

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



December 2021

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No. 449



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Just when you thought it was about to get better \$ @ % # & !!

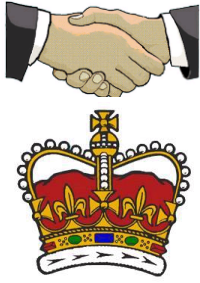
We don't know if the current spike in infections will have an impact upon the Lodge and its Regular Meetings going forward, but fingers crossed, that we will be able to continue albeit in a slightly reduced capacity until we see some real light at the end of the tunnel. In early December as the Omicron variant was starting to bite, many sister Lodges were cancelling their meetings just in case the pandemic struck. Luckily, we in Union & Crown, had already rearranged our syllabus to take a meeting out in both December and January, to be honest this was designed to give the Brethren an extended break over the festive period, to allow the Brethren to take things easier. This has fortunately coincided with the spike, and we are assured that the health of our Brethren is paramount to all in 307.

The Scottish Government has now imposed severe restrictions across Scotland, with all major football matches postponed, and Hogmanay virtually cancelled as we are asked to stay at home and protect our families and the NHS. We know that this is difficult, especially at this time of the year, and as someone who has just emerged from 10 days in covid isolation, I can fully appreciate and understand the struggles for all at what is traditionally a time to rejoice as we celebrate Christmas, and usher in the New Year.

We will manage to celebrate in a more orderly and subdued manner, and we are confident that the early part of 2022 will not be as bad as we experienced 12 months ago when we found ourselves in total lockdown again. I'm sure that some of the Brethren will use the time productively by dusting down their ritual, and spending their time polishing up the ceremonial work, ahead of a productive spell in the Lodge in the months ahead !!-

Hopefully, we are over the worst of this outbreak, and we are fairly confident that we will be sitting down together later in January to enjoy the company of our Brethren again.

A Happy New Year to You All



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 :

Tuesday 4th January

No Meeting



Tuesday 18th January 2022

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

*Dramatised 'Prisoner of War Degree
By the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class*

Harmony

*Yours faithfully & fraternally
David McArthur P.M., Secretary*

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 7th December, an Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred on the following Candidates :

CHRISTOPHER McCAIG

JAMES McSHANE

By the Worshipful Wardens, greatly assisted by the members of the Lodge Instruction Class, in what was a fine degree, considering that it had been almost two years since the Lodge had initiated any candidates.

Thereafter, the Brethren retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed an excellent harmony in a relaxed atmosphere.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.15pm

Attendance : 52

100 CLUB

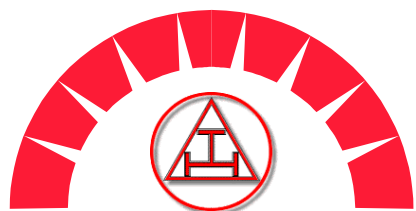
The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

7th December £20 : **Bro PJ Smith**

£10 : **Bro Robert Clark SM**

Bro Nicol Hynd PM (who's filling in for Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer during his recovery), has started taking names for next year.

The annual fee is still very good value at £10, & anyone interested should see Bro Nicol as soon as possible.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

On Tuesday 14th December, the Chapter held a belated Annual Installation with MEC Harry Lloyd, and his team of Office-bearers being installed into office.

The Installing Principals on that occasion were the experienced pair of MEC James Miller PZ, and MEC John S Miller PZ. Although a slightly abbreviated ceremony, due to MEC Harry remaining in the Chair for a second year, it was nonetheless carried out in an excellent, dignified manner by 'The Millers'.

That evening happened to be the final PGC visit for our retiring Provincial Grand Superintendent – Bro Gordon McGregor Renfrew PZ who demits office on the 31st December after almost 6 years in office. As the meeting came to a close, he took the opportunity to announce that MEC Jim Renfrew PZ, had been awarded Honorary Grand Provincial Rank for his many years of service. He presented an Honorary Jewel and Certificate to a stunned MEC Jim, who thank all for the honour bestowed upon him. MEC Harry Lloyd MEZ also congratulated the surprised Companion, and presented him with a gift on behalf of the Companions of Rockmount.

The next regular meeting of the Chapter will be on Tuesday on 11th January 2022 at 7.30pm. Where it is hoped that a Mark Affiliate and Excellent Master's Degree will be conferred upon a candidate.

