

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



March 2020

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No. 432



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These are undoubtedly deeply troubling times for society as a whole as a virtual lockdown is now in place nationally to aid our efforts to slow down the spread of COVID-19. The death toll is rising sharply, and many families and individuals will be affected by a hidden virus that shows absolutely no respect for anyone.

Even at this early stage in the process, it is obvious to most of us that the impact upon our homes, our daily life and indeed jobs and businesses will be profound, and it will be a long long time before life returns to anything like normal. The Lodge is not immune from this, and like most things in our lives, will be greatly affected.

The Management Committee of the Lodge met early to discuss its impact upon us as an institution, and our members, and were unanimous that we should cease operating immediately for the safety and good of all. The financial impact upon us will be harsh and could take us a great deal of time before we even see any green shoots of recovery. However, knowing the inner strength of the Lodge and its members, we are positive that we will survive and return to normal operations before too long.

A casual glance at our last balance sheet shows the Lodge is in a better position than most, indeed if this situation had occurred twenty years ago, who knows what would have been the result. The Brethren are managing to keep their spirits up, and some of the comments on the Lodge's WhatsApp are extremely uplifting as everyone does their utmost to raise the spirits of all involved.

The important thing is the health and wellbeing of all our Brethren, their families and friends in these dark and difficult times. We in the Lodge have a 'duty of care' to all of the 'Union & Crown Family' and this was reflected in the prompt and early decision of the Lodge to postpone all our meetings, functions and external events from now until the end of August. Hopefully by that stage the situation will have improved, but we **MUST** continue to follow the instructions issued by the experts, and stay safe ready to resume, hopefully in September.

Let's all do what we can to help the NHS and other key workers in the weeks and months ahead. We can, and will beat this.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

*The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac
regretfully intimates that the forthcoming Meetings of the Lodge,
scheduled to be held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street,
Barrhead are postponed until further notice :*

Tuesday 7th April 2020

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised Degree (Burns vs Kipling).

***** Postponed *****

Friday 24th April 2020

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Reigning Masters' Degree

***** Postponed *****

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 3rd March, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East paid their customary annual visit to the Lodge. The deputation of 14 Brethren was headed by Bro Ronnie Fraser Depute PGM.

The mallet was handed over and Bro. Ronnie Fraser delivered a concise but informative report on behalf of PGLRE with Bro. Stewart Gray IPM receiving a clear minute for his year. Although unable to attend in person, Bro. Stewart will no doubt be pleased with the report and suitable reply on his behalf was made by RWM. Bro Ronnie Mclsaac.

Following the meeting a harmony took place with many of the members of Provincial joining our own brethren to spend a time of fellowship.

Opened : 7-30 pm

Lodge Closed : 8.27pm

Attendance : 46



Unfortunately, the Regular Meeting due to be held on Tuesday 17th March, was regrettably cancelled at short notice by the Management Committee of the Lodge due to the increasing risk of infection from the rapidly expanding COVID-19 pandemic.



100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes were :

7th February : £20 : Bro Jim Urie & £10 : Bro Jim Cherry

Bro George McGrandles PM, our Worthy Treasurer is still taking names for this year at the annual fee of £10, and anyone interested should see Bro George, as soon as possible.

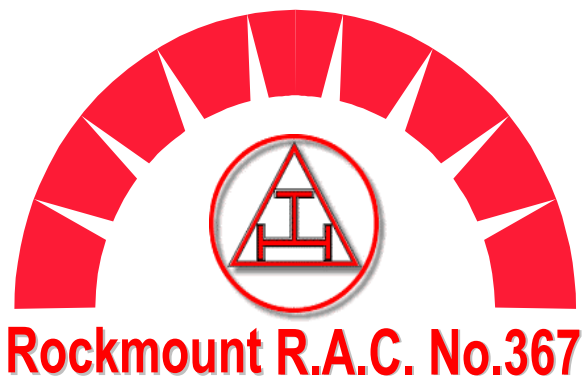


Planned Visitations

Unfortunately, just 24 hours before we were scheduled to travel down to Dunoon to confer a Dramatised PoW degree on Saturday 14th March, our hosts cancelled the meeting due to the increasing health risks.

