

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



March 2018

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No. 412



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As most of our readership will be aware there is always, and ever will be, a need for steady revenue coming into the Lodge. This, and only this will enable us to remain solvent in what are difficult times for many organisations, and enable us to continue to provide facilities that will enhance the reputation of the Lodge.

It is a simple fact of life that, no matter how successful a Lodge we become Masonically, there is always a tremendous amount of blood sweat and tears behind the scenes required from the rank and file members of the Lodge in their prolonged attempts to raise the revenue we require. Long gone are the days when a good attendance at our meetings and a busy Saturday night in the Social Club were sufficient to keep us financially stable and healthy.

We must continue to strive to discover new, and hopefully original, ways of raising additional capital, wherever possible out with the Lodge itself and thereby not asking the same faithful Brethren and their families to continue to have to put their hands in their pockets each and every time the call goes out.

With this in mind we have always tried to find fresh ideas for our fund-raising, something different that will appeal to a wider audience and stimulate greater interest. We have always encouraged the Brethren thus, and it is therefore pleasing to discover that some of the Brethren have risen to the challenge and made arrangements over recent months that will hopefully bring much needed cash for the Lodge.

Of course there will always be the stalwarts who are forever doing their best to ensure that we keep ahead, organising the old favourites which are ever-popular with the Brethren and their families. Of course, such is human nature that those who do the most are always those who receive the most criticism. This is a fact of life and we fully realise that if you don't stick your head up above the parapets, you won't get shot at! What we need is additional people to assist wherever necessary and take some of the burden off the shoulders of those who need support.

If you can assist, or know of an event which would appeal to the Brethren and their families and friends, come forward and do what you can for the Lodge. Every penny counts, and if we can inject some much-needed variety into our fund-raising and reach a wider audience we will have succeeded.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 3rd April 2018

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

By the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony



Tuesday 17th April 2018

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised Degree : 'Burns vs Kipling'

Harmony



Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M.,

Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 6th March the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East paid its annual visit to Union & Crown. The deputation of 9 Brethren, was headed by Bro Robert McPhee, Depute PGM, and it was pleasing to hear the Lodge being given a clear minute for the year of Bro George McGrandles IPM.

Thereafter the Brethren retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed a spot of harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.31 pm

Attendance : 47



At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 20th March, the following Candidate :

STEPHEN SCOTT

was passed to the Second, Square or Fellowcraft Degree, by our good friends Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 in what was a fine FC Degree, conferred by the Brethren from Neilston. It was good to see a handsome deputation of 20 Brethren supporting Bro Ian Brenchley RWM, who took the opportunity of thanking Union & Crown for the handsome gift presented at their Centenary Celebrations

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.28pm

Attendance : 93



100 CLUB

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

Tuesday 6th March

£20 : **Bro Lawrence Webb IG**

£10 : **Bro Johnny Gauld PM**

Tuesday 20th March

£20 : **Bro Colin Hamilton PM**

£10 : **Bro Jim Boulton**

Names are still being taken for the current year. The annual fee is still very good value at £10 per person

Did you know ?

- That the Christmas Flower 'Poinsettia' is named after Bro Joel R Poinsett. A Past Master of Recovery Lodge No.31 in South Carolina, He first introduced the plants to the US in 1825 while serving as US Ambassador to Mexico
- The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States was written by Bro Francis Bellamy, a member of Little Falls Lodge, No.181 in New York, following a suggestion from Bro James Upham of Converse Lodge in Massachusetts

Brother Jimmy Laing

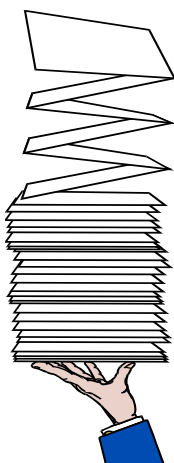
Bro Jimmy Laing has been a member of Union & Crown for more years than many would care to remember, and in all that time he has always given his all for the Lodge. Supporting a long line of Masters as an office-bearer, and a general handyman about the Lodge, his feats are legendary. No job is too small, or too large for Bro Jimmy, who just gets on with it !

If you have noticed over the last year or two just how smart the Lodge buildings are looking it is due to the small band of Brethren who give up their time and work tirelessly for their Mother Lodge, Jimmy is one of these, and all the bright and shiny paintwork and varnishing throughout the Lodge is down to him.

Indeed it has been said on more than one occasion, if you stand still long enough, Bro Jimmy will undoubtedly give you a coat of paint !!!



Paper Appeal



Due to a rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock, 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 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.



