

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



January 2020

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No. 430



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Many Lodges consider that the sign of prosperity and success is a healthy bank balance, and a plentiful supply of gentlemen from the outside world, willing to take the considerable step to becoming one of us. One cannot argue with the logic, as it cannot be denied that without funds to pay their way in life, many Lodges would not survive. Similarly, without a steady supply of Candidates to provide the new blood, many Lodges could wither and die. It may take twenty years or more to happen, but perhaps we would be much kinder to simply call a halt. What is to be gained by prolonging the suffering of a Lodge which is only surviving by the sheer willpower of a small group of dedicated Brethren who will fight tooth and nail to ensure that their Lodge survives, come what may. The longer they exist without Candidates, the poorer their ceremonial work becomes. The poorer their degree work, the less satisfying and rewarding their meetings become, and so on in an ever-decreasing circle, until they reach a state where they have absolutely nothing to offer an prospective candidates. From a very different perspective, it is plain that even with sufficient funds, and a regular supply of Candidates, many lodges are still struggling to retain the interest of their membership, who drift away never to return. It is evident that Lodges who simply churn out degrees every regular meeting, are still losing members.

One fine example of change is Lodge Randolph who almost 20 years ago, despite the lack of Candidates over several years, survived until they reached a point where they stood at the edge of a precipice. They were staring extinction straight in the face, and had it not been for some of the senior office-bearers within the PGL who stepped in, it is debatable if they would still be here today.

Thankfully they were preserved and resuscitated into a vibrant and successful format, by a growing number of Brethren, who may have come up with a format which if applied sensibly elsewhere in Freemasonry, could indeed be part of the solution we have been waiting for many years. But before we hail this new "miracle cure" for all the Craft's ailments, let's examine what makes it successful, and how certain elements of this can be applied.

A "Lodge of Enlightenment" is a valuable, and most welcome addition to Freemasonry, but it will never fully replace the system which has existed for hundred of years. What it does illustrate, is that we must adapt to a rapidly changing world, and provide of Brethren with something that not only appeals to them, but maintains much of what is good and right about our fraternity. What is becoming evident is that perhaps a combination of "Enlightenment" and "Initiation" is the way ahead. The former partially reducing the need for the latter, by providing an alternative which stimulates the Brethren who have become bored by watching degrees over and over.

307 has over the last 25 years or so embraced this concept, by reducing the number of "working meetings", substituting something which is interesting and entertaining. The number of requests we receive to take them on the road, clearly illustrates this. Hopefully this will continue and further alternatives will be sought as we strive to maintain a freshness that evolves and continues to appeal to our Brethren. A balance of the traditional - well worked and to a high standard, offset by the fresh and innovative approach could well be the successful formula, that Lodges have been seeking for many years.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac cordially requests your attendance at the forthcoming Meetings of the Lodge to be held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead on :

Friday 7th February 2020

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Followed by

196th Anniversary Dinner

Harmony

Tuesday 18th February 2020

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

Conferred by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 7th January, the Installing Masters, assisted by the Past Masters of Lodge Union & Crown, carried out an excellent Master Mason degree, on the following Candidate :

John McIntyre

The efforts of all involved, were greatly appreciated by all in attendance, and the Brethren thereafter retired to enjoy a fine evening's harmony downstairs.

Opened : 7-30 pm

Lodge Closed : 9.34 pm

Attendance : 51

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 21st January, the Brethren of Lodge Nitshill, No.1478, led by their Right Worshipful Master - Bro Willie Watson, conferred an excellent Entered Apprentice Degree on :

James Arnott Hutchison

Thereafter the Brethren of both Lodges retired to the Function Suite where they enjoyed a fine harmony, enjoyed by all.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.38pm

Attendance :93



100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes were :

7th January £20 : **Bro Craig Haugh** & £10 : **Bro Hugh Cattigan PM**

21st January £20 : **Bro Bryce McCaig** & £10 : **Bro Kenny Beatts**

Bro George McGrandles PM, our Worthy Treasurer is still taking names for this year at the annual fee of £10, and anyone interested should see Bro George, as soon as possible.