Sadly it also looks as if we will also find that our visit to Lodge Darvel on Friday 1st May, and even possibly our visit to Aberdeenshire on Saturday 27th June will also fall victim to the pandemic which is sweeping the country.

If there are any developments we'll keep you posted.



At the regular meeting of the Chapter on Tuesday 10th March 2020 The Companions of Rockmount RAC No 367 held their normal regular meeting while being aware of the Health stories beginning to circulate.

All the Companions were welcomed into the Chapter by the First Principal, Harry Lloyd with a special welcome to our visitors. The visitors were given a hearty welcome before Harry invited the Grand Superintendent of the Province, MEC Gordon McGregor Renfrew, as well as any

reigning or past Principals to accompany him in the East of the Chapter.

The Companions observed a few moments silence following the passing of Companions James Semple & Daniel Martin. Both PMs of Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167,

Thereafter, **Bro Bryn Logan** received a fine Royal Arch Degree from the office bearers of Rockmount RAC No. 367 and welcomed into the Chapter as a RA Mason by MEZ Harry Lloyd who introduced him to the assembled Companions, as Rockmount's newest Companion. The Companions then retired downstairs for a spot of Chapter hospitality.

MEC First Harry Lloyd MEZ, and Companions of Rockmount RAC extend to every Brother, Companion and indeed all Masonic Orders health and safety to not only themselves but to all their families until we meet again.



New Masons Forum

Some of our Brethren will recall Bro. William Insch WSW No.1170 standing up at the close of a recent meeting, and explaining about the new initiative being rolled out by Provincial Grand Lodge to assist any newly initiated Brethren to bed themselves into our fraternity by coming together in a Forum.

As Acting Secretary of this new venture, Bro William, assisted by Bro Phil Eaglesham Chaplain 153, are going around all the Daughter Lodges within Renfrewshire East proclaiming its existence, and inviting any recent initiates to think about joining in.

The aim is to informally connect brothers relatively new to the craft with a few initial aims; To complement the work of Mother lodges by providing further opportunities for new brethren to visit lodges across our province, to see and potentially build experience of floor work in the styles associated with each lodge's history and culture and to provide further inter-lodge peer support and community as they progress in the early days of their Masonic careers.

Their hope would be to organise visitations and forum visits to places of Masonic interest such as Grand Lodge as well as ultimately aiming to potentially form our own unique degree team to encourage further opportunities to complement instruction and career development which Mother lodges provide. A visit to Grand Lodge of Scotland is proposed and the formation of a NMF Degree Team being developed.

They are more than happy to provide any further information or discuss with your own RWM and brethren if you may feel could have an interest. A syllabus of further visits is drafted and will hopefully continue to expand.

Famous Scottish Freemasons

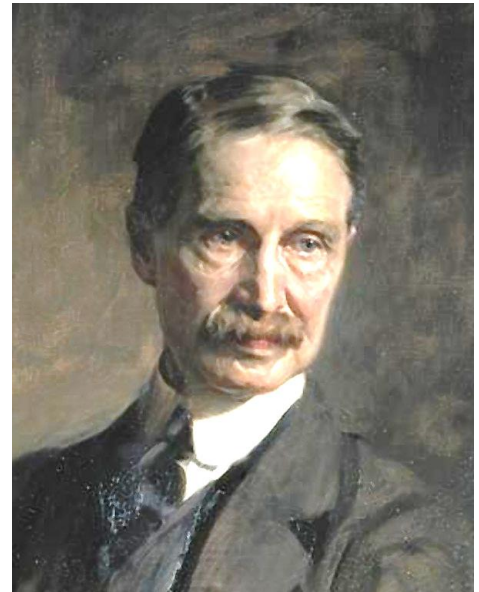
(Continuing our series about Famous Scottish Brethren, this month we turn to a celebrated politician, who rose to the highest position in government in the 1920s)

Bro Andrew Bonar Law (1858 -1923)

Andrew Bonar Law was the Canadian-born son of a Scottish clergyman. He worked as a boy on his father's smallholding. At age 12, he went to live with his late mother's cousins, who were rich Glaswegian merchant bankers in Scotland.

