

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



April 2024

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No. 473

Editorial



April 2024

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In the 30 or so years that I have been involved as editor of our monthly journal it has always been a challenge to try and decide what to publish. Tradition dictates that certain items such as reports on our meetings and other such information must always been included. After all, the original intent of the founding editors back in 1976 was to ensure that brethren who were housebound or unable to attend their Lodge Meetings, should be able to keep up with the workings of the Lodge. Perhaps we do not meet the polished efforts of some of the more celebrated Masonic publications, but that was never our intention and we have survived intact for almost half a century, whilst others have ground to a halt and ceased.

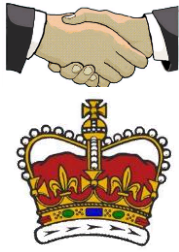
Almost 50 years later, nothing much has changed but the ever present need to fill the dozen or so pages ever month is still challenging. Difficult decisions have had to be made over the year on what to publish and what perhaps to set aside as perhaps not suitable for our readers. The original standards set were extremely high, and part of my remit is to maintain those standards, at all costs, and I like to think I have managed to do that. Who knows, our readers will be the judge of that.

I remember a Provincial Grand Master, who shall remain nameless, who promised me an article on '*a very interesting masonic subject*'. Some weeks later it appeared in the post. It ran to 17 pages and whilst worthy in its own way, it was as dry as dust and totally unsuitable. It was never published and still lies gathering dust on a shelf. The PGM in question asked about it for several months afterwards without really receiving an suitable answer !!

The difficulty is on how to maintain a balance between what is interesting, enlightening and informative. There are no doubt been much that didn't exactly set the heather on fire, but was good solid local information worth its weight in gold to many of our elderly readership.

Of course we have regular items that are very popular, such as our long-running feature - '*Famous Freemasons*' which has stretched over the years to some 80+ articles. Our cartoons by the late Bro Roddy Glen of 465 in our early editions were much loved, and we would like to think that their successors - '*Mark & Archie*' is still hitting the right note in a Masonic world that has changed greatly in the 21st century.

We will continue to seek and publish information that is interesting and informative, and hope that our loyal readership stays with us for many more years. If you have anything that you would like to see, or perhaps you have penned something that you'd fancy would be suitable, let us know. But please keep it shorter than 17 pages !!



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 7th May 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised Master Degree

By the Brethren of the Instruction Class

Harmony



Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

By the Brethren of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M.

Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 2nd April, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class conferred the Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree. All in a large attendance enjoyed the popular dramatization where the Brethren demonstrated a typical Lodge of 1824 in the local tavern.

On that same evening, Bro David Noble PM received his 60 year certificate from our R.W.M. Bro Robert Scott. A very popular and active Past Master, Bro David thank all for their good wishes, and sat down to loud applause.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.50pm

Attendance : 101

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 16th April, the following Candidates

DARREN ANDERSON

DARREN POLE

were raised to the high & sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Installing Masters – Bro Paul Stewart PM and Bro Jim Renfrew PM, aided on the evening by the Past Masters of the Lodge, in what was a fine MM Degree appreciated by all in attendance.

Thereafter, all Brethren present retired to the Function Suite to enjoy the harmony.

Opened : 7.32pm

Lodge Closed : 9.41pm

Attendance : 51

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

2nd April £20 : **Bro Tom Mulholland** £10 : **Bro Stewart Gray PM**

16th April £20 : **Bro Jim Boulton** £10 : **Ms Carol Young**

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, is still taking names for this year, which commenced immediately after our Annual Installation.

Masonic Lecture !!!

There's a man, walking down the street at 1am and he was very very drunk. A policeman stops him and asks: "Where are you going in that condition Sir ?"

"I'mm on mmyy waayyy to a lectuurre on Freemasonnrrry" states the man.

"Where can you possibly get a lecture on Freemasonry at this time of night ?" asks the bemused policemen.

"Frromm mmyy wife, wwhenn I gget home" the man replies.



