

was now living in a care home in Lisburn and DUP Cllr Allan Ewart and I visited her after lunch, spending a lovely afternoon catching up and talking about the up-coming General Election.

Margaret passed away on Friday 5th February 2021. She will be sadly missed.

Below are some excerpts from the Tribute to Margaret by former DUP Mayor of Lisburn, William Leathem. Anyone who wants to know why Ulster Women are so special should read this text. The Funeral for Margaret is available to watch on You Tube, Maze Presbyterian Church, Margaret Tolerton.

Andrew Grocock
Club Chairman

A Tribute to Margaret Tolerton - A Lady Dedicated to "No Surrender"

Each of us will have different memories of Margaret and how we met her. It may have been through the Young Farmers, through her work in the civil service, through her marriage to Dessie, through membership of the Women's Loyal Orange Institution, the Democratic Unionist Party or local government.

A lady, dedicated, loyal, faithful, generous, gracious, loving, always thinking of others; a fundraiser, dignified, determined, principled and a straight talker, which many of us can testify to, especially if we did or said something Margaret didn't agree with.

Following a conversation with Margaret, if anyone left and didn't know Margaret's principled views on Protestantism, Unionism, the Royal Family and, most importantly, her faith, that certainly was not Margaret's fault. Margaret did not suffer fools gladly; I used to call Margaret the diplomatic wing of the party. However, Margaret had many friends and was widely respected from across the political spectrum.

After marrying Dessie, Margaret quickly adopted Magheragall as a second home, namely Low Quarters Orange Hall. In 1992, Margaret joined Magheragall Woman's First Women's Loyal Orange Lodge (WLOL) No. 151. Margaret served in various offices within all levels of Woman's Loyal Orange Institution including Worshipful Mistress WLOL 151, Worshipful District Mistress Antrim District WLOL No 3, former Deputy County Grand Mistress of Country Antrim Grand Orange Lodge, former member Central Committee and the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

When Low Quarters was running any fundraiser events, Dessie and Margaret came along to support these community events. And in many cases, Margaret brought trays full of sandwiches for supper and ballot prizes normally from Marks & Spencer's.

Nearly 20 years ago, we decided to form the Brookmount Cultural & Education Society in Low Quarters. Margaret was elected Grant/Development Officer with Dessie as Treasurer and myself as the Chairman. We spent many hours completing funding application forms and with Margaret's keen eye for detail we were successful in many.

Margaret served on our local council from 2007 to 2019. She helped it grow from a Borough Council to a City Council to its merger with Castlereagh. It was an honour for her political colleagues to elect her as Mayor of Lisburn City Council in 2013. Margaret was a true champion for Dunmurry Cross and Lisburn North. She was always at her happiest when working for those who needed her help the most. One of Margaret's last public engagements was the opening of the 'Tolerton Sports Zone', which was named by the community of Seymour Hill in recognition for all her outstanding work as their Councillor.

As a longstanding member of the Democratic Unionist Party, she held the position of Lagan Valley Association Secretary for many years and was Chair of the Killultagh DUP Branch for the last number of years. In 2019, Margaret attended and chaired a meeting after being collected from the nursing home, such was her determination and spirit.

The Party Leader and First Minister Arlene Foster paying tribute said: "I am so sorry to hear of the death of dear Margaret; she was a strong part of our Lagan Valley team, as a member, Councillor and importantly friend to so many. She loved seeing my crown brooch when I wore it on TV and even bought and sent me another one. Throughout the last few years of battling illness she never gave up, such a strong faith and strong will to live. She had a life well lived."

Unfortunately, we have only been able to cover a small part of Margaret's life, but she was a Loyal Ulster Woman, a True Blue, not just in July but all year round. Margaret knew what it was to be a true Protestant by trusting in and living her life by faith in Christ alone. One of her sayings would be "No Surrender." When Margaret said it, it would have a double meaning; similar to the cry that came out from the siege of Derry during 1688-1689 but also a motto which is part Biblical. "No sir, render, therefore unto Caesar, the things which are Caesar's, and unto God, the things that are God's."

In conclusion, when I think of Margaret I think of this portion of scripture 2nd Timothy C4:V7

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."



Margaret Tolerton as Mayor of Lisburn City Council, 2013-2014, pictured with her Mayoral Consort, William Leathem

Club



Comment

Postal Address:
P O Box 7694
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3XR
www.conservativeuk.com

President:
The Viscount Massereene & Ferrard
Chairman:
Andrew Grocock

Tel: 01279 461456
Fax: 01279 466111

March 2021

AGRESSION BY THE EU

The below article is by our loyal friend Sammy Wilson, DUP MP for East Antrim. I spoke to Sammy when the EU invoked Article 16 of the Northern Irish Protocol and created a 'Hard Border' between Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland over a petty concern that vaccines would enter NI from the Republic.

First Minister Arlene Foster called Article 16 "an act of aggression" and such was the international condemnation the EU swiftly revoked the Article; however, the cat was out of the bag! After years of Brexit negotiations and the EU telling us that there would be violence if an Irish boarder was created, the EU pressed the nuclear option.