Forthcoming Visitations

The Lodges has accepted invitations from the following Lodges to confer the Dramatised 'Prisoner of War' degree in the months ahead :

Saturday 14th March Lodge Dunoon Argyll, No.335

Friday 1st May Lodge Darvel, No.971

Saturday 27th June PGL of Aberdeenshire

As further details of each visitation becomes available, we will inform the Brethren accordingly

Visitation to Neilston

On Thursday 9th January the Lodge headed up to our near neighbours, Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167, in Neilston, where we had been invited to confer the EA Degree. Bro Ronnie MacIsaac RWM was delighted with the support he received with 27 Brethren entering the Lodge – ‘The Sea of Blue’.

As we were their ‘First Foots’ a suitable gift of the ‘Amber Nectar’ was handed over by our RWM and thereafter, we conferred a fine Entered Apprentice Degree upon a substitute candidate, before afterwards retiring to the Harmony where the Brethren enjoyed each other’s company.



Masonic Trivia

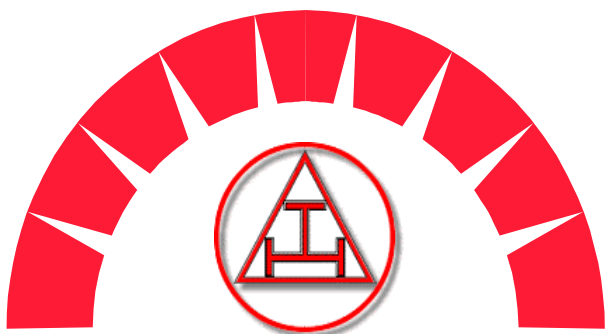
- A Union general, Bro Thomas H. Benton, Grand Master in Iowa, 1860 - 1862, saved Albert Pike's Masonic Library at Little Rock, Arkansas, by placing Federal Troops around Pike's home to safeguard it, when the city was invaded during the American Civil War.
- Washington Chapter No.3 of Portsmouth, New Hampshire for many years announced its meetings via the town crier, who received the equivalent of 8 cents each time he announced a Lodge meeting.
- Bro Frederick A. Bartholdi, a Freemason, designed the statue of Liberty in New York harbour, and the Grand Lodge of NY laid the corner stone on August 5, 1885.
- Bernard Pierre Mangam, Marshall of France and a Senator, was appointed Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France and served from 1862 to 1865. This was rather unusual because he was not a Mason. He was appointed by Emperor Napoleon, III.
- Francis Stephens, the Duke of Lorraine, received the first two Masonic degrees in 1731 in a special Lodge convened at The Hague, Netherlands, becoming the first known royal Freemason. Later he received the Master Mason degree in England.
- John Hancock was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts. He was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence. He wrote in a bold flourishing style. When asked why his signature was so large, he replied: "So that King George III may read it without putting on his spectacles."
- Dr. Joseph Guillotine was a member of Concorde Fraternal Lodge of Paris and a member of the French Assembly. He invented the device that bears his name and was later executed with one.
- The Rev. William Dodd, first Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England, was hanged for forgery on June 2nd, 1777.



Dates for your Diary

- Friday 7th Feb** A short business meeting of the Lodge, followed by the 196th Anniversary Dinner
- Monday 17th Feb** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 18th Feb** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an FC Degree will be conferred by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No,1167
- Monday 24th Feb** Visitation to Lodge Nitshill, No.1478, where we have been invited to confer an MM Degree.

In addition to the above, the R.W.M. is constantly involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges, details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them)



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 14th January, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC conferred a fine Mark Affiliation and Excellent Masters Degree on
Bro Bryn Logan

(a member of Lodge Nitshill, No.1478)

All of those involved are to be congratulated for what was a good performance, appreciated by all those in attendance. On the same evening, MEC James Kavanagh PZ was affiliated into the Chapter, with the Obligation being administered by MEC George Paul PZ.