He later worked for the family bank while attending university night classes, which gave him an interest in politics and debating. At 27 he was making his fortune as an iron merchant but did not live extravagantly, having simple tastes.

With an inheritance that gave him financial independence, Bonar Law entered politics. In 1900 he was elected Conservative MP for Glasgow Blackfriars. The same year he was elected, he was initiated into 'The Bridgeton & Glasgow Shamrock & Thistle Lodge, No.275 on the 31st August. He had a reputation for honesty and fearlessness, and was well regarded as an effective speaker. These qualities promoted him to Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade in 1902.



He lost his seat in the 1906 Liberal landslide General Election, but he returned to represent Dulwich following a by-election later in the same year. Though hit hard by the death of his wife, he continued his political career and won the Conservative party leadership in 1911 as a compromise candidate.

At the outbreak of war he offered the government the support of the Conservatives in the coalition. Working closely with the Liberals caused Bonar Law to admire David Lloyd George to such a degree that he even declined the premiership in favour of Lloyd George's appointment.

He was given senior positions in Lloyd George's new war cabinet. His promotion reflected the great mutual trust between both leaders and made for a well-coordinated political partnership. Their coalition was re-elected by a landslide following the Armistice.

Bonar Law had lost his 2 eldest sons in the war and his health deteriorated. To recover he resigned as Leader of the House and leader of his party. At the time many leading Conservatives were so charmed by Lloyd George that they were considering leaving the Conservatives to join a new party Lloyd George was planning. Law made a decisive and stimulating speech at the Conservative Carlton Club which changed their minds and saved the Conservative party. He persuaded the Conservatives to end the coalition, and work as an independent party.

Conservative withdrawal forced Lloyd George to resign and the King then invited Bonar Law to form a new administration in 1922.

Though elected, he lasted just 209 days in office. He resigned in May 1923 due to ill health, and died of throat cancer 6 months later.

Did you Know ?

- That Lieutenant Marcellus Jones, of the 8th Illinois Cavalry, fired the first shot at the Battle of Gettysburg. Jones was a Mason, as was Christian Sharps, the inventor of the breech-loading carbine, bearing his name that Jones was using. Approximately 300 Generals, from both Union and Confederate brigades, were Masons who served during the War.
- That In Masonic lodges of the 1700's, the emblems and symbols of the different degrees were drawn on the floor of the lodge with chalk or charcoal, and obliterated at the end of each meeting. Because lodges met in rented rooms, they did not want strangers viewing their secret writings. As this was troublesome and messy, they were next painted on cloth or canvas, carried to each meeting and laid on the floor, hence the name 'carpets'. Around the 1940's, these carpets, or 'charts' as they were called, were hung from walls or in frames.
- Colonel Paul Revere was initiated in St Andrew's Lodge, Boston on Sept 4, 1760, and was Grand Master from December 1794 until December 27, 1797. In a letter to the secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society relating to the events of April, 1775, he wrote : We held our meetings at the Green Dragon tavern. We were so careful that our meetings should be kept secret that every time we met, every person swore upon the Bible, that they would not divulge any of our transactions.
- Angelo Soliman, was born in Africa in 1721 and brought to Europe as a slave at the age of ten. He was educated, married, and became a favourite in the royal court in Vienna. Sometime before 1771 he became a mason. When he died in 1776, the Emperor had his body stuffed and mounted, and placed in the natural history museum, becoming not only the first person of African birth to become a mason, but also the first Mason to be stuffed, mounted, and displayed.
- There is only one road leading from Eilat Israel to the Egyptian border at Taba. In the middle of the last traffic circle before arriving at the border you will find a Masonic Memorial. There is only one Lodge in Eilat, Solomon's Pillars No. 59. They were allocated a traffic circle by the Eilat Mayor (who was also initiated a year earlier!) in recognition of their activities for the benefit of the people in need in Eilat. The monument was designed by Bro Avi Baranes and erected by members of the Lodge.
- The total number of Victoria Crosses for the "supreme award of gallantry in the presence of the enemy", to-date amounts to 1361, of which Freemasons have received 156 (11.5%). During the Great War, the total number of VCs awarded was 634, of which 91 were Freemasons. 23 of these were Scots.