South Africa

We offer a brief insight into the Craft in Southern-most tip of Africa. This fledgling democracy has long been a stronghold for Freemasonry with probably the most diverse mixture possible. It boasts over 600 Lodges under FIVE different constitutions, namely The Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland, the Grand East of the Netherlands and its own self-governing Grand Lodge of South Africa.

The Craft first reached this distant outpost in the latter stages of the 18th century when the then Grand Lodge of Holland granted a warrant to Lodge Goede Hoop, No. 18 in Cape Town in 1772. Being the birthplace of Masonry in that part of the world, this soon became an early centre for our fraternity with the first English lodge also being located there and in 1860 Lodge Southern Cross, No. 398 from the Scottish Constitution. It rapidly flourished all over the entire country and by the beginning of this century a wide range of District and Provincial Grand Lodges from all the various constitutions were firmly established.

Freemason`s Hall in Parktown, Johannesburg is a remarkable structure, the largest in the whole of Africa. It boasts 4 separate Temples, the largest of which seats almost 300 people, several dining rooms and one of the finest libraries and museums in the southern hemisphere and at the last count provided facilities for in excess of 130 differing masonic tenants. Indeed the pressure of accommodation is so great in the Republic that municipal and church halls are regularly pressed into service throughout the country, but it should be noted that remarkably no one single Lodge holds its meetings in licenced premises.

Most Lodges meet on a monthly basis, with the Summer months of December, January and February being a fairly quiet period. Being a bilingual country, most of the lodges work in either of the two official languages, English & Afrikaans, although it isn`t unknown for the occasional Lodge to be found working in German or Greek !

The after meeting harmonies or dinners tend to be fairly formal affairs with a sit-down meal of usually 3 or 4 courses and it is not uncommon for the subsequent toast list to run to double figures, with the first toast normally always "The State President".

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 7th May

Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Dramatised MM Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.

Monday 20th May

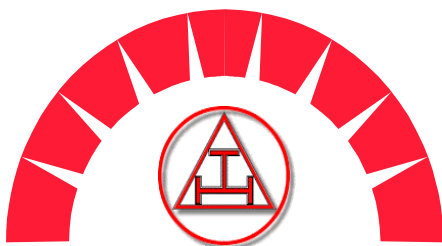
Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 3rd September

Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of Lodge Thistle & Crown

(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

The Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 9th April, was a special occasion, when the Companions of Baron of Renfrew RAC No.114 and Port Glasgow RAC, No.900 combined to confer a fine Excellent Master's degree upon

JOHN DEMPSEY

It was a good degree ably conferred by our visitors, in what was a fine attendance of over 50 Companions

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 14th May** at 7-30pm when the Companions of Rockmount will be conferring the Royal Arch Degree upon the same candidate.

MEC Graham Manson MEZ and his Office-bearers extend a cordial invitation to all Companions, especially any visitors, to attend on that evening.

Brother Paddy Mayne

Robert Blair "Paddy" Mayne (1915–1955), lieutenant colonel in the British Army, solicitor, Irish rugby union international, amateur boxer, and a founding member of the Special Air Service (SAS).

Initiated 25 September 1945, passed 28 May 1946, raised 24 September 1946 in Eklektikos Lodge No. 542 (IC), Newtownards, Northern Ireland. Affiliated to Friendship Lodge No. 447 (IC), also in Newtownards

