY CLUB, JULY 2007**

**fraternal relationships over the past fifty years.**

During that time, we have traded bass drums, with both bands having similar playing styles, right down to the uniform colourings and to wearing the same distinctive Balmoral style bonnets.

As a token of that fraternity, both Bands exchanged embroidered shirts at a function held in the Pony Club on the Shankill Road in 2007, where of course the now customary afternoon sup of mixed minerals and the associated sing-song certainly helped to further cement that bond of friendship, we all so enjoy to this very day.

**Netherton Road Flute Band member since 1974, Andy McCleary takes up the story of how the Bands began their long standing friendships.**

*"I believe that it was in and around 1980-81 when Chic Baird, myself and a few others went over to Ulster for*

*the last Saturday Royal Black Preceptory Demonstration which was being held in Carrickfergus that year and were staying with Roy Graham in the Glencairn estate.*

***During the whole day, we all followed alongside the Whiterock Flute Band which was absolutely outstanding throughout.***

*Big Bill Love was playing the bass drum, on several occasions when the parade had stopped for a short spell, even lying on his back!*

***On arrival at the Park, I asked wee Kidd if the big drum was for sale, as our own Band, the Netherton was looking for one.***

*He said, 'give us five quid', but by the time I got the fiver out of my pocket he had increased it to eighty, VAT he added.*

*So Chic, who was the money man at the time, and myself had a wee word about it and agreed to buy it there and then for eighty quid.*

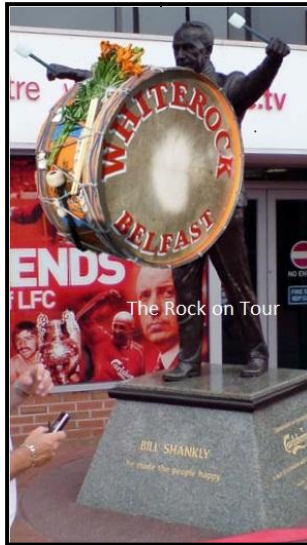
***It was known as Windsor's drum and as I had already seen Billy play***

*it at Netherton one year and truly admired that big girl then; without knowing that a few years later we would buy it for our own outfit.*

*That piece of Whiterock history is one that When we went to pick the drum up, big Tommy Farrell put paper over the skins, to be taken off only when we her got back home to Scotland.*

*I must also mention the Band Leader for the Whiterock that day in Carrickfergus, a wee ginger headed man, (whose name I didn't get one on the day) was one of the best I have ever seen.*

**So lads may I wish the Whiterock Flute Band every success during its 50th**



**anniversary year and indeed all the very best for the future; but remember there is only one Band better than the Whiterock or the Netherton; and that is .. the Beatles!!"**

### **LIVERPOOL**

During the three-year period, from 2007 to 2009, the Band paraded through Liverpool with the local Campsie Branch of the Apprentice Boys of 'Derry, beginning in the main part of the City then onto the nearby seaside town of Southport where, during the break in the day's parade, we were treated to a truly slap-up meal in a luxury hotel. WOW





Whilst in Liverpool we also took the opportunity to visit Anfield, home of Liverpool Football Club, as well as nearby Goodison, the blue home of the other half of the City, and so as to show no partisan with our hosts, as you will appreciate!!

**And of course, those old enough to remember the swinging sixties, *without pointing in any particular direction*, then persuaded us to visit the Cavern Club, (as our picture on the previous page shows) known as the ancestral home of the legendary Beatles.**

**The Band also played the Provincial Hall after the parades to the enjoyment of the audience and during a wee break, as a token of appreciation for travelling across the sea, to accompany the Apprentice Boys in the procession, Stevie Bell from the Campsie Branch of the ABOD, presented our Chairman Robert Wellington with a marvellously framed mirror (pictured above) depicting the renowned Cultural City of the world's famous 'Liver-bird', proving once again that with such friends .. 'You'll never walk alone'.**

*In this memorable year for the Whiterock Flute Band, we too dedicate ourselves to stand by one another in defending for ourselves and our children, our cherished position of equal citizenship within the embrace of the United Kingdom and, as in 1912, it is needful that we knit together as one man, each strengthening the other, and not holding back or counting the cost!*

1962 ~ Whiterock Flute Band, still Marching-on after 50 years ~ 2012

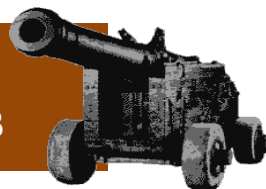
**A SHANKILL BAND STRIKES UP THE BEAT IN  
THE LAND OF THE BEATLES**



Over the years we have accompanied the Apprentice Boys of 'Derry Clubs on their annual outings to the Easter Monday events each year, as well as both the Closing of the Gates and Relief of 'Derry Celebratory occasions. Since 2000, we have been the engagement Band with the Belfast Campsie Branch of the ABOD, and Club Secretary Brother Robert Hamilton has sent us this wee letter of appreciative congratulations for our Fiftieth Birthday this year.



## Apprentice Boys of Derry BELFAST CAMPSIE CLUB



Dear Brother Secretary,

First and foremost, may I, on behalf of Belfast Campsie Club ABOD, offer sincere congratulations to the Whiterock Flute Band in this, historical year in the Band's history.

Fifty Years is a major milestone any Band or organisation would be proud of, and to achieve it in the manner that the Whiterock have is testament to both past and present members.

Belfast Campsie, first approached the Whiterock in January 2000, through a casual conversation, which led to correspondence being sent to the Band Secretary; was agreed in February and responded to by March that year in acceptance, with the first engagement taking place on Easter Monday 2000.

Since that initial engagement, the friendships, bonds and camaraderie have continued to grow and flourish and, as each new 'marching season' approaches, we look forward to strengthening these bonds and ties.

As the Band Members know, last year during 2011 it was the Fiftieth Anniversary of the formation of the Belfast Campsie Club and on behalf of the our Branch, I would take this opportunity to thank the Whiterock for their support in our endeavours and for the magnificent presentation of two ceremonial swords, which will

always be carried with pride and distinction on parade.

We were honoured to have the Whiterock Flute Band lead our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade through Belfast City Centre and indeed thank them for their excellence during the Remembrance Service at the City Hall War Memorial.

On a lighter note, as we all know the Whiterock are renowned throughout the United Kingdom. You will always hear some people say that they recognise the Band by the 'bass drum'; some by the Orange Hackle and others by the sound of the Crown AZ Flutes.

The truth is, the Whiterock is simply the best at what they do, and long may that continue.

Once again, congratulations to the Whiterock Flute Band, past and present members on this your Fiftieth Anniversary.

*Yours in the Cause; Robert Hamilton; Secretary*



THE BAND ON PARADE THRO' LOYAL LONDONDERRY WITH THE ABOD

## A LITTLE PIECE OF FLUTING HISTORY

**This old newspaper cutting from 2nd June 1962, was interestingly enlightening as it records that three generations of the one family have been members of the Edenderry Amateur Flute Band down through the years.**

The oldest member of the Band was Grandpa William Hillis who at that time was eighty-five years of age, had fluted through sixty-three Twelfth Parades.

He was followed by his son Jim (58) and then his grandsons Robert (21) and Jim (19) who each, down the line, learned to play the flute in the traditional Hillis, family way.

