

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



Summer 2024

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No. 475

Editorial



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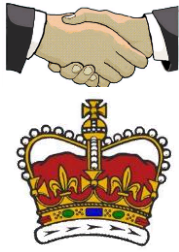
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It's funny how our Summer Recess always seems to be getting shorter each year and before we know it we are preparing for the restart in September, and all that this brings with it. Unfortunately our weather wasn't too kind to us with a lot of rain as the Gulfstream for once decided to be unkind to Scotland. However, our sportsmen managed to get their various competitions up and running be it on the bowling green or golf course with rather mixed results.

We continued our Bi-Centenary celebrations with a Ladies Night, Bus Run and Senior Members' Lunch, all of which were very successful with a good time had by all. We still have another couple of functions still to come before we bring our year long celebrations to a close, and we hope that the Brethren will continue to support the Lodge.

Our Right Worshipful Master and his Office-bearers have been working hard in the Lodge Instruction Class as they make sure that they are all ready for remainder of this session. Our thanks, as ever, go to our Bar Staff and everyone who has worked hard over the recess to maintain the particularly high standards we like to maintain in Union & Crown.

Sadly, my own recess came to a clattering halt in early August when I found myself suddenly admitted to hospital. The consequence of this, and my subsequent recovery are that this edition of our journal has had to be a little shorter than you would normally expect as I had to have it ready withing a couple of days, if I was to meet my customary deadline. I hope that you understand the circumstances and bear with me for the moment.



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 3rd September 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

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

Harmony



Tuesday 17th September 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

By the Brethren of Lodge Nitsbill, No.1478

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M.

Lodge Secretary

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 3rd September Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of Lodge Thistle & Crown

Monday 16th September Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 17th September Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an FC Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of Lodge Nitshill

Thursday 19th September Visitation to Lodge Newton Mearns, No.1706, where we have been invited to confer the MM Degree.

Saturday 5th October Visitation to Lodge St Vigeans, No. 101 in Arbroath, where the Lodge will Be conferring our popular Dramatised 'Prisoner of War' degree. *(Bro Ross Aitken W.S.W. is taking names for the trip)*

(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)



Friday 14th June saw our annual Golf Match for the Robert Little Trophy. Fine weather saw 6 Brethren competing at Fereneze Golf Club in what was a close contest, won by Bro Lawrence Webb, our Golf Convenor.

Thanks go to all who attended, and of course the staff of Fereneze GC for what was an enjoyable day for all.



The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 10th September** at 7-30pm when the Companions of Rockmount will be holding their annual business meeting, and election of Office-bearers for 2024 – 2025.

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

Did You Know ?

That Bro. General Lafayette received his Masonic Degrees in Military Lodge #10 in Valley Forge, PA while George Washington served as Worshipful Master.

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 Civil 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. Today, most often the emblems and symbols of the degrees are projected by slides or computer images on a screen.

That in Christchurch, New Zealand, there are two natural eroded stone pillars standing at the entrance to Tumbledown Bay. Looking from the land, the one on the right is Jachin and the other on the left is Boaz. It leads one to believe that the city's founders were indeed members of The Craft.

Bi-Centenary Bus Run

On the 4th July 2024, 34 brethren filled two minibuses and embarked on a memorable journey to visit the historic Rosslyn Chapel. The day's itinerary included a stop at Lodge Rosslyn St Clair No. 606 for a short lecture, followed by lunch and drinks, before heading to the chapel itself. We arrived at Lodge Rosslyn St Clair at 11am where we were warmly greeted by the Right Worshipful Master, Bro. Alan Henderson, and Past Master Bro. Steve Burnett, who kindly offered us tea and coffee. The refreshments were very welcome after our journey.

The visit began with an enlightening lecture about the history of the lodge, the chapel, and the local area, highlighting the Masonic connection famously popularized by Dan Brown's book, The DaVinci Code. The lecture provided fascinating insights into the rich heritage of the lodge and its surroundings. After the lecture, we enjoyed a fabulous lunch and drinks. Before departing for Rosslyn Chapel, we expressed our gratitude to Lodge Rosslyn St Clair by making a donation of £100 to their funds.