BITS & PIECES

- Congratulations to our good friends in Spring Lodge #1174 in Houston Texas where the Lodge celebrated its Centenary earlier this month.
- 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, where the Lodge will be rehearsing for the new Masonic year
- 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 date for our annual Lodge Burns Supper has now been agreed. It will be on Friday 18th February. Bro Robert Scott WSW is taking names for tickets.
- Congratulations to Bro Jim Renfrew PM who recently had Honorary Grand Provincial Rank bestowed upon him within the Royal Arch in Renfrewshire. Bro Jim also holds Honorary Grand Provincial Rank within the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. A somewhat unique double for Bro Jim.
- Well done to all the newly-installed Lodge Office-bearers for the manner in which they have carried out their duties following their recent installation. It bodes well for the future of 307
- Three years after a campaign by local man Douglas Yates, supported by the work of Lavern Valley Defibrillator Community Partnership, there are now 18 Public Access Defibrillators sited throughout Barrhead with more planned in 2022. The Lodge was approached by Douglas and now we have two on site, both inside and outwith the Temple.
- Sorry to hear that Lodge Albert Edward, No.592 are cancelling their meetings, due to a lack of numbers, until February 2022. Thereafter they will be meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10.30am, with a speaker and a light lunch. Not ideal, but at least they are still in existence !!
- It is heartening to learn that the sale of the Lodge Postcards have reached the magnificent sum of almost £750. Three-quarters of the way towards the £1000 target set by Bro Jim Miller PM for our local charities.
- It is pleasing to hear that our worthy Treasurer, Bro George McGrandles PM is making a decent recover from surgery in November. He's a couple of weeks behind schedule due to an infection in his wound, but hopes to be back in harness before too long.
- I popped in to see Bro Alex White just before Christmas and although his mobility is restricted he was still sharp mentally and I spent a happy hour in his company. He asked after many of the Brethren and their families.
- It is good that Bro Donald Cook PM and his wife Pauline are enjoying their recent retirement, and have several holidays planned later in the year
- As we went to press in this edition, we learned that Bro Roy Farquhar had been admitted to the RAH for surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 4th January **Regular Meeting Cancelled**

Monday 17th January Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

Tuesday 18th January Regular Meeting of the Lodge where the 'Dramatised Prisoner of War' degree will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.

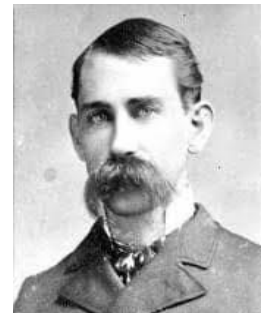
In addition to the above (COVID Restrictions allowing) the R.W.M. may be involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges, details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them)



MASONIC CEMETERY



There is a Masonic Cemetery on the southwest border of Texas, in a place called Brackettville. Interesting to note that this cemetery is the final resting place of Bro. Claron Windus, who was a US Army Captain and Medal of Honor recipient on the frontier, before becoming a Deputy Sheriff, and finally a US Marshal.



In an interesting turn of events he is the only Medal of Honor recipient to kill another Medal of Honor recipient Deputy Windus shot and killed Adam Paine while trying to arrest him on a murder warrant in 1877. Paine was also a MOH recipient from the Indian Campaign. They are buried 3 miles apart.

Did you know ???

- That there is an insurance company in Australia called "Union & Crown" and another in in Wales called "Union & Crown Fire & Life Assurance"
- Believe it or not, there is a "Mount Union & Crown" in Arizona
- That a cemetery called "East Union & Crown" exists in Hamilton County in Indiana
- In Saint John, New Brunswick in Canada there are two streets that meet at an intersection – one is called "Union" and the other "Crown"

Famous Freemasons

(This month we read of one of the most controversial figures in 20th century America)

Bro John Edgar Hoover (1895-1972)

John Edgar Hoover, more commonly referred to as J. Edgar Hoover, was an American attorney and director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

John Edgar Hoover was born on New Year's Day 1895 in Washington, DC. to Dickerson and Anna Marie Hoover. His Mother was of Swiss-German descent. Hoover's maternal great-uncle, John Hitz, was a Swiss honorary consul general to the United States.



