

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union & Crown No.307



February 2017

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No. 401



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Having originally served over 20 years in the 'editorial hot seat', before bowing out gracefully in 2009, who in their wildest dreams would have thought that I would come back for further punishment – certainly not me for one !! But the age old saying of 'never say never' is most certainly true today.

I must admit that it was with a certain amount of reservation, almost reluctance even, that I have stepped in to the spotlight again. A whole plethora of negative thoughts went through my mind before I finally gave my acceptance. Did I still have the creative juices required? Was the old enthusiasm really still there? Would anyone in their right mind actually want to read anything I wrote or reported ?

I had my doubts, and to be honest who would blame me. My thoughts were quite selfish in that I'd fulfilled the role through thick and thin for a long time previously, and surely that was enough. However, when Bro Hugh Cattigan finally confirmed that he was stepping down, in the vast recesses of my mind I thought could I possibly make a comeback? As there didn't seem to be any other candidates coming forward, and I would not have wanted *The Mallet* to cease after 40 years, I took the plunge and said yes. Only for the old doubts and concerns to come racing back in the cold light of day.

To be honest, as soon as I sat in front of my computer and stared at the screen, the old enthusiasm came back and I finally started to put together my first edition in a long time. Soon it started to take shape and I found that I'd caught the bug again.

I look forward to another stint as Editor, albeit in a very different environment both Masonically and socially, to the first time I took up the reins in 1988. I will need the wholehearted support of all the Brethren and their families, and I will certainly need their patience and understanding if this is to work the second time around. I simply cannot do it all myself and I look forward, with trepidation, to the world of blank minds and tight deadlines.

I congratulate Bro Hugh Cattigan PM on his efforts over the last 7 years, he did a good job in sometimes difficult circumstances. But I warn him never to say never again !!

Bro Jim Renfrew PM, Editor



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 7th March 2017

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Annual Visitation by the

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East

Harmony



Tuesday 21st March 2017

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

James Miller P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

The regular meeting of the Lodge was rescheduled from Tuesday 7th February to Friday 3rd February to accommodate the 193rd Anniversary Dinner which immediately followed a short Business Meeting. Almost 60 Brethren and their guests, sat down to a fine 3 course meal, and thereafter, all enjoyed a fine 'Toast to Lodge Union & Crown' by Bro Harry Lloyd, Right Worshipful Master of our near neighbours Lodge Nitshill. No.1478.

The evening's entertainment was provided by former SFA & FIFA Referee – Willie Young, who was excellent. A retired solicitor, Willie spent 25 years as a top level referee handling 1300 games, including European and International matches in 27 different countries. He regaled the audience with many amusing tales of both his legal and football career.

Lodge Opened - 7:30pm Lodge Closed – 8:09 pm Attendance – 52

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 21st February, the Lodge welcomed our near neighbours – Lodge Nitshill, No.1478 who had been invited to confer the EA Degree on the following Candidates :

ROSS FLOCKHART CHRISTOPHER GILBERT PAUL SMITH

Bro Harry Lloyd and his degree team conferred a fine degree, which was enjoyed by all in attendance. Many of the Brethren and guests sat down to an enjoyable harmony afterwards.

Opened : 7.31pm Lodge Closed : 9.39pm Attendance : 80



100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes for the month of February, were :

Tuesday 5th February £10 : Bro Lawrence Webb
£5 : Bro Jim Heron

Tuesday 19th February £10 : Bro Evans Reid PM
£5 : Bro David Watson PM



All those who are participating in this year's 100 Club, should ensure that they have paid their £10 entry fee to Bro Jim Kerr PM as soon as possible, as it appears that quite a few are still outstanding.



Dates for you Diary

- Tuesday 7th March** Annual Visitation by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. *(All senior Office-bearers are expected to be in attendance at 6-45pm)*
- Monday 20th March** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 21st March** A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where FC Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.
- Monday 27th March** The Lodge will be conferring the Mark Ceremonial within Lodge Ardrossan St John, No.320.

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and Wardens are 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 as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province. Full details of all visitations, be they official or otherwise, are available from our RWM and his Wardens.



BURNS SUPPER

On Friday 17th February, the Lodge held its annual Burns Supper, with well over 50 Brethren and their guests in attendance. Organised & Chaired Bro George McGrandles RWM, it was a tremendous success, with a broad selection of Brethren from far and wide participating.

