

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



May 2024

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

No. 474

*Editorial*



May 2024

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Once more the welcome sight of the finishing line is tantalising close. We just have to stumble a few short weary steps more, and we will be able to sit back and take a well-earned rest after another hard session producing the customary ten issues of our journal required between the end of August and the end of May.

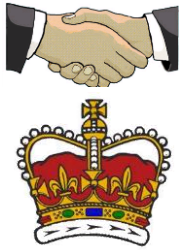
It may only be a respite of a few short months but it comes as a lovely restful break from the pressures of ensuring that the necessary information is collated, written, typed and printed to meet the unforgiving master of a deadline.

Most Freemasons, especially those within Union & Crown, enjoy a long peaceful summer recess, which stretches almost to a full four months, sadly this is not the case within the editorial office. This four hundred and seventy-fourth edition which you are reading is not published until the last week in May to enable it to cover the still active period after our last meeting, and as the next edition, the Summer one, will have to be prepared and issued in time for the first meeting in September, this means we have to be back in harness by the early part of August, ensuring that we have to make the most of the remaining break.

But don't forget that our intrepid roving reporters will be out and about during the hot summer months keeping up to date with all the happenings within the Lodge and beyond, and you never know you may let your guard slip and find the lurid details of your mishaps on our pages come the Autumn !

We would also like to take this opportunity to offer our grateful thanks to each and every one of those who have contributed to The Mallet in a wide variety of ways over the last twelve months. Without their support we couldn't have continued to survive and prosper as we have, when many of our contemporaries have fallen by the wayside. No matter how small or seemingly insignificant, each contribution may appear it has been gratefully received and hopefully faithfully applied in our efforts to sustain the high standards set for over twenty years.

To all our readers at home and abroad have a nice Summer.



# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Entered Apprentice Degree*

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

*Harmony*



*Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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*

# Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class conferred the Dramatised Master Mason's Degree. There was a large number of visitors in attendance, who cannot fail to have enjoyed the fine degree on offer that evening.

Thereafter, the Brethren retired to the Function Suite downstairs where the final lodge harmony before the Summer recess was enjoyed by all.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.58pm

Attendance : 81

## 100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

7<sup>th</sup> May

£20 : **Bro Graham Allan**

£10 : **Bro PJ Smith**

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, is still taking names for this year, with plenty of opportunities to win still up for grabs.

## Fishing Outing



As you as you will no doubt be more than aware, the Lodge 307 Fishing Competition was held at Harelaw Fishery on Saturday, the 1st of June. The weather was good to us this year, which allowed all of the contestants to enjoy themselves.

Organiser, Bro Alan Izatt WSW would like to give a big thanks to our sponsors, **Voe Chemicals**, (in the guise of Bros Bryce and Chris McCaig), who paid for all the lunches and provided the prize for the first fish caught. The fishing was, as usual, for Harelaw, not the easiest. However, at the end of the Competition, there was a clear winner for both prizes.

The winner of the 'First Fish Caught' goes to Bro Ronnie Maclsaac PM, who receives the handsome prize of £50, with the overall winner of the Competition, with a bag of 3 fish, also to Bro Ronnie. Congratulations go to our winner, and to all the other contestants who took part on the day.



Bro Maclsaac's ghillie had no comment to make on the day !!

**Tight lines**

# Dates for your Diary



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

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

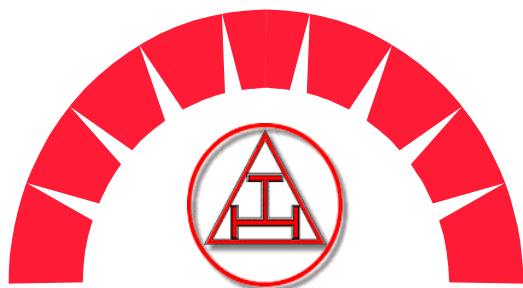
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an FC Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of Lodge Nitshill

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

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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)



**Rockmount R.A.C. No.367**

The Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, the Companions of Rockmount RAC conferred a fine Royal Arch degree upon