BITS & PIECES

- Sadly the Sportsman's Dinner scheduled for **Friday 15th May** has had to be cancelled. As soon as another date later in the year is in place we will let you know . Watch this space !
- Our Instruction Master, Bro. Tom Mulholland P.M. would like to remind any brother wishing to try their hand at degree work that they should be making full use of all the spare time during the 'Lockdown' to perhaps learn some ritual parts, ready to start back in the Autumn.
- It is heartening to hear that Grand Lodge are putting in place an 'amnesty' where Brethren, who have fallen behind in their Test Fees, will be allowed to return, simply by paying the current year's test fee. A considerable saving.
- Sadly the Annual Lodge Golf Outing to Muckhart GC in Fife on Saturday 13th June is also likely to fall victim to the 'Lockdown'. (Bro Ronnie MacIsaac tells us that he could have played on the outing as his wayward shots mean he's normally many yards away from everyone else in the rough anyway !!)
- That you can still participate in the '200 for 200' scheme being offered by the Lodge's Bi-centenary Committee? A single payment of £200 (which can be paid up over the next 5 years if necessary) will secure a range of 200th Anniversary benefits including Tickets, Jewels, Books etc. Apparently, almost 40 Brethren have already enrolled, and anyone interested should be Bro Robert Scott WJW as soon as possible.
- Its great to see that the Lodge's What's App facility on Social Media is being extremely well used during these troubled times as the Brethren make full use of it to alleviate the boredom, and even raise the spirits of everyone with plenty of jokes and videos. One day alone saw well over 100 messages displayed.
- Another technological advancement has been the use of Zoom Video Conferencing. A dozen or so of the Brethren have brazed the internet to hold a 'Virtual Chat' using the frre software. It was undoubtedly a success, and further are planned with perhaps even a 'Virtual Instruction Class' amongst other innovative ideas to be explored. Well done to Bro David McArthur PM and Bro Stephen Scott SD for this advance.
- Bro Jim Renfrew PM has also been taking advantage of the Zoom Software by tuning in to a Masonic Presentation 4500 miles away in his adopted Lodge in Houston, Texas.
- It was pointed out at the visit of PGLRE that with the Depute PGM and our own RWM we had "The Two Ronnies" in the East on this particular occasion! The scaled down version of the format for this meeting was very popular with all the brethren present and will no doubt be welcomed throughout the province.
- Very warm congratulations to Bro. Ian Blair and his wife Mary on becoming grandparents once again with the birth of their granddaughter Hannah Elizabeth who was born on 28th February and is the first child of Ian's daughter Paula and her partner Callum, who is the grandson of Bro. Ian Wylie and his wife Elsie who are delighted to be great grandparents once again!

We continue our series of articles which trace the history of some of the local Lodges, and perhaps even further afield. Having started with a history of our own Lodge, before moving on to a short history of The PGL of Renfrewshire East. This month we trace the history of another of the earliest Lodges in the Province.)

Lodge Pollokshaws Royal Arch, No.153

Pollokshaws Royal Arch Lodge owes its existence to seven Master Masons attracted to Pollokshaws in the early 1780's by the new industries of cotton printing, bleaching, and spinning and dyeing. The seven founders were:-

Kennedy Campbell, John Hutchison, William Osborn, John Blackburn, Alexander McAdam, David Wilkie and James Johnstone.

They petitioned The Grand Lodge of Scotland to form a Lodge and Charter was granted on 3rd February 1783 to Pollokshaws Royal Arch Lodge No 203.

This number was changed to 153 in the year 1817.

The two lodges who sponsored Pollokshaws Royal Arch Lodge were Lodge Argyle (no longer in existence) and St. Mark's Lodge No 102. The first Minute of Meeting was recorded on 6th May 1785. The Initiation fee cost 3/6d and for Passing and Raising the fee was 5/-, all three being done on the same evening. This practice has been discontinued for many years.

Of the seven founders, three went on to become R.W.M's - John Hutchison in 1783 and William Osborn in 1785. Kennedy Campbell served for two years, in 1794 and in 1806.

As there was no other Lodge in the vicinity, members were also drawn from the surrounding districts. In the early years the Lodge was obliged to meet in members' homes.

