

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



September 2025

The Mallet

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

No. 486

Editorial



September 2025

Probably the most consistent and sometimes highest income that most Lodges can depend upon is their collections, freely given by their members at Regular Meetings. Income from many other sources is raised and accepted by today's Lodges, but the revenue raised when each one of us dips into our pockets and deposits something in the collection plate as the deacons walk past is still a mainstay for many Lodges.

Just how much does the average Brother put into the collection at his Lodge meeting, and how does it compare in real terms with 50 years ago. Unfortunately, the answer to both may well be the same, at perhaps £1.00. However, inflation has moved the value of *'the pound in your pocket'* quite considerably over the years.

In 1975 a loaf of bread cost just 11p, with a pint of milk at 6p. A pint of lager was 20p, the same price as a packet of 20 cigarettes. To put this in perspective, the weekly wage of the average working man then was £48. To bring these figures up to the present day, the average working wage now is over £700, more than fourteen times its equivalent in 1975.

One pound then is now worth an amazing £10.00 and to be honest there are few brethren who put that sum in their Lodge collection plate. To be honest in Union and Crown the £5.00 collection is becoming the norm for many of our Brethren, but not all.



Perhaps the time has come for many of us to taken inflation and the many other relevant factors into account and give serious consideration to a hefty increase. Even a regular collection of £2-00 per head, would make a marvellous difference in the Lodge's income, without making a great deal of difference to all of us.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 7th October 2025

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

By the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony

Tuesday 21st October 2025

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Annual General Meeting

(Nomination & Election of Office-bearers and Committees)

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 2nd September, the Brethren of our good friends from Lodge Nitshill, No.1478 conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree upon the following Candidates :

Alan Watson Max Gilroy

All in attendance were impressed by the excellent floor work of our near neighbours just along the road. Thereafter, the Brethren of both Lodges enjoyed a fine harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.19pm

Attendance : 64

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 16th September, the same two Candidates were passed to the second square, or Fellowcraft Degree by a deputation of Brethren from Lodge Thistle & Crown No.1167 who conferred a fine 2nd Degree.

Bro Ian Brenchley RWM must have been delighted with the efforts of his Brethren

The Brethren of both Lodges then retired to the Function Suite to enjoy the harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.32pm

Attendance : 74

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

2nd September £20 : Bro Billy Little £10 : Bro William Renfrew PM

16th September £20 : Bro Graham Smith £10 : Bro Robert Scott PM

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, is taking names for next year, which commenced immediately after our Annual Installation.

The annual fee is still very good value at £10, & anyone interested should see Bro George as soon as possible.



The Big Breakfast

The ever-popular 'Big Breakfast' is being held on:

Saturday 25th October

from 9.30am till 12 Noon, in the Lodge Function Suite.

Tickets costing £5.00 are now available from Bro Ronnie Maclsaac PM (☎ 07718 828 061) or any Office-Bearer

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 7th October Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a MM Degree will be conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class

Thursday 16th October General Committee Meeting at 7.30pm. All Office-bearers and Past Masters are expected to attend.

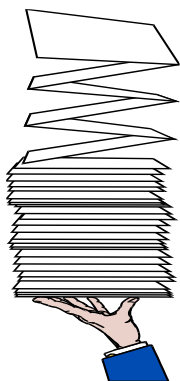
Monday 20th October Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 21st October Annual Business Meeting of the Lodge, where all Office-bearers and Committees will be elected.

(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)

Paper Appeal



As ever, we are always on the lookout for that most essential of commodities – PAPER, for our journal. As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² paper, preferably white but any colour will do.