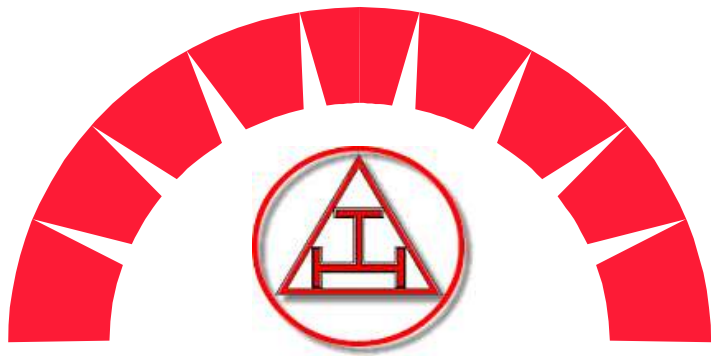
The Immortal Memory was given by Bro Billy Hunter of Lodge St John Kilwinning, No.28 in Kirkintiloch, whilst our own Bro John Miller proposed the toast to "The Lassies" to which he received a fine reply from Bro Lawrence (Laura) Webb



The thanks of all must go to all who contributed to what was a wonderful evening. Not only was the evening a success, but it also made a sizeable donation towards Lodge Funds.

Bits & Pieces

- Bro Lawrence Webb, our Social Convener, is taking names for the 'Recess Dance', which is to be held on Saturday 20th May. The tickets will cost £10 per couple and will be available shortly.
- It has been good to see donations being handed into the Lodge, most of which are anonymous, from a wide variety of sources.
- The annual Lodge Golf Outing is off to Crieff GC on Saturday 17th June. Anyone interested should see Bro Paul Stewart PM as soon as possible to book a place.
- It was very pleasing to see several Brethren at recent regular meetings who have been absent for quite a considerable time.
- The Recent Lodge Burns Supper raised a magnificent sum of £480, which was donated to Lodge funds.
- Fantastic to see our Lodge Almoner – Bro Alex White back in harness again after a spell of ill health.
- Bro Lawrence Webb has organised another of his enjoyable 'Pakora Games Nights' on Friday 24th March in the Lodge Social Club. All are welcome to drop-in and bring their friends.
- We gather that Bro Stephen Amabile is making a success of the Balnangowan Arms in Paisley, which he took over last year.
- It's heartening to see that Bro Jim Cherry, who is over 50 years an active member of the Lodge, rarely misses a meeting even since he moved down to Girvan a few years ago.
- Bro Grant Maybury JD is the latest in a long line of 307 Brethren who have been active officers in the 2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Company. Long a breeding ground for initiates, it was good to see 4 of their younger members attending the recent Burn Supper.
- Even though Bro Jim Miller PM, Secretary is enjoying an extended winter break on Portugal's Algarve, he is still in regular contact with the Lodge on almost a daily basis to ensure that everything is proceeding to plan.
- Isn't Bro David Noble PM incorrigible!! 76 later this year, he still has the same energy and enthusiasm that he displayed over 30 years ago !!
- It is absolutely incredible the sums generated by the 'Wednesday Sausage Club' of retired members in recent years. Every penny of which has been donated to Lodge Funds.
- Almost 20 of our Brethren are planning to attend the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master Bro Neil Fraser on Saturday 18th March, and sit down to the dinner afterwards.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 12th February, the Provincial Grand Chapter of Renfrewshire paid its annual visit to both Rockmount RA and Cryptic Council.

The deputation was headed by Most Excellent Companion Gordon Renfrew the newly-appointed Provincial Grand Superintendent of Renfrewshire.

MEC Gordon is a frequent and welcome visitor to Rockmount, and it was good to be able to welcome him officially, in his new position.

The Chapter was praised for the manner in which it conducted its business over the preceding 12 months, and MEC Graham Manson IPZ. was congratulated by Provincial Grand Chapter.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 14th March** where a Royal Arch Degree will be conferred by the office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC, No.367. MEC Hugh Cattigan MEZ and his Office-bearers extend a cordial invitation to all Companions, especially any visitors, to attend on that evening.

On Thursday 23rd February 2017 Rockmount RAC travelled to **Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900**, 7 Brown Street, Port Glasgow, where they had been invited to confer a MMM affiliation and EM degree.

MEC Hugh Cattigan MEZ was well supported on this 'official' visit and an excellent evening was enjoyed by all.



Rockmount Cryptic Council

The next Meeting of the Council is scheduled for:

Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7:30pm

TIM Robert McCulloch looks forward to a good attendance and a shared harmony with the Companions of Rockmount RAC and visitors.

Visitations



On Thursday 26th January, the Lodge visited Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, No.242 where we had been invited by Bro Graham Scott RWM to confer a FC Degree.

The degree was conferred by four of our Brethren, all of whom had been born within Johnstone.