MEC Harry Lloyd MEZ extends a cordial invitation to all Companions to attend the next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, which is scheduled for: **Tuesday 11th February 2020** at 8.15pm, where the Provincial Grand Chapter will be paying their annual visit to the Chapter.

The Swedish Rite : An Introduction



The four Grand Lodges in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland all work “The Swedish Rite” which was developed in Stockholm during the second half of the 18th Century and finished in the year 1800 under the leadership of Duke Carl, later King Carl XIII.

The four Orders, The Swedish Order of Freemasons (SFMO), The Danish Order of Freemasons (DDFO), The Norwegian Order of Freemasons (DNFO) and The Icelandic Order of Freemasons (IFMO) are all Sovereign Masonic bodies working the same Rituals. In Finland there is a Grand Chapter which as a part of the Swedish Order of Freemasons and also Works in The Swedish Rite. The

Origins The Swedish Rite has its origin in the Work led initially by Carl Friedrich Eckleff and subsequently Duke Carl of Södermanland (the later King Carl XIII of Sweden) during the second half of the 18th Century and finished in 1800. The Rituals and the fundamental laws of Carl XIII governs the system and still constitute – with some few modifications – the Foundation for the work of The Swedish Rite.

It is a progressive, continuous and homogenous system through its Eleven Degrees. Each Degree leads to the next and each Degree sums up the contents of the preceding Degrees. To ensure that each Degree is kept separate and distinct, different Lodge rooms are used, each specially designed for its Degree. The way of working is also unique, based on the Lodge room, the Ritual and the individual examination in each Degree. There is one ritual for advancement in each degree and the Worshipful Master follows a manuscript when working a Ceremony in Lodge but some parts of the Ritual must be memorised and performed by heart.

The Formation of the Grand Lodges The Swedish Rite is practised in Sweden as ‘Svenska Frimurare orden’, in Norway it is found in ‘Den Norske Frimurerorden’, in Denmark it exists as ‘Den Danske Frimmurerorden’, and



the Icelandic order ‘Frimurarareglan a Island’, and the western part of Finland and in Germany under ‘Grosse Landesloge der Freimaurer von Deutschland’. The Grand Lodge of Denmark also Charters Lodges under other Rites as alternatives to the first three Degrees only. The Grand Lodge of Finland allows the Grand Lodge of Sweden to Charter Lodges and Chapters in its own jurisdiction, while the Grand Lodge of Spain has some Danish Lodges and also Norwegian Lodges working the Swedish Rite.

It is not so widely known that it was one of the three great strands of the historical Russian Constitution. It would therefore be fair to describe it as a major system and one that differs greatly from the Anglo-American forms we are accustomed to. The first Lodge in Norway existed in 1749 as a ‘Blue’ Craft Lodge, in 1752 under the Strict Observance, in 1782 as the Rectified Scottish Rite and finally The

Swedish Rite has been practised in Norway since 1818, in Denmark since 1885 and Iceland since 1919. Figure

A Grand Lodge incorporating a Higher Degrees system of French origin, was formed in Sweden in 1759. In 1765 an English Province was established in Sweden. In 1770 the Provincial Grand Master was removed after disagreements with the Swedish Grand Lodge and the Province gradually died out.

Christianity and Principles of the Rite

The Swedish Rite is explicitly based on Christianity. In the Swedish Rite the Brother is supposed to be searching for his personal development and to practice friendship and charity. He is supposed to accept the Christian Faith. Candidates must be recommended by two faddrar (sponsors, patrons and mentors) who must hold at least the Third Degree. Applicants must be of the stated minimum age, Christian and of good repute. There is only one form of accepted Ritual for each Degree, and deviations are not permitted.

The Degree Workings were established in 1800, but the language of the Rituals is from the 1700's. During the Candidate's travel through the Degrees he is supposed to grow in his own understanding of the basic principles of Religion and Christianity that should bring value to his life and develop his relation to his fellow Brother. In this way he is also to grow in his understanding of, and his belief in God. He is guided closer to the answers to eternal questions: Where do I come from, what is my task in life and where am I heading?

