

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



December 2019

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No. 429



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You cannot fail to be impressed by the resilience and sheer hard work of the Past Masters of Lodge Union & Crown. A bold statement you may say when many believe that once a Brother has reached the chair of his Mother Lodge, it is difficult to continue the high level of commitment.

Whilst we can sympathise with the sentiments, and to a certain extent almost agree that after 10 years or more of dedicated service, culminating in what can only be the pinnacle of Masonic achievement. You could be forgiven for assuming that many would wish a slightly quieter and less stressful life.

Let us stress that we are in no way decrying the efforts of many good and loyal Brethren in other Lodges, although it is obvious to all that we have more than our fair share of dedicated and hard-working Past Masters. These Brethren, some of which are on the wrong side of 70, contribute greatly to the continued success of their Mother Lodge through the good times and bad, and have been supporting 307 for almost 40 years.

If the truth be told, at times these Brethren would put many of their younger and less experienced Brethren to shame by the amount of time and effort they put in unselfishly. It only right that we should utilise the knowledge they have gathered over the years in the key positions within Union & Crown and ensure that they impart their years of experience to the Brethren who are making their way towards the Chair. Their thirst for excellence is unquenching and a casual glance at the attendance at the Monday evening instruction classes will normally reveal at least 6 PMs in attendance, still eager to take part in ceremonial work of the Lodge.

Some are, of course, retired and have the time available to continue to work for 307. Many are, however, employed in key positions with demanding jobs, which place an added burden upon their lives, but they do so willingly, happy to be engaged upon labours for their beloved Lodge, never once forgetting their obligation to their Mother Lodge.

A Happy New Year to all our Readers



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 7th January 2020

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

*Conferred by the Installing Masters
(assisted by the Past Masters of the Lodge)*

Harmony

Tuesday 21st January 2020

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

Conferred by Lodge Nitsbill, No. 1478

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 3rd December, the Worshipful Wardens, assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class carried out an excellent Entered Apprentice degree, on the following Candidate :

John McIntyre

The efforts of all involved, were greatly appreciated by all in attendance, and the Brethren thereafter retired to enjoy a fine evening's harmony downstairs.

Opened : 7-30 pm

Lodge Closed : 9.09 pm

Attendance : 60

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 17th December, the Worthy Deacons, assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class, on the same Candidate.

It was a fine degree carried out by a well-chosen team of Brethren, to the satisfaction of all,

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.08pm

Attendance :52



100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes were :

3rd December £20 : **Bro Alex White** (again !!) & £10 : **Bro Robert Clark WSW**

17th December £20 : **Bro Jim Cherry** (again !!) & £10 : **Bro Jim Urie**

Bro George McGrandles PM, our Worthy Treasurer has started taking names for this year at the annual fee of £10, and anyone interested should see Bro George, as soon as possible.

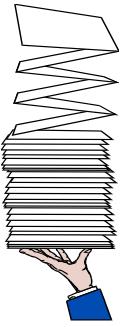


Anniversary Dinner

Tickets are now available for the forthcoming Dinner to celebrate the 196th Anniversary of the Lodge. It is being held on Friday 7th February 2020, following a short Business Meeting of the Lodge at 7.30pm.

The tickets costing £13.00 are now currently available from our Worshipful Junior Warden – Bro Robert Scott.

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.

Brother James Laing R,W.M.

On Friday 13th December a large deputation, numbering almost 30 Brethren from Lodge Union & Crown, No.307 made their way up to the small Ayrshire Village of Dunlop, where one of their own was being installed as Right Worshipful Master of his adopted Lodge – Dunlop Caledonia, No.1408.

A small Lodge, who until recently had been struggling, was packed to the rafters, with over 130 Brethren in attendance to witness a special evening, for an undoubtedly special man. It is a remarkable thing for anyone to reach the Chair of King Solomon in any Lodge, but to do so at the age of 81, was nothing short of extraordinary.



