

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union & Crown No.307



May 2017

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No. 404



May 2017

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

It may only be a respite of a few short months but it comes as a lovely restful break from the pressures of ensuring that the necessary information is collated, written, typed and printed to meet the unforgiving master of a deadline. We began this session with Bro Hugh Cattigan in command, and I took over the reins again in February, so I haven't had much chance to catch my breath.

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

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

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

Bro Jim Renfrew PM, Editor



Lodge Union & Crown No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

by Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, No.242

Harmony



Tuesday 19th September 2017

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

James Miller P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the regular meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 2nd May, a deputation of Brethren from our close neighbours – Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 conferred an Entered Apprentice Degree upon the following Candidate :

Alan Douglas Izatt

The deputation, which numbered 14 Brethren, was headed by their Right Worshipful Master, Bro Robert McCulloch. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed a fine degree which was conferred to a particularly high standard by those taking part.

Thereafter the Brethren of both Lodges retired to the Function Suite, a harmony was enjoyed by all

Lodge Opened – 7.30pm Lodge Closed – 9:41pm Attendance – 79

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 16th May, the members of the Lodge Instruction Class presented their popular 'PoW' Dramatisation before a packed Lodgeroom.

All who participated are to be congratulated on their efforts in what was an enjoyable evening, with the correct balance of decorum and humour.

As the meeting drew to a close, our RWM called Bro Gordon Wright forward and presented him with his 50 years diploma, thanking him for all his efforts over the years.

Opened : 7.30pm Lodge Closed : 8.59pm Attendance : 105



100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes for the month of May, were :

Tuesday 16th May £10 : Bro Roy Dinning PM
£5 : Bro Alex White Alm



All those who are participating in this year's 100 Club, should ensure that they have paid their £10 entry fee to Bro Jim Kerr PM as soon as possible.

Now you Know

The Craft is often referred to as "St John's Freemasonry" and many have asked to which St John are they talking about ? The Holy Saint Johns (there were actually 2 of them) have been a part of Freemasonry for centuries. The ancient guilds or trade unions of England each had its patron saint. The patron saint of the hatters, for example, was St. Clement; whilst St. Crispin was the patron saint of the shoemakers - the patron saint of the stone masons was St. John the Baptist.

When Speculative Masonry evolved over 200 years ago, he understandably became the patron saint of the Freemasons. He was a man of humility and virtue, a man who steadfastly kept his obligations to God, principles that are upheld in the teachings of the Craft. The feast day of St. John the Baptist is June 24 and was celebrated annually by Masons across the globe

By 1725, the feast day of St. John the Evangelist on December 27, had become the annual feast day of the Grand Lodge of England, and he, like St. John the Baptist, became a patron saint of Freemasonry. He embodies not only the brotherhood of man, but is the "bringer of light "that which is the deity within each man.

Did You Know ?

- The acacia in all probability became a Masonic symbol because of a Jewish custom of planting a branch of Acacia Vera (gum arabic plant) on the grave of a departed relative.
- That one of the oldest Lodges in Scotland - The Lodge of Glasgow St John No.3 bis, has actually had five different names throughout its 400 year history.
- The Lodge in Barrhead's Sister Town in Alberta Canada is Called Lodge Barrhead, No.171
- The inventor of the famous Sharps breech loading rifle, (known as the "Sharp-Shooter") used in the Civil War was Brother Christian Sharps. He was a member of Meridian Sun Lodge # 158, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- That the expression "darkness visible" is most probably taken from Milton's "Paradise Lost" (published in 1667) where we read: "Yet from these flames No light, but rather darkness visible, served only to discover sights of woe."
- The oldest Masonic building in the USA is Mason's Hall in Richmond, Virginia, the home of Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19, and Richmond Royal Arch Chapter No. 3 Mason's Hall, built in 1785, was originally the home of Richmond Lodge No. 10, the first wholly new Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia. It was also the first permanent home of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.