During the whole progress from the First Degree to the Tenth, the Brother is a Member of the same Order. Each Division of Degrees: the St John's Lodge, the St Andrew's Lodge and the Chapter, enjoys a certain amount of autonomy, but they are all under the Rule of the Sovereign Grand Master/Commander. The Swedish Rite maintains a high degree of secrecy about virtually everything connected with its Workings and there appears to be no authoritative 'exposures' and therefore there are only a few remarks in very general terms so as not to offend against the hospitable Swedish Rite masons' and a strict sense of Fidelity is to be observed.

Whilst dual membership of Lodges is allowed in Denmark, Sweden and Iceland, in Norway you must resign from one Lodge before affiliating to or forming another Lodge.

Originally, progression from one Degree to another was not easy. To progress a Brother had to attend his Lodge on a regular basis and prove proficiency in the former Degrees. Gloves are worn in all Degrees, and top hat is worn by all Officers. The tradition of wearing tails by all members is only used in Denmark and Iceland.

The System is grouped into Three Divisions with Ten Degrees altogether, which every Brother can reach eventually. Progression through the Degrees is slow, especially in the Higher Degrees, although with some variation between the four countries. A Brother will typically reach the X Degree after some 12-20 years after his entry as an Apprentice in the St John's Lodge. The last XI Degree called Knight Commander of the Red Cross is almost exclusively for officers in the Grand Lodge.



(We thank Bro John E Hughes PM, well-known within 307 for this information, which will be continued next month)

BITS & PIECES

- Tickets will shortly be available for the rescheduled Sportsman's Dinner which is being held on **Friday 15th May**. Watch this space !
- It was good to hear of another two potential Candidates papers being read out recently. Both are younger gentlemen, and this is excellent news.
- It was great to see a total of 27 Brethren supporting the RWM on our recent visit to Lodge Thistle & Crown on Thursday 9th January.
- Our Instruction Master, Bro. Tom Mulholland P.M. would like to remind any brother wishing to try their hand at degree work is more than welcome to come along to the lodge instruction class on a Monday evening at 7.30 pm.
- Great to hear that the ongoing programme of refurbishment within the Temple is continuing, with a revamp of the upstairs Ladies toilets.
- Bro George McGrandles PM, our Treasurer Elect, would like to remind the brethren that Test Fees are now overdue at £40 per head & any brother wishing to contribute towards the capitation fee should see him as soon as possible.
- The Annual Lodge Golf Outing this year is returning again to Muchart GC in Fife on Saturday 13th June. The cost is £85 and anyone interested should see Bro Ronnie MacIsaac RWM who already got over 30 names.
- Tickets for our annual Lodge Burns Supper on **Friday 21st February** are still available from Bro Robert Scott WJW.
- It was most pleasing to see that a fine deputation of 18 Brethren from Lodge St Conval, Giffnock, No.1359 made an impromptu visit to the Lodge at our recent meeting.
- We are sorry to hear that Bro Donald Ferguson recently had a fall which has incapacitated him somewhat. Bro Donald who is 90 is a regular attender and great supporter of the Lodge.
- Isn't it great that the Grand Lodge Fundraising for 'Prostrate Scotland' is approaching £600,000



It's a Funny World !!

The following are all genuine place names in the United States :

Anchor, Beehive, Boaz, Charity, Circle, Cowan, Emblem, Eureka, Faith, False Pass, Fidelity, Five Points, Freeborn, Grand Pass, Hiram, Hope, Jachin, Justice, Lodge, Mason, Masonic Home, Masontown, Square, Steward, Symbol, Temperance & Tyler.

We continue our series of articles which trace the history of some of the local Lodges, and perhaps even further afield. Having started with a history of our own Lodge, before moving on to a short history of The PGL of Renfrewshire East. This month we trace the history of the oldest surviving Lodge in the Province.)



