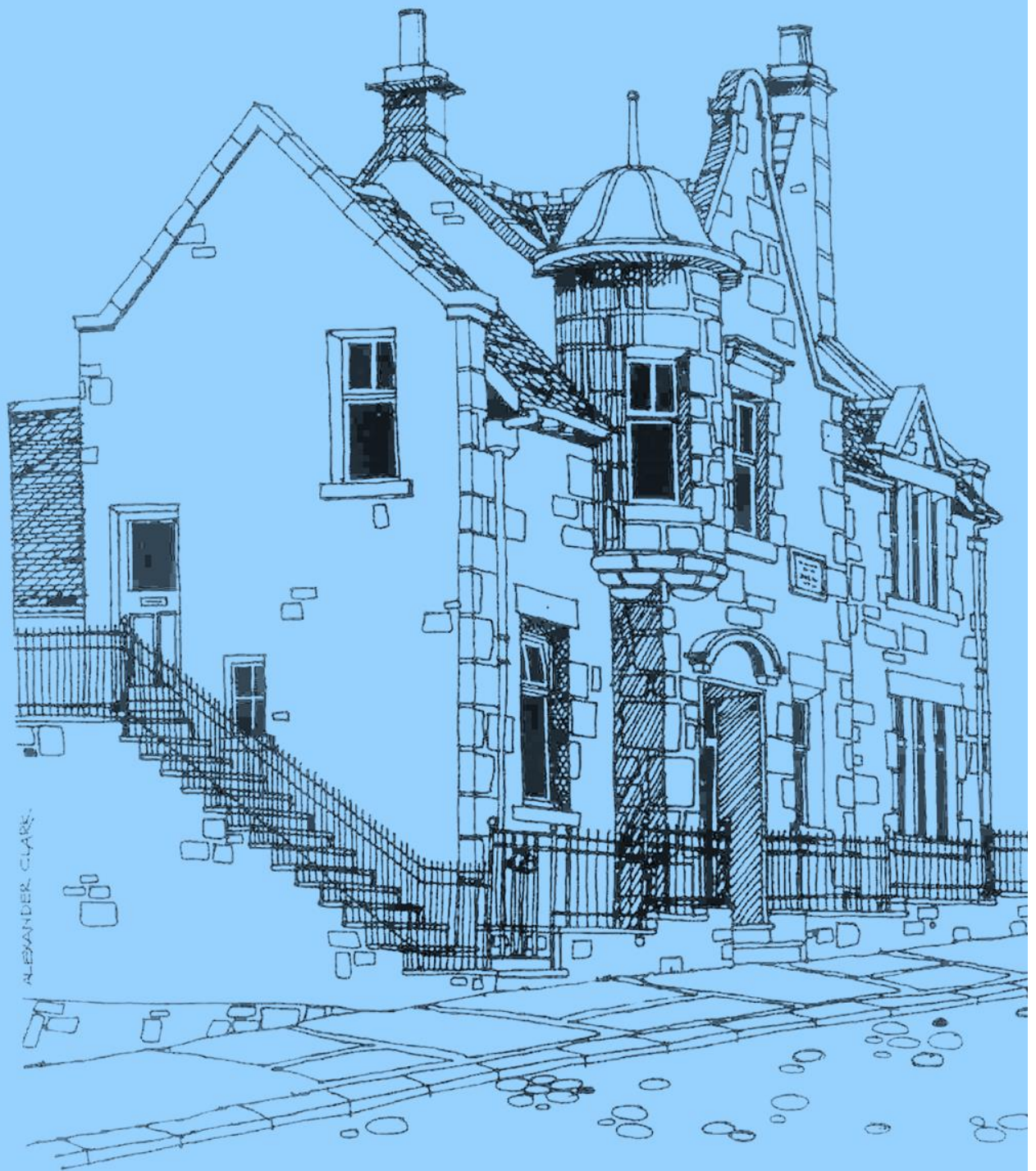


The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



November 2024

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

No. 478

Editorial



November 2024

Another “Masonic Year” is over and we have a new Right Worshipful Master in place, with a new set of Office-bearers. Whilst there has been a slightly larger turnover of Office-bearers this year, than in recent years, we are sure that Brother Stephen Scott and his team will do a fine job for Union & Crown in the months ahead. That is if they manage to survive the current “Steak Pie Marathon” of the Installation season.