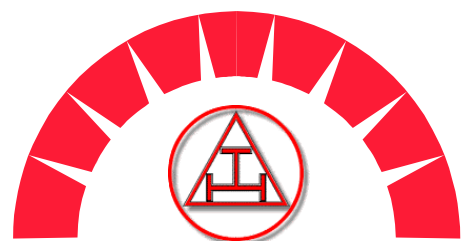
Without sufficient stocks, we simply cannot print enough copies of our journal to satisfy our wide-ranging readership. So if you have the odd ream lying about just let us know and we'll even arrange to have it picked-up if necessary. In addition, we also need 160g/m² card



The Companions of Rockmount RAC will hold the Installation Meeting of the Chapter on :

Tuesday 8th October at 7pm

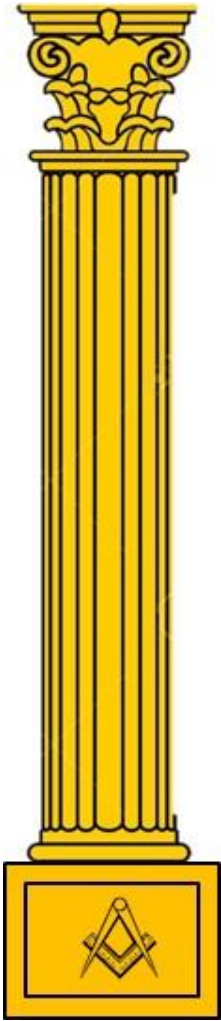
(Note the earlier start !!)



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

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

From the South



Brethren, it's amazing how the years fly by as you get older.

It's only about a year ago I was installed as the Worshipful Junior Warden of Lodge Union & Crown No307.

A place which was the furthest thing on my mind back in 2019/2020, just before we were hit with the covid virus shutdown, then I was happy coming along to meetings and meeting up with some old friends.

At that time due to my involvement in Randolph and my friendship with Jimmy Laing and being of a certain age. I was invited to come along to the Sausage Club, firstly for a blether, and secondly to rehearse with Jimmy as he was heading for the Master's Chair in Lodge Dunlop No1408.

Well, the shutdown happened and for a short time we were stuck at home and although the Lodges were closed longer, we were able to get together again when some of the restrictions were lifted.

This is where the brethren of Union & Crown saved not only my sanity but I'm sure a few others, being back out again helped us all.

Imagine my surprise on the first meeting after Covid was lifted, that they would offer me honorary membership of this fine Lodge, which I know is not given out lightly but was delighted to accept.

Again imagine my surprise to be asked if I would like to affiliate, and if I was willing to take up a small office part to help out the

lodge.

But that small part turned out to be Senior Deacon, which I think is one of the more important offices in the lodge, but I thoroughly enjoyed ever minute of it.

So now here I am a year into Junior Warden, the time just seems to fly in, and I'm sure if you ask any Master or Past Master they would agree.

I'm still enjoying every minute and I am looking forward to next year when I take another step and, God and Health permitting, looking forward to the years ahead.

Bro Campbell Ritchie WJW

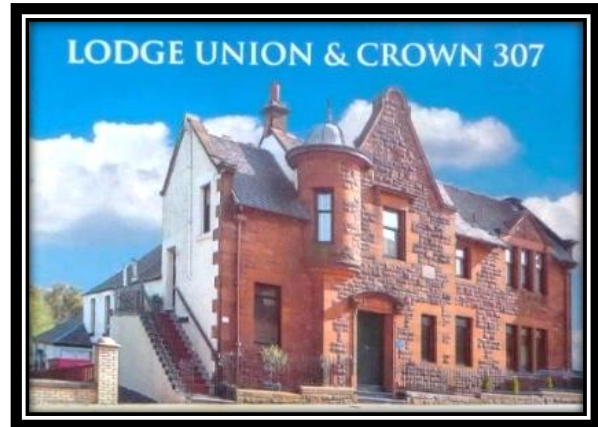
Did you Know ?

That in the **Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli** there are many articles from nearby Pompeii such as gavels, compasses, chisels, squares, also include a tiled mosaic square-shaped altar top consisting of a human skull, level of coloured wood and brass; a plumb line, 6-spoked wheel, upright spear and coloured cords; symbols very similar to the present day Masonic symbols

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.



Meet the Candidates

Alan Watson: Bro Alan is well-known in Union & Crown as his is following in the footsteps of both his Father – Bro David Watson PM and his late Grandfather – Bro Adam Watson.

Originally a native of the town, he now lives in Hairmyres, East Kilbride with his partner Taylor. He is 28 years old and is a Project Manager with a utility Company. He likes to run to keep fit, and follows the fortunes of a certain football team down Govan way.

