

2000s  
A New Millennium

# ICONIC



## CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The new millennium started the countdown to ILOI Centenary Commemorations in 2003. Lead by George Dawson MLA, the programme looked at its history and legacy with a conference and planned for the future with strategic planning. The Twelfth in Ballymoney was a real home-coming. The following twenty years have been punctuated with a series of Centenaries which the Institution has helped organise as part of the Unionist Centenary Committee.



## DECADES OF CHANGE

The Ulster Unionist Party were eclipsed by a resurgent DUP. A series of defaults by Republicans from a failure to decommission, a spy ring at Stormont and the Northern Bank Robbery led to Stormont being brought down. Eventually the DUP went into government with Sinn Fein/IRA leading to a split which formed Jim Allister's Traditional Unionist Voice.

Victims continued to campaign leading the Love Ulster parade to Dublin, resulting in the worst rioting and destruction that city has witnessed. While victims saw no justice for atrocities like Kingsmills, La Mon, Teeban and countless others, the Bloody Sunday families benefitted from the Saville Enquiry. The Report and subsequent apology from the Prime Minister opened the door to a wave of prosecutions of former soldiers.

Loyalist street protests followed the decision by Belfast City Council to remove the Union Flag. A new generation of young loyalists took to the streets to demand their rights and an end to the one sided process of concessions.

## WINNING WAYS

The 2000s have given us all plenty to celebrate and reflect upon. The Decade of Centenaries has allowed a new generation to learn about and engage with the past. Our story has been well told, from reenactments of key events like the Balmoral Review to schools material to explain the issues and excite children about their heritage.

The outstanding Euro 2016 experience, which many enjoyed firsthand as the Green and White Army travelled to France, has given us a new pride and confidence in our wee country. In 2010 and 2011 Grahame McDowell and Rory McIlroy clinched US Opens before we hosted the 2016 Open Championship at Royal Portrush.

Game of Thrones and the Titanic are amongst the new tourist attractions which draw visitors to our shores. From world class film production to great local TV talent with Derry Girls becoming the most watched British series of all time show just what talent we have here.

In the last two decades Ulster Scots culture, and Orange Heritage have been growing. From our iconic lambege drums, and colourful banners to the bonfires we build each year our culture there is a new found passion.



UEFA EURO2016 FRANCE



ICONIC CELEBRATING NORTHERN IRELAND'S CENTENARY



WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO DO OUR BIT THROUGH COVID, HELPING THE OLDER AND VULNERABLE. WE THANK ALL THE NHS AND OTHER FRONTLINE STAFF.