The short walk to Rosslyn Chapel was pleasant, and upon arrival, the staff made us feel very welcome. As we explored the chapel, we sought out the Masonic symbols mentioned during the lecture at the lodge. We were then given a talk about the chapel's history and its connections to the Knights Templar and Freemasonry. Our guide, Mary, pointed out various carvings that related to Masonic stories, adding depth to our understanding of the chapel's significance.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Lodge Rosslyn St Clair No. 606 for their hospitality and warm welcome. Special thanks also go to Past Master Bro. Bobby Clark for driving one of the minibuses, and to the 34 brethren whose presence made the day truly memorable.

Bro Ronnie MacIsaac PM

Masonic Fact or Fiction ?

Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson
(29 September 1758 – 21 October 1805)

Renowned Admiral and Hero of the Royal Navy.

A writer in the Freemasons' Quarterly Review in 1839 claimed Nelson and his servant, Tom Allen, were both Freemasons, but gives no evidence to support his claim.

Hamon Le Strange, in his History of Freemasonry in Norfolk, says that among the furniture of the Lodge of Friendship No. 100, at Yarmouth, there is a stone bearing an inscription to Nelson. On one side of the stone is an inscription commemorating the foundation of the Lodge of United Friends No. 564 on 11 August 1697, and on the other side the inscription:

"In Memory of Bro. V. Nelson of the Nile, and of Burnham Thorpe, in Norfolk, who lost his life in the army of Victory, in an engagement with the Combined Fleets of France and Spain, off Cape Trafalgar, 21 October 1805. Proposed by Bro. John Cutlove."

At the Masonic Hall, Reading, may be seen a framed print with a representation of a banner carried at Lord Nelson's funeral. It bears the following words: "We rejoice with our Country but mourn our Brother." It was carried at the funeral by York Lodge No. 256.

Senior Members' Lunch

On Thursday 15th August our Right Worshipful Master, Bro Robert Dickson Scott, welcomed 53 of our "more mature" members, and their guests, to our Bi-Centenary Senior Members Lunch.

Bro Scott reminded those present that this year's lunch formed part of our very special "year of celebration" to mark the 200th anniversary of Lodge Union and Crown No. 307. The RWM gave a brief summary of events that had already taken place during our Bi Centenary year. He also thanked the Brethren of the Lodge for their generosity and support in raising the funds necessary to put on such events, and for all the hard work that goes into ensuring our Lodge is among the finest in Scotland. A word of thanks was provided to PM Jim Miller, who had stepped in at short notice to act as Director of Ceremonies following the unforeseen hospitalisation of PM Jim Renfrew. The thoughts and best wishes of the Brethren were subsequently conveyed to Bro Renfrew.

The Brethren were then treated to a fine meal, courtesy of our good friends at Sherlock Catering, washed down with 5 free drinks courtesy of the Lodge 'Sausage Club'. Following the meal we were entertained by former professional footballer and sprinter, George McNeill. To say Mr McNeill was well received would be the understatement of the year, his stories and comedy anecdotes provided a perfect addition to a perfect day.

Following the raffle the RWM provided a vote of thanks, with special mention being given to the patrons of the "Sausage Club" whose fundraising efforts have helped to fund this event, and several other activities over the year.