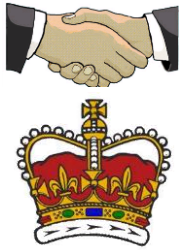
Brother Stephen, a comparatively late initiate to Freemasonry in his mid-fifties, has taken to The Craft like a duck to water and his enthusiasm is plain for all to see, and he has naturally formed an extremely close relationship with his predecessor, Bro Robert Scott IPM. He retired from a demanding job within the Fire & Rescue Service after 30 years’ service, and became a Fundraising & Engagement Officer with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Family Support Trust – the firefighters’ charity.

A sometimes reserved and watchful individual, he’s not afraid to speak up if he thinks there’s a point to be made, and will undoubtedly apply himself well to his wide range of duties over the next 12 months, which will as he is about to discover, be the shortest and undoubtedly fastest year in his entire life. The entire Lodge will wish him every success during his term as Right Worshipful Master, and he will receive the just support he deserves in the coming months.

Bro Robert Scott has just completed a truly remarkable year as Right Worshipful Master of his Mother Lodge, a role that it looked as if he was born for. Bro Robert has ever had the interests of the Lodge foremost in his mind, before he assumed the mantle as Master. Many were of the opinion that Bro Robert’s year as RWM would be a difficult and stressful year, with the important and prestigious events planned for the Bi-Centenary. If the truth be told, Robert’s naturally analytical and organised mind ensured that he was well-prepared, willing and more than able to cope with absolutely everything he came across.

Ever ready to listen to the voice of reason, and to take good advice when given, Bro Robert has an “Good Head” and was very much his own man. He took the difficult decisions when it was necessary, with the constant thought in his mind – “what was best for Union & Crown”. We wish him every success as he steps back, sure that he’ll continue to be active, serving his Mother Lodge for the many years he has before him.

Not bad for two wee boys from Castlemilk !



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 3rd December 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

Conferred by The Worshipful Wardens

Harmony

Tuesday 17th December 2024

No Meeting

Tuesday 7th January 2025

No Meeting

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M.,

Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Friday 1st November, the Lodge was opened to receive the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East and any visitors before being adjourned to allow the Brethren taking part in the Dramatised 'Table of Scottish Freemasons' to retire and get ready.

Thereafter, all in attendance, including several visitors, witnessed a fine rendition of the popular dramatization enjoyed by all. The Lodge then witnessed Bro Ronald E Fraser PGMRE unveiling the Lodges new Coat of Arms, which had been duly authorised by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms on behalf of His Majesty King Charles.

All the Brethren and their guests then retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed a fine harmony including an excellent buffet.

Opened : 7.00pm

Lodge Closed : 8.09pm

Attendance : 68

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 19th November, the following Brethren :

Darren Pole

Darren Anderson

Marc Jones

Received a fine Mark Ceremonial, conferred by Bro Robert Clark I.P.M. assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.24pm

Attendance : 61

At the Installation Meeting of the Lodge held within the Temple on Saturday 23rd November, Brother Stephen 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 considering the appalling weather conditions on the day, with heavy snow covering the town..

The following Dinner and Harmony was well attended with entertaining speeches and toasts keeping all well satisfied.