Rutherglen Royal Arch, No.116

The year 1769 saw the birth of Napoleon, The Duke of Wellington and Rutherglen Royal Arch No.116 in the Burgh of Rutherglen sponsored by The Argyle Lodge of Glasgow No. 64.

1770 : The first recorded meeting was held in the Tollbooth or as it was locally known as "The Old Jail" although other meetings were held in the houses of office bearers to defray the expense to the Lodge. Or the noting that on payment of 1/-

(5p) liquor could be had at the harmony on St John's until the "kitty" was exhausted then no more could be had.

1829 : One particular minute is worthy of mention that of the laying of the foundation stone of Hutchison's Bridge between the Saltmarket and Crown Street, Huchisontown. The full minute is recorded in the lodges official history. Sadly the minute books of 1836-64 appear to have been lost so we have no record of the part played by 116 in the official formation of our sister Lodge in Rutherglen, St John's Lodge 347 under the Grand Lodge Banner in 1847.

1897 : Saw the opening of our new hall on the 128th Anniversary of the institution of the Lodge by the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Brother Major F W Allan.

1929 : This saw the Lodge sponsor the third Lodge in the town, Lodge Burnside No. 1361.

1939-45. During the period of the Second World War the Lodgerooms were requisitioned by the Army and the Lodge met in the West parish Church halls. The Minister of that same Church conducts our Divine Services to this day.

1969 : This year the Lodge reached its Bi-Centenary and this was celebrated by a visitation from The Grand Lodge of Scotland, headed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason Bo. Major Sir Ronald Orr Ewing Bt, and his Office Bearers who conducted a most moving Rededication Ceremony. It was most pleasing to see the Senior Grand Chaplain Bro. Reverend William Wright present, himself a member of Lodge 116.

During 1997 the PGL of Renfrewshire East conducted the Ceremony of Re-consecration on the 100th Anniversary of the opening of our hall in Queen Street in a most excellent manner.

New events create their own history, such as the appointment of Bro. Dixon John Drye as Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East in the year 2001. The first brother of this Lodge to attain this high office.



Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Scottish Brethren, this month we turn to a celebrated Brother, who was probably one of the most celebrated dramatists of his era)

Sir John Stirling-Maxwell (1866 -1956)

The eldest son of Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, 9th Baronet and Lady Anna Maria Leslie-Melville, second daughter of David Leslie-Melville, 8th Earl of Leven and Elizabeth Anne Campbell, he was educated at Eton College and at Trinity College, Cambridge. He succeeded his father to the baronetcy in 1878.



He was Conservative Member of Parliament for the College Division of Glasgow between 1895 and 1906, and later served as Chairman of the Forestry Commission from 1929 till 1932. He was also Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland, a Trustee of the National Galleries of Scotland and Chairman of Ancient Monuments Board.

He was a Lieutenant in the Royal Company of Archers and a most active Freemason.

He was initiated into The Lodge of Dunblane IX in 1888, becoming master in 1891-92. He was a founding member and first Master of Lodge Blythswood No. 817, a member of The Pollokshaws Royal Arch Lodge No. 153, and an honorary member of Lodge Pollok, Pollokshields No. 772. He gifted

the land for the construction of Pollokshields Burgh Hall in Maxwell Park, and laid the foundation stone himself in October 1890.

In 1901 he married Ann Christian Maxwell, daughter of Sir Herbert Maxwell Bart. The couple had one daughter, Dame Anne Maxwell Macdonald, 11th Baronetess.

He was a founder member of the National Trust for Scotland (1931), becoming one of its first Vice-Presidents and President from 1943 until his death. He realised the importance of green spaces within a city. In this context, he was determined to protect the Pollok Estate and give the people of Glasgow access to it, which he undertook in 1911.

Stirling Maxwell was also involved in trying to resolve the protracted problem of finding a home for the art treasures presented to Glasgow in 1944 by Sir William Burrell. After his death, his daughter gave Pollok House, a substantial proportion of the estate and her father's art collection to the Glasgow Corporation. This gift of land eventually allowed the Glasgow city fathers to erect a building to hold the Burrell Collection.