He was born in a house on the present site of Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, on Washington's Capitol Hill, and a stained glass window in the church is dedicated to him. Hoover did not have a birth certificate filed upon his birth, although it was required in 1895 in Washington. Two of his siblings did have certificates, but Hoover's was not filed until 1938 when he was 43.

His long career began during Franklin D. Roosevelt's Presidency with the FBI going up against prohibition-era mobsters like Al Capone, Pretty Boy Floyd, and Machine Gun Kelly. It ended during Richard Nixon's Presidency and with the Watergate scandal. During his tenure, he built one of the most modern and effective crime fighting organizations in the world.

He became a very controversial figure during his years in office. He was accused of abusing his power, collecting evidence illegally, and amassing secret files on political leaders. President Harry S. Truman was one of his harshest critics accusing Hoover of turning the FBI into his own secret police force. Truman once said, "we want no Gestapo or secret police. The FBI is tending in that direction. They are dabbling in sex-life scandals and plain blackmail."

As a young man Hoover was a member of his school choir, participated in Reserve Officers' Training Corp and was a member of his schools debate team. Hoover's school newspaper hailed his "cool, relentless logic". During debates, on two key issues of the time, Hoover argued against women receiving the right to vote and the abolition of the death penalty.

In 1917 Hoover received an LL.M, Masters of Laws Degree, from The George Washington University Law School.

After graduating Hoover was hired by the Justice Department to work in the War Emergency Division. He quickly became to the head of the Division's Alien Enemy Bureau. The Alien Enemy Bureau was responsible for finding and arresting disloyal foreigners living in the United States. Individuals taken into custody were put in jail without trial. The Alien Enemy Bureau arrested 98 individuals and declared more than one thousand others as arrest-able.

In 1919 Hoover became the head of the Bureau of Investigation's (predecessor of the FBI) new General Intelligence Division. The division was also called the

Radical Division because it was the task of the division to find radical elements in American society to monitor and disrupt their activities.

Hoover was Initiated, Passed and Raised in November 1920 in Federal Lodge No. 1 in Washington DC He was a dedicated mason and received a variety of honours from the fraternity. He was also a founder member of Justice Lodge No. 46 in Washington, DC.



In 1955 Hoover was coroneted a 33° mason by the Scottish Rite, receiving the Grand Cross of Honor. A room at the Scottish Rite headquarters in Washington, is dedicated to Hoover containing personal papers and records.

In 1921 Hoover was made the deputy head of the Bureau of Investigation and was named the director of the Bureau just 3 years later when the previous director was believed to have been involved in a scandal.

During Hoover's time as Director of the FBI, he focused largely on what he termed subversive elements in the United States. These included Civil Rights organizations, organizations of related to the women's rights and any group looking to make political changes in the United States. Hoover claimed it was

in the best interest of National Security.

Until 1957 Hoover denied Organized Crime existed in the United States and refused to apply FBI resources in pursuit of it. This changed after the Appalachian Meeting, a historic summit of the American Mafia in 1957. Pictures of the meeting appeared on the front page of newspapers across the country.

Also during Hoover's time with the FBI he is credited with building the FBI into a large crime-fighting agency, modernizing police technologies, centralizing the fingerprint file and forensic laboratories.

Possibly one of the most powerful men in American history, he would remain the Director of the FBI for 37 years until his death on May 2nd, 1972 from a heart attack. He was eulogized by both Chief Justice Warren Burger, and President Richard Nixon, and is buried in Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.



Did you know ???

That President Abraham Lincoln petitioned HIS local Masonic Lodge in Springfield, Illinois, but did not join, thinking it would look like he was doing so for political purposes.

(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This month we look at one of the Paisley Lodges)

Lodge Craigielea, No.1218

Pioneers and Founders - what visions these words have conjured up in the minds of men down through the ages. Our story in this early stage of the twenty first century is not concerned with the daring exploits of intrepid explorers who have crossed the burning sands of the desert, the frozen polar regions, or the penetration of the jungles in the humid tropical countries, but it is concerned in kindling in the hearts of all the members of Lodge Craigielea a greater appreciation of the boundless heritage and opportunities left to us by the brethren, who by their vision and untiring efforts, founded our Lodge.