In 1790 the lodge met in an inn in the Gorbals area where some Brethren resided. In 1803 it was proposed that all members owning a Public House should take turns to provide a meeting place for the Lodge if their premises had 'a room therein for the entering of a Mason'.

In 1833 the Lodge settled in its first permanent meeting place, The Maxwell Arms Public House, where it remained for 42 years. From there it went to a hall in Cogan Street, spending 23 years there until in 1898 Bro Sir John Stirling Maxwell presented a newly-built Burgh Hall to the people of Pollokshaws. In building the Burgh Hall Sir John (himself a Past Master of the Lodge) made provision for a Lodge room in the Lesser Hall.

Entry was by a side door in Bengal Street and the fascia above the door bore (and still bears) Masonic symbols carved into the stonework. In the 1990's (almost a hundred years later) circumstances beyond the Lodge's control forced it to move out of the Lesser Hall but in September of 2003 it was able to move back there.

In the early days of the Lodge, Instruction classes were not well attended but since the early 1900's members became more enthusiastic, so that the Lodge became known for the excellence of its degree work in and outwith the Province

Notable Events :



1st June 1798 : Laying the foundation stone of the River Cart Bridge in Pollokshaws Road (known to residents as the Back Road) between Pollokshaws Railway Station and the entrance to Pollok Estate

19th June 1803 : Laying the foundation stone of Pollokshaws Town House & Steeple,

5th July 1845 : Laying the foundation stone of the Pollokshaws Trades Hall.

15th Nov 1862 ; Laying the foundation stone of Eastwood Parish Church. The stone was laid by Bro Sir John Maxwell, Bt., of Pollok, who was at that time Provincial Grand Master.

The Lodge holds a Divine Service each year conjointly with three other nearby Lodges - Lodge Thorntree No 512, Lodge Albert Edward No 592 and Lodge Sir George Cathcart No 617.



From its early formative years Pollokshaws Royal Arch Lodge developed into a thriving and well-attended Lodge, with Members present at many processions to laying foundation stones of churches, buildings and bridges. :-

It celebrated its Centenary on 3rd February 1883 by a supper and dance in the Maxwell Arms, attended by one hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen. The celebration was graced by the presence of Bro. Dr. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Sesqui-centenary celebrations were held on 3rd February 1933, presided over by Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Bart. K.T. A Dinner was held in the large hall of the Burgh Hall which was used by the Lodge for all its larger social functions.

The 175th Anniversary Celebration of the Lodge's existence took place on 3rd February 1958, presided over by Walter S. McLachlan, R.W.M. The ceremony and subsequent Dinner were held in Pollokshaws Burgh Hall. Taking part in the proceedings was Brother The Right Honourable The Earl of Eglinton and Winton, T.D., D.L., B.A., Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland.

Pollokshaws Royal Arch Lodge No 153 celebrated its Bi-Centenary by having a Special Meeting of the Lodge on Friday 4th February 1983, when the Rededication of the Lodge took place, carried through by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Following the Rededication Service in Pollokshaws Burgh Hall a Dinner was served in the Glasgow City Chambers. The Service and Dinner were presided over by Bro. James R. Tait, R.W.M.

A Dinner Dance (Ladies Night) was held in the Couper Institute, Cathcart on Saturday 5th February. The highlight of the evening was the execution of The Grand March by the assembled company, a most impressive sight.

In conclusion of Pollokshaws Royal Arch's Bi-Centenary celebrations, on Sunday 6th February 1983 a Divine Service took place in Eastwood Parish Church. The Officiating Ministers were the Rev. Archibald Robertson, M.A., B.D., Dip.R.Ed, Minister of Eastwood Church, and the Rev. R. Stewart Loudon, T.D., D.D., D.Litt., Edinburgh.

[The information provided above is extracted from the Bi-Centenary Celebration book written by the late Bro. Hugh McCaig, PM No. 153]



It was rumoured Napoleon was a freemason but never proven, although he did adopt the title of "**Protector of Freemasonry**". However, his four brothers were masons, many of his Officers, members of his Grand Council for the Empire and 22 of the 30 Marshals of France were also Freemasons. Even his wife, was admitted into a French female lodge in 1804.