A good sized deputation of 21 Brethren supported our RWM Bro George McGrandles and enjoyed a pleasant harmony afterwards, cementing some old friendships.



On Monday 13th February we travelled to visit our near neighbours and good friends at Lodge Nitshill, No.1478 to confer a MM Degree.

The RWM Bro. George McGrandles was supported by an excellent deputation of 26 Brethren. Thereafter a fine MM Degree was conferred upon a single candidate. Bro Harry Lloyd and his Brethren laid on some excellent hospitality, which was greatly enjoyed by all in attendance.



On Monday 27th March 2017 the Brethren are off on their travels again when we visit Ardrossan on the Ayrshire Coast, where we have been invited to confer the Mark Ceremonial within The Masonic Temple, 1 Harbour Street, Ardrossan KA22 8BS by Lodge Ardrossan St John, No.320.

This is a special occasion for our genial Senior Deacon, Bro Bobby Clark, as his son Dale will be among the candidates on that evening.



A couple of official visitations for later in the year are taking shape with the dates now being confirmed. On Saturday 9th September we are travelling across to Wishaw to confer the Dramatised FC Degree within Lodge Maudslie Castle, No.1630. On Saturday 4th November we make the slightly longer trek up to Inverness where we hve been invited to confer another dramatized degree within Lodge Old Inverness St Johns, No.6. Full details will follow soon. Watch this space !!

Meet the Candidates

Ross Flockhart : Ross is 22 years of age and lives in the Lyoncross area of the town. Still single, after graduating from University, he is now employed with Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

A keen amateur boxer in his spare time, he is a member of Barrhead BC and has so far won 9 of his 16 amateur bouts as a Light Heavyweight

Christopher Gilbert : Christopher is employed Malcolms where he operates heavy machinery in their Plant Division. Another who is still 'footloose & fancy free' he is 25 years old and likes playing 5-a-side football with his friends and bowls at Shanks BC in the town.

Paul Smith : Paul lives at the top of Fenwick Drive in Auchenback with his wife Elaine and three of their four children, his eldest daughter having already 'flown the coop'. Aged 43, he is employed by Scotrail and lists his hobbies as fiddling with cars and gardening



Summer Fayre



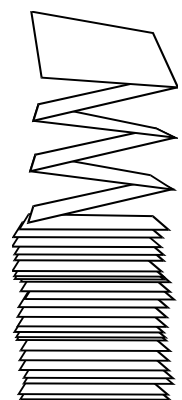
The Lodge is holding its annual Summer Fayre on **Saturday 3rd June** between 1pm and 4pm. As well as a fun day out, this is a much-needed fundraiser for the Lodge and if you can assist with any fund-raising schemes on that day, contact Bro George McGrandles our Right Worshipful Master, who is co-ordinating this year's event.



Paper Appeal

Due to a rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock in recent months, we are in grave danger of running out of that most essential of commodities – PAPER. As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier paper, Whilst we use more white, than anything else, we are low in coloured paper, which we use for Front Covers etc.

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.



Rest assured that it will be ***Gratefully received, and faithfully applied !***"



WORLD AT WAR

1914 – 1918

(February 1917)



Germany's manifesto to sink all ships in the War Zones, taking effect today (01/02/1917), causes temporary suspension of neutral sailings. The press of U.S.A. takes bellicose view.

On the 2nd February there was an appeal to the UK for food economy made by Lord Davenport and the following day the S.S. "Heusatonik", American grain ship was torpedoed off the Scilly Isles.

President Wilson severs diplomatic relations between U.S.A. and Germany. Count Bernstorff receives his passports and Mr. Gerard is recalled from Berlin. The U.S.A. demands immediate release of over 60 Americans taken prisoner by German Atlantic raider. S.S. "California", Anchor Line, sunk by submarine without warning. 43 killed and missing.

Most historians agree that American involvement in World War I was inevitable by early 1917, but the march to war was no doubt accelerated by a notorious letter penned by German foreign secretary Arthur Zimmermann. On January 16, 1917, British code breakers intercepted an encrypted message from Zimmermann intended for Heinrich von Eckardt, the German ambassador to Mexico. The missive gave the ambassador a now-famous set of instructions: if the neutral United States entered the war on the side of the Allies, Von Eckardt was to approach Mexico's president with an offer to forge a secret wartime alliance. The Germans would provide military and financial support for a Mexican attack on the United States, and in exchange Mexico would be free to annex "lost territory in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona."

In addition, Von Eckardt was told to use the Mexicans as a go-between to entice the Japanese Empire to join the German cause.