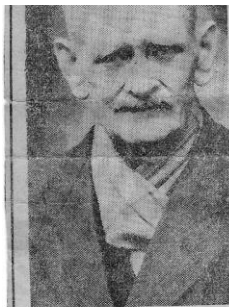
**Commented William; "it's grand to see the family in one Band and they are all good pupils".**

The fluting octogenarian walked all the way to the field every July and has also travelled to many parts of Britain with various Bands over the years.

**"I think I'll only walk part of the way this year commented the cigarette smoking Grandpa William - my wee legs aren't so good after so many Twelfths."**

The veteran, regarded then to be the oldest flautist in Ulster, never missed a demonstration since he first began playing in 1898, demonstrating his flautist skills over the year through a variance of flutes, lining up with a variety of Bands.

The Crumlin Road based Edenderry Amateur Flute Band with its glittering white and blue uniforms, had been a truly family



Eighty-five-year-old Mr. William Hillis, Vicarage Street, Belfast.

## band GRANDPA HAS "FLUTED" THROUGH 63 TWELFTHS

THE Hillis's play the flute the family way. For three generations of them are in the same flute band - grandfather, son and grandsons.

They are lining up for another "Twelfth". Then the three generations of flute-players—Grandpa William (85), son Jim (58), grandsons Robert (21) and Jim (19)—will put on the glittering white-and-blue uniforms of Edenderry Amateur Flute Band for another march to the Field.

"I think I'll only walk part of the way this year," commented cigarette smoking Grandpa William Hillis. "My legs aren't so good after 63 Twelfths." For the self-taught veteran flute-player, the oldest in Ulster, he has missed playing at a demonstration since 1898—with a variety of flutes and a variety of bands.

The 17-year-old Crumlin Road band is a Hillis family affair—grandsons Jim and Robert play in it. Grandpa William conducts it, and son Jim formed it! Mr Jim Hillis is deputy conductor and secretary, while son-in-law David Henderson (26), also plays the flute with the rest of the family.

"You couldn't get a better flute teacher," said Mr. Jim Hillis of his father. "It's good to have a good one. I've been playing for 46 years now—and he still sometimes shouts me down if I play wrong note at practice."

Mr. William Hillis conducts the band at their regular Wednesday night "warming-up." Said grandson Robert: "It's good to have him for his experience and advice—and it's nice to see three generations of the family together."

Commented Grandpa William: "It's grand to see the family in the one band and they were good pupils."

The fluting octogenarian has walked all the way to the Field every July 12, and has travelled to many parts of Britain with various bands over the years.

"The processions are bigger and more colourful than they used to be," he said. "In the old days you would hardly have seen a band in uniform."

The most noticeable difference between a demonstration in 1912 and one in 1962? "The roads," said Mr. Hillis quickly. "And, in softer on the feet now and the walk isn't so exhausting. Some of the roads in those days were very stony."

He added: "Another thing which used to be common long ago, but it's hardly seen in the processions these days—the big lambs' drum." Mr. Hillis is now putting "The Theme From 'Z Cars'" through its paces with the band. "The bands are more liberal-minded nowadays than they used to be—they play a bigger variety of tunes. 'Z Cars' is very good for the Twelfth—and it's popular."

This is the Hillis formula for a budding flautist—practice at least one hour a day quickly. And, in six weeks' time "if you haven't mastered the flute . . . maybe you had better change to drums!"

COLIN BRADY.

**orientated grouping since its inception.**

Grandpa William and his son Jim formed it, with Jim also taking on the deputy conductor's baton, alongside his Dad.

William's twenty-six year old Son in Law David Henderson also played the flute thereby keeping it in with the rest of the family.

**"You couldn't get a better flute teacher" said Jim of his father.**

**"He's a hard one, but a good one. I've been playing for forty-six years now and he still shouts me down, if I sometimes play a wrong note at practice."**

Grandson Robert agrees: **"it's good to have his experience and sound advice and it's also good that the fluting legacy continues to be**

**handed down from each generation and beyond."**

When interviewed about the parades, Granda William continued in his quotes .. **"The processions are bigger and more colourful than they used to be; and in the old days you would hardly have seen a Band in uniform."**

**The very noticeable difference between a demonstration say in 1912 and one in 1962 is the difference in the road surfaces; it's far softer on the feet these days and the walk isn't so exhausting, some of the roads on those days were very stony."**

He added ... **"another thing which used to be common long ago, but its hardly seen in the processions these days is the big Lambeg drum". But the Bands are more liberally minded nowadays than they used to be; they play a bigger variety of tunes and (from the weekly police TV series at the time) - Z cars is very good for the Twelfth and it's very popular.**

**This is the Hillis formula for a budding flautist; practice at least one hour a day regularly and in six weeks time if you haven't mastered the flute ... then maybe you'd be better off playing the drums!**

**But whilst the culture of the marching Band scene is primarily about music it also aims to promote our image and to help to educate the younger generation, whilst at the same time, teaching them discipline dedication and respect.**

**Our Band practices regularly every week, for forty-eight weeks of the year, taking a well deserved one month-off break for Christmas; then it's back to bettering ourselves for the ensuing year's parades and other events.**

**We also enjoy the social elements of friendship and camaraderie and promote the need to work with our neighbours on a cross-community basis."**

**Now if we all take on board that sound advice, from one who was truly a dedicated professional, then the flutes and drums of the marching Bands will remain forever an integral part of culture, our history and our very being.**



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**THE PONY TROTTING  
SUPPORTERS  
SOCIAL CLUB  
(SHANKILL ROAD)**

**Extends its Congratulations to the  
Officers & Members of the  
Whiterock Flute Band on attaining  
their Fiftieth Birthday in 2012.**

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***A Hearty Welcome awaits Members,  
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for further information.***

## FESTIVAL OF BANDS - ULSTER HALL 2010

On January 5th, 2010, the Band was officially invited by the Ulster Band Forum, working in partnership with the local morning newspaper The News Letter, to participate in the Festival of Marching Bands being held in the famous Ulster Hall in Belfast. Our part, in the now annual, two nightly event was scheduled for Tuesday, the 30th of November that same year.

The make-up of the evening would include renditions from eight selected flute, accordion, silver and brass Bands from across the Province; and included in our own scheduled evening were Churchill Flute (Londonderry); Castlederg Young Loyalists; Tullyvallen Silver; Pride of Ballinran Flute; Drummaheagles Young Defenders Flute; The Regimental Flute Band of the Ulster Volunteer Force; Brunswick Accordion and of course ourselves.

At first the Band was a wee bit reluctant to get involved with such a surprising but most welcome invitation to take part on another stage and of course several of the lads were opposed to stepping into such an historic arena as is the stage of Belfast's great Ulster Hall, where many of our famous leaders such as Sir Edward Carson had previously stood, the night before the Signing of the Ulster Covenant in 1912.



**We were primarily a marching band, but, given clear-cut assurances from the event organisers, Valerie and the inimitable Quincy Dougan, we readily accepted the invite to take part in the festival evening of music.**

So Rab Hillis began the process of preparing the Whiterock for a new adventure, treading the boards in downtown Belfast. Our chosen repertoire (or at least Rab chose it for us) consisted in the main, of traditional Orange Tunes, the way we like to play them, loud, proud and as can be seen and heard, on the subsequent DVD, the way only the Whiterock can do.

