

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



November 2023

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No. 468



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It doesn't take a financial analyst, or accountant to realise that Freemasonry in general, is struggling financially, with very few, if any Lodges escaping the pressures of operating in modern times. This is further exacerbated if the Lodge in question owns its own premises, and has the upkeep and maintenance of a Temple to consider. Even Grand Lodge is tightening its belt in these austere times, as investments and other revenue streams are regularly producing lesser returns.

Whilst many of us are looking at ways of reducing expenditure and wherever possible maximising income, it is becoming more difficult with each passing year to adequately balance the books, never mind put something in reserve for a "Rainy Day". It is a great surprise to me personally that the Craft in Scotland hasn't lost more Lodges as the severe financial restraints have an effect.

In all honesty, I believe that the survival of many Lodges, especially in inner-city locations, owes more to the efforts of the respective Provincial Grand Lodges keeping them afloat, than anything else. After all, no Provincial Grand Master wants to find one of his Lodges going into darkness during his watch

Sad though it may sound, we would be foolish to expect a whole host of Lodges to survive possibly another 10 years, if they are not self-sufficient, and rely upon the emergency aid and support they received in the face of an unforeseen crisis, such as Covid.. Some say if some Lodges were a business, they would have gone into receivership long ago !

We in Union & Crown are no different to the remainder of Scottish Freemasonry, and have to work extremely hard to be able to ensure that sufficient funds are available to enable us to survive, and hopefully prosper.

Whilst the legacy from the late Duncan Birse provided a large sum to the Lodge, this is carefully invested for the long-term prosperity of the Lodge and its Brethren.

We do from time to time call upon our Brethren for additional support, and will continue to do so to ensure we're here to celebrate our bi-centenary in 2024.

So if you're asked to buy a raffle ticket, or attend a fund-raising event, or even can afford to put an extra pound or two in the collection plate, please do so. You can be assured that it will be "gratefully received, and faithfully applied"



Festive Greetings to all our readers





Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 5th December 2023

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

Conferred by The Worshipful Wardens

Harmony

Tuesday 19th December 2023

No Meeting

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

No Meeting

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Friday 3rd November, the Lodge held its 'Open Night' where members of the public are invited to attend and witness one of our dramatised degrees, on this occasion it was the popular 'Table of Scottish Freemasonry'.

The large cast of almost twenty Brethren are to be congratulated on the fine work produced, in what was an enjoyable evening.

Opened : 7.32pm

Lodge Closed : 8.06pm

Attendance : 35



On Tuesday 21st November the following three Brethren :

ROSS McLARDY

GREGOR MULLIN

CALLUM HEIRS

took part in an excellent Mark Ceremonial, where the team drawn from our Lodge Instruction class, and admirably led by our Immediate Past Master Bro Ronnoe MacIsaac did a fine job, greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Thereafter the Brethren retired to the Function Suite, where all enjoyed a fine Lodge Harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.29pm

Attendance : 65



At the Installation Meeting of the Lodge held within the Temple on Saturday 25th November, Brother Robert Dickson Scott was installed in to the Chair of King Solomon by the Installing Masters for the day – Bro Paul Stewart PM and Bro James Renfrew PM.

The ceremony from start to finish was carried out in a most dignified and sincere manner by the experienced Brethren involved, with the entire ceremony enjoyed by all, in what was a fine attendance on a bitterly cold day.

The following Dinner and Harmony was well attended with entertaining speeches and the talents of Eric Davidson keeping all satisfied.

Opened : 4.00pm

Lodge Closed : 6.37pm

Attendance : 96

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

3rd November £20 : **Bro Craig Allison**

£10 : **Mrs Isobel Lawson**

21st November £20 : **Bro Stephen Scott**

£10 : **Bro Robert Scott**

25th November £100 : **Bro Ross Aitken WJW**

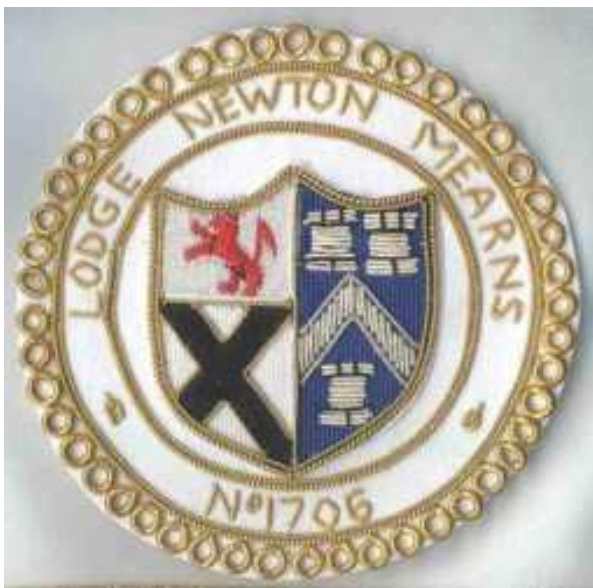
£50 : **Bro Jim Cherry**

Bro George McGrandles PM, our worthy Treasurer, is taking names for this year, with the annual fee is still very good value at £10,