The Veteran Master

Worn, but not weary; stanch and true,
Again the Master's Gavel bear,
And standing in the Eastern gate
Display the bright and mystic Square.

Worn, but not weary; three score years
Have marked your brow with lines of care,
Yet beats your heart as warm's the day
When first you wore the mystic Square.

Worn, but not weary; when at last
The slumbers of the dead you share,
May you be happy in His love
Who wears in Heaven the mystic Square.

Masonic Snippets

- Bro Charles Stratton, perhaps better known as General Tom Thumb, was only 39 inches high and weighed just 1 stone 2 pounds when raised in 1862 at the age of 24 in Massachusetts.
- Theodore Parvin was Grand Secretary of Masons in Iowa from 1844 to 1901, except for 1852- 53 when he was Grand Master.
- The earliest record of a speculative Mason being admitted to a lodge is the record of the Lodge of Edinburgh, June 8, 1600, when John Boswell, the Laird of Auchinleck, attested his presence with his mark.
- MW Harry S Truman, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri was a Mason for 63 years and received his fifty year Masonic veteran's emblem in 1959. About the ceremony he said, *'I don't think I've had anything touch me as that did'*
- Bro. General Lafayette received his Masonic Degrees in Military Lodge #10 in Valley Forge, PA while George Washington served as Worshipful Master.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 32 Years Ago

No.113

March 1988

Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 1st March the P.G.L.R.E. made their annual inspection of our books etc. with everything was found to be in order. All were specially proud to have the new P.G.M. Bro Bruce Watson lead this deputation, the size of which was particularly noteworthy.

Lodge Opened : 7-33pm

Lodge Closed : 8-49pm

Attendance : 122

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 15th March, the following Candidates :

John Hamilton M.M.

Norman McLauchlan

had the E.A. Degree conferred upon them by the Office-bearers and Brethren of Lodge Pollokshaws Royal Arch, No.153. A good degree was conferred albeit somewhat differently from the way we do it in 307. The Candidates were suitably impressed.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-40pm

Attendance : 113

Lodge Gossip

Congratulations to Bro TOM FORDE'S son, Ian on his recent marriage.

We hear that Bro GEORGE BUIST's daughter Lyn is to be wed within the next couple of months.

Bro JIM WATERSTON is the latest to change job, starting in local company Armitage Shanks.

Surely Willie Love, our R.W.M. is one of the most articulate of Masters we've had in a long time.

It's a pleasure to see the pictures of the latest batch of Past Masters on the wall. This is a custom which has gone on for over 110 years.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

Bud was sitting talking to his son Johnny one night, when Johnny suddenly asked him what the "*wee black and white balls*" were for under the dais in the Lodge. Bud asked him how he knew about them, and Johnny answered with the honesty of a child "*Me and Mister Wright had a game of marbles with them one time*"

"Mister Wright" is, of course, Gordon our Lodge Cook !

Masonic News

It's great to see "The Douglas Standard", magazine of Lodge Douglas, East Kilbride doing so well after its rebirth. More power to their elbows.

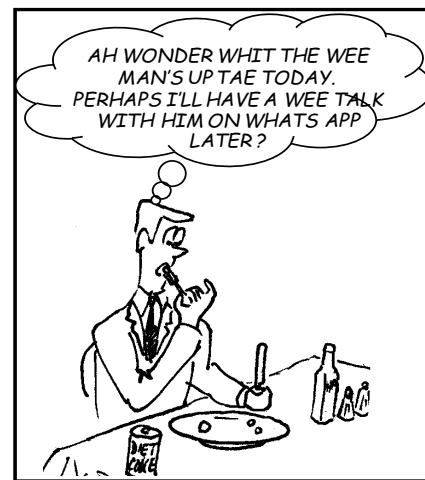
On the subject of newsletters, we notice that Lodge St Clair of Glasgow have a new frontpiece.

President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone is the only head of state in the entire Commonwealth, who at present occupies the Office of Master.

We hear that Bro Ben Gunn, the comedian, who is RWM of Lodge Dramatic may be starting a newsletter for his Lodge. We wish him every success.

Surely Masonry is completely unbiased ? The next RWM of Lodge Langside in Glasgow is, believe it or not ! – 81 years of age !

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MARCH 2020

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

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