The evening's compere, local actor Dan Gordon (*alias Red Hand Luke of the Hole in the Wall Gang*) introduced the Band onto the



stage, at the same time remarking to the packed audience .. ***"I live in Carrickfergus but before I left the house, I told the wife to open the***

***windows for you'll hear this next band from here to there ... now everyone ... duck.'***

When we had completed our repertoire, with the audience rewarding the Whiterock with a standing ovation, the bould Dan commented afterwards .. ***"what did I tell ya, they do exactly as it says on the tin."***

## ***"THEN WE TOOK A TRIP TO IBROX.."***

During our years accompanying the Sons of Glasgow Loyal Orange Lodge No. 50 for their Boyne Celebratory demonstrations in their home City we also used the time in between parading, to visit the famous Glasgow Rangers' home park at Ibrox Stadium.

It is also a useful and beneficial camaraderie tool with which to keep the lads together whilst enjoying time off, when visiting overby to collectively see and visit places that in some cases, the younger personnel only dreamt off in their growing years; but now as part of the Whiterock Flute Band outfit, actually and physically fulfilling those aspirations, in following in the footsteps of the greats.

So here you see us having a good time, on the pitch at Ibrox, as well as visiting the trophy room, press and changing rooms of that marvellous stadium situated on Edmiston Drive.

***Even though last year has not been the best financially for the Gers, off the pitch, footballing greats just don't fade away, they become even greater and the Glasgow Rangers will again go on to do the job in the manner in which those dedicated and faithful fans have become accustomed to in the past, one hundred and forty years. Yes Sir!!***





Typical of the Whiterock Flute Band was one really unconventional arrangement that took place on the Twelfth Day in 1996. After returning from the Field at Edenderry, Shaw's Bridge to the Sandy Row District Orange Hall, where we had been engaged by Ulster Convention L.O.L. No. 242, (*banner pictured above*), the Band then proceeded to parade further on, to the top of the Donegall Road at Roden Street, and thus complete the day's procession finishing with 242 and the traditional playing of the National Anthem outside the Worshipful Master's home.

However it had been acknowledged that the Band had previously been requested, well in advance, by the Officers and Brethren of the Whiterock Temperance LOL No. 974 to ascertain if they would accompany the Lodge back home to Whiterock Orange Hall as they had been unable to engage a Band for that particular year.

As is our wont, we readily accepted the invitation and after finishing the day with the Ulster Convention members at the Worshipful Master's home, the ladies associated with Lodge 974 arrived with vehicles to collect the Band Members at

Roden Street and with a quick turnaround, thereby skipping their well deserved refreshments and the hospitality which was always provided by the Convention Lodge, *although we had pre-arranged with them that we wished to fulfil this prior agreement with the Whiterock Lodge*, the Band were soon off to meet the Shankill Road based No 9 District as they approached Shaftesbury Square.

**So for a second time that Twelfth Day the Whiterock Flute Band uniquely joined the main Belfast County Parade, incorporating three separate and distinct Orange Halls as part of their**

participation in the Battle of the Boyne celebrations, firstly to Sandy Row Orange Hall, then to the West Belfast Orange Hall before progressing up the Shankill and into Workman Avenue, through the gates onto the Springfield

Road and finally on to Whiterock Orange Hall with the crowds cheering the lads and the local Lodge Number 974 on their safe arrival home.

***Now that was some day,  
ANOTHER WOW!!***



The photograph left, clearly shows the colour of the Band's new uniform during in 1964 and included in the picture from left to right are:- *Eddie Hill; Billy Hughes; the late David Sales (Captain) Rabby Moore; Brian Irvine; Dennis Sales and in the front, 'Jockser' the Band's Mascot.*

As part of our Golden Jubilee Commemorations, the Band has planned to wear the 1964 uniform on Whiterock Day this year, leaving the home our longest serving Member, Alex Thompson's on the Springmartin Road; then hopefully (*if the 11/1 form is accepted*), revisiting the traditional route, including Springmartin and Upper Springfield Roads; Dunboyne Park; Whiterock Orange Hall to pick

up the Whiterock Temperance Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 974; parading onward to the assembly point at West Belfast Orange Hall. On arrival at the 'West', the Band will then change into the new uniform commissioned for our fiftieth birthday year.

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## MORE OF OUR SCOTTISH ENGAGEMENTS

In 1964, the Band decided to undertake its first Scotland engagement with a Lodge based in the staunchly loyal Lanarkshire town of Shotts.

This was with Bellshill Loyal Orange Lodge No. 186 and that particular year the demonstration was being held in the north eastern town of Musselburgh.

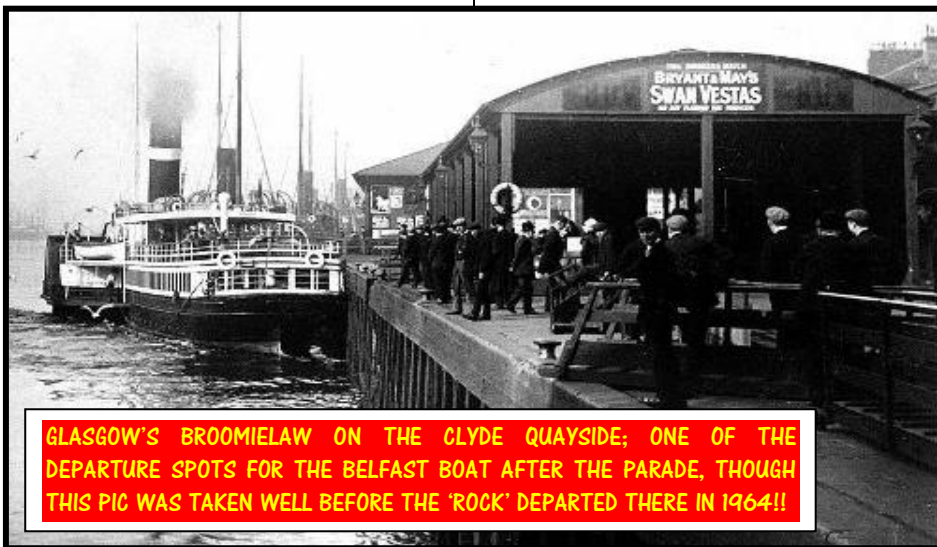
*Just getting there was an initial experience for many of the young members and their first journey across the Irish Sea, for after the early morning parade around Shotts the convoy of buses then proceeded east and on the way, travelled the full length, slowly, along Prince's Street in Scotland's Capital City to get to the main venue and parade around Musselburgh. So we all got a sightseeing tour of Edinburgh for free, as well.*

The relationship with Loyal Orange Lodge No. 186 continued for over eight years, until 1972.

Graeme Reid the current Lodge Secretary relates that his Father Neil recalled the story to him of the Band getting the overnight boat from Belfast on the Friday night; *(which was in those days a ten-hour sailing across the sea on the old Glasgow Steamer cattle boat).*

Then after a full day's parading, with just a short break, having to make their way back at haste, to the Broomielaw *(pictured)* on the Clydebank in time to catch the last boat and another ten-hour travel, back to Belfast, arriving home at about 8:00 am on the Sunday morning.

Since that first Scots engagement in 1964, the Band has been parading at various venues throughout areas in Ayrshire,



GLASGOW'S BROOMIELAW ON THE CLYDE QUAYSIDE; ONE OF THE DEPARTURE SPOTS FOR THE BELFAST BOAT AFTER THE PARADE, THOUGH THIS PIC WAS TAKEN WELL BEFORE THE 'ROCK' DEPARTED THERE IN 1964!!