Opened : 4.00pm

Lodge Closed : 6.26pm

Attendance : 76

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

1st November £20 : **Bro Stephen Scott SM** £10 : **Mrs Mary Blair**

19th November £20 : **Bro P J Smith** £10 : **Bro David McArthur PM**

23rd November £100 : **Bro Alan Izatt** £50 : **Bro Gordon Lawson**

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

The Symbolisms of the Apron

By Brother Rob Morris

This fair and stainless thing I take
To be my badge for virtue's sake;
Its ample strings that gird me round
My constant cable-tow are found;
And as securely they are tied
So may true faith with me abide;
And as I face the sunny South
I pledge to God my Mason's truth,
That while on earth I do remain
My Apron shall not have a stain.

This fair and stainless thing I raise
In memory or Apprentice days,
When on the checkered pavement wide,
With gauge and gavel well supplied,
I keep my garments free from soil
Though laboring in a menial toil;
And as I face the golden West,
I call my Maker to attest
That while on earth I do remain
My Apron shall not have a stain.

This fair and stainless thing I lower,
Its 'Prentice aid I need no more;
For laws and principles are given
The Fellow-craft direct from heaven;
To help the needy, -keep a trust,
Observe the precepts of the just:
And as I face the darkened North
I send this solemn promise forth,
That while on earth I do remain,
My Apron shall not have a stain.

This fair and stainless thing I fold,
A Master-Mason now behold!
A welcome guest in every land
With princes and with kings to stand;
Close tyed within my heart of hearts
I keep all secret arts and parts,
And try to walk the Heavenly Road
In daily intercourse with God;
And as I face the mystic East,
I vow by Him I love the best,
That while on earth I do remain,
My Apron shall not have a stain.

This fair and stainless thing I doff;
But though I take my Apron off
And lay the stainless badge aside,
Its teachings ever shall abide,
For God has given Light Divine
That we may walk opposed to sin;
And sympathy and brotherly love
Are emanations from above;
And life itself is only given
To square and shape our souls for Heaven,
The glorious temple in the sky
The grand Celestial Lodge on high.

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 3rd December Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by the Worshipful Wardens, assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class

Monday 16th December Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

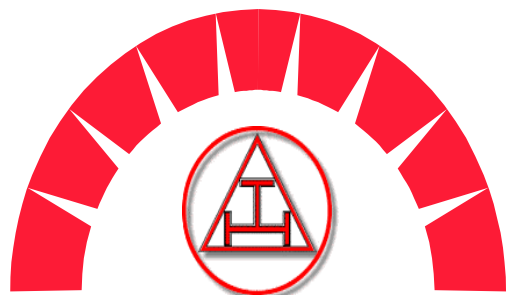
Tuesday 17th December **NO MEETING**

Tuesday 7th January **NO MEETING**

Tuesday 21st January **Dramatised Degree – ‘Burns versus Kipling’**

(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

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 12th November 2024, due to the lack of a candidate, the Companions carried out an emulation of the Excellent Masters Degree. Those taking part are to be congratulated upon their efforts in what was the very first time for many.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions, along with their visitors retired downstairs where a quiet, yet enjoyable, harmony was enjoyed by all.

MEC James Renfrew MEZ cordially invites all to the next Regular meeting of the Chapter to be held on Tuesday 10th December at 7.30pm

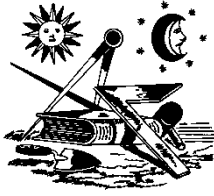
If you are a Brother who would perhaps like to join the Royal Arch, please speak with Bro Jim Renfrew MEZ at any time.

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 for various tasks within the Lodge.