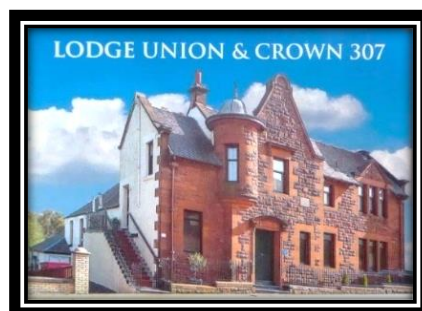
BITS & PIECES

- 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.
- Best wishes to our Right Worshipful Master's daughter Megan who recently gave birth to a bouncing baby girl to be named Maeve.
- Grateful thanks to Bro Adam G Watson for his donation of much-need paper.
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are now available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken WJW (☎ 07590 207 365)
- Sorry to hear that Bro Bobby Clark IPM was in a recent car crash where he was extremely lucky to escape with scrapes and bruises.
- Great to see Bro Steff Lawniczak down at the Lodge again after serious surgery. WE wish him well.
- Congratulations to Bro Roy Dinning and his lovely wife May who recently both turned 90 !!
- Best wishes to Bro Ronnie Maclsaac PM following his installation as Right Worshipful Master of our Sister Lodge – Lodge Randolph, No.1434.
- Great to see that the Lodge Randolph Lunch held in the Lodge in late June was a success with a great attendance of Brethren and their wives and friends.
- Congratulations to Bro Johnny Gauld PM who turned 50 during July

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.



FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 29 Years Ago

No. 185

Summer 1995

BITS and PIECES

We congratulate Bro John Smith (Smudger) and his good lady Betty on celebrating their Golden Wedding in the middle of August. We wish them every happiness.

Further congratulations, this time to Bro Johnny Gauld, a well kent face in Union & Crown since he could walk, reached the ripe old age of 21 during the recess. (doesn't it make you feel really old !)

On the subject of old age ! Another couple of Brethren who also chalked up a milestone during the break. Bro John Osborne and Bro Jim Renfrew PM hit 50 & 40 within a day or so of each other last month. Or was it the other way round ?

Bro Angus Dinning finally decided to tie the knot recently and we congratulate him and his new bride and wish them all the best for the future.

We hear that our good friends, Lodge St Conval No. 1359, are to lose their meeting hall in Newton Mearns. We gather that the Local authority, who own the premises, are to turn Capelrig House into offices and that the Brethren of 1359 are actively looking about for a new home.

From what we hear, a good number of the children of our members did extremely well when the results of the Standard Grades & Highers were issued recently. Quite a few have been accepted for Colleges and University and we hope they have continued success.

Another to hit the respectable age of Twenty-One during the summer was none other than Nicola, the daughter of our R.W.M., Bro Jim Kerr. (All we can say is that Bro Jim's wife Lorna must have been a Child Bride).

Another member of the Gauld clan with something to celebrate, Bro Bud's elder daughter Amanda, already fully qualified as a radiographer, completed her teacher training during the summer.

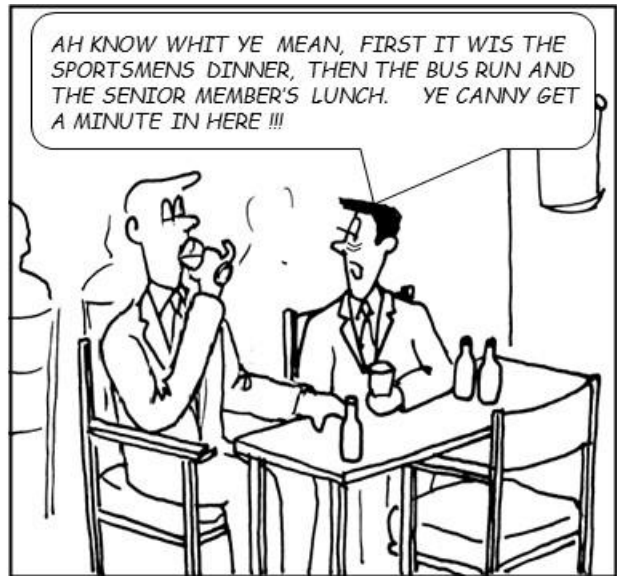
Best wishes to Bro Ian Cowie and his new bride Carol, following their wedding earlier in the summer.

We gather that Bro Jim Buttar is the proud grandfather of a heathy bouncing baby (gender thus far unknown).

The thanks of the entire Lodge must go to Bro Michael Hughes WSW and his small band of helpers for their sterling work in erecting the perimeter fence at the rear of the Function Suite during the break.

We bumped into Bro Jackie Goodfellow PPGSW, a frequent visitor to 307, a couple of months ago as he was leaving the RAH following his regular checkup. He was looking extremely well and he told us that his surgeon was very pleased with the progress he had made.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW SUMMER 2024

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

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