**Lanarkshire and Stirlingshire; among others as well as towns and places such as; Coatbridge; Wishaw; Bridgeton; Grangemouth; Irvine, Larkhall and in the main Glasgow parade itself.**

One particular long term, eleven-year association which lasted up to 2008, was with the Larkhall Purple Defenders Loyal Orange Lodge No. 193; and as a token of their appreciation to mark the tenth year, each of the Band's members received a commemorative medal (as shown above) from the Lodge.

**However getting back to our travels overby, and after a break of three weeks we were on our way once again, this time to parade in Coatbridge accompanying within our well established association with the Beaconsfield Royal Black Preceptory No. 224 from No. 6 District on the Shankill.**

### **MORNING STAR R.B.P. No. 160**

We were there on invitation from the Morning Star R.B.P. No 160 to take part in the Scots, 'Black Saturday' which is traditionally held on the second Saturday in August to celebrate the relief of 'Derry in 1689.

**Coincidentally that year the Worshipful Master's tenure of the Beaconsfield Preceptory was occupied by our very own Band member Jim Anderson.**

However due to work commitments and with the majority of the Band having already gone on ahead, so five of us had to travel later on the Stranraer Ferry, leaving Larne harbour on the Friday night.

Arriving in Scotland we boarded the train for Glasgow where a minibus

picked us up before dropping off Earl Buchannan and me at the Grange Hotel where a party was in full swing when we got there.

**So having got a few drinks in, waiting for the others to return which of course led to a friendly bit of banter, inevitably resulting in hand bags at ten paces between Raymond and Earl, with the Hotel Manager pulling us to one side the next morning and to pack our bags,**

However once he was convinced that it was just a bit of playful Ulster craic, banter and nothing more serious, he retracted his threats to bar us.

**Perhaps it was the thought of his takings being down over the weekend that finally persuaded him!!**

*That morning after we had paraded from the Orange Hall around Coatbridge, which is a hugely nationalist area, we boarded the coaches and on to the main event in Scotland's' Capital, Edinburgh*

The City was a brilliant place for a procession with wide, main streets which allowed us to spread out and parade unhindered with five drummers and ten fluters.

***What a Band, I thought to myself but then I'm biased, but yes we played out of our skins that day and the crowd obviously thought so as well, with the reception we got every step of the way.***

The procession finished at the nearby docks in Leith and as usual we went looking for a wee refreshing drink, just for medicinal purposes you understand and also to replenish the

amount of sweat we had lost during the earlier part of the parade.

**Following the crowd we eventually found a wee watering hole up a side street and as if by pure luck, and to our surprise there was a stripper on that afternoon and the obviously the place was bunged.**

It must have been the girl's first time because she panicked and wouldn't perform so as one can imagine, there was a near riot when the young lady skipped instead of stripped, she left a lot of disappointed souls crying buckets of tears, into their beers.

**So back in Coatbridge and getting off the coach to finish the return parade, the first thing that met our eyes was a couple of hundred green and white scarf-clad Celtic supporters milling about outside a pub on the opposite side of the street.**

### **RANGERS FANS**

At that stage and not knowing what to expect, we began to play a few tunes when all of a sudden several hundred Rangers fans came charging through the local, nearby park just as we reached the railway bridge where we put on both two bass drums.

**You can guess just what happened next; the Band hit the double-forties right underneath the bridge and the bouncing noise erupted into one ear splitting crescendo.**

The crowd cheered like billy-ho; the Gers' fans loved it; *talk about showboating, what!!*

That night in the Hotel, the Manager and his friends were having a drink and asked us to join them.

***Of course being from the Shankill, we started the usual singsong, and he must have really trusted us, by allowing the lads to pour their own drinks and leave the money beside the till. Rest assured we reciprocated his trust as old friends do.***

What a really good night for there was six of us in one room of the Hotel with four and two, in a couple of others.

Anyhow, the Manager and his friends decided to stay the night as well, he had a bit too much to drink and fell asleep.

The next thing I knew he had a mattress placed on top of him then a wardrobe which he took in all good fun.

**Well the next morning someone remarked about being hungry and with the kitchen situated on the same floor, it was ideal.**

We soon found a frozen packet of bacon and wacked it all straight into a large frying pan; however the two lads who were cooking it, sat down forgot about the pan on the stove; and of course, both feel asleep,

### **ALARMS**

So, guess what happened next? The smoke alarms went off and then the spectacle of the Hotel Manager standing in his boxers with a fire extinguisher shouting; *where's the fire?*

***He was told it was only the toaster***



***bleeping, so he innocently enough took our word for it, - see, he really was very trusting – and went straight back to bed; which allowed us time to forgo and forget about having any breakfast and quickly scamper off back to the Ferry terminal before he realised the real truth.***

What a weekend; but the only thing being that the secret is out and if he reads this wee story, will now know the real reason for the alarms going off and no doubt WILL bar us from his Hotel per se!!

## **PRACTICAL JOKES**

***Big Billy also recalls many happy travels to Scotland for the annual Orange Processions, particularly the fun and games they all had. Practical jokes were a norm for the Lads. These are some more of his accounts.***

Over the time I have been a member of the Whiterock, I have come across many interesting

characters both within the ranks and without.

**Noel Clarke was one such character and when the Band was at an event or outing he always brought along his guitar; but being Noel, he usually needed money to replace broken or damaged string; but curiously it was always only one string that was broken.**

Whenever he travelled with the Band over to Scotland, Noel never seemed to sleep during the whole weekend and downed so many mixed minerals all the time he was there, that he would always lose his voice.

**Another was Tommy Farrell, regarded as one of the older Band members, and this particular weekend we were over in Scotland once again for another parade.**

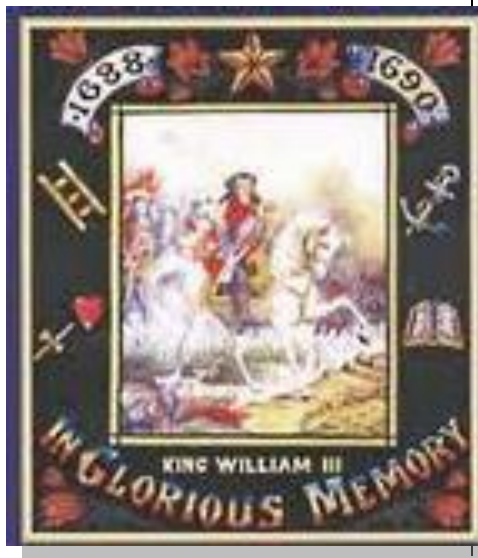
Parading through the host town this particular Saturday morning, Tommy remarked that he wasn't feel too well, so anyhow the Lads advised him to fall out onto the sidewalk for a rest and take a wee breather.

However when the Band had finished the first part of the parade, off we went for some refreshments *as you do by the way*, just to be sociable; so when it was time to go back for the return journey home, we saw the bould Tommy walking towards us, slightly inebriated.

**The lads being concerned about his health earlier asked how he was feeling, to which Tommy duly replied that he was feeling fine now, after he had got over his 'Harp attack'!!**

## **HOLYWOOD**

Another time we were on parade through Hollywood in County Down when the same Alex tripped over,



then done a complete somersault, side drum and all, but never lost a beat and when he recovered he was still in step with the Band; now that was pure class.