(We perhaps come to the end of our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges, with one which is the youngest in our province)

Lodge Newton Mearns, No.1706

In the early months of 1975 Bro. Bob Bryant, a Past Master of Lodge Albert Edward No. 592 and Bro. Bill Stevenson of Lodge Union No. 332, approached several brethren in the area about forming a lodge in the Mearns District. The response was very favourable and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East was contacted regarding how to apply for a petition to form a new lodge. With tremendous help and guidance from Bro. Archie Hutchison Depute Provincial Grand Master, and Bro. Alex Murray, Provincial Grand Secretary, the wheels were set in motion and meetings were held as often as were required.



The name of the Lodge, along with the office-bearers for the first year were decided. The Lodge colours would be blue

The Lodge would meet on the first and third Thursday of each month from September to May inclusive. It was decided after much discussion to ask Lodge St John Busby No.458 and Lodge Saint Conval Giffnock No.1359 to be our sponsor Lodges.

We received the necessary petition from the Provincial Grand Secretary on 21 August 1975 which would require the signatures of all founder members complete with their respective Lodge numbers and Lodge constitutions so that their names will appear on the Charter of the new Lodge. A meeting was held on 18 September 1975 for the signing of the petition, collection of clearance certificates and founder member fees of £30 per person. The main hall, committee rooms and kitchen in the Fairweather Hall were booked from September 1975 to May 1976 for our meetings and Saturday 29 November 1975 was booked for the Consecration Ceremony and Installation of Office Bearers.

Our Charter was granted by Grand Lodge on 6 November 1975 and on Saturday 29 November 1975 Lodge Newton Mearns No. 1706 was consecrated by the late Bro. Ralph Denholm, Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East with the late Bro. Robert Bryant of Lodge Albert Edward No. 592 as the first R.W.M.

In the first few years, our Tuesday evenings were spent at the Waterworks on the edge of Fenwick Moor, where Brother Bob Bryant was in charge and we carried out our rehearsals and instruction class etc without any

disturbances. During those years a lot of effort was put in by the Brethren running fetes, raffles, dances, Burns Suppers and anything else we could to build up our funds, but as we all know, in the Newton Mearns area, there was no way we could afford to buy land for building but the money in the fund has stood us in good stead over the last few years when our finances were a bit tight.

The Lodge was dealt a huge blow on 25 October 1986 when Bro. Bob Bryant P.M. ascended to the Grand Lodge above. Some of our Brethren seemed to lose heart after this and founder members kept dropping off. As with other Lodges we have gone through a sticky patch but thanks to the Office-bearers who have been in office the last few years we have pulled through and things look brighter for the future.

Bro. Bob Bryant's spirit lives on with the annual presentation of a trophy for Masonic Excellence. This trophy is awarded to that Brother whom the Lodge feels has contributed most to the Lodge over the previous twelve months.

At the Annual Installation in November 2005, Lodge history was made when Brother Muhammad Din was installed as Right Worshipful Master of the Lodge, the first Moslem ever to attain this rank in the Province of Renfrewshire East.

To mark the Lodges 40th Anniversary, the Lodge hosted a special dinner in Fairweather Hall, Newton Mearns, on Thursday, 12th May 2016, when around eighty invited guests attended.

Following an excellent curry dinner, the lodge was toasted by Bro. John S. Miller PGM, with a suitable reply from RWM Bro. Tom Edgar.

Singer Dougie Johnston treated us to some vintage Sinatra and Crosby numbers, Bro. George Colvan mystified us with his magic and Bro. Martin Cassidy had us roaring with laughter with his humorous recitations.

One highlight of the evening was the birthday cake iced with the lodge's coat of arms presented to RWM Bro. Tom Edgar by the Lodge Treasurer.



