

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



May 2021

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

No. 444



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Thankfully this month's edition of *The Mallet* is the last until after the Summer Recess, and perhaps we can now sit back and take a well-earned break. The production of our monthly newsletter, can at times, become a hard, difficult slog to ensure we have enough content, and that we meet our monthly deadline. This over the last 14 months has been further exacerbated by the fact that it has been extremely difficult to gather much about the Brethren of Union & Crown and their families due to the severe effects of COVID19 on society and the extended lockdown periods, where we simply didn't get out and about, or have a regular diet of Lodge Meetings to assist in this process,

It is difficult to sit in front of your computer each and every month and try and come up with enough to allow us to fill and publish at least a dozen pages. Often you find yourself sitting staring at a blank screen, on the brink of panic, as you mind just simply refuses to function properly.

My thanks go to those Brethren who answered the call, providing a few words on a series of particular subjects and topics. Without them it would indeed have been an impossible task. Just having to come up with a theme for the Mark n' Archie cartoon, and then translate it in to the finished article took many many hours. You don't realise just how close we came to publishing without a cartoon !

However, in the end all was well, and we did finally get to the finishing line, albeit the respite is only for a few short months before the cycle begins again. Hopefully by then the situation will be much clearer and we will be close to a return to something approaching normal. We are all sitting with our fingers crossed waiting for a positive outcome from June's 'Heads of Orders' meeting. We hope to be reporting in our Summer edition that a clear pathway is in place, and we can all make plans for a return to our Lodges.

**Stay Safe Brethren.**



# Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

*The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac intimates that, until further notice, there will be no Regular Meetings held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead.*

*When formal clearance is received from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Hopefully in June, it is hoped there will be a resumption of meetings, albeit in a somewhat restricted manner.*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*Brother David McArthur P.M. Lodge Secretary*



## **100 Club**

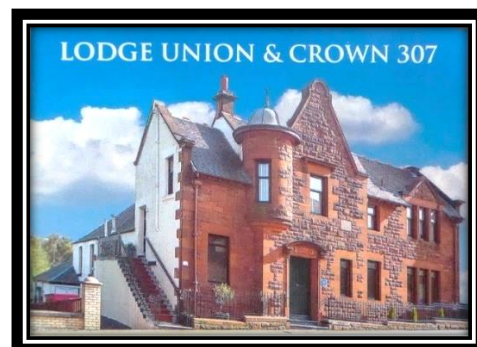
As promised during Lockdown, Bro George McGrandles, our worthy Treasurer, has continued to make the 100 Club draw, even though there are no Regular Meetings being held. Below is a list of the recent winners :

Meeting Date	£20.00 Winner	£10.00 Winner
May 4 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Bro Hugh Cattigan PM	Bro Ronnie MacIsaac RWM

## **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](mailto: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.



# Masonic Snippets

On November 10, 1928, the Grand Lodge of California held a special communication at Culver City to lay the corner stone of the Masonic Temple. The lodge room was so crowded that the grand line officers were unable to enter the room. They retired to a nearby Ladies' powder room to open the Grand Lodge for the ceremony.

The first American Masonic ritual, "Freemason's Monitor", was published in Albany, NY in 1797 by Brother Thomas Smith Webb. It was largely based on William Preston's writings in England.

In May, 1843, a group of representatives from fourteen grand lodges met in Baltimore, with the idea of adopting uniform ritual. The meeting was presided over by John Dove of Virginia, while Charles W. Moore of Massachusetts prepared the proposed ritual. The convention's work was not generally accepted.

Brother William Brockmeier (1866-1947) of St. Louis conducted 5,586 Masonic funeral ceremonies during his Masonic career.

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.

Montana's first livestock brand was a square and compasses and is still in use today. It was registered to a Mr. Pointdexter Orr of Beaverhead County, Montana in 1872.