**With Billy (Bucky) Reid, well he could fill a book on its own, as he was a legend extraordinaire in his own right, but I'll not mention any videos and hairdryers just in case.**

So, a couple of years ago after parading with the Larkhall Purple Defenders in their home town the previous day, we were getting ready on the Sunday morning for the journey home.

As we were loading the gear and cases onto the minibus Bucky emerged still the worse for wear after the previous evening's jollification.

Before he would hand his case up to us for the roof rack, Bucky just left it at the back of the bus and then hauled himself inside where he immediately fell asleep.

Rab and myself opened Bucky's case, filled it gravel and replaced it back onto the minibus.

## FRENCH LANGUAGE

When we got back to the Shankill, he tried to move the suitcase and with the gravel and all inside, he obviously couldn't lift it out; so we shoved it along more to the back of the bus to give him a hand.

***He lifted it off and as he did so, fell over it, and as you do we drove off a wee bit further on and started laughing; but of course we can't repeat in print Bucky's French language!!***

No matter how many times we played tricks on the bould Bucky he was still caught every time.

Going back again to Larkhall the following year, he should have been wary of what to expect; but no!

When we went to Larkhall the younger Band members used to get the overnight accommodation in the local snooker hall, and as we stopped to get the bus unloaded, Bucky went in to use the toilet.

Nearby there was a cheap shoe shop so we lifted two white trainers off the rack, and put them into his suitcase as a joke.

Later on Bucky called Jim Anderson and myself into his room to tell us that his wife must have bought him a new pair of trainers, but she was really stupid as they were both left feet; when we looked at them we then told him they were also different sizes as well; we doubt if he truly knew what the true story of the trainers ever was.

***Once the lads let on to him that Jim Anderson had taken a television set from the Hotel which, of course Bucky, being Bucky believed.***

So the following year getting ready on the Sunday morning for the return journey home, Big Jim got a copy of



the yellow pages, wrapped it up in as towel and stuffed it into Bucky's case.

Next out, on the way back to Stranraer we were in the first minibus with Bucky in the second; when we got to security checkpoint, the Police Officer there seemed to have a sense of humour, so we let him in on the story of the yellow pages.

When we told him what had been done he went back to the other minibus and called out '*William Reid*'.

***The sociable cop proceeded to say that the hotel had a DVD player missing and his name had been mentioned; Bucky panicked right away and blurted out to the Police Officer that he was just keeping it for Jim Anderson; shades of Ladas Drive that one!***

## IRVINE

**A few years previously the Band travelled over to Irvine for the annual Orange Procession in the town and when we arrived there, Kid Harrison asked who was the hardest man in the town.**

All the locals pointed directly at this one particular guy; and Kid said to him, '***then you can take this handful***', and proceeded to despatch Windsor McCullough, Earl Buchannan, Bucky Reid and Frankie Hill to stay with '*Irvine's hardest*' for the weekend; and to which they said afterwards was one of the best and funniest they ever had.

**It kicked off first, later on Friday**

**night, when they blackened their host's face after he and his wife had fallen asleep.**

Then as a consequence when they heard what happened, everyone else wouldn't go to sleep in case of further soot jobs on them.

***Next morning they were all like zombies during the parade, through lack of sleep and associated hangovers.***

So anyway on the bus the tiredness began to tell but to everyone's amusement Earl continued to keep up the banter with the lads from the Lodge who were equally determined they were not going to finish up with their faces blackened.

However Earl kept on at them to pull their socks up and finally they did; the socks went right up their legs and past their knees.

For little did they realise that when they had conked out for a few hours, Earl had removed their shoes; and socks, blackened their feet, then cut the toes off the socks, before putting them back on four of '*Irvine's hardest*' – but unsuspecting friends.

## BELLSHILL

**One of the many occasions during which we paraded in Bellshill was during the annual Orange Celebrations in July.**

On our arrival and as is the norm we were staying with the Lodge Brethren and Friends.

**God of time and eternity; whose Son reigns as servant, not master; we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed the Nation, the Realms and territories with Elizabeth our beloved and Glorious Queen in this year of Jubilee.**

One such person we took to was a man called Frazee and whilst he

may have been small in stature, he was really big in life.



**CONGRATULATIONS FROM  
THE APPRENTICE BOYS H/Q**

**Associated Clubs Apprentice Boys of Derry  
General Committee.**

Memorial Hall  
13, Society Street  
Londonderry  
BT48 6PJ

I am pleased to have the opportunity to convey my hearty congratulations to Whiterock Flute Band on reaching their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

It is also my privilege on behalf of all Loyalists in Londonderry, to extend our appreciation and thanks for your regular attendance at our annual commemorations, to celebrate the Closing of the Gates in December and the Relief of Londonderry in August. We acknowledge your support through the years, especially during the early 1970s, when the Relief Parade was banned by the N.I. Minister of Home Affairs. Irrespective of the decision to prohibit the procession, the appearance of Whiterock F.B. ensured that the memory of the Defenders of Londonderry would be commemorated, with the band again leading the way and a parade taking place. Armoured cars, tanks and barred wire were no obstacles to Whiterock Flute Band.

Most people will agree that there is something different, perhaps even exceptionally unique about the band. I am privileged to have had the pleasure and the enjoyment of walking behind them on a number of occasions, whilst on parade with the Apprentice Boys Association. The distinctive beat of their drums, the characteristic style of their march and the traditional music and tunes that they play, ensure Whiterock create a standard for many bands to try and imitate, but never emulate.

I salute your commitment and dedication to the Loyalist Cause and trust that your uniqueness will continue to be an inspiration and motivation to everyone accompanying you on parade. I trust you will continue to be ambassadors in all your endeavours. May I raise a toast to Whiterock Flute Band, The Pride of Ulster.

With every good wish for another 50 glorious years.

I Am,

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

William Moore,  
General Secretary.

**The Worshipful Master, Officers  
Bearers & Brethren of:**

**~ Sons of Donegal ~**

**Loyal Orange Lodge No. 1301**

**(Sandy Row, District No. 5 Belfast)**

would like to wish the members of  
the Whiterock Flute Band  
continued success during their  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012



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Earl and Raymond Buchanan, Billy Osborne and I were to stay with him, so he gave us a spare set of keys, a free run whilst in his house and told us he would see us in the morning, as he was going to stay in his girlfriend's house that night.

**Anyhow you can imagine what we got up to as usual. After a bit of horse play, I got my own back on Earl who finished up blackened from head to toe, even his watch got it, so he couldn't even tell the time.**

After I had finished, the liquid polish went out through the third story window; *open of course!*

### GRAFFITI

Someone must have found it on the ground and decided to graffiti the wall of the flat.

When Frazee came back the next morning and saw the walls, he came in like a baiting bear so much so that Earl, Raymond and Ossie locked themselves in the bathroom.

**He was going mental with my so-called friends laughing in the bathroom; shouting out for me to fight him as I was big enough.**

He might have been small, but he was able to high-kick the light attached to the ceiling. Thankfully however I was able to convince him it wasn't us and after a few minutes calmed him down.

*Frazee was a bit of a hard man okay for when he took his shirt off, he had quite a few stab wounds, and I think I had a very lucky escape that night*

**Later on Frazee decided to have a party in his flat. It might have been one of the best house parties I've ever being at, but my one vital mistake was to fall asleep.**

At about 4 o'clock in the morning, I woke up and my head felt really heavy; Earl had got his own back for my earlier prank.