Max Gilroy: Like he fellow Candidate, Bro Max Gilroy is also 28 years old and also lives in West Wood in East Kilbride !

Employed by Alarm company CSS he is unattached at the moment and is a big fan of Country & Western music.

In what little spare time he has, he loves to play the guitar.

Did you Know ?

- That in 1749 the first Lodge constituted in Norway was in the city of Christiania (now known as Oslo).
- That during the Great War, 91 (14%) of the 634 Victoria Crosses awarded were to Freemasons.

Famous Freemasons

(In another departure from our customary detailed format, we publish a list of 'Composers, Fine Artists & Popular Musicians who were Freemasons')

Johann Christian Bach, Lodge of Nine Muses No. 235, London

Josephine Baker, France

Frédéric Bartholdi, Lodge Alsace-Lorraine, Paris

William "Count" Basie, Wisdom Lodge No. 102, Chicago, IL

Irving Berlin, Munn Lodge No. 190, New York, NY

Roy Clark, Jenks Lodge No. 497, OK

George M.Cohan, Pacific Lodge No. 223, CA

Nat King Cole, Thomas Waller Lodge No. 49, Los Angeles, CA, * PHA

Phil Collins, Soho Lodge No. 3

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, Social Lodge No. 1, Washington, DC, * PHA

Sir Banister Flight Fletcher, Authors Lodge No. 3456, London

Sir William S. Gilbert, Lodge St. Machar No. 54, Aberdeen, Scotland

William C. Handy, Hiram Lodge No. 4, New York, NY, * PHA

Joseph Haydn, Lodge Zur Wahren Eintracht, Vienna

Franz Liszt, Lodge Zur Einigkeit, Frankfurt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Lodge Zur Woltatigkeit, Vienna;

Tex Ritter, Metropolitan Lodge No. 646, CA

Adolphe Sax, Loge Les Vrais Amis de L'Union, Brussels Belgium

Jean Sibelius, Suomi Lodge No. 1, Helsinki, Finland

John Philip Sousa, Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington, DC

Sir Arthur Sullivan, Past Grand Organist of the UGLE

(PHA = 'Prince Hall' Masonry)*

BITS & PIECES

- We gather that Bro Gregor Mullin had mixed fortunes at the local Paisley Golf Club where he lost one final but, won another in what was a very busy day for him.
- The rescheduled Lodge Golf Outing was being held at Fereneze Golf Club on Friday 3rd October, just as we were going to press. Hopefully we'll have a full report in our October edition.
- Hearty congratulations to Bro Kenneth Robertson and his new wife Jackie who were married last month.
- Whilst on the subject of weddings, best wishes to Bro Ross McLardy and his lovely wife Sophia who were married in Arizona during September. It was certainly hard for his father Bro Colin McLardy PM who now lives and works in Las Vegas.
- We hear that Bro Stephen Allan PM has negotiated an early 'Part-time' retirement with his employer Renfrewshire Council. A senior Supervisor withing Construction Services, he now works through the Autumn/Winter period, but is free to enjoy life during Spring/Summer. We wish his and his lovely wife Lindsay, who has also taken early retirement, the best going forward.
- It has been agreed that the Lodge will hold a Celebration Dinner in February 2026 to mark the Bi-Centenary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. As one of the original founding Lodges of the Province, the other six surviving founder Lodges as well as Grand Lodge have been invited. Most of the invitations have now gone out,, but if you haven't received one yet, contact our Lodge Secretary Bro Evens Reid PM. The date is Friday 6th February 2026.
- It was very pleasing to see Bro Sam Berry at the last couple of Regular Meetings.
- It was great to see that the Lodge Deacons raised in excess of £600 at the Lodge Coffee Morning during the Summer Recess. Bro Bryce McCaig SD would like to give his grateful thanks to all who supported him on the day.
- It was great to see PM Terry Jackson Junior taking an active part in the recent visitation of Lodge Nitshill 1478 to Union & Crown.
- Bro Lawrence Webb is now taking names for the Christmas Dance on Saturday 6th December and tell us that although there is over two months to go, tickets are selling well.
- It was good to see Bro Douglas Robertson WJW of Lodge Ballater, No.1432 at one of our recent Lodge Meetings. Bro Douglas is of course the grandson of the late Bro Donald Ferguson, and the elder brother of our Bro Kenneth Robertson.
- We gather that Bro Jim Renfrew PM is heading out to Houston, Texas in November to spend some time with his close friend Bro Stuart Glasscock PM 1174, who is an Honorary Member of Union & Crown. No doubt he'll visit Spring Lodge, No.1174 where he is an Honorary Member.

