

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



November 2025

The Mallet

The Monthly Journal of Lodge Union & Crown, No.307

No. 488

Editorial



November 2025

It doesn't take a financial analyst, or accountant to realise that Freemasonry in general, is struggling financially, with very few, if any Lodges escaping the pressures of operating in modern times. This is further exacerbated if the Lodge in question owns its own premises and has the upkeep and maintenance of a Temple to consider. Even Grand Lodge is tightening its belt in these austere times, as investments and other revenue streams are regularly producing lesser returns.

Whilst many of us are looking at ways of reducing expenditure and wherever possible maximising income, it is becoming more difficult with each passing year to adequately balance the books, never mind put something in reserve for a "Rainy Day". It is a great surprise to me personally that the Craft in Scotland hasn't lost more Lodges as the severe financial restraints have an effect.

In all honesty, I believe that the survival of many Lodges, especially in inner-city locations, owes more to the efforts of the respective Provincial Grand Lodges keeping them afloat, than anything else. After all, no Provincial Grand Master wants to find one of his Lodges going into darkness during his watch

Sad though it may sound, we would be foolish to expect a whole host of Lodges to survive possibly another 10 years, if they are not self sufficient, and rely upon the emergency aid and support they receive in the face of crisis. Some say if we were a business, we would have gone into receivership long ago !

We in Union & Crown are no different to the remainder of Scottish Freemasonry and have to work extremely hard to be able to ensure that sufficient funds are available to enable us to survive, never mind prosper. We do from time-to-time call upon our Brethren for additional support and will continue to do so to ensure we're here to

So, if you're asked to buy a raffle ticket, or attend a fund-raising event, or even can afford to put an extra pound or two in the collection plate, please do so. You can be assured that it will be "gratefully received, and faithfully applied"



Festive Greetings to all our readers





Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

Conferred by The Worshipful Wardens

Harmony

Tuesday 16th December 2025

No Meeting

Tuesday 6th January 2026

No Meeting

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M.,

Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Friday 7th November, the Lodge was opened before being adjourned to allow the Brethren taking part in the Dramatised 'Table of Scottish Freemasons' to retire and get ready.

Thereafter, all in attendance, including several visitors, witnessed a rendition of the popular dramatization enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, several of the Brethren who were scheduled to take part were unable to attend and this had a slight effect upon the dramatization which lost a little of its edge.

All the Brethren and their guests then retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed a fine harmony including an excellent buffet.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.09pm

Attendance : 51

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 18th November, the following Brethren :

Andrew Murray

Alan Adam Watson

received a fine Mark Ceremonial, conferred by Bro Robert D Scott I.P.M. assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.24pm

Attendance : 43

At the Installation Meeting of the Lodge held within the Temple on Saturday 22nd November, Brother Alan Douglas Izatt was installed into the Chair of King Solomon by the Installing Masters for the day – Bro William H Gauld PM, Bro Johnny W Gauld PM and Bro Thomas F Mulholland PM.

The ceremony from start to finish was carried out in a most dignified and sincere manner by the experienced Brethren involved, with the entire ceremony enjoyed by all, in what was a fine attendance during a busy period for the Sister Lodges.

The following Dinner and Harmony was well attended with entertaining speeches and toasts keeping all well satisfied.

Opened : 4.00pm

Lodge Closed : 6.21pm

Attendance : 101

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

18th November £20 : Mrs Mary Blair

£10 : Bro Jim Cherry

22nd November £100 : Bro P J Smith

£50 : Bro Graham Allan

Bro Ian Blair PM, our worthy Treasurer, is still taking names for this year, with the annual fee still excellent value at £10,

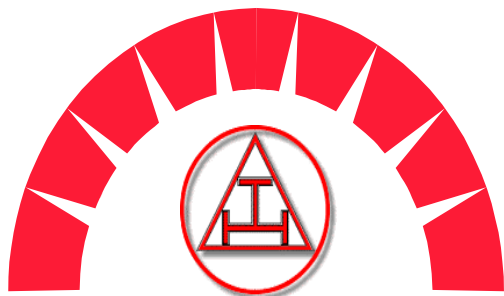
Dates for your Diary



- Tuesday 2nd December** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by the Worshipful Wardens, assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class
- Monday 15th December** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Tuesday 16th December** **NO MEETING**
- Tuesday 6th January** **NO MEETING**
- Friday 16th January** **Short Regular Meeting, followed by the Lodge Burns Supper**

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and his Wardens are constantly involved in unofficial visits to sister Lodges. Details of which can be easily obtained by contacting Robert Scott RWM or any senior Office-bearer,

They will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province)



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 11th November 2025, due to the lack of a candidate, the Companions carried out an emulation of the Excellent Master's degree. Those taking part are to be congratulated upon their efforts in what was the very first time for many.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions, along with their visitors retired downstairs where a quiet, yet enjoyable, harmony was enjoyed by all.