**He had used a very large tube of toothpaste to create a ninety-nine ice-cream cone on my head and so for the next three weeks every time I washed my hair, all I could smell was 'mint'.**

One of the times the Band was parading in Wilshaw and we were staying in a wee hotel where the bar would be kept open late, just for its residents.

We were singing along to the karaoke, having a few drinks and anytime someone got a round in, we told the barman to get one for himself.

This went on for a few rounds when he came from the back of the bar and brought over two large bottles of vodka and whiskey.

We looked at each other first before telling him that it was okay and to put them back as we didn't want him to get the sack; however to our surprise he told us he was the owner.

**The night went on and on so quickly, until we heard the door getting knocked hard. When someone opened it, there were the police but instead of telling us off for the noise, simply told us to have a good time but turn the karaoke off as it was almost six o'clock on a Sunday morning.**

**And the moral of the story is, when in Earl's company never fall asleep first?**

During one of our parades accompanying the Bellshill Lodge we have the added privilege of having in the ranks, for the day two young



Bellshill Ladies who played in the Motherwell Amateur Flute Band.

**Indeed it was a pleasure to have a couple of truly brilliant, lady-flautists (circled) accompany us in our ranks, during that particular procession and another first for the Whiterock lads, as our picture shows. But HATS ON next time girls, never mind the hairdos!!**

### **GRAEME REID**

**Brother Graeme Reid of Bellshill gives us his personal thoughts:**

"The Pride of Milnwood L.O.L. No. 186 was formed during late 1907 in the same named local area of Bellshill and throughout our long history; friendships were formed with many other Lodges and Bands.

However one such friendship was, and continues to be, maintained with the Whiterock Flute Band.

Although now Secretary of the Lodge, as a lad I was also brought up on the legend of the 'Whiterock', whilst being young

**enough to carry the many various years the Band was engaged to accompany us on parade.**

In 1964, LOL 33, Bellshill, gave us the details of a Belfast Band for the July parade as this Lodge already had an engagement with another at the time.

At our Lodge meeting on 6th of March 1964, it was reported that the Secretary had written to a "Whiterock Flute Band Belfast" with regard to our July Demonstration.

### **MUSSELBURGH**

At the next meeting, it was confirmed that the Band would parade with us to Musselburgh. And on the 11th July 1964, Whiterock Flute Band travelled over and duly paraded in Scotland for the first time.

**Lodge records indicate that the Band travelled on the early Saturday morning sailing from Belfast - the brethren from the Lodge and their families, provided breakfast and after the parade, a**

**tea was there on our arrival at nearby Bothwell Public Hall.**

The Worshipful Master of LOL 186 at that time was the late Brother James Foster, who was also the Lodge Secretary for many years.

**History was made again once more, in 1966, when the Lodge and Band paraded through Birkenshaw, not far from Bellshill to uplift the Worshipful Master at his home - the first time such a procession or Bands and Orange Brethren had been assembling there for many years.**

Also that year, the Band travelled on the Friday night, rather than the Saturday morning. Members of the Band stayed with Lodge members for the first time, before leaving Bellshill at eight o'clock for the late return sailing on the Saturday night.

Previously the local Lodge also held an associate Church Parade the Sunday following the Boyne celebration, where the Band also had participated in several of these, despite a full days fluting on the Saturday before; and an even heavier night thereafter.

***In 1968 however, the parade had to be abandoned due to the typical Scottish Summer downpours.***

The Band demonstrated with LOL 186 every July from 1964 to 1972, and also during 1976 and 1977.

**To this day, happy memories of the visitations of the Whiterock Flute Band are still spoken off within the ranks of LOL 186 as well as by many folk, in and around the greater Bellshill locality.**

During one of the years the Band was in Bellshill, the Brethren were also to learn with sadness of the sudden death of young David Sales, along with many other memories which were not so regretful or so equally sad.

Senior members of the Lodge recall those many happy times, and regrettably the few unfortunate occasions also.

## **HALFWAY HOUSE**

Neil Reid the longest serving member of the Lodge, is now eighty-two years old and fondly recalls the years when the Band paraded with LOL 186.

**He fondly remembers the Band parading past the Halfway House in Bellshill a pub owned at that time by former Celtic Manager, Billy McNeill, during which they played "Follow Follow", just to please his nibs the landlord and punters and truly make their day, with the sounds and strains all the way from loyal Ulster!!**

During those years, Brian Irvine the Band's Drum-Major stayed with Neil when the lads travelled over to Scotland.

Neil also cites his fond memories and good friendships with Joe Proctor and Davy "Winks" Williamson and each July he still looks out for the Band, especially Alex Thomson who is of course the longest serving member of the Band.

Adam Swan and Robert Simpson still reminisce of happy times parading with both the Whiterock



Band and Whiterock LOL 974 to Finaghy.

**And to this day, Samuel Steele and other Brethren belonging to the Bellshill Lodge remain good friends with Brother Drew Johnston, who travels over regularly for the main processions each year.**

Other names that are to the fore during conversations with senior members of the Bellshill Lodge include Artie Shaw, Roy Graham and Dennis Sales – such names that will no doubt stir fond memories in Belfast.

**So here's to the Whiterock Flute Band; on behalf of the Worshipful**

# **XL STORES**

**CRUMLIN ROAD BELFAST**

**XL is a local convenience store selling a variety of snacks, drinks, newspapers, magazines, cigarettes and confectionery as well as stocking a selection of groceries.**

**Contact Bill McGookin.**

**XL Stores would like to wish the Whiterock Flute Band every success during their Golden Jubilee in 2012 and for future years.**

Master; Office Bearers and Brethren belonging to LOL No. 186 may you celebrate your fiftieth anniversary year with pride and perfection as is you're wont, as is and has been, you're dedication, at all times

We will also look forward to being represented at your parade and

commemorative day on Saturday 23rd of June this year in which we hope once again to meet up with auld acquaintances and most certainly, make many more new friends on the Shankill Road.

Here's to the next fifty years and beyond and yes, No Surrender!!



# Canmore Stores

## ~ Shankill Road ~

Your local News Agency for groceries; Pay point and ATM available. Proprietor Davy Freel, would like to wish the Whiterock Flute Band a very Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and all the best for the future.

**NUMBER ONE YET AGAIN!!**

# Best all round band



That was the accolade afforded to the members of Whiterock Flute Band by the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter when they were judged to be the best all round band on the Last Saturday in August demonstration in Lisburn and were awarded the City Grand Masters Certificate by well known Shankill

man Billy Mawhinney on behalf of Dr Victor Ryan at a recent event in Highfield Rangers.

Rab Hillis said, "This is a great honour for the band and a fitting tribute to our members as we end another successful year. We are always looking for new members so if anyone is interested we practice every

Tuesday night in Highfield Rangers. As part of fundraising programme are really pleased to bringing a new face to Shankill. Gene Fitzpat Ulster's Number comedian will be the appearing at our dan the Ulster Rangers Saturday October 13th tickets are a snip at £

**During the annual, Royal Black Preceptory Demonstration on the 'last Saturday' in August 2009, Whiterock Flute Band was awarded the City Grand Master's all-round Band on the Institution's traditional day.**



Apprentice Boys of Derry Lord Carson Memorial Parade 1985

## **ALBUS SILICUS VOLITO MANUS ~ No Kidding!!**

So, **WHITEROCK** - what does it mean? *Well in Latin (if anyone is into that deadpan lingo, it translates as.. ALBUS SILICUS VOLITO MANUS – honest!!*

However if you look upwards towards the **Blackmountain** you will see large rock formations of limestone on the face of the mountain but because of the passage of time it is not as white as it used to look, hence the word **Whiterock** or its Irish translation - *Carraige Baine*.