Brother Jimmy, is a very popular and extremely hard-working individual, who despite bouts of ill-health has never let his Mother Lodge down at any time whatsoever. To take on such an important role, whilst still regularly working, almost on a daily basis for 307 show just exactly what Jimmy Laing is made of, and when he decides to commit to something, he does so 110%

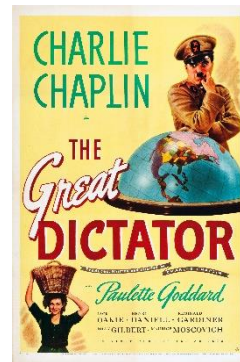
We wish Bro Jimmy well, and we are sure that he will continue to receive the full support of the Brethren of his Mother Lodge, as well as half of Ayrshire !

Did You Know ?

That Jewel Lodge No. 374 in San Francisco, is the only lodge in the world that opens at midnight. It holds a special midnight meeting once a year during the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, conferring the Master Masons degree for the benefit of visiting Grand delegates.

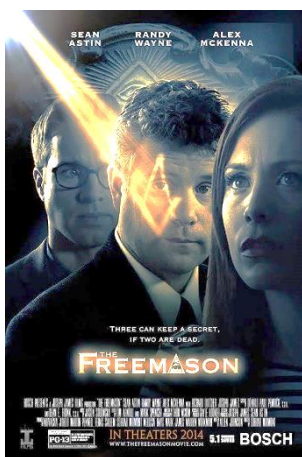
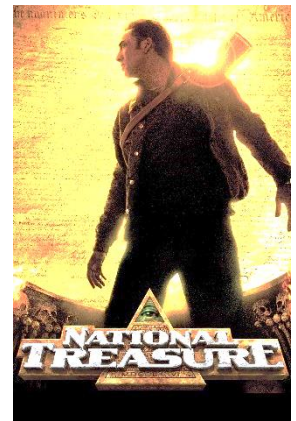
The membership of Jewel Lodge includes many musicians, theatrical men and newspapermen to whom midnight is a convenient hour, and does not overlap any of the Grand Lodge proceedings.

MASONS AT THE MOVIES



There have been several masonic movies that draw their plots directly by referencing Freemasonry, such as the comedy 'Are You a Mason?' in 1915 and remade in 1934, and Johnny Depp's horror-thriller 'From Hell' in 2001 which shows the conspiracy elements linking Victorian English Freemasons involved with the notorious Jack the Ripper.

In the light-adventure genre there is Nicolas Cage's Disney blockbuster 'National Treasure' of 2004, creating a story of America's Founding Fathers and the supposed treasure of the Knights Templar handed down and protected by Freemasons, making a fun and family entertaining treasure hunt. Unfortunately, it is believed that it is due to the production of this film, that Dan Brown's own story of a lost Masonic prize, 'The Lost Symbol', part of his 'Robert Langdon' series ('The Da Vinci Code' and 'Angels and Demons') never made it past pre-production, as many in the business thought that the concept was too similar. Even so, Freemasonry continues to be used as a template for big screen stories, continuing with the 2013 movie, actually called 'The Freemason', with the catchy and masonically emotive tagline of 'Three can keep a secret, if two are dead...'



The public passion for Freemasonry has been evident from the first printed 'Exposures' of the Fraternity, published about it in the late 17th century. These were often small booklets claiming to reveal the secrets of the Order, or where editorial pieces written for Newspapers, to increase sales and circulation, and quality that film producers and writers still think can make them money. Yet, perhaps the more engaging quest for the public is to trace the more subtle uses and references to Freemasonry that have been used in films, possibly left as 'teasers' for those 'in the know', or acts of 'homage' to a quality of culture that may appreciate them?

Here is a list of 10 films (*some less obvious than above*) that give either a good 'wink' to Freemasonry, or a smile to those who might catch the reference.