Grand Masters generally have the power to make "Masons at sight," which means the Grand Master can do away with formalities such as filing of petitions, waiting periods, learning of certain ritual, etc. Some famous Masons who were made at sight include: William H. Taft, General George Marshall, and General Douglas MacArthur.

In the 1800's several Grand Lodges established Masonic colleges. The most successful of which was in Hannibal, Missouri in 1847. Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Georgia all tried it, but all were eventually closed due to lack of support.

In the spring of 1966, brother Dallas Coleman of Denison Lodge #373 of Kansas was digging a pond when he came across an overturned gravestone marked with a square and compasses. Research lead to a determination that it belonged to Brother Henry Craig (183262) of Valley Falls Lodge #21. The brethren of the lodge reset and cleaned the monument and erected a fence around it to keep livestock away. The Lodge members continue to maintain the site today.

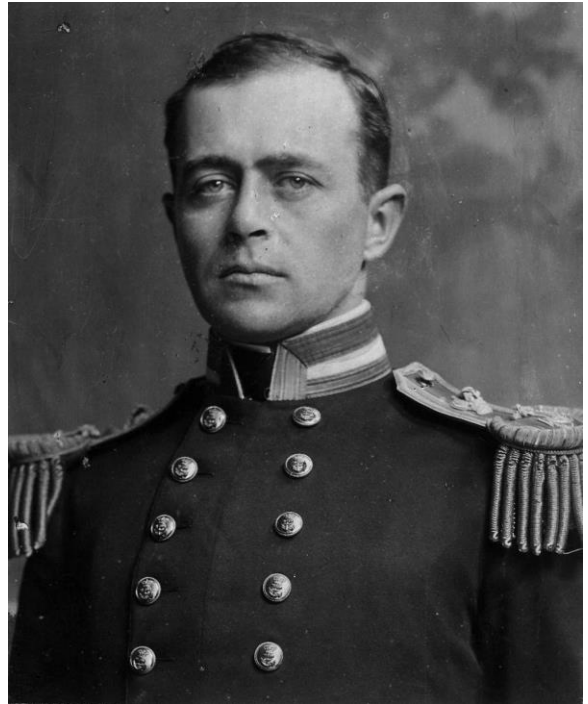
Warren G. Harding, 29<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, was initiated on June 28, 1901. It took him 19 years to complete the other two degrees, just the year before he was elected in 1921

# Famous Freemasons

*(This month we turn to a real 'Boy's Own Hero, who tragically lost his life whilst attempting to be the first to reach the South Pole)*

## Bro Captain Robert Falcon Scott (1868 – 1912)

Robert Falcon Scott was born on June 6th, 1868 near Devonport, Plymouth, England. According to family tradition Scott and his younger brother Archie, were destined for military service. Archie went into the Army and Scott went into the Navy. To prepare for his naval career Scott first went to a day school for two years. He then attended Stubbington House School in Hampshire which was a cramming school, a school designed to prepare a student for a specific goal. In Scott's case it was to prepare for the entrance exams to become a cadet on the HMS Britannia. At the age of 13 Scott began his naval career. At 15, Scott became a midshipman and was stationed on a variety of ships.



After becoming a sub-lieutenant in 1888, Scott served aboard a variety of ships until in 1891 he applied for a two year torpedo training course. This led to a command, a small blip in his career when he ran the torpedo boat he was commanding aground. There is also a claim by some that around this time there was a cover up of some kind. 11 weeks of Scott's service cannot be accounted for and are missing from admiralty records. Some claim that it was due to a scandalous affair, others claim it was just poor record keeping.

In 1894, tragedy struck the Scott family. Scott's father after selling the family brewery made a bad investment and lost all of the families money. Scott's father took a job in a brewery and three years later passed away. This left Scott and his brother Archie to support the family. One year later, Archie passed away from typhoid fever. This put Scott in the position to support his mother and two unmarried sisters. In a chance encounter in London, Scott met Clements Markham who was the head of the Royal Geological Society (RGS). The two had met before when Scott was only a midshipman. Still Markham faith in Scott and Scott was desperate for a way to increase his rank and thereby his wages to support his family. Markham put Scott forward to lead the British Antarctic Expedition, later the Discovery Expedition, which was a joint expedition between the RGS and the Royal Society to Antarctica. After some back and forth, Markham won out and Scott was put in full command of the expedition.