MEC Jim Renfrew MEZ cordially invites all to the next Regular meeting of the Chapter to be held on Tuesday 9th December at 7.30pm where a Royal Arch Degree will be conferred upon a live Candidate.

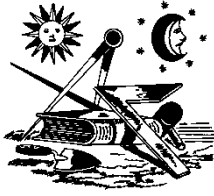
If you are a Brother who would perhaps like to join the Royal Arch, please speak with Bro Jim Renfrew MEZ at any time.

Paper Appeal

As ever, we are always on the lookout for that most essential of commodities – PAPER, for our journal.

As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² paper, preferably white but any colour will do. Without sufficient stocks, we simply cannot print enough copies of our journal to satisfy our wide-ranging readership. So if you have the odd ream lying about just let us know and we'll even arrange to have it picked-up if necessary.

In addition, we also need 160g/m² card for various tasks within the Lodge.



Meet the Office-bearers for 2025-2026

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>Init'd</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
R.W.M.	Alan Izatt	2017	Retired	Kilcreggan, Argyll
I.P.M.	Stephen Scott	2018	Civil Servant	Stewartfield, East Kilbride
Depute Master	Ronald Maclsaac	2004	Taxi Driver	St Mary's Cres, Barrhead
Sub Master	Ross Aitken	2019	Civil Servant	Glenarklet Cres, Paisley
W.S.W.	Campbell Ritchie	Aff 2023	Retired	Grants Way, Paisley
W.J.W.	Bryce McCaig	Aff 2017	Businessman	Vorlich Court, Barrhead
Secretary	Evans Reid	Aff 1985	Retired	Glenfield Grange, Paisley
Treasurer	Ian Blair	1987	Estimator	Moorshouse St, Barrhead
Almoner	Lawrence Webb	2006	Retired	Cruachan Way, Barrhead
Senior Deacon	Gregor Mullin	2023	Team Leader	Birchwood Drive, Paisley
Junior Deacon	Edward Mullin	2019	Retired	Birchwood Drive, Paisley
Inner Guard	Mark Lawn	1996	Data Centre Engineer	Arthurlie Avenue
Sen Chaplain	James Renfrew	1981	Retired	Stobs Drive, Barrhead
Jun Chaplain	William Petrie	2014	Retired	Grampian Way, Barrhead
D.O.C.	Robert Scott	2014	Civil Servant	Tannochside, Uddingston
Architect	John McCuish	1991	Carer	Levern Gardens, Barrhead
Jeweller	Paul Higgins	2018	Carer/DJ	Brownside Ave, Barrhead
Bible Bearer	James Cherry	1963	Retired	Paisley
Dir of Music	Adam G Watson	Aff 2008	Retired	Gleniffer Drive, Barrhead
Organist	Darren Anderson	2024	Driver	Newton Mearns
Marshal	David Reid	Aff 2023	Retired	Kilmarnock
Stan. Bearer	Callum Heirs	2023	Maintenance Engineer	Corsebar Road, Paisley
Pres. of Stew.	Paul Smith	2017	Rail Maintenance Engineer	Hillington, Glasgow
Steward	Marc Jones	1924	Cybersecurity Engineer	Rosemount, Barrhead
Tyler	Stuart Welsh	1974	Retired	Cowglen, Glasgow