Lost Horizon (1937)

The Great Dictator (1940)

Hobson's Choice (1954)

Time Machine (1960)

Help! (1965)

The Man Who Would Be King (1975)

Magnolia (1999)

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (2003)

The Librarian : Return to King Solomon's Mines (2006)

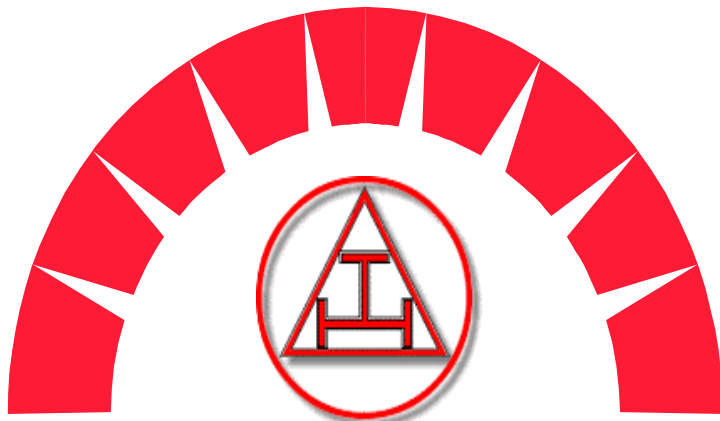
10,000 BC (2008)



Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 7th Jan** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the Installing Masters will be conferring an MM Degree.
- Thursday 9th Jan** Visitation to Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167, where we have been invited to confer an EA Degree.
- Monday 20th Jan** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 21st Jan** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478.
- Tuesday 4th Feb** **Regular Meeting Postponed** (Moved to Friday 7th February to accommodate the Lodge Anniversary Dinner)

In addition to the above, the R.W.M. is constantly involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges, details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them)



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 10th December, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC conferred a fine Royal Arch Degree upon

Bro David Alexander

Whilst many of those involved are still new to their positions within the Chapter, all are to be congratulated for a fine degree.

On Thursday 5th December, the Chapter travelled through to Kilmacolm, where it conferred a fine RA degree within Ranfurly RAC, No.289.

MEC Harry Lloyd MEZ extends a cordial invitation to all Companions to attend the next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, which is scheduled for: **Tuesday 14th January 2020** at 7.30pm, where a Mark Affiliate & Excellent Master's Degree will be conferred.

BITS & PIECES

- Bro George McGrandles PM, our Treasurer, would like to inform the Brethren that all cheques made payable to the Lodge for fees etc. MUST have the full Lodge Name and number on it. Apparently the bank are now insisting upon this.
- Bro Stef Lawniczak is still looking for a copy of the 307 DvD taken during the building of our Function Suite in the early 1990s. If you have a copy please contact Bro Stef who'd like to copy it.
- On the subject of filming, we gather that Bro David Noble's younger daughter – Yvonne, a senior Producer with the BBC has recently won a BAFTA (*her third*).
- The Christmas Dance on Saturday 14th December was well attended, and Bro Lawrence Webb, our Social Convener handed in £345 to Lodge Funds as a result. Well done to Bro Lawrence, and all who supported the event.
- Once again many thanks to Bro George Smith of 153 for his kind donation of paper and card for The Mallet.
- Tickets will shortly be available from the rescheduled Sportsman's Dinner which is being held on **Friday 15th May**. Watch this space !
- Our Instruction Master, Bro. Tom Mulholland P.M. would like to remind any brother wishing to try their hand at degree work is more than welcome to come along to the lodge instruction class on a Monday evening at 7.30 pm.
- Bro George McGrandles PM, our Treasurer Elect, would like to remind the brethren that Test Fees are now overdue at £40 per head & any brother wishing to contribute towards the capitation fee should see him as soon as possible.
- Tickets for our annual Lodge Burns Supper on **Friday 21st February** are now available from Bro Robert Scott WJW.
- It was most pleasing to see that almost 30 of our Brethren took the trouble to attend the Installation of our own Bro Jimmy Laing as RWM of Lodge Dunlop Caledonia, No.1408.
- Congratulations to Bro Fraser Beatts (grandson of Bro David Noble PM) who recently graduated from the Scottish Fire & Rescue Training School as a Firefighter. The latest in quite a long line of 307 brethren involved in this important service.