Lodge Union & Crown, No.307



Xmas Dance

**Saturday
6th December**

Tickets : £7.00

Available from :

Lawrence Webb (☎ 07736 780 132)



Dress : Smart Casual



Curry & Quiz Night

Some of the younger Brethren of the Lodge had expressed a desire to have a Pool Table in the downstairs lounge, that they could make use of on Friday nights. They thought that this would be ideal in attracting other people to attend the Social Club, and decided that they would like to organise some fundraising events to raise enough money to allow them to purchase one, without having to use Lodge Funds.

The first of these was a '**Curry & Quiz Night**' held on Friday 19th September in the Function suite. Everything was organised and provided by the handful of young Brethren themselves and the evening was an outstanding success. Well attended and well organised from start to finish it raised the magnificent sum of £850.

The winning team was PMs Donald Cook, Tom Mulholland, Hugh Cattigan, Robert Miller, Jim Renfrew and Bro Stef Lawniczak.

Signatories of the US Constitution

There were nine known Freemasons who signed the US Constitution in 1787 :

Gunning Bedford, John Blair, David Brearly, Jacob Broom, Daniel Carrol, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Rufus King and George Washington

In addition, there was clear evidence of Membership and/or Affiliations for a further thirteen Freemasons:

Abraham Baldwin, William Blount, Elbridge Gerry, Nicholas Gilman, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, John Lansing, James Madison, George Mason, George Read, Robert Morris, Roger Sherman and George Wythe

There were a further six who later became Freemasons :

William Richardson Davie, Jonathan Dayton, Dr. James McHenry, John Francis Mercer, William Patterson and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer

In summary, 28 of 40 signers (**70%**) were Freemasons or possible Freemasons based on evidence other than lodge records.



FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 30 Years Ago

No. 186

September 1995

Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 5th September, the following three Candidates :

Colin McLardy Gordon Durie Scott McKinnon

were raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason by the members of the Instruction Class in what was a fine degree, considering it was our first meeting after the Summer Recess.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-46pm Attendance : 166

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 19th September, the following four Candidates :

Paul Elcock James Hughes Ian Milliken David Watson

were initiated into our fraternity by the Office-bearers and Brethren of our good friends from Lodge Nitshill, No.1478. All in attendance will undoubtedly have been impressed by the standard of the degree from Bro Robert Kyle R.W.M. and his team.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9.43pm Attendance : 86

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners for the month of September were as follows :

Tuesday 5th September : £10 : Bro Peter McManus, No. 1453

£5 : Bro Willie Love PM

Tuesday 19th September : £10 : Bro Elias Sudding PM

£5 : Bro Lex McKenzie PM No.1167

Bits and Pieces

- We offer our congratulations to Bro Tom Rankin following his success in the recent singles championship at Shanks Bowling Club.
- It was a pleasant surprise to hear from Bro Alan Bruce recently, out of the blue he telephoned from the Gas Rig he is currently working on, somewhere in the English Channel, and had a chat about the Lodge. He even inquired about what Lodge Fees he was outstanding and made arrangements to pay them the next time he was onshore.
- As we announced in our last edition, Lodge St Conval, No. 1359 have moved from Capelrig House in Newton Mearns and are now holding their Regular Meetings in Rowallan House in Montgomery Drive in Giffnock.
- We offer our best wishes and congratulations to the late Bro Wylie McDonald's middle daughter, Marion, who recently got engaged, much to the delight of her mother Muriel and the rest of the family.
- We congratulate Bro Alan Cluckie and his wife Heather on the birth of a lovely baby daughter to be called Laura.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW SEPTEMBER 2025

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :
Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

'Rapallo' 5 Stobs Drive, Barrhead, G78 1NY

☎ 0141-571-5979

e-mail : renfrew2022@gmail.com

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

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