These brethren whose faith in Freemasonry was built on an unshaken belief, veneration and reverence for brotherly love, desiring the good of all men, and at this time, it is with grateful hearts we pause to pay tribute, and honour the founder members of our Lodge, who built an edifice in their native town founded on the principles held dear to them, a system of morality, as their contribution to their day and generation.

What manner of men were these founders of Lodge Craigielea, and what were the conditions prevailing in the town of Paisley, which prompted these brethren to further the interests of Scottish Freemasonry, by accepting the Herculean task of founding and establishing a new Lodge? It can be said that our Founders sought no fame or acclaim in the task which they had dedicated themselves. Their vision was the realisation of brotherly love, creative and all pervading. They were without doubt, brethren of sincere modesty, and they were endowed with their native spirit of personal independence, together with an admiration for the dignity of daily toil and craftsmanship. Our Founders faced their heavy responsibilities, pledged equally to participate in the pleasures of real happiness, and to offer sympathy and render help to their fellow men, who were less fortunate than themselves. The brethren of Lodge Craigielea reverently salute all our Founders, we offer thanks to The Great Architect, that these brethren, by their efforts and their faith in the tenets of our Order, enabled their successors in Lodge Craigielea, to further the interests of our Craft, and we in our gratitude now hail them as true disciples of brotherly love who kept the faith.

The 11th November, 1918 and as the eleventh hour of that fateful day struck, the town of Paisley, in common with the cities, towns and villages of our country, were quite unable initially, to fully appreciate that an armistice had been signed.

In the spring of the following year a great resurrection was beginning throughout the length and breadth of country, men who had fought in the defence of their country were being demobilised and returning home to their loved ones, resolved to devote their energies, where the dignity of all men would be the prime consideration and it was significant that a number of these returning service men would become interested in Freemasonry.



Since the consecration of the first Masonic Lodge in Paisley, the members have always been pillars of strength in the furtherance of the principles and tenets of the Order as laid down by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and a great source of help to the guiding hands of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. In 1919, the town of Paisley had three Masonic Lodges within its confines, Paisley St.Mirrins No. 129, Renfrew County Kilwinning No.370, and Paisley St.James No.1116, and it was from the membership roll of these Lodges, that most of our Founder members of Lodge Craigielea came. It is with a sense of gratitude we record that the success in the early years of Lodge Craigielea's history was due in no small measure to the help and guidance so freely given by

the brethren of these three Lodges. As the year 1919 progressed, an embarrassing situation developed in Paisley's three Masonic Lodges, by the numerous applications for membership from the returning servicemen who were anxious to make their contribution through Freemasonry in building a better world. Despite the fact that Lodges at that period had no limit on the number of initiates at their meetings, they found they were unable to cope with the applications for membership. These conditions led to the inevitable demand from the brethren of the Order that a new Lodge should be formed.

It is interesting to record that prior to the first formal meeting of the proposed new Lodge, a series of informal gatherings took place in various parts of the town by the brethren concerned in the project. The first formal meeting of the proposed new Lodge was convened on the 9th February, 1920, in the Masonic Hall, 96 High Street, Paisley and was presided over by Bro. James Simpson of Lodge Paisley St. Mirrins No. 129. This meeting, which was of considerable length, was of paramount importance to the proposed new Lodge, as many of the decisions arrived at would ultimately reflect on the progress of the venture. The brethren present pledged themselves to devote all their energies and enthusiasm in giving the Lodge an effective send off.

After considerable discussion it was resolved unanimously to proceed with the formation of a new Lodge, and in consequence, that a petition be subscribed to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, requesting a charter. It was further decided that Founders Fees be four guineas, and that this fee would be an entitlement to life membership. A vigorous and lively discussion centred round the name for the proposed new Lodge and ultimately the name Craigielea was adopted, which has since proved to be a happy choice. The colour of Lodge clothing was the next subject for discourse and maroon was the popular selection. The minute which records the selected colour states the choice as marone but as no such colour is to be found in the lists of colour experts, we must assume that maroon had been mis-spelt in the minute. The nomination of Office-Bearers was next proceeded with, together with the time and place for future meetings. It was resolved that meetings of the proposed new Lodge should be held on the second and fourth Mondays of each calendar month, in the Masonic Hall, 96 High Street, Paisley. At a subsequent meeting held on the 7th March, 1920, it was intimated that a communication had been received from Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No.370 giving their approval to the submission of the petition to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and extending their sincere good wishes for the success and well being of the new Lodge.