Meet the Candidate

Our latest Candidate is **John McIntyre**, who is 67 years of age and lives with his wife Anna in one of the Bungalows on Paisley Road. A well-respected builder, he has run his own company for a number of years, and has done some work for the Lodge in the past.

He has a grown-up son and daughter, and spends what little free time he has available babysitting his grandchildren, who are the 'apple of his eye'.

(Editor's Note : We continue our series of articles which trace the history of some of the local Lodges here in Renfrewshire East, and perhaps even further afield. Having started with a comprehensive history of our own Lodge over the last 3 months, it is perhaps fitting that we continue with a short history of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East itself.)

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East

Following Parliaments approval of the Statute 39 in the reign of King George III circa 1779, it was necessary for the Grand Lodge of Scotland to introduce a more formal system of supervision of the Daughter Lodges. Therefore in 1801 the lodges of Renfrewshire were formed into a Province under the supervision of William MacDowall of Garthland, who was a Past Master of a Paisley Lodge. In 1826 there were 24 lodges in that Province mainly in the east and west, thus to facilitate the ease of supervision, the Province was adjusted into Renfrewshire (East) with 16 lodges and Renfrewshire (West) with 8 Lodges.

2001 marked not only the Bi-Centenary of the founding of the original Province but also the 175th anniversary of the Province of Renfrewshire East as we now know it. The first Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East was Sir John Maxwell who transferred from Glasgow where he had been PGM from 1812. Sir John was Reigning Master of one of the founding Lodges: - Pollokshaws Royal Arch 153, and was also for a time the Provost of Pollokshaws.

During Bro Frank Johnstone's commission in the late 1990s, PGL became aware that 2001 marked two unique events in the history of the Province and that there was a strong feeling that the occasion should be marked in a suitable way.

Some Lodges had created, through careful research of Lodge records, dramatised versions of various Historical Ceremonies. These have raised the interest of the brethren in and beyond the Province, giving us a further educational aid. Foremost among these was the dramatisation of the Fellowcraft Ceremonial of circa 1824 worked by Lodge Union and Crown No 307 and the enactment of circa 1695 Initiation in Kilwinning, which utilises the research of Bro. Stephen Foster PM, The Kings Park No. 1386, and the work carried out by Lodge The Royal Stuart 1414.

Seeking to find a way to mark these important occasions, research showed that of the original lodges which formed the 1801 province, half of them were either daughters or directly influenced by Kilwinning.

The successful relationship developed between Provincial Grand Lodge and the new members of the Daughter Lodges offers a real opportunity to further their education in Masonic matters. In addition, it was considered that we were ready to stage a Special event within Provincial Grand Lodge we could extend a welcome to the initiates to an event within Provincial and further the mutual respect that prevails.

With this object in mind it was decided to extend an invitation to Union and Crown No. 307 to stage a dramatisation of the second degree, at the Quarterly Communication in April 2001. This Dramatisation represented an enactment of the Fellowcraft Ceremonial that prevailed at the time the Province of Renfrewshire East came into being. On the 27th of April a packed Temple expressed their appreciation to the then R.W.M. Bro. Richard Evans Reid and his

magnificent team for their contribution to our festivities, setting the stage for a later Special Communication that year, when a team from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning demonstrated the early influence they exercised in Renfrewshire. Both the 307 dramatisation, and the Kilwinning re-enactment were conducted with Provincial Grand Lodge in recess, which had the additional benefit of allowing newly-passed fellowcrafts to enter and see the dramatisation – unique events in an historical year.

Lodge Union and Crown were to be further honoured in 2004 when the Grand Master Mason, Bro Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing, Bart., entered the Lodge in the company of the Grand Secretary and the Provincial Grand Master, to witness a re-enactment of the same dramatised degree.