**JOHN DEMPSEY**

It was a good degree ably conferred by our own Companions, albeit that some of those taking part had to step in at the last moment.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

# MASONIC FACTS

- ★ Winnedumah Lodge No.287 in Bishop, California holds its meetings at 270 feet below sea level, the lowest Lodge in North America.
- ★ Between 1737 and 1779 two sailing ships of interest operated off the U.S. eastern seaboard, The Freemason and The Master Mason. The Freemason caught fire and sank in Marblehead Harbour, Massachusetts in 1779.
- ★ 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.
- ★ Bro Thomas Jacob Shryock served as Grand Master of Maryland for 32 years. He died after being elected to serve his 33rd term.
- ★ When the great Obelisk of Alexandria (Cleopatra's Needle) was moved to New York in 1880, there were discovered certain emblems on the original foundation and pedestal. One is clearly a square, leading some to conclude that Masonry existed in ancient Egypt. Obviously, this issue is still open to debate.
- ★ Andrew McNair, a Philadelphia Mason, rang the Liberty bell in Independence Hall on July 8th, 1776 to call the people together to hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The bell developed a crack when it was rung to announce the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.
- ★ Former US President Warren G. Harding was initiated on June 28, 1901. It took him 19 years to complete the other two degrees.
- ★ Lodges in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have no numbers. In Pennsylvania there
- ★ are 11 lodges that have numbers but no names, and in Georgia there are two lodges with the number 1. In Maryland, Tennessee and Pennsylvania there is no lodge with the number 1.
- ★ Bro Theodore Parvin was Grand Secretary of Masons in Iowa from 1844 to 1901, except for 1852- 53 when he was Grand Master.

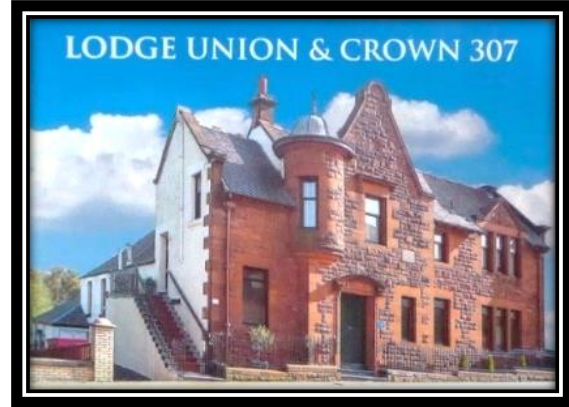
# BITS & PIECES

- We gather that the 'Ladies Night held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May was a success, with a good attendance of almost 60.
- 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 Bro Tom Mulholland's lovely wife Margo who has recently decided to join her husband on the retirement list.
- Grateful thanks to Bro Graham Manson for his donation of much-need paper.
- On the subject of paper, Brother Stuart Glasscock PM of Spring Lodge, No.1174, and an Honorary Member of Union & Crown, noticed in our April edition that we needed paper. He immediately went online and ordered a full ream (2,500 Sheets) and had it delivered to Bro Jim Renfrew's home the next day. An incredible gesture from 4,500 miles away !!
- On the subject of the Glasscock family, we congratulate Bro Stuart's son Maxx who recently celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday.
- We see that Lodge Moorpark, No.1263 are about to hold their very last meeting in their Temple in Broadloan in Renfrew. They are merging with Lodge The Royal Stuart, No.1414 and moving a couple of miles along the A8 to Sheildhall Road.
- Another two Lodges in our province who have decided to merge are Lodge St John, Busby No.458 and Lodge Eaglesham, No.1265. The name of the 'new lodge' is yet to be determined, but they will be holding their meetings in 458's temple in Busby. An unfortunate sign of the times for Freemasonry.
- We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Mrs Betty McFarlane, the widow of the late Bro Ian McFarlane PM. Our commiserations go to her son Bro John and her daughter Lesley.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Kenneth Junner was injured when a car lost control near his home in Fern Drive. Bro Kenny was released from hospital the following day and is recovering at home.
- It was pleasing to see Bro Michael McBride down at the Lodge Instruction Class recently. Bro Michael had undergone serious surgery only a few months ago. We wish him well.
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are being produced. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken WJW (☎ 07590 207 365)