"Freemasonry Around the World" MEXICO

Mexico is probably the most diverse country in the Masonic world, possessing almost 30 Grand Lodges, most of which are not widely recognised. The exception being the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, founded in 1862, which has approximately a dozen Lodges and a combined membership of over 600 Brethren. Today, the Masonic population is difficult to quantify, due to the high number of irregular lodges, but it is accepted that it exceeds 30,000.

The history of Freemasonry in that part of Central America is extremely complex and is undoubtedly linked to the varied politics of the country. Since Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1810, it has suffered approximately 100 revolutions with about 80 different governments resulting from the turmoil and it is no surprise that the Craft has been greatly affected as a result.

Whilst legend states otherwise, the earliest Lodges for which evidence exists, were chartered in the early part of the last century by lodges from several American jurisdictions such as Louisiana, Pennsylvania and New York. The newly-formed Lodges were soon disowned by their US cousins, due to the extreme political nature of Mexican society in those days which had found itself entrenched in Freemasonry and indeed the two factions who battled for control of the country in the 1820's were largely comprised of Masons! The battle lines were drawn between the York Rite Masons on the one hand and the Scottish Rite on the other with the respective Grand Masters actually coming up against each other in the fight for the Presidency of Mexico in 1827 with the Scottish Rite winning on points in a contest which cost many men their lives. Shortly afterwards several well-intentioned masons attempted to unite the two factions, creating the Mexican National Rite and although they failed and Mexican Freemasonry lapsed into darkness in 1833, a Grand Lodge still exists in Mexico today practising this irregular rite.

Masonry lay dormant for almost thirty years until Scottish Rite Lodges were established at Mexico City and Vera Cruz in 1860. In keeping with earlier days, it soon factioned and by 1878 a whole proliferation of differing governing bodies existed with Grand Lodges, State Grand Lodges, Grand Orients, Supreme Councils and even a Grand Diet! All claiming to be wholly independent from each other, with some even offering "cut-rate initiations" in an attempt to woo prospective candidates away from their competitors.

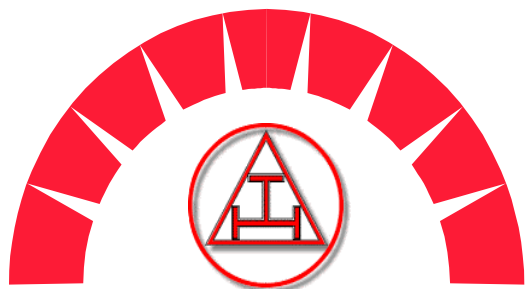
The craft continued to prosper well into the 20th century with mostly English and Spanish speaking Lodges, although the great division between York Rite and Scottish Rite continued unabated. Only after the end of the Second World War in 1945 did the two bodies begin to come together when agreement was reached on inter-visitation treaties. These treaties, certainly novel in Freemasonry, allow members from either allegiance, under certain conditions, to visit each others lodges and although stopping short of actual recognition they are a great step forward in the somewhat difficult relationship that had previously existed and give hope that, in time, it might be possible for amity to exist throughout Mexican Freemasonry



Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 3rd April** Regular Meeting of the Lodge where a MM Degree will be conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class.
- Monday 16th April** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 17th April** Regular Meeting of the Lodge where the Brethren of the Lodge will be presenting our dramatised 'Burns vs Kipling'

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. is 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.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 13th March and owing to no visitors being in the Temple, it was decided not to have an emulation of the RA degree and to open the findings of our recent General Committee meeting to the Companions of the Chapter who were in attendance that evening.

The purpose of this sudden change was to discuss the immediate future of the Chapter with respect to candidates, Office Bearers and ritual work. It was hoped that the contributions of 'non-management' companions would perhaps offer a different insight to the problems the Chapter and, perhaps all of Royal Arch Masonry faces. The Companions who spoke out are to be thanked for their input on the evening. At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter a fine harmony

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 10th April 2018** at 7-30pm when a MMM affiliation and EM Degree will be conferred by the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC.

MEC Hugh Cattigan MEZ extends a cordial invitation to all Companions to support the Chapter by attending on that evening.

As you may be aware, the Chapter is experiencing a shortage in Candidates at the moment, and would welcome any Brother (who's been through his MMM degree) and would like to join to contact MEC Hugh Cattigan ☎ 07981 566 901

Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series of the Brethren portrayed in the Mural in our Function Suite, we turn this month to the Scot who was the world's first 'Literary Super Star')

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

Born in Edinburgh in 1771, he was struck down at the age of 18 months by polio which left him lame in right leg, and as a result he spent much of his early childhood at his grandparent's farm near Kelso in the borders, and it was during this time that he grew to love that wild region and its history. At the age of 6 he had recuperated enough to be able to return to his family home in Edinburgh. He attended the Royal High School, where he excelled before moving on to Edinburgh University where he studied law, before being admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1792.