Dates for you Diary

Tuesday 5th September

FC Degree by Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, No.242

Saturday 9th September

Dramatised FC Degree' at Lodge Maudslie Castle, No.1630 at the MT 147 Stewarton Street, Wishaw MI2 8AG (Time still to be finalised)

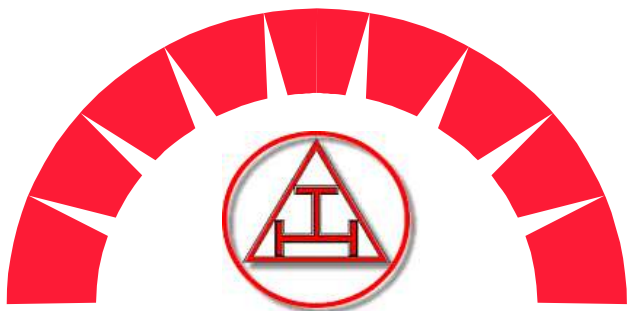
Monday 18th September

Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

Tuesday 19th September

A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a MM Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and Wardens are 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 as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province. Full details of all visitations, be they official or otherwise, are available from our RWM and his Wardens.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 9th May, the following Candidate :

Bro. Lawrence Webb

a MM of Lodge Union & Crown, No.307 received a fine Royal Arch Degree from the Companions of Rockmount RAC.

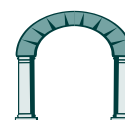
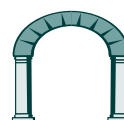
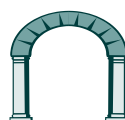
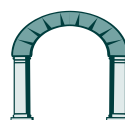
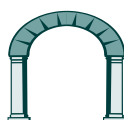
The Companions taking part in the degree are to be congratulated on their work, with

especial mention to those Companions who stepped in at the last moment.. There then followed a harmony downstairs in the function suite.

There is a General Committee Meeting on Monday 5th June at 8.15pm in 307.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 12th September** where the Chapter will hold its AGM at 7.30pm.

MEC Hugh Cattigan MEZ extends a grateful thanks to all who have supported his years thus far, and wishes everyone a restful summer break.



Anti-Masonry

In our initial excerpts in our March & April editions, we told you of conspiracy writers and a growing number of websites who perpetrate fresh hatred of the Craft. There has long been a conspiracy theory about the supposed influence of Freemasonry, and much of this can be traced back to the writings of an 18th Century French priest – Abbé Barruel.

Barruel claimed that that the medieval Templars had survived as a secret society, before infiltrating Freemasonry in the latter half of the 18th Century, where they brought about the French Revolution, with the eventual aim of a 'World Republic'. A few years latter Barruel added a Jewish component to his story, after receiving misinformation from disgruntled French army officers.

The myth continued to drift around European circles for much of the 19th Century, before resurfacing in the 1890s in Tsarist Russia, where the secret police (The Okhrana) concocted one of the most infamous and sinister forgeries of all time, which first appeared in print in 1905 as *'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion'*. This document purported to be the 'secret minutes' of the first Zionist Congress held in the Swiss City of Basle in 1897, and outlined a blueprint for Jewish world domination. Freemasonry was deeply implicated in this forged document as it clearly stated that *'Gentile masonry blindly serves as a screen for us and our objects'*.

Much of what was contained within these false protocols later became to be firmly believed by emerging European Fascists and ultimately helped to prepare the ground for the Holocaust, as well as the imprisonment and execution of thousands of Freemasons.

During WW2 the Fascist Regimes flooded the Middle East with anti-Jewish and anti-Masonic propaganda, which was readily accepted in such countries as Iraq whose governments were openly sympathetic to the Nazis. Even the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem met and discussed such matters with Adolph Hitler. Whilst much of this xenophobia became unacceptable after the war, with the defeat of the Axis Powers, the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, offered new life to such objectionable ideas within many Middle East Countries.

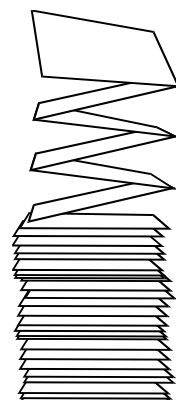
We will hear of how this outlandish conspiracy prospered as we continue our article in our September edition.

(To be continued)

Paper Appeal

Due to a rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock in recent months, we are in grave danger of running out of that most essential of commodities – PAPER. As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier paper, Whilst we use more white, than anything else, we are low in coloured paper, which we use for Front Covers etc.

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.



Big Breakfast

Unfortunately, our Annual Summer Fayre has had to be cancelled this year due to a wide variety of factors beyond our control.

In its place will be our 'Big Breakfast' on Saturday 10th June from 9am till 2pm where you are guaranteed a 'healthy' and filling Scottish breakfast, specially prepared by our own chefs.

Tickets costing £3.00 are now available from Bro Ronnie Maclsaac WJW.