Following on from our articles over the last couple of months about 'The Anti-Masonic Apron' we are continuing our series about the Anti-Masonic Movement

The 'Origins of Anti-Masonry'

Part 3 – The Incident

By the time Masonic lodges began to appear in what would become the United States, the Catholic church was on the verge of banning the Craft. Protestant evangelical churches, strict and unbending in their belief systems, were following suit. In addition, some colonists began to fear the secretive nature of Masonic lodges and their perceived influence over political and economic affairs was threatening the emerging nation. It was not lost on the populace that the Masonic lodges themselves, whether Ancient or Modern, owed their existence and allegiance to being sanctioned by lodges in England, a country daily waning in popularity with the upstart colonists. This, even though many, if not most, Freemasons went on to support the colonies in the American Revolution.

With other priorities to deal with in the fledgling colonies, anti-Masonry was simmering on the back burner, but nowhere near a boil. In fact, membership in the Craft was still seen as desirable, an honour, and not something everyone could achieve. A notorious incident began to change things.

Daniel Reese was a young apprentice pharmacist working in 1737 at a prominent apothecary in downtown Philadelphia. He was one of those who thought membership in Freemasonry would enhance his career and status in the community. With that, he told his boss, the respected and well-known Dr Evan Jones, of his desire to join the organization. Dr Jones also knew about the Freemasons, a group about which he had some doubts. Seeing an opportunity for some mischief, he told Reese he would arrange his admission to the order.

Jones and a few of his friends, none of whom were Masons, planned an elaborate mock "initiation" for the unsuspecting Reese. A few nights later, in the back yard of Jones' home, the group performed the ceremony. John Remington, a Philadelphia attorney, administered an "irreligious and scandalous" oath on the naive Reese, after which he was subjected to "absurd and ridiculous indignities," given a series of "ludicrous" signs, and then congratulated on having received the first degree of Freemasonry.

On a subsequent night, June 13, 1737, Reese presented himself at Dr Jones' store to receive a "higher degree." The men blindfolded him and escorted him to the cellar. There, the perpetrators forced him to repeat an invocation to Satan, and coerced him into drinking a strong drug, most likely a laxative, "for sport."

The group then lit a pan of brandy and camphor and removed Reese's blindfold. At that, one of the sinister bunch confronted him wearing a cowhide cloak and horns, so Reese would assume he was the devil. The stunt failed to frighten Reese, so Jones threw the flaming liquid onto Reese, severely burning him. Three days later, Reese died.

Remarkably, a coroner's inquest acquitted the Masonic impostors, although it severely condemned their actions. However, a grand jury subsequently indicted Jones, Remington and John Tackerbury (an expelled Mason) for murder. Jones and Remington were found guilty of manslaughter with Tackerbury being acquitted. The court granted Remington a pardon due to extenuating circumstances, including the need to provide for his family. Jones' sentence, to have his hand branded, was carried out immediately.

The Masons came under fire, even though they had absolutely nothing to do with the episode. The Brothers from St. John's Lodge and the Grand Master published a statement condemning the matter.

The proceedings of the trial revealed Benjamin Franklin was aware of the shenanigans. The Court of Common-Pleas had appointed him to settle an affair in which Jones was involved. During one of their meetings Jones told him about the first "initiation" and Franklin admitted to laughing heartily "as my manner is." Having heard about Franklin's reaction Andrew Bradford, Franklin's longtime rival in the printing industry, used that information to attack Franklin, as well as the Freemasons, in his newspaper, the American Weekly Mercury.

Franklin responded in his Pennsylvania Gazette, noting he stopped laughing when Jones told him of the incident with the laxative, and the fact the group made Reese swear to Satan. Bradford shot back with a rebuttal that proved to be the opening volley of what has been characterized as the first anti-Masonic series of articles in a newspaper in colonial America.

(Next Month we continue with Part 4)



Dates for your Diary



Friday 5th December Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred by the Worshipful Wardens, assisted by the members of the Lodge Instruction Class.

Monday 18th December Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 19th December **NO MEETING**

Tuesday 2nd January **NO MEETING**

(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 Bobby Clark 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)



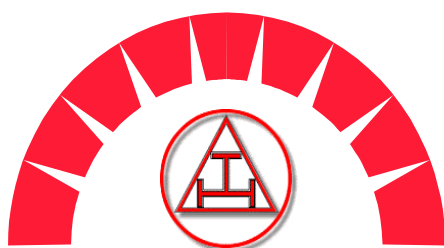
At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 14th November 2023, the following Candidate :

ROSS AITKEN

received a fine Mark Affiliate and Excellent Master's degree from the Companions of Rockmount.