Neville Chamberlain announces his scheme for National Service.

German Government admit having prevented US Ambassador Mr. Gerard communicating with U.S.A., stating falsely that Count Bernstorff has not been allowed communication with Germany. Mr. Gerard receives his passports.

South of Serre Hill (north of Ancre) British capture strong system of hostile trenches on front of 1,250 yards, 215 prisoners taken. Successful Allied raids at Givenchy, Neuville, Grandcourt, La Bassee, Neuve Chappelle, Auberive (Champagne), and Luneville.

China sends energetic protest to Germany, and threatens to break off diplomatic relations.

1917 also saw Russia's exit from the war amid two revolutions, the first in February and a second in October.

Almoner's Report

It is with great sadness, sorrow and sincere regret that duty calls on me to notify the passing of Bro Jim Flockhart at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital on Saturday 28th January. Bro Jim was admitted to hospital in mid-December following a major health upset. In recent years Bro Jim had encountered several health difficulties during which, I as your Almoner, visited him at home and in hospital on several occasions. I was always aware of his determination to overcome his dilemma and he was ever focussed on the positive – come what may, which was natural of this much-respected brother. In the midst of all hardship, I was strengthened and encouraged by Bro. Jim's disciplined resolve, true grit, commitment and loyalty he clearly exhibited.

Bro Jim Flockhart had quality of mind and spirit which enabled him to meet danger, face opposition or the challenge of life with fearlessness, As Almoner, I was given the opportunity to get to know this Brother, and this was to me a blessing. I visited the family home in Barrhead, where I expressed very sincere condolences to sorrowing family members on behalf of the Lodge. Mrs Josie Flockhart, Jim's beloved wife, thanked most kindly the Lodge and myself for compassion extended.

The funeral service took place in St John's RC Church on Monday 6th February, followed by a committal at Neilston Cemetery and I attended both services. Bro Jim Flockhart, a good agreeable man and mason, will be sadly missed, but dearly remembered by many. He was one of nature's gentlemen.

I conclude by thanking the many Brethren of 307 for attending both services, which brought comfort to the family, and Bro Johnny Gauld PM for piping at the cemetery.

As previously reported, following the sudden death of Bro Robert Dunlop, I attended the Service of Thanksgiving at Woodside Crematorium on Saturday 28th January, accompanied by Bro Jimmy Laing. Thereafter, we accompanied family members to the home of Mrs Anne Aird, Robert's cousin, for refreshment and reflection. Also in attendance were Bro Alex Aitken, Bro Donald Ferguson, his wife Mary, daughter Lynn and her husband James.

Home Visits : Bro Robert Kennedy (several); Bro Jim Laird on his 91st Birthday; Mrs Rae Hughes; Bro Donald Ferguson (several); Bro Walter Fleming and Bro John W Smith.

During this month Bro Jim Hughes had a stay in the RAH and on the day I paid a visit, he was discharged, although I was given the opportunity to speak with him briefly before he left, and I have since been in contact with him at home, when he informed me he was feeling much better.

Brethren, please keep me informed if you have need or a visit or even a chat, no matter what the problem you are experiencing, at any time.

Bro Alex White,

Lodge Almoner ☎ 0141-571 6411

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from The Mallet of 34 Years Ago

No. 62

February 1983

REGULAR MEETINGS

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 1st February, the following two Candidates :

KENNETH JUNNER

HUGH GRAHAM Jun

received the Fellow Craft Degree. The proceedings were in the capable hands of a team from Lodge Thistle & Crown No.1167, Neilston who were the visitors for the evening. We have come to expect that the degree work of our friends from Neilston will attain a high standard and once again we were not disappointed, the performance was well nigh perfect.

Lodge Opened : **7-30pm**

Lodge Closed : **9-35pm**

Attendance : **193**

The same two Candidates were raised to the M.M. degree at the meeting on February 15th by a team provided by our own Instruction Class. We have often commented very favourably on the unfailing degree of competence provided by the Instruction Class and once again they proved their worth with an almost flawless rendering of this degree,

Lodge Opened : **7-35pm**

Lodge Closed : **9-50pm**

Attendance : **180**

100 CLUB

The lucky winners for February are :