The 10th May, 1920, will always be regarded in Lodge Craigielea as an important milestone in its history, for on that day, the Founder Members assembled, were solemnly informed by their chairman that the Grand Lodge of Scotland had on the 6th day of May, 1920 granted a charter in the name of Lodge Craigielea, and giving the Lodge number as 1218. This intimation was the source of considerable satisfaction to the Founders and they further pledged themselves to redouble their efforts in building an edifice of which they could be justly proud. The final meeting of the erection period was held on the 7th June 1920, when the Founders heard that a communication from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East had been received informing them that the ceremony of Erection and Consecration to be followed by the Installation of Office-Bearers of the Lodge would take place in the Masonic Hall, 96 High Street, Paisley on the 28th June, 1920, by the Provincial Grand Master Bro. John Pattison, and our first R.W.M. Bro. James Simpson was duly Installed.

The Annual Lodge Burns Supper is on Friday 18th December, and tickets costing £15.00 are now available from Bro Robert Scott



A Small Token

Brethren, I am looking to canvas opinion with regard to the forthcoming Bi Centenary celebrations. As you will perhaps be aware a small committee has been formed and we are working hard behind the scenes to plan for the big day. Our 200 for 200 scheme has been well received and we are hopeful that even more brethren will sign up to support this initiative as the date of the special anniversary approaches.

The reason I am reaching out to you today however is not to talk you out of your hard-earned cash. Instead, I am seeking opinion on how best to spend it.

You see when we first came up with the idea for the 200 for 200 fundraising initiative, we told those folks signing up that they would be entitled to a number of things in return for their support. These included ;-

- dinner at the bi centenary event,
- 5 free drinks,
- their name on a tile on a new display board,
- a commemorative token, and
- a commemorative jewel.

Since making this announcement however I have been approached by a number of people indicating that they felt a commemorative jewel was unlikely to be popular and would probably never be worn. Some have suggested that a more useful and practical memento, such as a pen set, or perhaps a hip flask or a notebook, might be a better use of funds.

I am writing therefore to seek opinion of those who have signed up to this scheme. Would a jewel be something you would wear, or display, or would you prefer some other form of keepsake to remind you of the day and to thank you for your support. Answers on a postcard (available from PM Jimmy Miller) or more likely by text or email.

Thank you for giving this your consideration brethren and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Robert Scott WSW

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Christopher McCaig: Christopher is 30 years of age and lives not too far away in Deaconsbank. The son of our Worthy Junior Deacon, he works with his father in their supply company. He has two young children, with his fiancée Chloe and their wedding is scheduled to go ahead in June. In his spare time he likes watching football and fishing.

James McShane: James lives in nearby Newton Mearns, and is employed by HMRC in East Kilbride. He is 29 years old and became close friends with his fellow candidate whilst at Mearns Castle High School together. As yet still single, he likes to keep fit in his spare time.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 12 Years Ago

No. 329

December 2009

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 1st December the following candidate:

Peter Gray

was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of an Entered Apprentice, by the Worshipful Wardens, Bro's Kenneth Coleman WSW and Douglas Rankin WJW ably assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class in what was a good First Degree.