Scott was a member of several lodges including his Mother Lodge - Drury Lane Lodge No. 2127, in central London, where he was Initiated, passed and raised in 1901. He was also a member of Navy Lodge No. 2613 and became a MM of St. Alban's Lodge No. 2597, in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Discovery Expedition left England in 1901. The stated mission of the expedition was scientific discovery and there was no real attempt to get to the South Pole on the expedition. By the time the expedition returned to England, there had been strife between Scott and some of the crew. This led to conflicts later on. Overall the expedition was considered a success and Scott returned to a hero's welcome. Scott wanted to return Antarctica and began raising funds to get an expedition together. He left the Royal Navy and began planning his expedition with his sights set on reaching the South Pole.

Scott knew that he would not be able to make a march to the pole. At the time there were no motorized vehicles that could travel on snow, one of Scott's team members did envision such a machine and one was constructed for the expedition. Scott also brought along dog teams and

horses. The expedition started out on June 15th, 1910 on the ship Terra Nova. Scott had to catch up with the ship in Australia so he could continue raising funds until the last minute. The voyage there was plagued with problems including being trapped in pack ice for 20 days and not being able to land at their original landing site. This was all against the back drop of a perceived race to the South Pole between Scott and Roald Amundsen.



In October 1911, Scott and his team started out for the South Pole. They used staged teams with a large group heading out and the group getting smaller and smaller as part of the group dropped away for various reasons. The final team reached the South Pole 5 weeks after Amundsen's team did. This was devastating to Scott and his team. The initial leg of their journey back went well. Before long the terrain and the conditions began claiming members of his team. Before they had set out, Scott had given orders that a dog team was to meet them on the way back on March 1st, 1912 and specific location. Scott's remaining team made camp and waited for the relief team. They became snowed in due to the weather. The first to go was Lawrence Oates who had gotten frostbite on his toes. Scott recorded in his diary that Oates' last words were "I am just going outside and may be some time." The three remaining members of the team were able to make it another 20 miles before the weather snowed them in. They were just 11 miles from their destination. The three died from exposure, it is believed because of the position of the bodies that Scott was the last to die. His last entry in diary was:

*We took risks, we knew we took them; things have come out against us, and therefore we have no cause for complaint, but bow to the will of Providence, determined still to do our best to the last ... Had we lived, I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, endurance, and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman. These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale, but surely, surely, a great rich country like ours will see that those who are dependent on us are properly provided for.*

This entry was made on March 29th, 1912. It is believed that is the day Scott passed away.

# THE OLD MASTER'S WAGES

I met a dear old man today  
Who wore a masonic pin.

It was old and faded, like the man  
Its edges were worn quite thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat,  
To give the old brother his due.

I said, "i see you've travelled east he said,  
" I have, have you?"

I said, I have, and in my day before the all-seeing sun,  
I played in the rubble with Jubala, Jubalo and Jubalum.

He shouted, "don't laugh at the work my son it's good and sweet and true."  
And if you've travelled as you said you should give these things their due.

The word, the sign, the token, the sweet masonic prayer.  
The vow that all have taken who have climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a mason are never paid in gold,  
But the gain comes from contentment when you're weak and growing old.

You see I've carried my obligations for almost fifty years,  
It has helped me through the hardships and the failures full of tears.

Now I'm losing my mind and my body death is near,  
But I don't despair; I've lived my life upon the level,  
And I'm dying on the square.

Sometimes, the greatest lessons are those that are learned anew, and the old man in  
the park today has changed my point of view.

To all masonic brothers; the only secret is to care.  
May you live upon the level.  
May you part upon the square.