In 1929 he was appointed a Knight of the Thistle by King George V, and he held the honorary degree of LLD from the University of Glasgow, the University of Aberdeen and Edinburgh University. Sir John and Lady Stirling-Maxwell were both elected Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1902.

In 1938 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. His proposers were Sir Ernest Wedderburn, Sir John Sutherland, Sir Thomas Henry Holland and Sir William Wright Smith.

He died peacefully on 30 May 1956 six day short of his 90th Birthday.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 5 Years Ago

No.380

January 2015

Regular Meetings

A meeting of the lodge was held with RWM Bro Alan Bernard wishing everyone present a Happy New Year. The lodge business was then carried out and thereafter a deputation of brethren from Lodge The Royal Stewart no 1414 was admitted and after being welcomed into the lodge room their own RWM Bro. Eddie Chamberlain was delighted to make the presentation of a commemorative jewel to our Tyler, Bro. Jim Laing for his assistance at 1414 some weeks earlier. The jewel was made to mark the visit of a deputation of brethren from Trinidad and Tobago and it was at this meeting Bro Jim helped out by filling one of the lodge offices. Bro Jim was warmly thanked with sincere applause from all present and he then made suitable reply.

Following the recess a deputation comprising of Installing and Past Masters of Lodge Union and Crown no 307 was admitted with the mallet being passed to senior Past Master Bro. David Noble who then passed it to Installing Master Bro Jim Renfrew PM in order to carry out the evening's degree on our two candidates. A MM degree was conferred by the Installing and Past Masters with the brethren in attendance giving them the best of attention.

Lodge Opened - 7:30pm Lodge Closed – 9:56pm Attendance – 75

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 20th January 2015 and following the business our good friends from Lodge Nitshill No. 1478 entered the Lodge room and conferred what was a first-rate EA Degree.

The brethren of Lodge Nitshill can be well pleased with their work in a ceremony which was appreciated by all in attendance and their own R.W.M Bro. David could have had every reason to have been a very proud man.