The next meeting of the Chapter on Tuesday 12th December will be a Royal Arch Degree on the same

Brother, and MEC Graham Manson MEZ and his Companions extend an invitation to any Companions who would like to attend. They will be most welcome.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

Syllabus 2023 - 2024

Just in case some of our readers have been unable to obtain a copy of the new Lodge Syllabus, just issued for the current session, as ever, we publish a full copy for your perusal. If there are any updates or changes, we will ensure to publish details to keep you up to date.

- Dec 5** EA Worshipful Wardens
Dec 19 No Meeting
Jan 2 No Meeting
Jan 16 'Dramatised Degree' (*Burns v Kipling*)
Jan 18 **Visitation** - MM at Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
Feb 3 Bi-Centenary Celebrations (Saturday)
Feb 20 'Dramatised Degree' (*P.O.W.*)
Mar 5 Visitation by PGL of Renfrewshire East
Mar 19 FC Worthy Deacons
Apr 2 'Dramatised FC Degree'
Apr 16 **MM** 'Installing Masters'
Apr 22 **Visitation** - EA at Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
May 7 'Dramatised MM Degree'

SUMMER RECESS

- Sep 3** EA by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
Sep 17 FC by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
Oct 1 **MM** Lodge Instruction Class
Oct 15 Annual General Meeting
Nov 1 'Open Night' (Friday) 'The Table of Scottish Freemasonry'
Nov 19 **MMM** Bro Robert Clark IPM
Nov 23 Installation of Office-Bearers

Management Committee Meetings

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7-30pm

BITS & PIECES

- Our very best wishes and heartiest congratulations to the latest recipient of the 'Bud Gauld Plate' for services to 307 – Bro Robert Scott RWM. The latest in a long line of well-deserving Brethren, that stretches back thirty years, Bro Robert was lost for words when this prestigious award was handed over at the Installation Dinner.
- Tickets for our Christmas Dance on Saturday 16th December are moving fast and you should contact our Social Convenor – Bro Lawrence Webb ☎ 07736 780 132 as soon as possible
- Sorry to hear that Bro Hugh Cattigan PM has been unwell of late and unable to get out and about at all. We wish him a speedy recovery.
- It was fantastic to see Brothers Jim Cherry, Billy Little and Stuart Welsh installed as Office-bearers at our Installation. Between them they have a magnificent 175 years of membership of Lodge Union & Crown, No.307.
- Isn't it fantastic that a total of 67 Brethren have opted to participate in the '200 for 200' initiative which, after costs, has raised over £10.000 towards the cost of our forthcoming Bi-Centenary celebrations
- The heartiest of congratulations to Bro William Hyndman Gauld PM who has just been reinstated as Depute Grand Master for the second consecutive year. Having served under Bro Ramsay McGhee IPGMM, Bro Bud will now serve under his successor Bro Dr Joseph J Morrow CVO CBE KstJ KC FRSE GMM and perhaps he could indeed be perhaps the only man to serve as DGM under two different Grand Master Masons ?
- Bro Ronnie Maclsaac PM did really well in his first duty as DoC at our recent Installation. It can be a daunting job, but Bro Ronnie was a success.
- Bro Lawrence Webb IG is covering the Almoner's duties for the next couple of months whilst Bro Jim Miller PM is on an extended holiday in Portugal. He can be reach on ☎ 07736 780 132
- Good to see seven of our Brethren were in attendance at the recent Festival of St Andrew in Freemasons' Hall in Edinburgh

Did you Know ?

That Bro John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), a member of Royal Somerset House & Inverness Lodge No. 4, in London, wrote the music which was later utilized for the 'Star Spangled Banner', the US national anthem. Its original use is not known, but at an early date it was adopted by an Irish Masonic orphans' Home as its song.



From the East

On Saturday 25 November 2023, a little over ten years since my masonic journey began, I was installed as Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Union and Crown No. 307. To say it was a proud day, does not come close to describing my feelings, it was among the best days of my life and one that I will never forget.

To be installed as Master of your Mother Lodge is something quite special, it is a privilege and an honour and not something that I take lightly. Thank you to the brethren of Union and Crown for the faith you have shown in me, I will do my very best to repay you. I have no doubt there will be a few mistakes along the way, possibly even a few howlers, but this will not be due to a lack of effort or commitment. I have a very experienced team of Past Masters around me in the East, and I have no doubt that they will help me to develop and grow over the next twelve months. And in truth, that is what Freemasonry (and indeed life) is all about. None of us are the fully polished stone that we might like to think we are, every one of us has a few rough edges that require to be smoothed down. I, for one, am more than happy to admit that, and to welcome the help and guidance of my more experienced brothers.