BITS & PIECES

- Bro Lawrence Webb has only a small handful of tickets left for the Christmas Dance on Saturday 6th December and he urges anyone still wishing to go to contact him ASAP.
- Our grateful thanks goes to Brother Alex White who donated a lovely bottle of malt whisky to the Lodge. It was passed on as a gift to Lodge Alan Wilson No.851 in Fortrose during our recent visitation.
- Congratulations and best wishes to all our Brethren who were installed at our Installation. It looks like a strong and well-balanced team going forward.
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are still available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken WJW (☎ 07590 207 365) In addition, a lovely new Lodge Tie is also for sale at a bargain £15 !!
- Bro Graham Manson PM, our hard-working Instruction Master would be delighted to see some new blood at the Lodge Instruction Class on Monday evenings, but if your too shy and would rather learn something quietly at home, he'll be only too happy to help you out and let you go forward when you're confident enough.
- Great to see Bro Ross Aitken SM Elect back in harness again after a shortspell in hospital.
- Most of the invitations for the planned Celebration Dinner in February 2026 to mark the Bicentenary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East have now gone out, but if you haven't received one yet, contact our Lodge Secretary Bro Evens Reid PM. The date is Friday 6th February 2026.
- It's been great seeing Bro Campbell Ritchie WSW advancing through the offices since his affiliation a few years ago. Whilst an extremely experienced Freemason, coming into a different Lodge, especially one as busy as 307 presents its own challenges.
- Sorry to see Bro George McGrandles PM stepping down after several years as Lodge Treasurer. The combination of family matters, a new job and the fact that he lives a hundred miles away from the Lodge made things difficult, and he felt it was time to move on. We wish him and his lovely wife Amanda best wishes going forward.
- Bro Stef Lawniczak is recovering well at home after a recent knee replacement, and we wish him a speedy recovery.
- Many Congratulations to Bro Alistair Macdonald PM, Secretary of Lodge Randolph, No.1434 on becoming a 'very youthful' Great-Grandfather.
- Do you know that when we celebrate our 250th Anniversary in 2074, it will be our '**Semiquincentennial**'

Famous Freemasons

(In another departure from our customary detailed format, we publish a mixed bag of 'Adventurers and Sporting Figures' who were Freemasons)

Adventurers

Sir Richard Francis Burton, Hope Lodge, Kurrachee, Scinde, India

Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, DC;

Kit Carson, Montezuma Lodge No. 109, Taos, NM

Charles Lindbergh, Keystone Lodge No. 243, MO

Robert Falcon Scott, Drury Lane Lodge No. 2127, London; Navy Lodge No. 2612

Sir Ernest Shackleton, Navy Lodge No. 2612

Matthew Webb, Neptune Lodge No. 22

Sporting Figures

Fabien Barthez, Lodge de Bordeaux No. 12

Avery Brundage, North Shore Lodge No. 937, Chicago

Ty Cobb, Royston Lodge No. 426, Detroit

Jack Dempsey, Kenwood Lodge No. 800, Chicago

Peter Ebdon, former snooker world champion

Rogers Hornsby, Beacon Lodge No. 3, St. Louis

Tim Horton, Kroy Lodge No. 676, Toronto

Laurent Blanc, Lodge de Printemps No. 2

Jack Johnson, Lodge Forfar and Kincardine No. 225, Dundee, Scotland

Arnold Palmer, Loyalhanna Lodge No. 275, Latrobe

Sugar Ray Robinson, Joppa Lodge No. 55, New York (PH)

Bud Gauld Plate

Congratulations to **Brother Billy Petrie**, who became the latest recipient of the prestigious 'Bud Gauld Plate'. Awarded annually over the last 30+ years, it is given to the Brother who has done the most for their Mother Lodge over the previous year, and has a long list of distinguished Brethren amongst its previous winners.

Bro Billy who, with his quiet demeanour and sheer hard work every week in the Lodge, was a popular choice this year, and he received a thunderous applause as he stepped forward to accept this accolade.

For several years, Bro Billy has been our Standard Bearer, a job he carried out with dignity. However, he has now stepped-up to a '*speaking part*' as Junior Chaplain and we wish his well.



Masonic Quote

Flattering as it may be to the human mind, and truly honorable as it is to receive from our fellow citizens testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a Society whose liberal principles must be founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice.

To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the great object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

Brother George Washington



Masonic Symbols

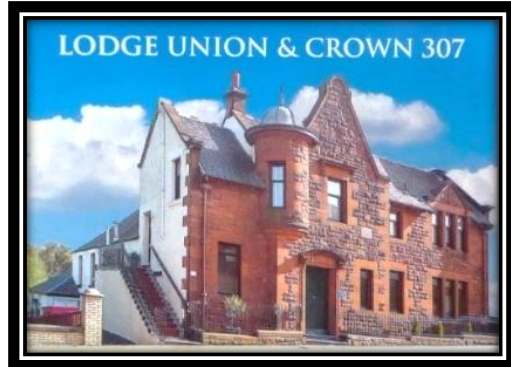
Masonic symbols are usually regarded as existing because of the secrecy of the fraternity. However, in reality, Freemasonry started being illustrated by symbols because at the very beginning most Freemasons could not read, so the symbols served to remind the members of the teachings of the Fraternity.