It is obvious that NI has become the EU's weapon of choice when it comes to revenge over Brexit and Mr Wilson has detailed below the 'on the ground' issues being faced by our Northern Irish brothers and why the NI Protocol has to go!

Andrew Grocock, Club Chairman

Who would have believed it if they had been told that after, the UK leaving the EU on 1st January, builders in NI bringing home their machinery from jobs they had completed in England would find that they had to abandon their machines at the ferry because there was soil from the English building site in the treads of the tyres? Or who would have thought that goods coming from suppliers in England to NI would have been turned away because the standard wooden pallet on which they were carried did not meet EU standards, resulting in the NI business paying twice for the transport of goods which they didn't receive?

What is the justification for refusing thousands of gardeners across NI the supply of plants and seeds from Great Britain (GB) because the EU claims that any soil residue on these items presents a danger to the safety of the EU horticulture sector, even though on the 31st December 2020 this soil was deemed to be perfectly safe and was freely allowed into EU member-states?

These are but a few examples of how the NI Protocol is affecting trade between the countries which make up the internal market of the UK. The freedom to trade across the UK is one of the fundamental pillars of the Acts of Union which bind together our country. Yet they have been torn down by the Withdrawal Agreement and the NI Protocol.

At the same time, all the promises made by the Prime Minister about never contemplating, let alone legislating, for a border between NI and GB down the Irish Sea, and businesses never needing to fear the additional paperwork or obstructions to their trade, have been broken in pieces. Understandably people, especially unionists in NI, feel betrayed and angry.

The examples above are evidence that the EU intends to fully impose every one of tens of thousands of EU rules listed in over seventy pages of the NI Protocol when it comes to trade between one part of the UK and another part of the same country.



Sammy Wilson DUP MP

ourselves ostracised from the GB market by EU rules and look ahead with horror to the imposition of foreign laws rather than British laws.

The NI Protocol is a humiliation for those who call themselves Conservatives and Unionists and is a betrayal of those who voted for Brexit wherever they live in the UK. I become very angry when I listen to those MPs in Parliament who insist that the NI Protocol must be honoured and implemented, knowing that they would be incandescent with rage if their constituents were economically disadvantaged in the way NI citizens are as a result of an agreement designed to suit the economic demands of the EU and to punish the UK for daring to leave the EU.

“The freedom to trade across the UK is one of the fundamental pillars of the Acts of Union which bind together our country.”

Sammy Wilson DUP MP

The worrying aspect of all this is that we are still living in a grace period where NI is exempt from some of the most damaging EU directives. Also, we still haven't experienced the impact of any new EU laws being imposed on NI, something which the EU is entitled to do because we have been abandoned as part of the EU single market for goods while the rest of our country has broken free. Should these new laws, and existing EU laws, not be followed in NI then the European Court of Justice (ECJ) will be able to decide on the penalties imposed on this part of the UK.

In fact, should the UK government act in a way which gives any GB-based firm an advantage over an EU firm in the NI market, then the EU Commission and the ECJ can penalise the UK. So, for example, subsidising Nissan in Sunderland to make batteries for electric cars could be ruled illegal by the EU because Nissan cars are sold in NI. As the full implications of the NI Protocol are unravelled, it is clear that the Prime Minister has broken promises to those of us who campaigned for Brexit and freedom from the EU, by his acceptance of the unreasonable demands of the EU in the Withdrawal Agreement.

Both the UK government and the EU claim that the NI Protocol was necessary to uphold the Belfast Agreement, preserve peace in NI and avoid a hard border between NI and the Irish Republic. The result has been the hardest of borders between NI and GB, i.e. a hard border dividing up the UK. As I write this piece, I am gazing down into Larne Harbour which is now one of the border crossing points between the part of the UK in which I live and GB, the coastline of which is clearly visible on this bright morning.

As for fostering peace, the checks on trade coming through the port have been cancelled for a week now because of threats to the inspectors. Both local and EU officials have been pulled out for their own safety. The outpouring of anger can only get worse. Unionists quite rightly believe that the promises about our place in the UK being guaranteed by the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement have been torn up as we find

What makes matters worse is that, in order to cover the embarrassment over her disastrous handling of the COVID vaccine purchase, another example of the folly of EU centralisation, Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the EU Commission, was prepared to set aside the NI Protocol to stop an EU firm fulfilling its contract for vaccines with the UK government and put checks on the Irish border in order to impose the export ban. Although she quickly abandoned the plan, it is significant there was no apology. Indeed, she has not ruled out taking such action again in the future.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S EVERLASTING DUTY

Since the departure from these shores of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, some people have commented upon whether their separation from the Royal family may be the precursor to the demise of the Royal family and its role in today's society.

While Prince Harry (or "Haz" as he is apparently referred to by his wife "Megs"), continues to wallow in self-pity and says that his departure from Great Britain may give him the love and happiness that he had hoped for and that he had no other option but to leave this country. He further alleges that, "the media is so powerful..... and that there were toxic false stories of him in the British press."