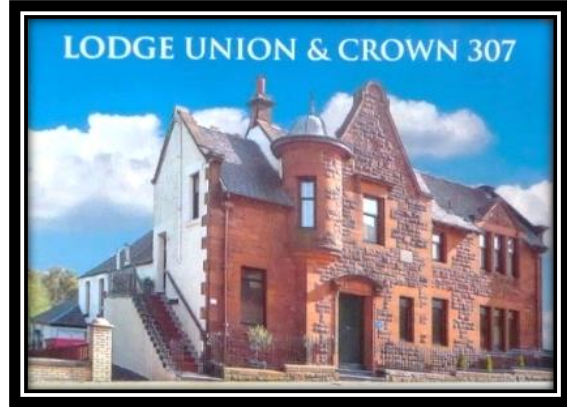
BITS & PIECES

- Sorry to hear that Bro Allan McIntyre had a recent fall at home which resulted in a stay in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery
- It was good to see Bro Colin McLardy PM home from Las Vegas in the US where he now works for a few days. He was looking well.
- Isn't it great to see Bro Alex Morrison travels from his home in Paisley to attend most of our meetings. A stalwart of the Sausage Club, he's now in his 90's.
- Tickets for our forthcoming 'Ladies Night on Friday 17th May are selling well with only a few still available. Anyone interested should contact Bro Alan Izatt WSW (☎ 07742 423 890)
- 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.
- The specially labelled and commemoratively boxed bottles of malt whisky are now ready to be distributed to those who pre-ordered, although Bro Ross Aitken WJW is only too happy to take further orders.
- Grateful thanks to Bro Jim Urie for his donation of much-need paper.
- Bro Alan Izatt WJW is organizing the Lodge Fishing Outing to Harelaw Fishery in Neilston on Saturday 1st June. All interested should contact him on ☎ 07742 423 890.
- It was great to see 22 Brethren supporting the R.W.M. on our visitation to Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
- We hear that Bro Billy Petrie has sold his Campervan and is now intending to spend his future holidays in somewhat more 'normal' holidays.
- On the subject of holidays, Bro Bob Smillie and his wife Isobel, having recently enjoyed a road holiday in the US and Mexico, before travelling across the pacific to Hawaii and New Zealand. They are now heading to Western Australia to visit some friends, (*Jealousy is a terrible thing !!*)
- Didn't Bro Lawrence Webb do really well organizing the recent Sportsmen's Dinner. Over 80 attended what was a great nights entertainment. Over £700 was raised for Lodge Funds, with a further £1000 donated to Accord Hospice.
- Congratulations to Bro Donald Cook and his lovely wife Pauline who recently celebrated their 43rd Wedding Anniversary

Lodge Postcards

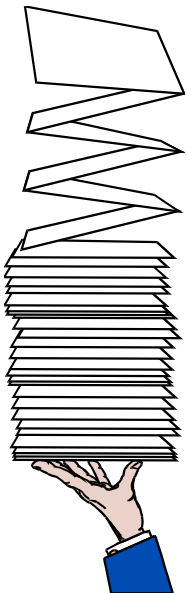
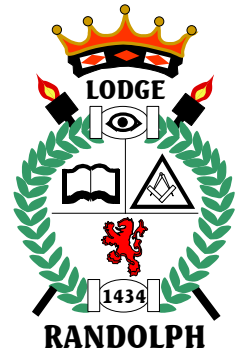
Unique colour postcards of our Temple are still available for sale at the bargain price of £1-00 each from Bro Jim Miller PM (☎ 0141 881 4006) jimmiller307@hotmail.co.uk

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.



Randolph Lunch

We would like to remind our readers that our Sister Lodge – Lodge Randolph, No.1434 is holding its Annual Lunch, here in 307 on Saturday 22nd June at 1.30 for 2.00pm. Tickets costing £20 are available for any 1434 Office-bearer (of which there are many within Union & Crown).



PAPER APPEAL

Unfortunately, due to the surprising lack of response to our earlier appeal, we have been forced to issue a further appeal to our readers. Due to the rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock of, we are in 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 or duplicator 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.

Famous Freemasons

(This month we look at one of the swashbuckling kings of Hollywood's silver screen)

Brother Douglas Fairbanks Sr (1883 – 1939)

Born Douglas Elton Thomas Ullman in Denver, Colorado. Fairbanks father, Charles, was an attorney from a prominent Jewish family in Pennsylvania. Charles met Fairbanks mother, Ella, when she married her first husband, a wealthy plantation owner. After the passing of Ella's first husband, John Fairbanks, she was swindled out of the family fortune by her late husband's business partners. Ella married a second time before marrying Charles. After the marriage, Charles convinced Ella to move to Colorado. When Fairbanks was 5 Charles abandoned his family. Ella changed her son's last name to Fairbanks in honor of her first husband.