Lodge Opened : 7.30pm Lodge Closed : 9.33pm Attendance 59

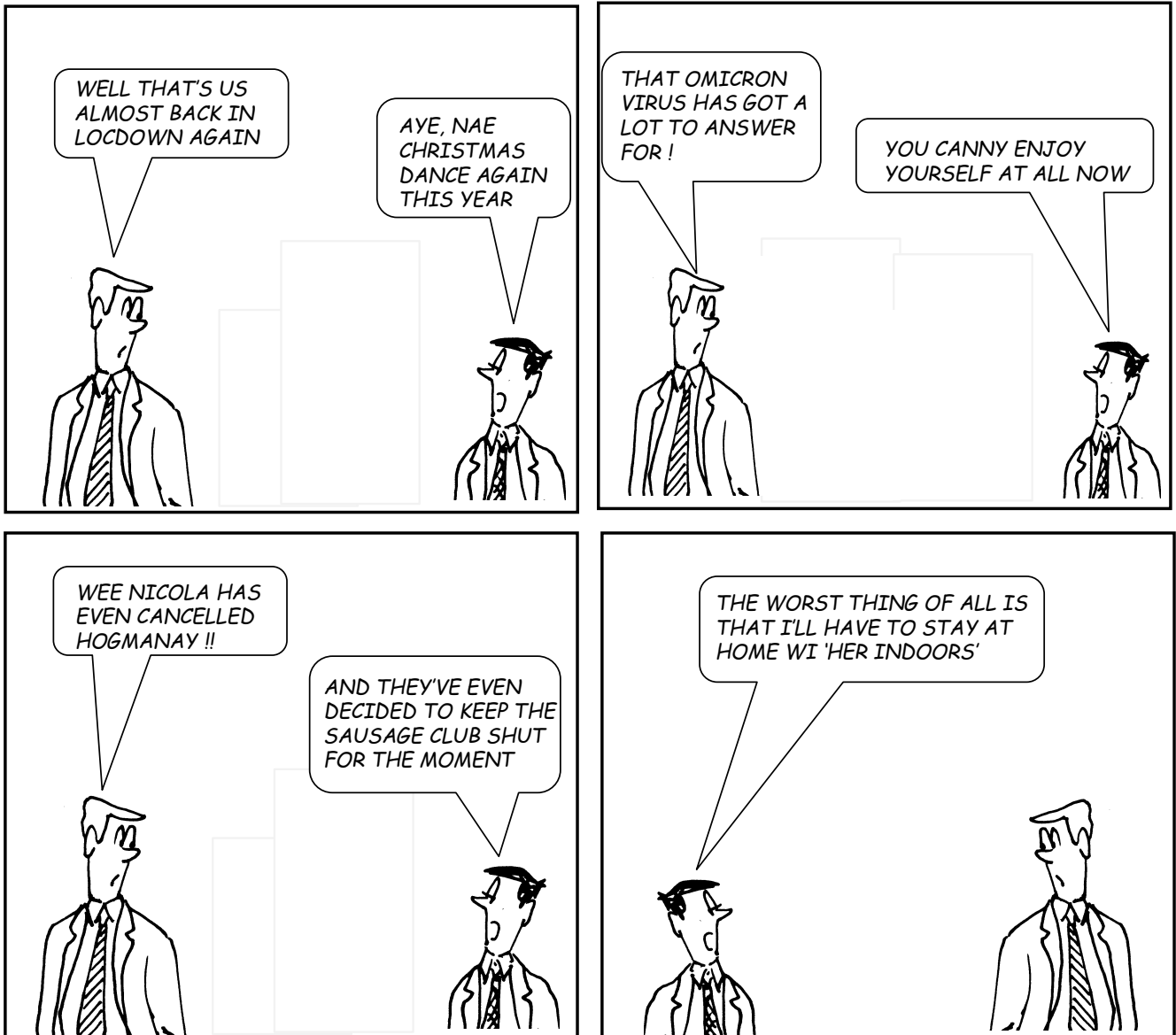
At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 15th December, the same Candidate was passed to the Second, Square or Fellowcraft Degree in a fine degree conferred by the Worthy Deacons, Bros Paul Stewart SD and Kenneth Beatts JD.

Lodge Opened :7:30pm Lodge Closed : 9:20pm Attendance – 48

Bits and Pieces

- Best wishes to Past Master Tom Mulholland who is taking on the role of bowling convenor this year.
- Nice to see Bro. Ian Buttar back in the Lodge recently. Bro. Ian was home from Australia for a family wedding.
- We hear that it has now been confirmed that The Grand Master Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont will be attending our regular meeting on Tuesday 19th January when he will witness one of Lodge Union and Crown's dramatisations... the "Table Of Scottish Freemasons".
- Congratulations to our WJW Bro. Douglas Rankin as the money he raised from organising the Lodge 'Racenight' has now exceeded £800.
- We hear that Bro. Stevie Allan our Substitute Master is making great progress with his new house on Bank Street. He has worked tirelessly at this time consuming project despite his very busy schedule at the Lodge and of course with his young family.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW DECEMBER 2021

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

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