Meet the Office-bearers for 2024-2025

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>Init'd</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
R.W.M.	Stephen Scott	Aff 1994	Charity Fundraising Officer	Stewartfield, East Kilbride
I.P.M.	Robert Scott	2014	Civil Servant	Tannochside, Uddingston
Depute Master	James Renfrew	1981	Retired	Stobs Drive, Barrhead
Sub Master	Alan Izatt	2017	Retired	Kilcreggan, Argyll
W.S.W.	Ross Aitken	2019	Civil Servant	Glenarklet Cres, Paisley
W.J.W.	Campbell Ritchie	Aff 2023	Retired	Grants Way, Paisley
Secretary	Evans Reid	Aff 1985	Retired	Glenfield Grange, Paisley
Treasurer	George McGrandles	2010	Fire Safety Manager	Pitlochry, Perth & Kinross
Almoner	James Miller	Aff 1994	Retired	Kirktonside, Barrhead
Senior Deacon	Bryce McCaig	2017	Businessman	Vorlich Court, Barrhead
Junior Deacon	Edward Mullin	2019	Retired	Birchwood Drive, Paisley
Inner Guard	Gregor Mullin	2023	Team Leader	Birchwood Drive, Paisley
Sen Chaplain	Lawrence Webb	2006	Technical Sales Engineer	Cruachan Way, Barrhead
Jun Chaplain	Paul Higgins	2018	Carer/DJ	Brownside Ave, Barrhead
D.O.C.	Robert Clark	2013	Retired	Montfode Dr, Ardrossan
Architect	William Little	1968	Retired	Heather Ave, Barrhead
Jeweller	Callum Heirs	2023	Maintenance Engineer	Corsebar Road, Paisley
Bible Bearer	James Cherry	1963	Retired	Paisley
Dir of Music	Adam G Watson	Aff 2008	Retired	Gleniffer Drive, Barrhead
Organist	Darren Anderson	2024	Driver	Newton Mearns
Marshal	David Reid	Aff 2023	Retired	Kilmarnock
Stan. Bearer	William Petrie	2014	Retired	Grampian Way, Barrhead
Pres. of Stew.	Paul Smith	2017	Rail Maintenance Engineer	Hillington, Glasgow
Steward	Iain Nicol	1984	Retired	Springhill, Barrhead
Tyler	Stuart Welsh	1974	Retired	Cowglen, Glasgow

BITS & PIECES

- Well done to Bro Ronnie MacIsaac and his happy band of helpers for all their efforts at the annual 'Big Breakfast' held on Saturday 2nd November. It was a great success with the Function Suite full to overflowing at one point. The magnificent sum of £671 was raised for Lodge funds.
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are still available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken WJW (☎ 07590 207 365) In addition, a lovely new Lodge Tie is also for sale at a bargain £15 !!
- Great to see that Bro Lawrence Webb back a Lodge meetings following a period of recuperation following recent surgery.
- 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.
- Our grateful thanks goes out to Brother Alex White who donated two lovely bottles of malt whisky to the Lodge. They were raffled off at our meeting on 19th December and raised £100 for the Widow's Lunch.
- Congratulations and best wishes to all our Brethren who were installed at our Installation, with especial mention to Brothers Darren Anderson, Gregor Mullin and Callum Heirs (fairly recent initiates) who are taking perhaps their very first steps towards greater things ?
- It's great to see Bro Stephen Amabile in attendance at several recent Lodge Meetings. Bro Stephen, who now lives in Paisley, is the owner of a successful business as well as being 'Mine Host' of the Balnagowan Arms in Paisley. He is even finding time to take on some floor work in his Mother Lodge.
- Bro Ross McLardy who recently returned from Las Vegas, has just flown out on a work trip to Johannesburg in South Africa. Don't think of the jetlag, but of all the air miles you will have earned !!
- We were greatly saddened to learn that Bro Donald Murdoch had passed away in hospital following complications following a heart operation.
- Well done to Bro Ross Aitken WSW who was invited to give a talk to the Brethren of Lodge Randolph recently. His subject was an impressive "*Dealing with Disasters - How Scotland manages emergencies*"
- It's a sign of the times, but this year 14 of the 25 Lodge Office-bearers are retired (56%). 25 years ago there were only three retirees (12%). Less than a third now actually live in Barrhead.