List of Lodges which created the PGL (*still in existence*)

116	Rutherglen Royal Arch	Rutherglen	(Original No 149)
129	Paisley St. Mirrin's	Paisley	(Original No 170)
153	Pollokshaws Royal Arch	Pollokshaws	(Original No 203)
156	St. Barchan	Kilbarchan	(Original No 208)
205	Garthland St. Winnoch	Lochwinnoch	(Original No 272)
242	Houstoun St. Johnstone	Johnstone	(Original No 313)
307	Union & Crown	Barrhead	(Original No 378)

The Provincial Grand Masters

- 1826-1865.....Sir John Maxwell, Bart. of Pollok
- 1866-1902.....Sir Archibald Campbell, 1st Lord Blythwood
- 1903-1908.....Major F W Allan
- 1908-1913.....Zacharia H Heyes
- 1913-1917.....George Glen
- 1917-1922.....John Pattison
- 1922-1929.....Sir Archibald D Campbell KG, (4th Lord Blythwood)
- 1929-1946.....Thomas Hart
- 1947-1951.....Samuel W Love
- 1952-1962.....Robert MacMenemy
- 1962-1966.....Hugh C Blain
- 1967-1970.....William Binnie
- 1971-1976.....Ralph Denholm
- 1976-1977.....Archibald McD Hutchison
- 1977-1982.....Andrew L. Tannahill
- 1982-1987.....Alexander G. Hutton
- 1987-1992.....A Bruce Watson
- 1992-1997.....Alexander G Murray
- 1997-2002.....Frank Johnstone
- 2002-2007.....Dixon J. Drye
- 2007-2012.....David A Reid
- 2012-2017.....John S Miller
- 2017.....Neil Fraser

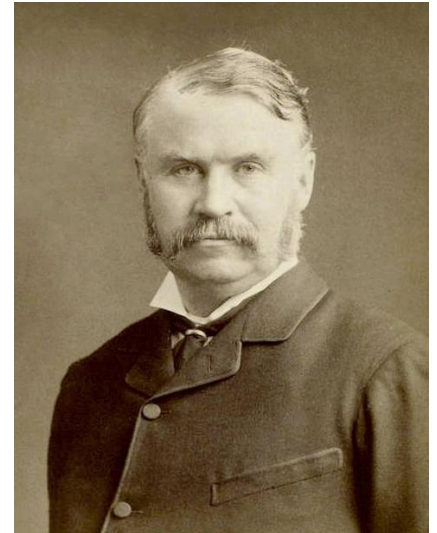
Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Scottish Brethren, this month we turn to a celebrated Brother, who was probably one of the most celebrated dramatists of his era)

Sir William Schwenck Gilbert (1836 -1911)

Born at 17 Southampton Street, Strand, London on the 18th November 1836. Gilbert's father, also named William, was briefly a naval surgeon, who later became a writer of novels and short stories, some of which were illustrated by his son. Gilbert's mother was the former Anne Morris.

He was an English dramatist, librettist, poet and illustrator best known for his collaboration with composer Arthur Sullivan, which produced fourteen comic operas. The most famous of these include H.M.S. Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance and one of the most frequently performed works in the history of musical theatre, The Mikado. The popularity of these works was supported for over a century by year-round performances of them, in Britain and abroad, by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. Gilbert married Lucy Agnes Turner, whom he called "Kitty", in 1867; she was 11 years his junior. The Observer newspaper in 1870 sent him to France as a war correspondent reporting on the Franco-Prussian War.



During the early 1870s, Gilbert, who was a Long-standing Reserve Officer with the Royal Aberdeenshire Highlanders, was on manoeuvres in Aberdeenshire. Through a local friend, he was initiated into Lodge St Machar, No.54 in Aberdeen at the age of 35. On his return to London, he continued his interest in Freemasonry, and eventually affiliated to Bayards Lodge, No.1615 in 1876,

Gilbert's creative output included over 75 plays and libretti, and numerous short stories, poems and lyrics, both comic and serious. After brief careers as a government clerk and a lawyer. He also developed a realistic method of stage direction and a reputation as a strict theatre director. In the 1870s, Gilbert wrote 40 plays and libretti, including his first five collaborations with Sullivan:

In 1890, after this long and profitable creative partnership, Gilbert quarrelled with Sullivan and Carte concerning expenses at the Savoy Theatre; the dispute is referred to as the "carpet quarrel". Gilbert won the ensuing lawsuit, but the argument caused hurt feelings among the partnership. Although Gilbert and Sullivan were persuaded to collaborate on two last operas, they were not as successful as the previous ones. In later years, Gilbert wrote several plays, and a few operas with other collaborators. He retired, with his wife Lucy, and their ward, Nancy McIntosh, to a country estate, Grim's Dyke.

Gilbert was knighted on 15 July 1907 in recognition of his contributions to drama.

Gilbert died of a heart attack while attempting to rescue a young woman to whom he was giving a swimming lesson in the lake at his home.

Gilbert's plays inspired other dramatists, including Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw, and his comic operas with Sullivan inspired the later development of American musical theatre, especially influencing Broadway librettists and lyricists.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 20 Years Ago

No.229

December 1999

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 7th December, the following Candidate :

DAVID McMAHON

was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order by a degree team led by the Worshipful Wardens. All taking part are to be congratulated in what was a fine E.A. Degree ably conferred, and well received by the Brethren in attendance

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-13pm

Attendance : 71

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 21st December, the same Candidate was passed to the Second. Square or F.C. Degree by the Worthy Deacons. A mixture of Youth and experience, the degree team performed very well and Bro Tom Young PM is to be congratulated for all his efforts. On the same evening Bro Ian McPhie was affiliated into the Lodge, with the obligation being ably administered by Bro Ellis Sudding PM.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-11pm

Attendance : 62

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes for the month of December, were as follows :