Fairbanks began acting at an early age. He performed in summer stock, becoming a sensation in his teens. He attended Denver East High School, leaving in his senior year. It was claimed he attended Harvard University.

In the early 1900's, Fairbanks moved to New York to pursue an acting career. He worked odd jobs until he made his Broadway debut in 1902. In 1907, Fairbanks married Anna Beth Sully. The couple had one son Douglas Elton Fairbanks, who was later known as Douglas Fairbanks Jr.

In 1915, Fairbanks moved his family to Los Angeles. He was immediately signed on a contract with Triangle Pictures. His first film was *The Lamb*. The following year Fairbanks established his own studio, the Douglas Fairbanks Film Corporation. Also in 1916, Fairbanks met Mary Pickford, the two immediately begin having an affair. In 1917, Fairbanks and Pickford joined their friend Charlie Chaplin selling War Bonds across the United States. At the time Pickford and Chaplin were the highest paid stars in Hollywood. The following year Fairbanks became the third highest actor in Hollywood.



In 1919, Fairbanks, Pickford, Chaplin and D.W. Griffith formed United Artists. The four formed the film company to maintain artistic control, to control distribution and to control profits from their films. In the first year of United Artists, Fairbanks films kept the newly formed company afloat.

It was also in 1919 when Sully, Fairbanks first wife, was granted a divorce. Fairbanks wanted to immediately marry Pickford, unfortunately she was still married. After an ultimatum from Fairbanks in 1920, she got a divorce from her husband in Nevada. Due to legal complications, the divorce was not recognized until 1922. The couple married shortly after the divorce was finalized. Pickford and Fairbanks honeymooned in Europe and everywhere they went they were greeted by massive crowds. They had become the first celebrity couple.

In the 1920's Fairbanks continued to make films. In 1926 he made the first full length Technicolor film, The Black Pirate. In 1921, Fairbanks, Pickford and Chaplin established the Motion Picture Fund to help those in the industry who could not work or were unable to meet their bills.

He was Initiated into Freemasonry in Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528 in 1925.

In 1927, Fairbanks and Pickford were the first to put their hands in wet cement in front of the Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The same year Fairbanks was also elected to be the first president of the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences. Later in the same year he presented his first Academy awards.



Fairbanks last silent film was in 1929, The Iron Mask, the sequel to his earlier The Three Musketeers. Fairbanks went on to make sound films, although none of them were very popular. His last film was The Private Life of Don Juan, in 1934.

In 1933, Fairbanks began having an affair with Sylvia Ashley. He separated from Pickford and the two officially divorced in 1936.

On December 12th, 1939, Fairbanks had a heart attack and passed away in his home later the same day.



Did You Know ?

That Bro Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Jimenez was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Venezuela in 1947. In 1957 he became the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Japan.

That the largest Master's chair is in Ophir Lodge No.33 in Murphys, California. It is 15 feet long and can seat the Master, living Past Masters, and visiting dignitaries.

That on June 7, 1921, Mystic Lodge #21 of Red Bank, NJ conferred half of the Master Mason degree on brother Lyman C. Van before the power went out. He didn't receive the rest of the degree until several weeks later, making him for a time, a "two and half degree" Mason.

That Bro Gordon Cooper, in his Mercury capsule, carried a Masonic coin and a blue Masonic flag during his 22 orbit flight, which he later presented to his mother Lodge.

The Trowel

The tools of a true Master Mason-A man who has proven his skill-
Are any or all that he chooses, his task to correctly fulfill.

Foremost of these is the Trowel, Which practical builders all class
as the tool for spreading of mortar uniting the house in one mass.