Famous Freemasons

(This month we look at one of the real characters of Hollywood's silver screen)

Brother William Claude Dukenfield (1880 – 1946)

William Claude Dukenfield, better known as W.C. Fields, was an American actor, comedian, juggler, and writer. His career in show business began in vaudeville, where he attained international success as a silent juggler. He began to incorporate comedy into his act and was a featured comedian in the Ziegfeld Follies for several years. He became a star in the Broadway musical comedy *Poppy* (1923), in which he played a colourful small-time con man. His subsequent stage and film roles were often similar scoundrels or henpecked everyman characters.

He was born in Darby, Pennsylvania on January 29th, 1880. Fields had a volatile relationship with his father growing up and often ran away for short periods of time to live with his grandmother or with various uncles. Due to his often running away, Fields never made it past grammar school. He also later in life embellished his early life telling stories of himself living on the streets with only his wits. Despite the repeated running away, Fields actually had a pretty good home life and his entire family, including his father were very supportive of him in his entertainment career. At one point his father travelled to England to see his son perform.

In 1898, Fields officially became W.C. Fields as his stage name. His early act was strictly juggling, which he had been already working on for years in local theatres and churches near his home. He almost never spoke in his early act, this was to conceal a stutter. By the early 1900's he was touring all over the world. When he played in front of English speaking audiences he, for show, added muttering to his act. He intentionally dropped balls and then muttered at it, like it was the ball's fault. This Fields he found gained him a great deal of laughs.



By 1905, Fields began appearing on Broadway in various comedic plays. He discovered he was at the point in his career where if he wanted to go forward he needed to start speaking on stage. In 1915, he became a regular with the Ziegfeld Follies. He appeared in the Follies until 1922.

Fields was a member of E Coppee Mitchell Lodge No. 605 in Philadelphia, not far from his birthplace, where he was raised on May 20th, 1907. He was at one time in 1924 suspended for non-payment of dues !

Later in 1915, Fields began appearing in movies. Some of his first films were filmed in New York City because his Broadway schedule didn't allow him to travel to Hollywood. In the mid 1920's Fields left Broadway and began working in film. He worked in film until the 1940's when his drinking and health issues made studios reluctant to work with him. Fields interestingly became a staunch atheist. At least one quote on this subject states he "regarded all religions with the suspicion of a seasoned con man," which may imply he was less of an atheist and more a person who was anti-religion. Fields was a studious man despite his lack of formal education, he had a library built into his house later in life. When caught once reading the Bible, he stated he was "looking for loopholes." Fields main focus of study was Theology. His membership in Freemasonry implies his views changed, as many do, over his lifetime.

Fields, a heavy drinker later in life, passed away on December 25th, 1946. It was a holiday he claimed to hate. He passed away from an alcohol-related gastric hemorrhage.

Bud Gauld Plate

Congratulations to Brother Graham David Manson P.M. who became the latest recipient of the prestigious 'Bud Gauld Plate'. Awarded annually over the last 30 years, it is given to the Brother (or Brothers?) who have done the most for their Mother Lodge over the previous year, and has a long list of distinguished Brethren amongst its previous winners.

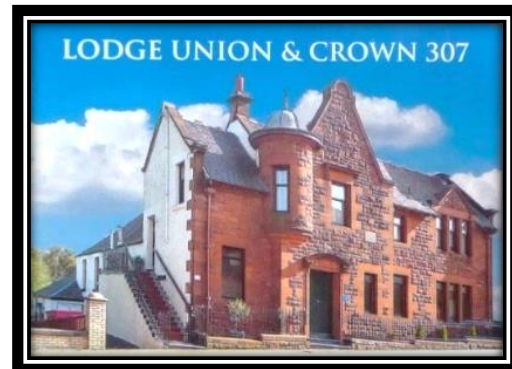
Bro Graham who, with his irrepressible humour and general well-being form all, was a popular choice this year. A fine degree worker in his own right, he carries out the difficult job of Instruction Master well.