And if one had the (mis)fortune to be in a black-hack (taxi to you and me) travelling west up Castle Street, along Divis Street and the Falls Road!! – and see this sign-name on the windscreen, then you know it's going to the Whiterock Road and for you – *probably the wrong or long way home, if you arrive home at all that is!!*.

The Ballygomartin Road at the top of the Shankill was originally known as the Whiterock Road; the name being derived from the horse-drawn carts that carried the limestone from the mountain quarries into town.

### **HIGHFERN**

As this traffic moved down the road falling dust would settle on the surface giving the road an appearance of white rock.

**My earliest memories I had were of the Whiterock Band leaving our family home in Highfern Gardens in Highfield Estate where they were given tea and sandwiches etc**

*- I don't think there were any Becks, Bud or bottles of WKD then - they were all tea-total obviously in those days!*

Big Geordie Grace reminded me that they were all playing cards during the Friday night before going to Londonderry the following morning and my brother John was also going along just for the craic.

He had just bought new jeans for the occasion, washed them, as ye do, hung them out on the line and went back to playing cards into the early hours.

The next morning John was getting ready to go to the Maiden City for the Apprentice Boys parade, when he realised that during the night when they were all studiously engaged in the card school, some rascal had taken the golden opportunity to pinch his new jeans from the line. He never did find out who it was, by the way!!

### **PARIS BUNS**

**Some of the places myself and other members of the Band would have been familiar with when we were growing up was the Eglington bakery shop for Paris Buns and broken biscuits and running from Highfield across fields (where Springmartin Estate now stands) to both my sisters' flats.**

They lived in the nearby Moyard Estate and New Barnsley directly behind the Henry Taggart Memorial Hall on the Springfield Road.

My nephew, Paul Armstrong, went to Vere Foster School in Moyard then a predominantly Prod area until 1969.

I attended Springhill Primary later to Blackmountain Primary.

We would have played around the Rock Dam catching 'spricks' (tadpoles), frogs and bees in milk bottles and wee jam jars.

This all took place around the old Castle as it was to us then but it was actually a beetling mill on the mountain.

In 1969 my mother, dad, our Alex and myself move to what we regarded as the countryside, into a new house in a new estate at the bottom of Blackmountain called Springmartin - fresh air, green fields all around and the smell of nature and cut grass, where the Blackmountain became another real playground for me.

### STRING BOY

I can remember one Twelfth of July doing 'string boy' for the Whiterock Lodge and afterwards outside the Orange Hall in my hand was placed a shinning new fifty pence for me - decimalization had arrived or new money as it was called in them days, but to us kids it was still 'ten bob.'

**Whiterock Orange Hall (pictured) was opened on 28th June 1958 and ran bingo evenings as well as holding regular Saturday night dances etc with the help of Andrew Johnson (Snr) and other members of the Lodge.**

They were attended by both Roman Catholics and Protestants from the local surrounding areas of New



Barnsley, Moyard, Highfield and Ballymurphy.

**Johnstone Kirkpatrick, Victor Lonsdale and his wife Hazel along with Andy Neil ran the local Sunday school there between the three plus years, between 1968 and 1971.**

Every Sunday, a wee minibus drove round Springmartin Estate and the surrounding areas collecting local kids to take them to the kids' afternoon scripture mission in the Hall.



All four kind Christian folk, worked there for a number of years on behalf of the entire community, arranging speakers which included the Rev Ian Paisley and Pastor Willie Mullan.

*The troubles got really bad, following internment in August 1971 in the Province and because of the geographics of the area, Springmartin bore the brunt of civil strife; and riots at its junction with the main Springfield Road were a nightly, common thing, throughout that particular month, from republican gunmen.*

Even the quality of the construction when the Springmartin homes were built, also came to light in what was to be one of the biggest gun battles of the troubles.

## PARAS

Bullets directed towards houses in the estate just went straight through the boundary and outer walls so folk were not safe in what they thought was total sanctuary; a haven in their own homes.

Anyhow, when the Provos fired at the army, billeted in Henry Taggart Hall on the Springfield Road, the 'Paras' returned fire, killing eleven males in one night and despite the fact that it was a retaliatory response to the Provos murderous attacks on the soldiers in the barracks, and innocent Prods in the nearby estates, of course nationalists pointed the blame at the army with the Shinners traditional, overbearing of hatred publicity generating, propaganda machine.

On a nightly basis the noise of the helicopter was always overhead with

a powerful searchlight combing the area and illumining the bedrooms regularly.

**One evening in the summer the trouble was really bad and while I was in my house a man and his family appeared in my living room.**

They had lived in Springfield Park in a semi-detached house with a garage etc. Springfield Park was at the bottom of my street separated by a fence. My father asked what had happened and the man replied they had to leave their home due to the trouble in Springfield Park.

**When he was asked about his car, clothes, furniture etc and where they were he replied what he had on was all that he had in the world. His wife and family had to leave their nice semi-detached house and all their belongings in order to escape the trouble.**

While all this was going on my primary school, Blackmountain became an army base with blacked out windows and watch towers at each end of the school.

## LIVERPOOL

**Because of the daily and nightly gunfire, families from Springmartin moved into either the primary school or army base where the children slept on mattresses and ate rations supplied by the troops.**

Our football pitch doubled as a helicopter landing pad which was used on an almost daily basis by the army.

**Lots of times you would have been playing football then a lot of land rovers would have arrived then you just knew a helicopter was about to land so football was stopped for a while.**

**While this was unfolding on TV news a lady called Elsie Doyle (pictured right) and members of the Orange Lodges in Liverpool decided to do something about the situation in Springmartin and came over to Belfast.**

They met the local minister Reverend Fred Baillie from Saint. Columba's Parish Church, several members of the Orange Order and some local residents.

Double decker buses soon arrived at the primary school in August 1971 which at that time on the news and in the papers had become a refugee centre.

### **BOGSIDERS**

Only women and children were to be evacuated to Liverpool and on 13th August 1971, two years to the day that the first stone was thrown by the nationalist Bogside in Londonderry at the Apprentice Boys parade in 1969, the first group of refugees arrived at 06:30 in the early hours of the morning at the Port of Liverpool to be met by Elsie and her group of willing and helpful volunteers.

The youngest members in my group were my niece and nephew eight - month old twins Jean and John Thompson. The oldest refugee was Mary Kavanagh a sixty-seven year old widow (pictured left).



We were photographed as a group with suitcases and I still have the photograph.

**Derrick Hill a reporter with the Liverpool echo newspaper ran daily reports as to what was happening as did the Newsletter and Belfast Telegraph at that time.**

Forty years on however, the children of '71 have all grown up.

But those who were evacuated from the burning streets of Belfast to Liverpool have not forgotten and appreciated that help and assistance by the folk of Liverpool.