But we as Freemasons would use it For purpose more noble and grand,
As craftsmen have faithfully taught us, As Masonry's ritual's command,
To spread the cement of affection, Devotion and brotherly love,
To bring peace, good will and contentment On earth as in Heaven above.

Yea; this is the cement that unites us in one sacred union of friends-
Brothers 'amongst whom no contention, nor discord nor difference portends,
Except that most noble contention By Masons Accepted and Free;
Or rather that fine emulation Of who can best work and agree.

Visitation



Monday 22nd April, saw us off on the road again, when we travelled along to Nitshill, where we had been invited to confer an EA Degree within Lodge Nitshill, No.1478. A large deputation of Brethren, supported Bro Robert Scott R.W.M. on the visit.

All in attendance witnessed a fine First Degree, ably conferred by some of the more experienced members of the Lodge Instruction Class.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 29 Years Ago

No. 183

April 1995

At the meeting held on Tuesday 4th April the following Candidates :

KENNETH BATES

ALEXANDER CARLTON

BRIAN WARD

were raised to the high and sublime degree of a M.M. by the Officebearers and Brethren of the Lodge in what was a fine rendering of the Third degree. All present cannot fail to have been impressed by the high standard of ceremonial work on offer.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-44pm

Attendance : 136



At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 18th April the following two Candidates :

GORDON DURIE

ARCHIBALD TANNOCK

were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order by a degree team drawn from the members of the Lodge Instruction Class who were a credit to our Instruction Master, Bro Tom Young P.M.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

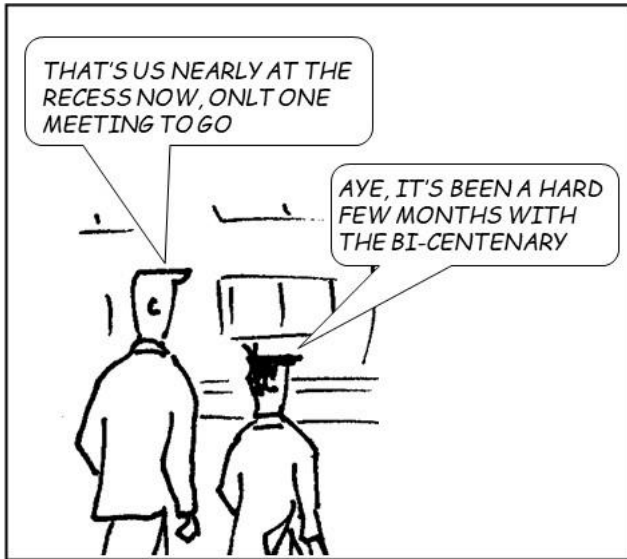
Lodge Closed : 9-24PM

Attendance : 179

Bits & Pieces

- We would like to offer our heartiest congratulations to Bro Billy Wood`s younger son Barry and Bro Bernie Lawniczak`s son Kevin who recently celebrated their 21st Birthdays and both would like to thank all who helped them mark the event.
- We gather that Bro Alan Cain`s daughter Pamela is moving down South to live in Bristol, we she is to take up employment.
- We were extremely saddened to learn that Lodge St Kentigern, No. 976, who until recently met in Whitehill Street in Denniston, have given up their charter and gone into darkness after over 90 years in existence.
- We wish Bro Stuart Gray and his good lady Marie Louise, every success in the new home they have purchased in the Aurs Crescent area of Auchenback.
- There must have been a more than a few crossed wires on the local social scene recently ! Bro Elias Sudding PM who has been assisting our Social Convener received a strange phonecall where the caller tried to book HIM for a cabaret in their own Social Club. Bro Elias managed to convince them that they were mistaken and even persuaded them to spend an evening socially in our own function suite, where they preceded to walk off with the Bingo Snowball !
- Congratulations to both Bro Joe Roberts PM and Bro Willie Wade PM who recently celebrated their 75th Birthdays within a few days of each other.
- We offer rather belated congratulations to Bro Jack Mulholland on his election as President of Arthurlie Bowling Club for the current season.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW APRIL 24

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

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