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.



Bro Rob Morris

Earlier in this month's edition, we publish a poem by Bro Rob Morris who was responsible for what became the Order of the Eastern Star.

After Rob Morris became a Mason on March 5, 1846, he became convinced that there needed to be a way for female relatives of Masons to share in some measure in the benefits of Freemasonry. While teaching at the Eureka Masonic College in Pickens, Mississippi in 1849–1850, he wrote Eastern Star's first ritual, titled The Rosary of the Eastern Star.

He organized a "Supreme Constellation" in 1855 to charter Star chapters. In 1866, because of his planned travel abroad, he handed over the organizational authority of Eastern Star to Robert Macoy. He later served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1858–59. Upon being given a job as professor of the Masonic University, he moved to La Grange, Kentucky in 1860





Syllabus 2024-25

December 3	EA Worshipful Wardens
<i>Dec 17</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>
<i>January 7</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>
January 16	Visitation EA at Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
January 21	Dramatised Degree (Burns v Kipling)
February 7	Anniversary Dinner (Friday)
February 18	Dramatised Degree (Prisoner of War)
March 4	Visitation by PGL of Renfrewshire East
March 18	FC Worthy Deacons
April 1	Dramatised FC Degree
April 15	MM 'Installing Masters'
April 28	Visitation EA At Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
May 6	Dramatised MM Degree
S U M M E R R E C E S S	
September 2	EA by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
September 16	FC by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
October 7	MM Lodge Instruction Class
October 21	Annual General Meeting
November 7	Open Night' (Friday) followed by 'The Table of Scottish Freemasons
November 18	MMM Bro Robert D Scott IPM
November 22	Installation of Office-Bearers

Management Committee Meetings

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

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 16 Years Ago

No. 318

November 2008

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 4th November, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class, presented a fine rendering of our popular Dramatised MM Degree. Especially extended to incorporate new features and a spectacular setting, it involved greater numbers of the Brethren of the Lodge. Bro Sam Wilson provided an excellent musical accompaniment and the entire production was well received by all in attendance.

Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-12pm Attendance : 98

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 20th November, the following four Brethren :

ALEXANDER BOYD KENNETH CRILLEY PAUL STEWART KENNETH BEATTS

received a fine Mark Ceremonial, conferred by Bro Hugh Cattigan IPM, and his carefully-picked team of degree workers, in what is always a good mix of the serious and the light-hearted. Even though the degree team was disrupted by several late call-offs, Bro Hugh can be rightly proud of the degree under his control, where all involved are to be congratulated.

Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-36pm Attendance : 57

At the Installation Meeting held on Saturday 22nd November, Bro Colin Hamilton was installed into the chair of King Solomon, in what was an impressive ceremony conducted by the Installing Masters for the occasion - Bro Jim Miller PM, Bro Evans Reid PM and Bro Graham Manson PM.

All in attendance cannot fail to have been impressed by the very high standard of work presented by these three Brethren, with especial mention to both Bro Evans and Bro Graham, who was making their debuts.

Opened : 3-00pm Lodge Closed : 5-39pm Attendance : 112

Bits & Pieces

- Congratulations to Bro Bud Gauld PM on his election as 'Grand Inner Guard' – a great honour not only for Bro Bud, but also for Union & Crown.
- Heartiest congratulations to Bro John Hughes, an avid reader of our journal for many years, following his installation as Worshipful Master of Chartered Architects' and Malleus Lodge, No.3244 in London. Bro Jim Renfrew PM managed to make it down to London for Bro John's installation and told us it was a tremendous occasion.
- We notice that there is an age gap of almost 50 years between the youngest and oldest RWMs in our province this year. Is that a record ?
- It was pleasing to see that Bro David Reid PGM, brought 12 new Initiates along to witness our Dramatised MM Degree, all of which had attended the PGL Seminar in October.

MARK N' ARCHIE



*NOVEMBER 2024

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

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