Whilst his legal career flourished, with appointments as Sheriff Clerk Depute of Selkirkshire, and later Principal Clerk to the Court of Session, his main interest in life was literature. In 1797 he married Charlotte Charpentier, and they settled in Castle Street in the capital, and raised 2 sons and 2 daughters. In 1802 he published his first work 'Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders' and in the following years was highly productive with a series of biographies, historical documents, poems and works of prose. He had skill in reviewing literary works and published in a series of much-acclaimed essays.

In 1801 he was initiated in to Lodge St David, No.36, his late father's Lodge, and whilst an enthusiastic and active Freemason in the company of his good friend, and printer, James Ballantyne, he never aspired to high rank, content to support his Mother Lodge.

Scott was an active member of the Highland Society and served as President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was ordained as an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Duddington and sat in the General Assembly. In 1813 Scott was offered the position of Poet Laureate, but declined, as he wished to retain his literary independence.

He published his first novel 'Waverley' - a tale of the Jacobite rising, anonymously in 1814, and there followed a succession of novels over the next five years, each with a Scottish historical setting. Mindful of his reputation as a poet, Scott maintained his anonymity, and during this time Scott became known by the nickname "The Wizard of the North". In 1815 he was given the honour of dining with George, Prince Regent, who wanted to meet the 'Author of Waverley'.

In 1818 the Prince Regent gave Scott permission to conduct a search for the 'Honours of Scotland' which had been stored in a large locked box and forgotten about for over 100 years. Scott and a small team of military men found and opened the box, and "unearthed" the honours from the depths of Edinburgh Castle. A grateful Prince Regent granted Scott the title of baronet, and in 1820 he became Sir Walter Scott, 1st Baronet.

After Prince George's accession to the throne, the Edinburgh City Fathers invited Scott, to stage-manage the 1822 visit of King George IV to Scotland. With only three weeks for planning and execution, Scott created a spectacular masterpiece, designed not only to impress the King, but also in some way to heal the rifts that had destabilised Scots society.

In 1826 the financial failure of both his publishers and printers, of which he was a partner resulted in a financial crisis for Scott, who chose to attempt to repay the debt of £150,000 rather than accept insolvency. His house was sold and he embarked upon a frenzy of works in his efforts to repay his debts. Unfortunately the strain caused him to suffer 4 strokes, and he died at Abbotsford in 1832.

BITS & PIECES

- It's tremendous to see Bro Jim Wade attending the last couple of Lodge Meetings after a bout of ill health.
- It is sad to realise that the Brethren of the Scottish Craft have donated over £400,000 to Prostrate Scotland, and hardly receive a mention in the media. A few years ago Grand Lodge donated over £250,000 to the CHAS Appeal and there was a similar absence of coverage in the media.
- Our Sportsman's Dinner is taking place on Friday 20th April and Bro Lawrence Webb IG still has a handful of tickets available. Give him a call on 07736 780 132 if you are interested, but don't waste time as they are selling fast.
- We bumped into Bro George Logan recently when he was home to visit his Father-in-Law, Bro Archie Boyd of 1167, who was celebrating his 92nd Birthday. Bro George and his wife now live just outside Beverley in East Yorkshire
- Many thanks to Bro Paul Smith and Bro Bryce McCaig for their generous donations of paper. It was much needed, and much appreciated.
- It was most encouraging to watch the recent BBC Scotland documentary about the 'Secrets of the Masons' on BBC 2. To be honest, they gave us a fair hearing and didn't attempt to misrepresent the Craft. Several of our Brethren were spotted during the broadcast.
- Good to see Bro Ian Russell making it along to a recent meeting.
- Any brother wishing to get involved in degree work is warmly invited to attend Lodge Instruction Class on a Monday evening from 7.30pm, or speak to Bro. Tom Mulholland PM our Instruction Master.
- Another official Visit for the Brethren of the Lodge is being arranged for October, where we have been invited to confer the PoW Degree to coincide with the Lodge's 250th Anniversary celebrations. Another couple to Methil and Inveraray are also in the pile line !!
- Bro Nicol Hynd RWM is constantly visiting sister lodges both within and outwith the province and any brother wishing to accompany him on his travels is most welcome! Please Let Bro Nicky know and he will make sure you have transport.
- It was most pleasing to welcome a sizeable deputation from Lodge Greenock St John, No.175 to a recent meeting. They'd been invited along by Bro Colin McLardy PM who now lives in Greenock and attends some of their meetings.