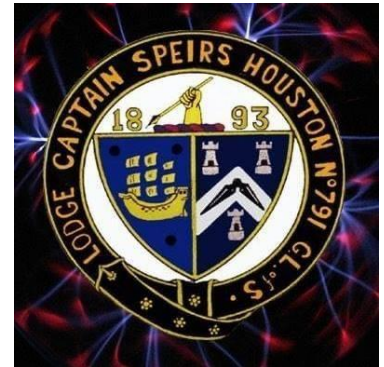
*(Grateful thanks to Bro Ronnie MacIsaac, RWM for this poem)*

*(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This month we look at one of the more remote village Lodges in Renfrewshire East)*

## Lodge Captain Speirs, No.791

The Lodge was formed in the early 1890s when eleven Brethren from local Lodges, notably 68, 129, 156 426 & 592, decided that the time was right for a lodge within the village of Houston. The Grand Lodge of Scotland was petitioned accordingly, and a charter was granted on 2nd of February 1893, under the name "Captain Speirs".

The village of Houston had long had a close association with the Speirs family, who were local landowners, and originally descendants of the famed Glasgow Tobacco Lords of the mid-eighteenth century.



**Bro A A Hagart-Speirs**

The first Right Worshipful Master was Bro Alexander Archibald Speirs, 5th Laird of Elderslie, a MM of Lodge "The Prince's", No.607, who lived at Houstoun House. The Lodge name was taken from his late father Archibald, who at one time had been a Captain in the Scots Fusiliers and the Liberal MP for Renfrewshire, before going on to become Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow. Bro A.A. Hagart-Speirs as he became known on adding his grandmother's name in 1911, himself went on to great things, serving as Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow in 1917 and Grand Master Mason from 1929 to 1931.

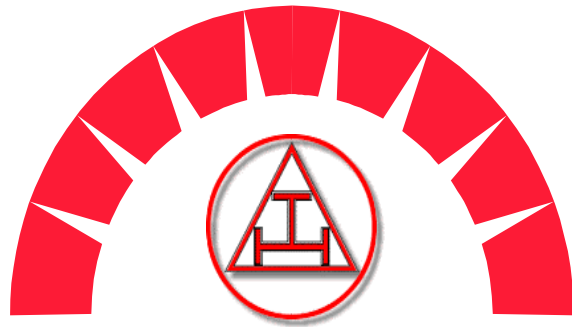
The first meeting of the Lodge was held within the North Public School in Houston on 17th February 1893, when a remarkable total of sixteen Candidates were initiated, amongst whom were Bro William Waddell and Bro George Young.

One of the first public outings of the Lodge came on Saturday 9th October 1893 when a special meeting of the Lodge Captain Speirs, No.791 was convened for the purpose of laying the memorial stone of the "New Village Hall" in Houston. The ceremony was conducted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, with Lodges 129, 153, 156, 175, 242, 307, 370, 426, 592, 617, and of course, 791 in attendance

In October of the following year, the Lodge moved to the recently-completed "New Village Hall" in Houston, where they met for the first time on Friday 5th October 1894. On that evening, the Lodge officers marched in formal procession through the village, wearing their full Masonic regalia.



Although the village of Houston has today grown out of all recognition, it is indeed fitting that Lodge Captain Speirs, No.791 still held their Regular Meetings within the same Village Hall for many years, and only relocated to the Masonic Temple in nearby Kilbarchan in 2017.

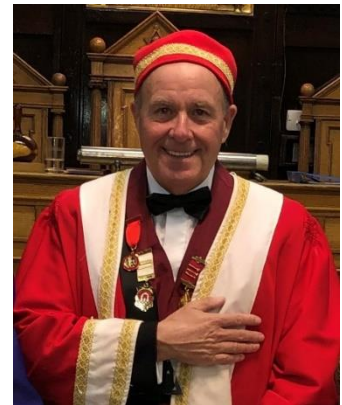


## Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

### From Our Most Excellent First Principal

Hi Companions,

As always may I start by saying that I hope you and your families continue to be safe and well. It would appear the countdown is well and truly on, and that it could be a possibility that we may be able to return to our Chapter before the end of 2021 if the Government roadmap permits us to do so, I am informed that this will be high on the agenda when the heads of the various orders meet in June.