# Lodge Postcards

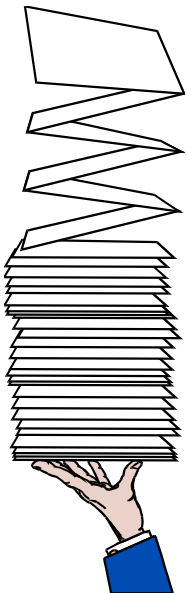
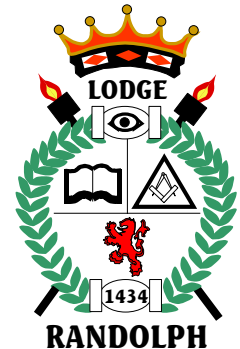
Unique colour postcards of our Temple are still available for sale at the bargain price of £1-00 each from Bro Jim Miller PM (☎ 0141 881 4006) [jimmiller307@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jimmiller307@hotmail.co.uk)

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. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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/m<sup>2</sup> 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.

# Did You Know ?

That Bro. James Hoban, a devout Catholic and an ardent Mason, was the designer of the US Capitol and the White House. Under his leadership, Federal Lodge No.1, Washington, DC was formed by Irish Catholics and Scottish Presbyterians with Bro. Hoban as the first Worshipful Master.

That the 'World's Largest Mason' was Miles Darden, who died in Lexington, Tennessee in 1857 at the age of 58 years. He weighed over 1,000 lbs and was 7'6" in height with a 76-inch waist. It took seven men to place him in his casket.

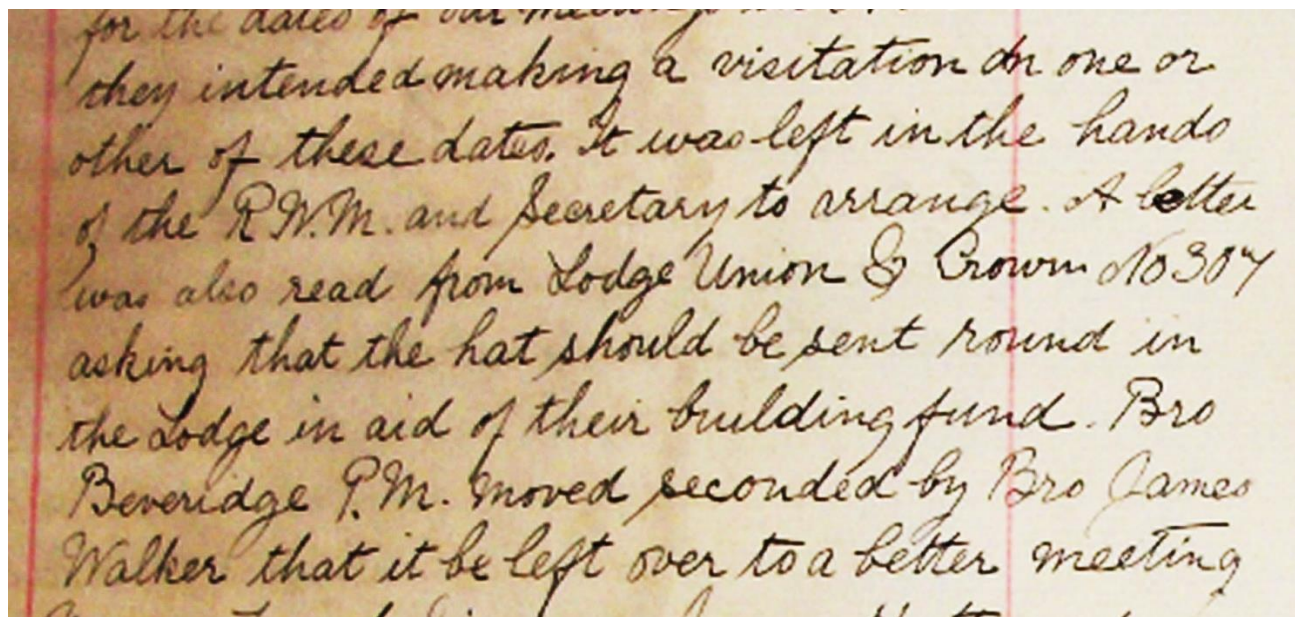
That George Washington was Master of his lodge in Alexandria when he was inaugurated as President of the United States in 1789.