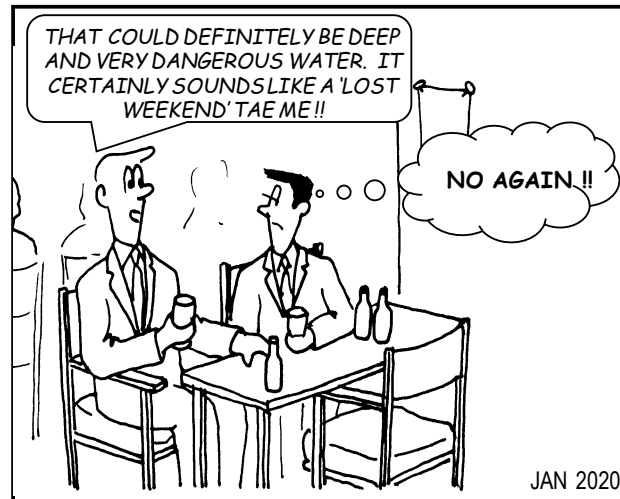
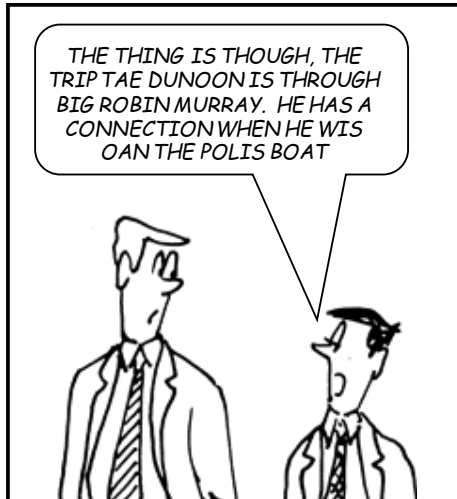
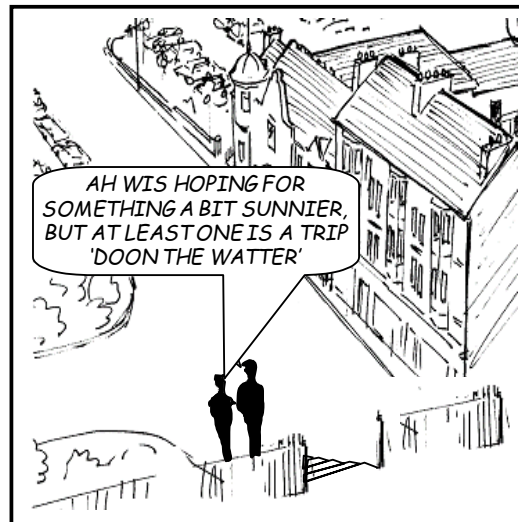
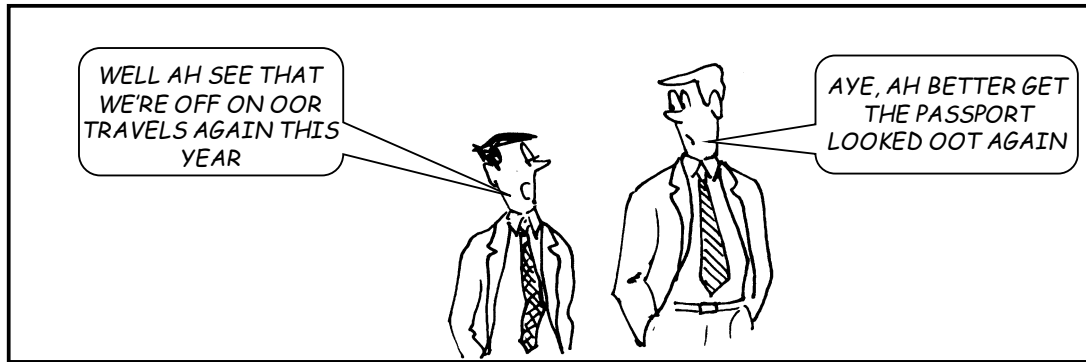
Following the meeting a harmony took place with old friendships being renewed.

Lodge Opened - 7:30pm Lodge Closed – 9:25pm Attendance – 72

We hear to Bro Gordon Neil who has joined the kitchen staff for meeting nights. Our two Past Masters Bros Paul Stewart & Graham Manson (they refer to themselves as chefs) are very grateful to Bro Gordon for volunteering his services and look forward to creating more culinary delights and with Bro David Watson PM and his dad Bro Adam Watson also willing to help when required, the kitchen is now covered. Bon Appetite!

Bro Lawrence Webb, our Social Convenor has arranged a dance at the beginning of the summer recess to mark the holidays and a break from the lodge meetings. Taking place on Saturday 9th May we will be entertained by Dave Cairns and Bro Lawrence is hoping for good support from as many brethren, wives, partners and their friends as possible.

MARK N' ARCHIE



JAN 2020

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :

Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

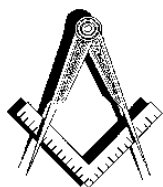
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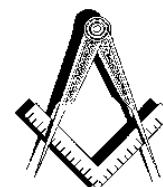
" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown.org>



Syllabus 2020

(* Denotes an Official Visitation)



February 2020

Friday 7th February 196th Anniversary Dinner

Tuesday 18th February FC Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

* Tuesday 24th February MM at Lodge Nitshill, No.1478

March 2020

Tuesday 3rd March PGLRE Visitation

* Saturday 14th March Lodge Dunoon Argyll, No.335 (PoW)

Tuesday 17th March MM Lodge Instruction Class

April 2020

Tuesday 7th April Dramatised 'Burns vs Kipling'

Friday 24th April EA 'Reigning Masters'

May 2020

* Friday 1st May Lodge Darvel, No.971 (PoW)

Tuesday 5th May Dramatised PoW Degree