This same philosophy applies to signs and tokens as up until the modern era, most could not read or write and these were the credentials, resumes and diplomas of the day.

Lodge Postcards

Unique colour postcards of our Temple are still available for sale at the bargain price of £1-00 each from Bro Jim Miller PM (☎ 0141 881 4006) jimmiller307@hotmail.co.uk

All proceeds will go to The Lodge Charity Fund, with an annual donation being made to a local charity each year at our Anniversary Dinner in February. As it stand, a magnificent total of almost £750 has been raised so far.



On The Square

My Brother, in the Courtyard
Each one of us have stood
Outside the tyled Temple door
Awaiting as we should.

Take heed, thou young Apprentices
The Word emblazoned there:
To meet upon the level
And part upon the square.

My Brother, at the Altar
Each one of us has knelt
With solemn Oath and Brotherhood
The Mystic Tie we've felt.

Take heed, my Brother Fellowcraft
The Word emblazoned there:
To act upon the plumb
And part upon the Square.

My Brother, in the Temple
Each one of us were Raised
And on receiving further light
Into the Light we gazed.

Take heed, my Brothers, Masters all
The Word emblazoned there:
To Live within the compass
And part upon the Square.



Syllabus 2025-26

December 2	EA	Worshipful Wardens
<i>Dec 16</i>		<i>No Meeting</i>
<i>January 6</i>		<i>No Meeting</i>
January 15	Visitation	EA at Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
January 16		(Friday) Short Regular Meeting followed by Burns Supper
February 6		(Friday) Dramatised Degree (Burns v Kipling) Followed by 200 th Anniversary Dinner for PGLRE
February 17		Dramatised Degree (Prisoner of War)
March 3		Visitation by PGL of Renfrewshire East
March 17	FC	Worthy Deacons
April 7		Dramatised FC Degree
April 21	MM	'Installing Masters'
April 28	Visitation	EA At Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
May 5		Dramatised MM Degree
Summer Recess		
September 1	EA	by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
September 15	FC	by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
October 6	MM	Lodge Instruction Class
October 20		Annual General Meeting
November 6		Open Night' (Friday) followed by 'The Table of Scottish Freemasons
November 17	MMM	Bro Stephen Scott IPM
November 28		Installation of Office-Bearers

Management Committee Meetings

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7-30pm

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 29 Years Ago

No. 198

November 1996

Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 5th November, the following two Candidates :

LEN OLPHERT

STEVEN BROOKS

were raised to the high and sublime degree of a M.M. by the members of the Lodge Instruction Class, in what was our annual Dramatised 3rd degree. As ever our worthy Instruction Master, Bro Tom Young PM,, had a few sleepless nights beforehand due to the non-appearance of participants at the weekly instruction classes, but his fears were unfounded as the Brethren of 307 gave their usual high standard of performance in what was a fine degree.

LODGE OPENED : 7-30PM

LODGE CLOSED : 10-06PM

ATTENDANCE : 152

At the Regular meeting on Tuesday 19th November, the following Brethren :

IAN ASHCROFT JIM MCAUSLAND GORDON DURIE

TOM KANE JOHN GIBSON STEPHEN BROOKS ROY DONALD

ROBERT ROSS LEN OLPHERT ARCHIE TANNOCK

DAVID RITCHIE DAVID WATSON ALLAN DAVIDSON

were advanced to the rank of Mark Master Masons in a fine rendition of the Mark Ceremonial, ably conferred by our own Brethren, under the command of Bro Jim Kerr IPM. As ever Bro Jim picked his degree workers with care, resulting in a balanced mixture of youth and experience and all in attendance couldn't help but be impressed by the standard of the evening's degree work.

Lodge Opened : 7-31pm

Lodge Closed : 9-42 pm

Attendance : 92

On Saturday 23rd November in what was quite a moving ceremonial, Bro Michael Hughes was installed into the chair of the Lodge, by the Installing Masters Bros Willie Renfrew PM, Bro Raymond Smith PM and Bro Jack Richardson PM. All performed their respective roles well on the day and both Bro Michael and his fine team of Office-bearers can feel assured that they were well installed into office on the day.