This year of course is a very special one for 307, as we celebrate our 200th anniversary. Our year of celebration kicked off with the installation ceremony and I am certain that anyone who attended will agree it was a magnificent way to start a magnificent year. The Installing Masters, Bro Paul Stewart PM, and Bro Jim Renfrew PM performed to an exceptional standard and coupled with some fantastic performance's downstairs at the Installing Board (which I won't spoil for anyone not in attendance) it was just incredible. Every month we have another event to look forward too, and I for one, am very excited.

As I write this article, I am now preparing for my first meeting as RWM and I would be lying if I said I wasn't just a little nervous (okay, a lot nervous). I am also pretty sure that each of the newly installed office bearers are experiencing similar feelings. However, I have no doubt that we will rise to the occasion and carry out our work to the best of our combined ability; and that is all that anyone can ask.

In closing, I would like to thank the brethren of 307 one more time. Let's enjoy our bicentenary year, let's work hard to reflect the high standards of the Lodge, and those brethren who have gone before, and let's remember to have some fun along the way.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you, and your families, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Robert D Scott RWM, 307

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 30 Years Ago

No. 168

November 1993

Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 2nd November the following two candidates :

ROBERT PATON JAMES WALTON

were raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason by the members of the Instruction Class in what is now the customary and extremely popular Dramatised 3rd Degree.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 10-04pm Attendance : 154

At the Regular meeting held on Tuesday 16th November, the following seven Brethren :

S Cluckie R Paton R Hannah J Walton
B Lawniczak J Young P McLaren

were advanced to the rank of M.M.M. by a team of experienced Brethren of the Lodge, led by Bro Jim Renfrew I.P.M. in what was a fine rendering of the Mark Ceremonial.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-40pm Attendance : 101

At the Installation Meeting held on Saturday 27th November, Bro John Stewart Livingstone was installed as Right Worshipful Master of the Lodge, with the business of the day being conducted by Bro Jim Renfrew P.M. and Bro David Noble P.M. By our reckoning Bro Davie was making something like his 12th appearance in the role, while his installing colleague, Bro Jim was making his debut. Both are to be congratulated for the able manner in which they conducted the Installation ceremony.

Lodge Opened : 3-00pm Lodge Closed : 5-52pm Attendance : 166

Bits & Pieces

Congratulations to Bro Joe Roberts PM who was recently honoured by no less a patronage as the Moderator of the Church of Scotland himself at a recent ceremony to mark his 36 years of service as an Elder in Barrhead South & Levern Church.

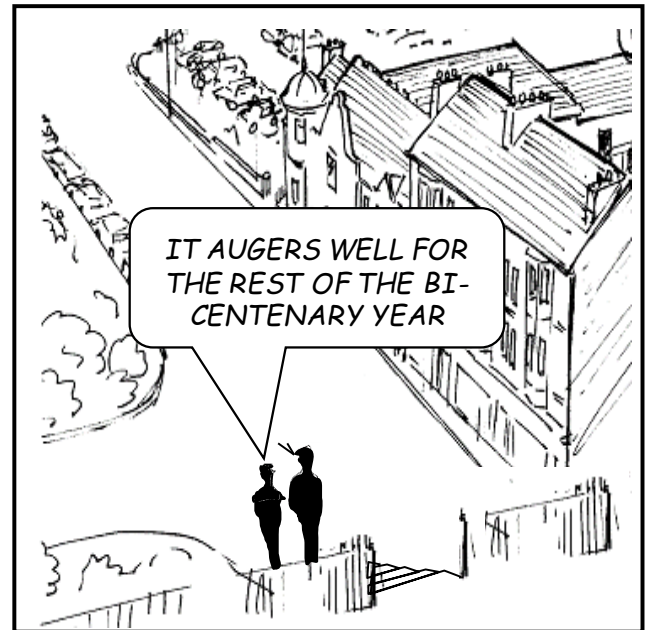
We gather that Bro Jack Gauld met and had a chat with Her Majesty, The Queen when she toured his place of work recently.

We offer our congratulations to our R.W.M., Bro Willie Renfrew, who recently celebrated his 40th Birthday with a surprise bash in the Temple recently.

Bro Jim Renfrew PM has been invited to propose the toast to Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426 at their annual Installation Dinner in December.

Our best wishes go to Bro Andrew Palmer on his recent early retirement from Reid Kerr College.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW NOV 2023

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

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