## Lodge Randolph, No.776

Brother Johnny Gauld PM recently attended a meeting of Lodge Randolph, No.776 in Leven in Fife, and while there mentioned that many Lodges across Scotland had answered the appeal from 307 for their Building Fund in 1908 as the lodge attempted to raise funds for our Temple.

Bro Bill Rocks PM of 776 went back and found the Lodge Minute which mentioned our appeal, a copy of which is shown below. Unfortunately, it only shows that they decided to make a decision at a later meeting.



However, we are delighted to say that our own records show that Lodge Randolph did indeed donate the sum of 12s – 0d, which equates to just over £90-00 in today's money.

We are indebted to both the Lodge and Bro Bill Rocks PM for this.



## Hong Kong

Whilst the earliest traces of Freemasonry in Asia are to be found on the Indian Sub-continent, the Craft finally reached Hong Kong around the late 1830`s when the Crown Colony was formed, records show that lodges with travelling warrants held meetings on the mainland nearby 70 years earlier. The earliest Masons were mainly the seamen, merchants, civil administrators and soldiers who populated that outpost of the British Empire and the first Lodge formed was Royal Sussex Lodge, No.501 (E.C.) in 1845, with the first Scottish Lodge, Cosmopolitan, No.428 following on almost 20 years later.

The Craft thrived during the boom years of the latter part of the last century and has continued to prosper in modern times, with the only set back being the Japanese occupation during the last war. Even in those dark days some Lodges bravely met within P.O.W. camps throughout the war and one at Stanley even managed to keep a minute book.

There are currently a total of 19 Lodges active in Hong Kong (12 English, 5 Scottish and 2 Irish), the English & Scots Lodges under the jurisdiction of their respective Grand Lodges, and the Irish governed directly from Dublin. All of whom currently meet within the Zetland Hall in Kennedy Road, an imposing structure erected in the late 40`s to replace the Temple built in 1865 and destroyed by bombing in 1941. The Building houses 2 Temples, an administration area, an extensive library and a museum.



All Lodges within the colony (regardless of constitution) tend to meet on a monthly basis from September through to May, recessing during the months of June, July and August, with the sole exception being Lodge Cosmopolitan, No.428 who contrary to everyone else only meet on the 3rd Thursday of June, July and August !

Although membership of the Craft in Hong Kong was originally drawn from the British community, with the occasional recruit from other European nations, there is now a substantial number of native Chinese and other Asian nationalities of differing ethnic backgrounds and it is common to enter a Lodge and discover a wide variety of V.S.L.`s in use.

# My Freemasonry

My Craft is my life and my inspiration  
For it teaches me brotherhood, without demarcation.  
There is love, there is hope, there is always life  
Without this world`s hate, or division, or strife.

No man can I hate, no religion I scorn,  
For my first degree teaches to be pure as when born.  
Each man is my neighbour, be he white brown or black,  
And each stranger `s a friend when I welcome him back.

Though different we are by our teaching or toil,  
The second reminds me there`s no difference at all.  
It`s by standing up plumb and acting aye square  
That my God, on the level, I`ll meet when up there.

My Lodge also helps me to perfect what I`m given  
That my keystone may be found in the canopy of heaven.  
I am equal, I`m accepted, I`m trusty and I`m free  
What a glorious revelation this craft is to me.

When my full road I`ve travelled and my journey is done  
The third degree teaches of the victory I`ve won.  
If I`ve loved and I`ve laboured and cared for a friend  
My Freemasonry will continue in that world without end.