On Thursday 29th April I took part in PGRAC of Renfrewshire zoom meeting chaired by Grand Superintendent MEZ Gordon McGregor Renfrew, it was great to see Rockmount so well represented, in attendance was Our Treasurer Jim Renfrew PZ, Scribe Hugh Cattigan PZ and John S Miller PZ.

M.E Depute First Grand Principal James Turnbull told the participants he was part of various committee(s) looking at the way forward with regards to changes that may have to be made in the constitutions and laws and the way we carry out our rituals etc, let's hope any changes made will be of a long term benefit for all Masonic orders.

As Grand Superintendent MEZ Gordon McGregor Renfrew commission is coming to an end he advised that it was not his intention to seek re-election, it was agreed that the next steps of the procedure to elect his successor be in place sooner rather than later, MEC Kevin Pollock has let it be known he was interested in the post.

May being the last meeting before the recess may I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and enjoyable Summer and hopefully with the easing of restrictions some of you may manage some sort of holiday.

I make no apologies for once again thanking, the trustees who continue to work on behalf of the Companions / Chapter, and I am extremely grateful for the support I have personally received from Jim and Hugh.

Can I again ask if any Companion has any information regarding the Chapter or members could they please inform our Scribe Hugh, and if relevant he will include it in our bulletins.

Yours Faithfully and Fraternaly

**MEC Harry Lloyd MEZ**



# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 15 Years Ago

No. 294

May 2006

At the Regular meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the following two Candidates :

**CLARK RENFREW      SCOTT O'HARA**

were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order, in what was a fine Entered Apprentice Degree, ably conferred by a deputation of Office-bearers and Brethren from Lodge Saint John's Operative Lodge, No.347 in Rutherglen, who were our guests for the evening. The fine deputation was headed by their R.W.M. – Bro Robert White, a frequent visitor to 307, and the cousin of our worthy Almoner Bro Alex White.

**Opened : 7-30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.44pm**

**Attendance : 81**

At the Regular meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, the same two Candidates were passed to the Second, Square or Fellowcraft Degree, by the Office-bearers and Brethren of our near neighbours, Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167, in what was a fine FC Degree ably conferred by those in the experienced degree team. Bro Gordon Wade R.W.M, who took a full part in the degree, must have been very satisfied with the ceremonial work of his Brethren.