**Around 100 people attended an emotional reunion for the Liverpool evacuees organised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland on August 18th last year, and chief guest was the lady who organised the evacuation that August forty years ago, Mrs Elsie Dole.**

Elsie was flown from Liverpool back to Belfast for the unique occasion, by the Grand Orange Lodge of England, and a presentation was made to her by the Grand Master of Ireland, Edward Stevenson on behalf of the Institution here.

Former evacuees







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***Come along for the craic -  
All Members & Guests Welcome***

As we come to a close in our Commemorative Booklet, let us also, as we celebrate our Golden Jubilee Year, remember the fifteen hundred poor souls who lost their lives in the tragic sinking of that great ship RMS Titanic, built in Belfast, which floundered among the north Atlantic icebergs during her maiden voyage 100 years ago, on the evening of 14/15<sup>th</sup> April 1912.

Lest We Forget



AND FINALLY TO FINISH OFF OUR BOOKLET'S PICTORIAL SELECTION, THIS ONE SHOWS THE WHITEROCK FLUTE BAND ON THE TRADITIONAL WHITEROCK DAY PARADE 2011, ON THE MAIN SPRINGFIELD ROAD BEFORE TURNING INTO THE SPRINGMARTIN ROAD; THE POLICE STATION BACK DROP IS SURELY A CONSTANT REMINDER OF THOSE PREVIOUS SECURITY BUILDINGS WHICH STOOD AS A BRIDGEHEAD AGAINST THE UNWARRANTED NIGHTLY REPUBLICAN THREATS THAT LOCAL FOLK HAVE HAD TO ENDURE FOR DECADES OF YEARS.

# PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS

1960's  
 Arty Shaw  
 Andy Townsley  
 Albert Lowry  
 Andrew Johnson  
 Alex Thompson  
 Alan Little  
 Andy Flemming  
 Billy Patterson  
 Billy Harrison  
 Brian Stirling  
 Billy Owens  
 Billy Simons  
 Billy Connelly  
 Billy Coleman  
 Billy King  
 Billy Hughes  
 Brian Irvine  
 Brian Anderson  
 Brain Stewart  
 Billy Brown  
 Davy Williamson  
 David Sales  
 Davy Graham  
 Dennis Sales  
 Drew Johnston  
 Denis Buchanan  
 David Proctor  
 Eddie Dunlop  
 Eddie Hill  
 Earl Buchanan  
 George Gregg  
 Freddie Greenice  
 George Gray  
 Gilbert Watson  
 Geordie Greenhill  
 Geordie Grace  
 Geoffrey Greenice  
 Harry Cleland  
 Harry Larkin  
 Hugo  
 Isaac Crocker  
 Jim Armstrong  
 Jack King  
 John McClatchy  
 Johnny Rankin  
 Joe Dunlop  
 Joe Proctor  
 J. Proctor Junior  
 Jim McClatchy  
 Joe Fleming  
 Jim Moore  
 Joey Trainor  
 Jimmy Nixon  
 Norman Buchanan  
 Roy Graham  
 Roy Coleman  
 Roy Fleming  
 Rabbie Moore  
 Ricky Scott  
 Trevor Haskins  
 Tom McClure  
 Trevor Hill  
 Sydney Johnston  
 Samuel Nelson  
 Sam Meldrum  
 Samuel 'Hadgie' Thompson

1970's  
 Alex Orr  
 Arty Hill  
 Andy Sterritt  
 Alex McWilliams  
 Billy Reid  
 Beef McCombe  
 Bill Beck  
 Billy Daly  
 Charlie Sterritt  
 Dennis McNab  
 Dickey Larkin  
 Davy Bell  
 Gordon Rowantree  
 Geordie Rowantree  
 Ivan Thompson  
 Jackie Harrison  
 Jim Monteith  
 John Robinson  
 John Haveron  
 Jim Irvine  
 John Hamilton  
 Jim Anderson  
 Lesley 'Boxer' Brown  
 Tom McMullan  
 Norman McKeown  
 Noel Clarke  
 Harry Acheson  
 Raymond Buchanan  
 Roy Mc Keown  
 Robert Ingram  
 Robert Gourley  
 Rab McDougall  
 Ronnie Thompson  
 Roy Orr  
 Stevie Legit  
 Sammy Reid  
 Stanley Brown  
 Stephen Curry  
 Stevie McAllister  
 Tommy Farrell  
 Tommy Harrison  
 Tommy Crawford  
 William Osborne  
 William McKeown  
 Winsor McCullough

1980's  
 Alan Webb  
 Bill Love  
 Billy Johnston  
 Billy Dodds  
 Billy Murphy  
 Bill McCoubrey  
 Colin Johnston  
 Colin Rea  
 Colin Curry  
 Colin Hamilton  
 Davy Fisher  
 Darren Service  
 Davy Fisher Junior  
 Davy Milligan  
 Eddie Gourley  
 Frankie Hill  
 Gary Milne  
 George Grace Junior  
 Ian Faulkner  
 John Branagh  
 John Madden  
 Jackie Coulter  
 Jackson Orr  
 Jim McDonald  
 Jim Taylor  
 Jamesy Cowan  
 Junior Rafferty  
 Jim Ditty  
 Jim Bacon  
 Lesley Greenhill  
 Moe Massey  
 Neil Madden  
 Nigel Smith  
 Norney Branagh  
 Norman McClenand  
 Phillip Verner  
 Paul Daly  
 Roy Massey  
 Robert Gourley  
 R Wellington  
 Raymond Nixon  
 Rab Aiken  
 R. Thompson junior  
 Rab Morrow  
 Steven Frame  
 Stevie Kidd  
 Simon Harrison  
 Terry Hamilton  
 Tommy Flanagan  
 Warren McDonald

1990's  
 Alan Boyd  
 Andy Hill  
 Davy Ferris  
 Darren Buchanan  
 Eddie Blair  
 Gareth Milne  
 James McMullan  
 Jackie Madine  
 Jim Branagh  
 Jonathon Hillis  
 Kyle Anderson  
 Lloyd Larkham  
 Matt Meikle  
 Peter Roundtree  
 Paul Shaw  
 Paul Gourley  
 Rab Hillis  
 R. Buchanan junior  
 Thomson Harrison  
 Tommy Ireland  
 Thomas Jackson  
 William McCart  
 William Knowles  
 William McMullan

2000  
 Andrew Gilliland  
 Adam McMurty  
 Andrew Canavan  
 Bill Townsley  
 Billy Algie  
 Bryan Wilson  
 Christopher Cochrane  
 Curtis Clarke  
 Chris McAdam  
 David Kirk  
 Dale Pankhurst  
 David McCoubrey jun  
 David Moorhead  
 David McCoubrey  
 Gary Clifford  
 Graham Beck  
 George Rowantree  
 Gordon Rowantree  
 Gary Lyttle  
 Johnny Gannor  
 Johnny Reid  
 John Hall  
 James Livingstone  
 John Rowantree  
 Lyndon Larkham  
 Matt Meikle Junior  
 Mark Harrison  
 Mathew Madden  
 Neal McNab  
 Nathan Lyttle  
 Raymond Lecky  
 Robert Courtney  
 Robert Massey  
 Ryan Aiken  
 Stuart Garrett  
 Scott Madden  
 Steven Irvine  
 Stuart Meikle  
 Sammy Fee  
 Thomas McAllister  
 William Gaynorvnie  
 Stuart Meikle  
 Sammy Fee  
 Thomas McAllister  
 William Gaynor

*Celebrating 50 Glorious  
 Years - 1962 ~ 2012*



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