WORLD AT WAR 1914 – 1918 (MARCH 1918)



On the 3rd March the treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed by Soviet Russia and Germany. Germany sets harsh terms: Russia yields 34% of her population, 32% of her farmland, 50% of her industrial holdings and 90% of her coalmines. Bolshevik negotiator, Leon Trotsky, laments; “This is a peace that Russia, grinding her teeth, is forced to accept.”

The beginning of 1918 also saw the civilian population of the world, as well as the military, having to contend with a flu pandemic which would last until 1920, over a year after the war officially ends. This was an unusually deadly strain of influenza pandemic. It infected people around the world, including people on remote Pacific islands and in the Arctic.

Most influenza outbreaks disproportionately kill juvenile, elderly, or already weakened patients; in contrast, the 1918 pandemic predominantly killed previously healthy young adults. There are several possible explanations for the high mortality rate of the 1918 influenza pandemic. Some research suggests that the specific variant of the virus had an unusually aggressive nature. More recent investigations, mainly based on original medical reports from the period of the pandemic, found that the viral infection itself was not more aggressive than any previous influenza, but that the special circumstances (malnourishment, overcrowded medical camps and hospitals, poor hygiene) promoted bacterial superinfection that killed most of the victims typically after a somewhat prolonged death.

While there is no historical or epidemiological data to identify the pandemic's geographic origin Kansas in the USA is widely thought to be where it gained its first foothold. To maintain morale, wartime censors minimized early reports of illness and mortality in Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and the United States. Papers were free to report the epidemic's effects in neutral Spain (such as the grave illness of King Alfonso XIII). This created a false impression of Spain as especially hard hit, thereby giving rise to the pandemic's nickname, Spanish Flu.

The disease, known as “Spanish flu,” spread through contact or close proximity to infected persons. It was carried overseas on troop ships to the Western Front and then throughout the world. Over the next two year it is estimated that 500 million contracted the virus and that anywhere between 50 and 100 million died (three to five percent of the world's population), making it one of, if not the most, deadliest natural disasters in human history.

And while this ‘flu’ takes hold Germany launches a Spring push, eventually mounting five major offensives against Allied forces, starting with the Battle of Picardy against the British.

Hugh Cattigan PM

Almoner's Report

Due to personal bereavement and other unavoidable circumstances, my report is somewhat curtailed this month.



Home Visits :

Bro James Laird, on the occasion of his 92nd Birthday

Bro Donald Ferguson

Bro Robert Kennedy

Home Phone Calls :

Mrs Florence Laird

Mrs Isabel Paton

Mrs Julie Amabile

Mrs Catherine Fennell

Mrs Dora Pattison

Mrs Ray Campbell (*nee Hutton*)

Bro Robert Nixon PM

Bro David Barr

Bro Tom Conway

Bro Kenneth Beatts, Sen Chaplain

Bro Willie Reid

Bro Robert McCulloch

Bro Ian Russell

Bro Eric Gray

Bro John W Smith

Bro Jim Boulton

An Easter Note :

Wishing you, the Brethren and Ladies of the Lodge, and your families, the happiest Easter of all.

May God bless you, now and always.

Brother Alexander D. White

Lodge Almoner

☎ 0141-571 6411

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 10 Years Ago

No. 316

September 2008

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 2nd September, **KENNETH BEATTS** was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order by an experienced degree team from our good friends, , Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167. It was a good, though lengthy EA Degree, ably conferred in the manner we have come to expect from the Brethren from Neilston, and Bro Jim Lawn RWM, who was unfortunately out of the country and missed the meeting, can be assured that his degree team, under Bro Gordon Wade PM, did a fine job in his absence.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.39pm

Attendance : 72



At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 18th September, the same Candidate, was passed in to the second, square or FC degree by an experienced degree team from our close neighbours, Lodge Nitshill, No.1478. Bro John Brown, RWM was especially please with the performance of all who participated.