Lodge Opened : 3-02pm

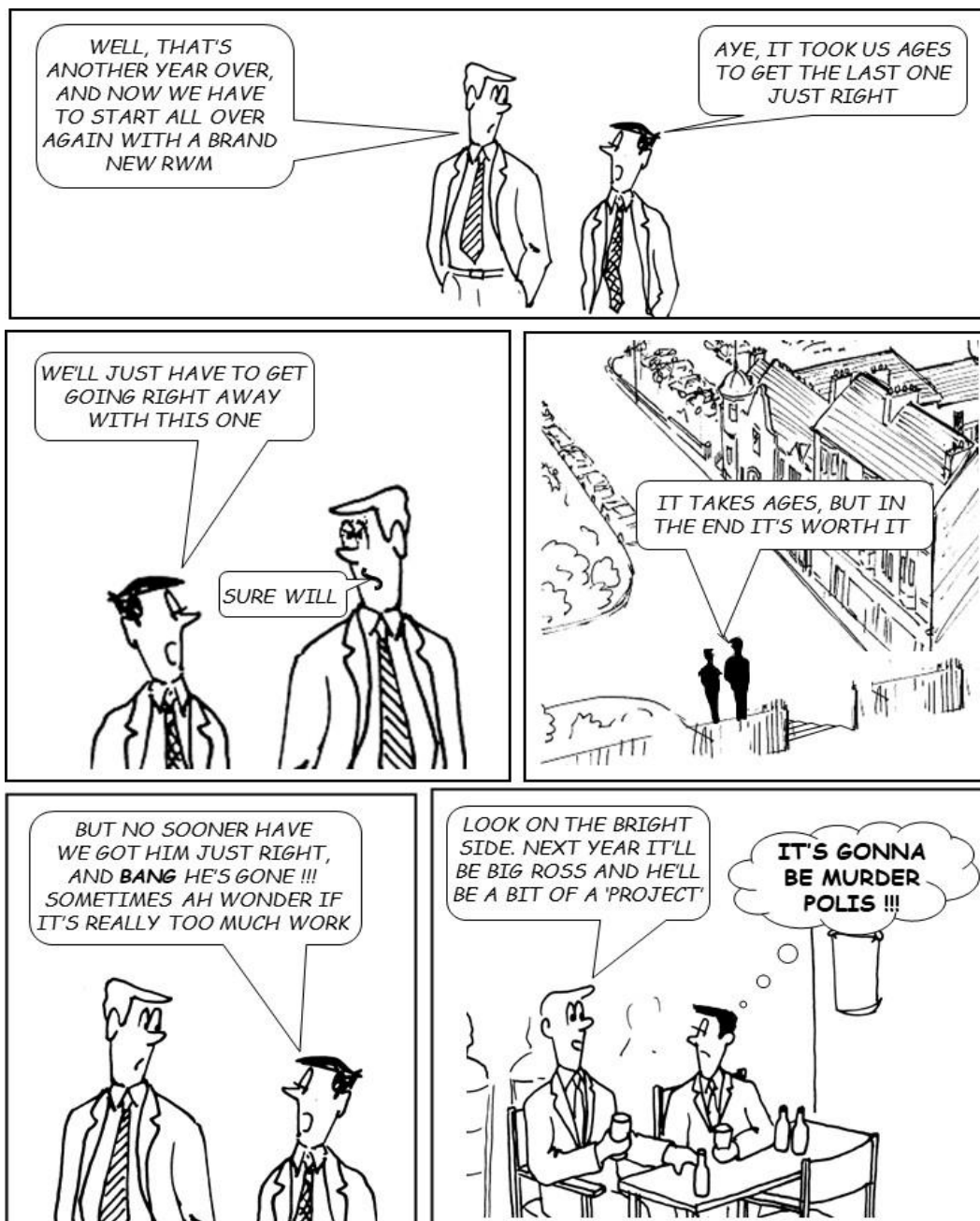
Lodge Closed : 6-01pm

Attendance : 173

Bits & Pieces

- Congratulations to Bro Eric Gray and his wife Annie following their recent Ruby Wedding.
- We here that Bro Ian Cameron's daughter Louise has recently become engaged, and we wish her and her fiancé Derek all the best for the future.
- Further congratulations, this time to Muriel Fraser's daughter, Marion, on her recent betrothal.
- We have learned that Bro David Logan and his good lady Angie have just become proud parents of a bouncing baby boy called Stuart. This is, of course, a first grandchild for Bro George Logan and his wife Christine now resident in Hull, but still an avid reader of The Mallet.
- On the subject of baby boys we offer our best wishes to Bro Ian Burke and his wife on the birth of another son. There definitely must be something in the air !

MARK N' ARCHIE



J Renfrew April 2025

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :
Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

'Rapallo' 5 Stobs Drive, Barrhead, G78 1NY

☎ 0141-571-5979

e-mail : renfrew2022@gmail.com

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown307.com>