**Opened : 7-30pm**

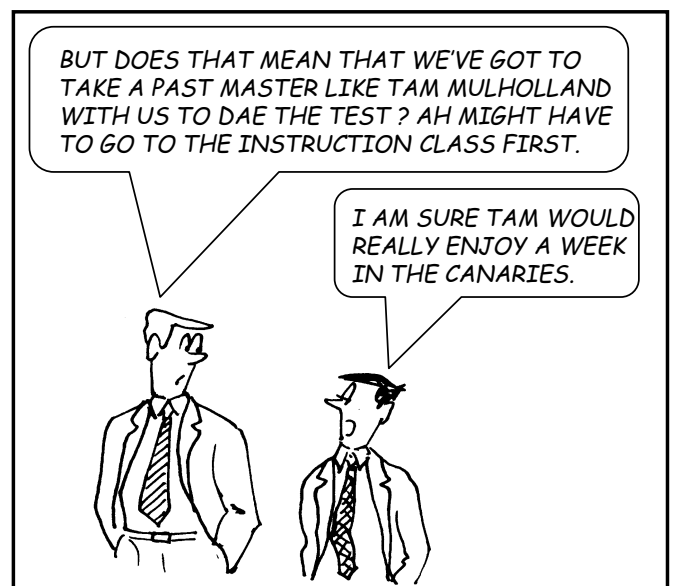
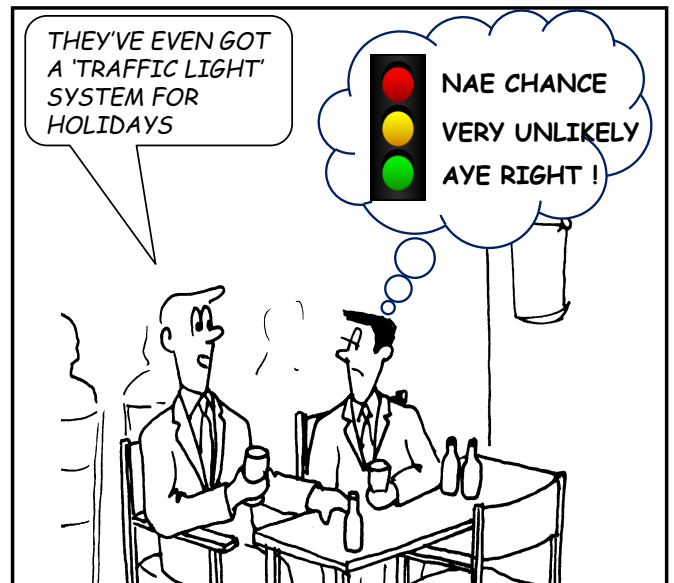
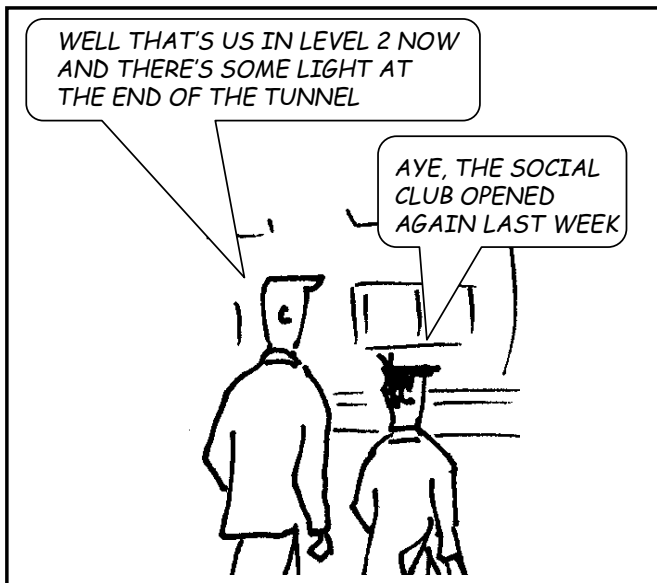
**Lodge Closed : 9-29pm**

**Attendance : 94**

## Bits & Pieces

- Bro David Watson WJW would like us to thanks all those Brethren and their wives, families and friends who supported the recent Summer fayre, and for the various donations they made to the event.
- The recent "All Day Breakfast" organised by Bro Hugh Cattigan WSW, assisted by Bro Graham Manson RWM, raised £220 for Lodge funds. Bro Hugh would like to thank all who donated food, and who came along and supported the event.
- Bro Donald Cook PM and his lovely wife Pauline recently returned from a trip to Nashville, Memphis and Las Vegas. Somewhere in between "Graceland" and "The Grand Ole Opry" he managed to call in on the Grand Lodge of Tennessee where he was made most welcome.
- Grateful thanks to the senior member of the Lodge, who anonymously donated £30 towards the Lodge Benevolent Fund.
- Good to see bro Bob McDonald PM of Lodge St Conval 1359 at a recent meeting. Bro Bob, a well-known figure in the Lodge, now lives down in Prestwick with his lovely wife Kathy. He popped up to catch Bro Jim Renfrew's son Clark's FC Degree.
- It was extremely gratifying to receive a letter of thanks from Bro David Begg, Grand Secretary, following his visit to 307. He certainly seemed to enjoy his informal visit to Union & Crown.

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MAY 21

*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*

**Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.**

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

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