Opened : 7.30pm

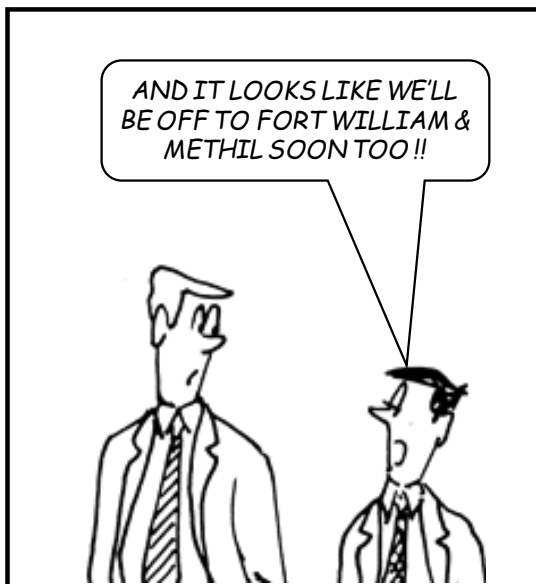
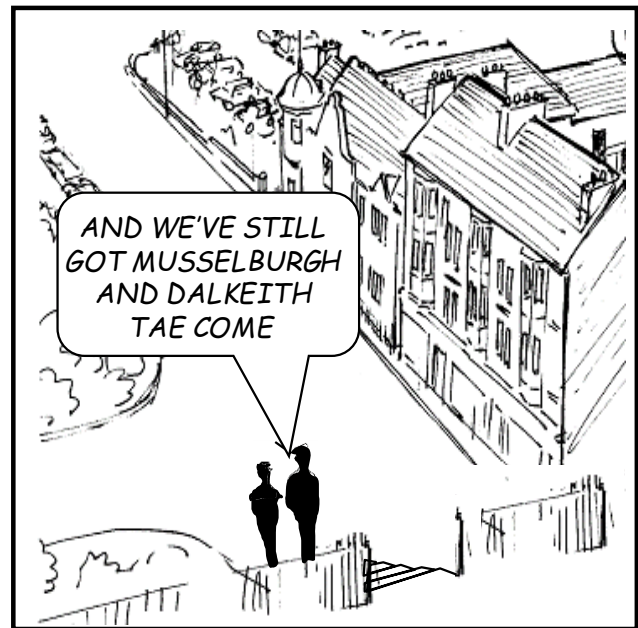
Lodge Closed : 9.25pm

Attendance : 75

BITS & PIECES

- It was good to see Bro Gordon Lawson and the members of Barrhead Bowling Club organise another bowling competition recently for the "Stedfast Trophy" The event, which many of our own Brethren attended, raised the magnificent total of £300 which has been donated to the 3 local BB Companies.
- Congratulations to Bro Bud Gauld PM who has been nominated for the office of Grand Inner Guard, a great honour, not only for Bro Bud himself, but the Lodge.
- Further congratulations to Bro Bud and his popular wife Mary following the occasion of their Ruby Wedding, which they celebrated with a party for family and friends in the Function Suite.
- Congratulations to Bro Brian Morton's daughter who has now gained her Ph.D and will be taking up the offer of a new position in Aberdeen. We gather that Lynne is moving back in with her parents, who are now resident in Aberdeenshire.
- We see that Bro Ricky Little, despite the difficulties in the housing market, has sold his house in Lavernside Avenue quickly.
- It was good to see Bro Barry Nutley, The Provincial Grand Master of Midlothian, in attendance at a Recent Regular Meeting of the Lodge.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MARCH 2018

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :

Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

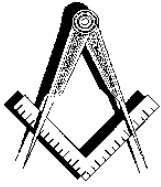
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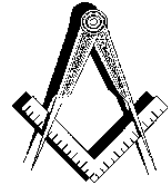
" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

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



Syllabus 2018

(* Denotes an Official Visitation)



March 2018

Tuesday 6 th March	Visitation by PGL of Renfrewshire East
Tuesday 20 th March	FC Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

April 2017

Tuesday 3rd April	MM Lodge Instruction Class
Tuesday 17 th April	'Burns vs Kipling' Dramatisation

May 2018

Tuesday 1st May	EA 'Visiting Master's Degree'
Tuesday 15 th May	Prisoner of War Dramatisation
* Saturday 2 nd June	<i>TSF At Lodge St John Fisherrow, No.112</i>

September 2018

Tuesday 4th September	FC Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426
Tuesday 18 th September	MM Lodge Instruction Class

October 2018

Tuesday 2nd October	DMM Lodge Instruction Class
* Friday 5th October	<i>PoW At The Lodge of Fort William, No.43</i>
Tuesday 16 th October	MM Annual General Meeting
* Saturday 20 th October	<i>PoW At Lodge Loretto Centenary, No.1373</i>
* Tuesday 23 rd October	<i>FC At Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426</i>

November 2018

Friday 2nd November	'Open Night' (followed by the Table of Scottish FMs)
Tuesday 20 th November	MMM Bro George McGrandles IPM
Saturday 24 th November	Annual Installation of Office-bearers