Tuesday 7th December

£10 : Miss Evelyn Davidson

£5 : Mrs Elspeth Davidson

Tuesday 21st December

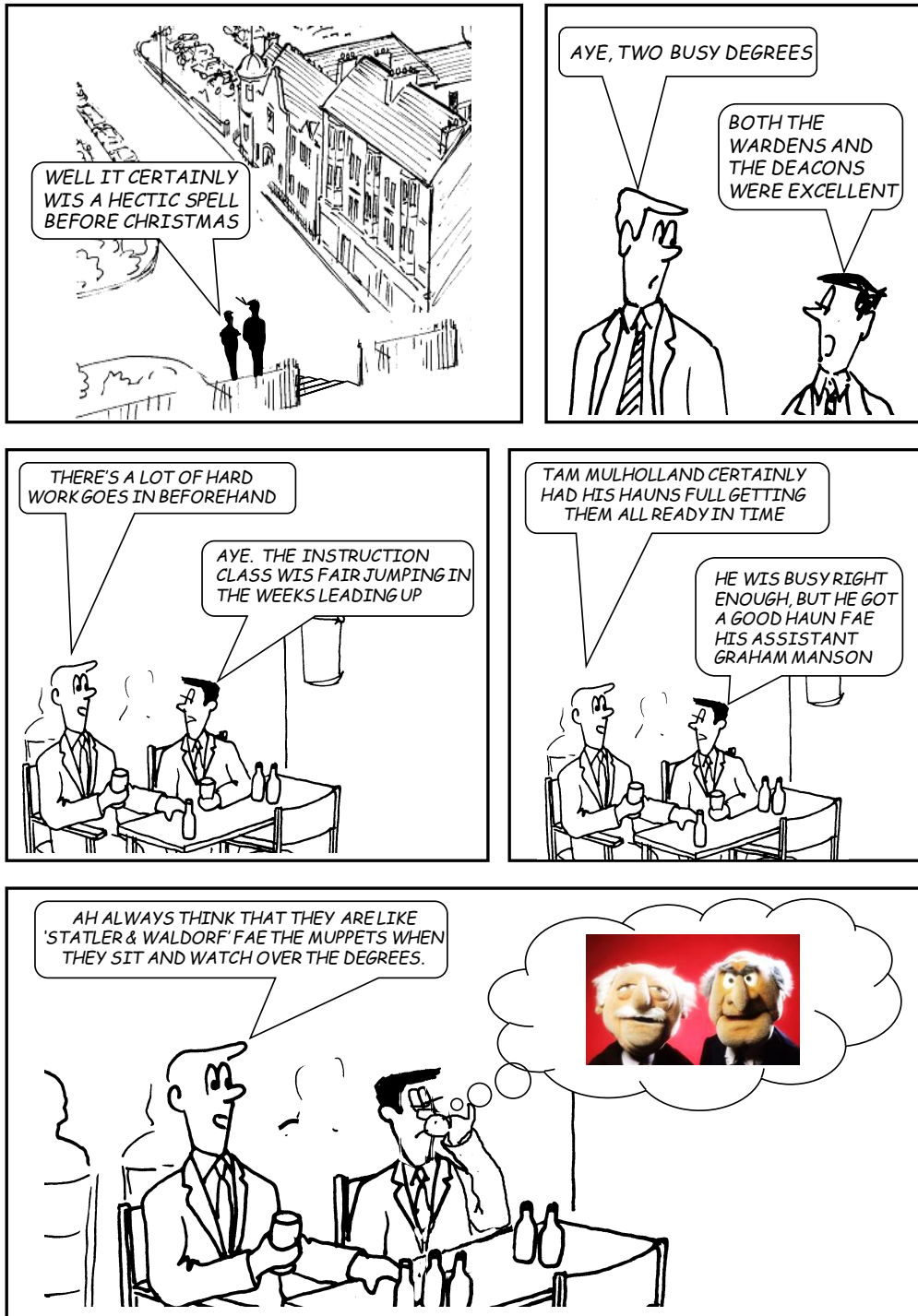
£10 : Bro Tom Forde

£5 : Bro Michael Hughes PM

Bits & Pieces

- We gather that Bro John Osborne has bought one of the Carvill Homes in the development situated across from the Lodge. Handy for Lodge Meetings !
- Another moving house is Bro Bud Gauld's elder daughter Amanda who has moved into one of the Bellway Homes in the prestigious development on the old Shanks site.
- Congratulations to Bro Jimmy Laing's daughter Heather and her husband Alan, following the birth of a bouncing baby boy, who is to be named Greg.
- The changeover to larger measures in the Bars has gone down a treat, with many greatly appreciating the 35ml for £1-00.
- Thanks to John & Jeanette McKie of Snooks Restaurant who made a generous donation to our funds in appreciation of using our Function Suite when their premises were affected by the recent floods.
- It's good to see that the Grand Lodge of Scotland have started an amnesty to entice lapsed Brethren back into the fold.
- We gather that next year's Golf Outing to Haddington on Saturday 3rd June 2000 is to cost £49, with only a couple of places still available.
- Those in attendance at the Regular Meeting on 7th December will appreciate Bro Jim Kerr's new nice nickname of "Mr Wonderful". This came about when he was mistakenly referred to as "Wonderful Junior Warden !"

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW DEC 2019

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

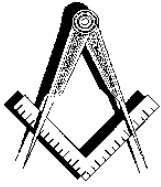
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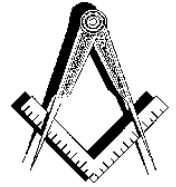
" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown.org>



Syllabus 2020

(* Denotes an Official Visitation)



January 2020

Tuesday 7 th January	MM	Installing Masters
* Thursday 9 th January	EA	at Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
Tuesday 21 st January	EA	by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478

February 2020

Friday 7 th February	196 th Anniversary Dinner	
Tuesday 18 th February	FC	Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
* Tuesday 24 th February	MM	at Lodge Nitshill, No.1478

March 2020

Tuesday 3 rd March	PGLRE Visitation	
Tuesday 17 th March	MM	Lodge Instruction Class

April 2020

Tuesday 7 th April	Dramatised 'Burns vs Kipling'	
Friday 24 th April	EA	'Reigning Masters'