£10-00 - Robert Dunlop, Jim Rice

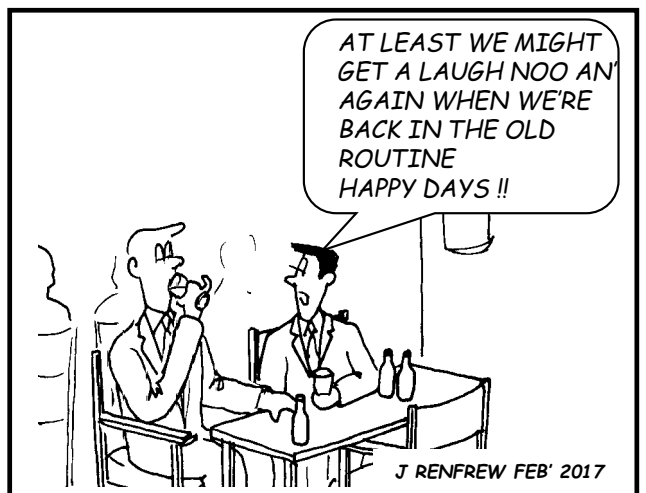
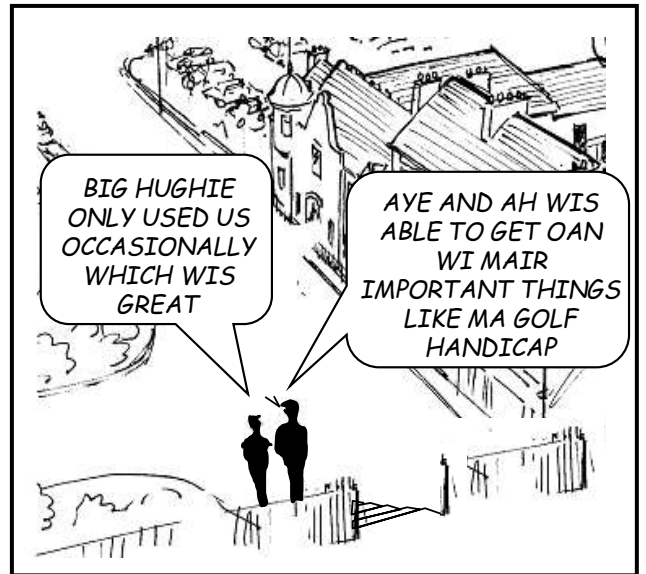
£3-00 - Peter Cameron, Roy Dinning

£1-00 - Jack Gauld, Stuart Gillan Jun.

LODGE GOSSIP

- Congratulations to Bro Brian Morton I.P.M. who has been made Proxy Senior Warden of Lodge Thomas Gardener, No.762 in Transvaal, Orange Free State & Northern Cape.
- We are delighted to tell you that Bro Gordon Wright has taken over as Secretary of the N.E.C. Charities Committee. He is the 4th member of 307 to hold this position and has replaced Bro Ian McFarlane who is kept busy with his duties within his Mother Lodge.
- We are glad to hear that Bro Eddie Glasper has finally got his Hackney Carriage licence and now has his own taxi on the road. We wish him all success.

MARK & ARCHIE



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

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

Lodge Syllabus 2016-2017

** Denotes an Official visitation*

March 2017

Tuesday 7th @ 7.30pm..... Business meeting and PGLRE Visitation

Tuesday 21st @ 7.30pm.... FC Degree by the Lodge Instruction Class

Monday 27th @ 7.30pm..... MMM at Lodge Saltcoats Ardrossan St John 320

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April 2017

Tuesday 4th @ 6pm..... MM Degree by The Grand Lodge of Scotland

Tuesday 18th @ 7.30pm.... Dramatisation - 'Burns v Kipling'

May 2017

Tuesday 2nd @ 7.30pm..... EA Degree by Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167

*Saturday 6th PoW Dramatisation in Aberdeen **

Tuesday 16th @ 7.30pm.... PoW Dramatisation

September 2017

Tuesday 5th @ 7.30pm..... FC Degree by Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426

Saturday 9th @ 3pm DFC Degree at Lodge Maudslie Castle, No.1630

*

Tuesday 19th @ 7.30pm.... MM Degree by the Lodge Instruction Class

October 2017

Friday 7th @ 7.30pm..... Dramatisation "The Table of Scottish Freemasons"

Tuesday 17th @ 7.30pm.... Annual General Meeting

*Friday 20th @ 7.30pm..... FC Degree at Lodge St Conval 1359 **

*Tuesday 31st @ 7.30pm.... EA Degree at Lodge Pollokshaws RA 153 **

November 2017

Saturday 4th @ 3pmDramatisation Lodge Old Inverness St Johns, No.6

Tuesday 7th @ 7.30pm..... Dramatised MM Degree

Tuesday 21st @ 7.30pm.... Mark Ceremonial by Bro. Ian Blair IPM

Saturday 25th @ 4.00pm ... Lodge Installation