He was interviewed recently for the "Late Show" by the British comedian James Corden - with both of them filmed sitting on the upper deck of an open-topped bus. In between them was a supposed cake stand and a pot of tea - presumably to depict some kind of old English tradition of having high tea in this fashion. During this "interview", Prince Harry said that he and his wife Megan will, "always continue to serve and that they want to make people happy and change the world in any small way that we can."

This supposedly very serious but puerile slapstick-type interview continued with the pair of them apparently running around in what was supposed to be an assault course, presumably to show how fit Prince Harry still is (Corden wasn't). Perhaps Prince Harry is hoping that he can "serve" as honorary Captain General of the US Marine Corps as he no longer has any association with the British Royal Marines?

Contrast this self-centred individual with other younger members of the Royal family who are serving their country at a time when Her Majesty The Queen has publicly advised that all of us have a duty to be vaccinated to assist in eventually eradicating the COVID-19 virus. She has been joined by Prince Harry's brother, William the Duke of Cambridge, and his wife, Kate, who have warned against "rumours and misinformation" about coronavirus vaccines on social media, saying he and the Duchess "wholeheartedly support having the vaccinations."

Prince Harry's father, the Prince of Wales; who escorted Megan Markel's mother at her daughter's Royal wedding, is among others, including the Duke of Cambridge and the Duchess of Cornwall who have all thanked volunteers and key workers for their great efforts in the vaccine rollout, while Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, has volunteered at a vaccination centre.

Prince Charles continues to serve our country with 146 official engagements in 141 days in 2020 with his sister, Princess Anne the Princess Royal, eclipsing him with 148 official engagements and 145 days carrying out public duties. Hardly surprising, Her Majesty the Queen, who has always said it is her duty to serve the nation, even with the coronavirus lockdown, did 136 official engagements in 130 days.

While Prince Harry and his wife continued to reside in their luxury Californian mansion and dream up causes to "make the world a better place"; give interviews to Oprah Winfrey, secure more TV deals in America, the Royal family in Great Britain continued to serve the nation and never more so than at this time of national lockdown.

Meanwhile, to put things into perspective, *The Mail on Sunday* on 28th February 2021 reported that they had asked dozens of people in small communities across the US to identify the Duke of Sussex from a recent photograph but he was repeatedly mistaken for a different person - if he was recognised at all. Some replied that they had no idea who he was with others saying that he thought he had seen him on a wanted poster at the post office or asking if he was one of Donald Trump's kids. One even suggested that he was a basket-ball player but had no idea what team he was on.

Her Majesty the Queen has always said it is her duty to serve the nation

In the rolling prairies of northern Texas, in the small town of Princeton, home to 16,000 people, many apparently were clueless when shown the photograph but several did manage to identify him.

The local barber couldn't name him but said he was a prince from Europe. At the laundrette, a Mrs Hamilton did identify him as Prince Harry as she is ardent fan of the Royal Family and said that Harry and Megan had donated to a Texas women's shelter which had been damaged in a storm. Asked if the Sussexes should visit Princeton, Mrs Hamilton added, "They're a little too liberal for me. I don't really agree with their politics. Hopefully, they won't come to Texas."

Perhaps the "prince from Europe" can only hope that his interview with Oprah Winfrey will increase his profile amongst the American population but, whatever "beans are spilled" regarding his and his wife's relationship with the Royal Family, I somehow feel the American public will not be very sympathetic or understanding to one who has enjoyed such privileges in life. Yes, his mother died in tragic circumstances but thousands of other less fortunate people have had to cope with similar experiences and come to terms with life afterwards. For a few years, the couple will be a quirky novelty on the social circuit but social circuits like the wind can change very quickly.

Meanwhile, uncomplaining, Her Majesty The Queen will continue her dedicated lifelong service to this nation with dignity and compassion.

Martin Pritchard
Publications Editor

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVE

Some twenty years ago, a small delegation of Conservative Monday Club members were booked to fly out on a Friday afternoon for an Orange Hall meeting in Moira, Northern Ireland, where The Hon W Denis Walker would be the guest speaker. To cut a long story long, the flight was severely delayed and we eventually arrived at the Orange Hall in Moira at 1:00am the following morning.

Incredibly, there were still over twenty locals waiting for our arrival. One of the people running the hall was Margaret Tolerton, who was busy serving tea and handing out cakes while Denis spoke of Rhodesia and the perils of dealing with terrorists in government. As we left, I thanked Margaret for looking after us.

We eventually got to our B&B at 3:00am and were woken at 8:00am to be driven to another Orange Hall in Lisburn, where Denis spoke to the business community over tea and bacon sandwiches. The person handing out the tea and bacon was Margaret Tolerton.

Margaret joined the Monday Club and, over the years, she was always there to meet us on our visits to Northern Ireland and DUP Conference trips. I last saw Margaret in November 2018 while doing some campaigning in North Belfast; she