## Visitation to the Black Isle

We are saddened to report that our eagerly-awaited visit to the Black Isle in July to confer the Dramatised 'Prisoner of War' degree has had to be postponed until 2025.

The extremely high cost of accommodation in that popular tourist destination, and indeed the lack of accommodation has unfortunately meant that we have had to push it back.

# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 42 Years Ago

No. 55

May 1982

**Regular Meeting :** At the regular meeting on Tuesday 4th May the following five candidates - Peter McLean, Bruce Oliver, Martin Pitches, Brian Fulton & Arthur Scott were presented for the Entered Apprentice degree. The ceremonial work was undertaken by a team drawn from the younger members of the Instruction Class, a most competent and satisfying performance resulted.

One of the most pleasing features of the past year or two has been the number of Affiliate Members who have been received into the Lodge. At this meeting yet another five Brethren from other Lodges took the Oath of Affiliation which was ably administered by Bro David Noble PM. They were : James Young, Thomas Conway, George Earley, Ninian Adam & Thomas Lyon. We are delighted to welcome them into our ranks and would encourage them to take the same active interest in the affairs of the Lodge as so many of their predecessors have done.

**Lodge Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.45pm**

**Attendance : 151**

On Wednesday 12th May Bro Bud Gauld organised a highly successful Music Quiz in the Police Club, Barrhead. Four teams competed - The Police Club, The Neilston Pipe Band, The Knights of St Columba & Lodge Union & Crown. As can be imagined the good natured banter between the Masons & the Knights was fast and furious.

The eventual winners were the team from Union & Crown of Bros Alan Packer, Willie Dougray, Davie Noble & Tom Wilson. Altogether a most enjoyable and harmonious evening was spent with the proceeds of £40 being donated to Nether Kirkton Home for Children in Care.

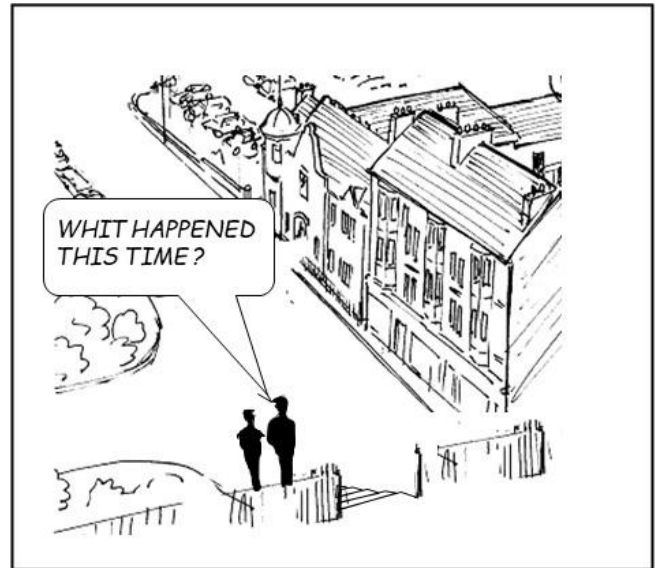
**Our Holiday Caravan:** The holiday caravan at Wemyss Bay is now open for the summer months and is solidly booked from now until September. As a matter of fact there is now a waiting list.

We have tried, as far as possible, to accommodate all kinds of deserving cases, Brethren of the Lodge, Widows, people recovering from illness & elderly citizens who just need a holiday. Our thanks go out to the Brethren of the Lodge for their continued support and especially to those who, so ungrudgingly, provide the necessary transport at the week-ends.

### **Lodge Gossip :**

- Congratulations to Danny Carlton on the birth of a baby girl.
- Bro Jim Galbraith, a local publican, has won a trip to the World Cup Finals in Spain.
- By the time you read this Bro Willie Shaw will be on holiday in New Jersey, USA
- Congratulations to Bro Ernie Duthie on his retirement.

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MAY '24

*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*  
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" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

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