Visitation



On Saturday 6th May, the Lodge travelled North to Aberdeen, where we had been invited by the PGL of Aberdeen City to confer our popular PoW Dramatisation.

A excellent deputation of 24 Brethren supported our RWM Bro George McGrandles and enjoyed a pleasant weekend with our Brethren within the 'Granite City', creating a number of lasting friendships.

Meet the Candidate

Alan Izatt :

Alan is 60 years of age and lives in the Grahamston Park area of the town, with his partner Janice, who is the daughter of our own Bro Jim Heron.

He works within the printing industry, and for many years he has been a keen follower of Rugby Union, and was in fact a Referee for 20 years. However, in later life he has found a more relaxing hobby of fishing which he enjoys.

Food For Thought

- People who think they know it all are especially annoying to those of us who really do
- Education can broaden narrow minds, but no man has yet found a cure for big heads.
- A wise man's mind, when stretched by a new idea, will never go back to its original dimensions

Bits & Pieces

- The annual Lodge Golf Outing is going to Haddington GC on Saturday 17th June. There are a few places left, and anyone interested should see Bro Paul Stewart PM as soon as possible to book their place and pay their £20 deposit.
- Wasn't it great to see Bro Gordon Wright receive his 50 year diploma at our last meeting. Bro Gordon, with his old pal Bro Frank Brown, was our Lodge Cook for almost 20 years.
- It was pleasing to see Bro Colin McLardy PM make it along to a recent meeting. Now resident in Greenock, his demanding job makes it difficult for him to find the time to travel up for our meetings.
- Congratulations to Bro Ewan Martin who celebrated 60 years a mason on the 2nd May. A popular figure among the Brethren, Bro Ewan is rarely absent from the Lodge.
- It was good to see so many visitors at the last meeting. It just proves that our 'dramatisations' are still proving to be very popular.
- We noticed that Bro Ross Flockhart, one of our recent initiates, has been wearing the dress apron of his late grandfather Bro Jim Flockhart to recent meetings. We are sure that Bro Jimmy would have been delighted.
- Congratulations to Bro Donald Cook PM who recently hit 60 and joined the 'Bus Pass Brigade'.
- It was pleasing to see Bro Davie Wallace PM of 1167 taking part in the recent degree in 307. Less than 24 hours after receiving eye surgery.
- It is amazing how Bro Tommy Wilson just keeps going, working hard each and every week for his lodge. An affiliate, he's been a member of 307 for 40 years
- Congratulations to our own Right Worshipful Master, Bro George McGrandles, who retired from his important position as Area Commander of Glasgow with the Scottish Fire & Rescue after almost 30 years on 2nd May.
- The Grand Lodge of Scotland are planning to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War in November 2018 with a procession through the streets of Edinburgh, with all Lodges being asked to participate. Those interested should give their names to Bro Ronnie Maclsaac WJW.
- There were a total of 8 RWMs at our last meeting, with a large number of Brethren from Fife and Lanarkshire in attendance.



WORLD AT WAR

1914 – 1918

(April 1917)



While fighting continued around the globe it must be recognised that there was much civil unrest, in all countries, irrespective of whose side you were on. Shortages, rationing and the return of injured relatives from the front-line were taking its toll on the fabric of society. Speaking out against the War, almost unthinkable three years earlier, was now becoming common and MP's were being forced to listen,

On May 1st 1917 over 250,000 British engineers protest over long hours, low wages, and shortages of food and fuel. This dissention was not just restricted to the home front. Between April 29th and May 20th 1917 The French army, suffering from long periods in the front line without relief and multiple military setbacks, including a disastrous and failed aggressive assault on the German line, caused thousands of troops to mutiny. For nearly a month, troops would defend but not attack. Of the 22,385 found guilty of mutiny, 55 were recorded as executed by firing squad.

General of the American Army John Joseph Pershing arrived in Europe. He was the senior United States Army officer and commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) on the Western Front in World War I from 1917 to 1918. Perhaps not so well know now, he was a mentor to WWII US Generals, Eisenhower, Patton and McArthur. He also had the Pershing Tank and the Pershing Missile named after him. He may also have been the only SIX Star General in US history if he hadn't died before Congress could approve it.

Not always popular with Allied commanders Gen Pershing rejected British and French demands that American forces be integrated with their armies, and insisted that the AEF would operate as a single unit under his command, although some American divisions fought under British command, and he also allowed all-black units to be integrated with the French army. Some of his tactics have been criticized both by other commanders at the time and by modern historians. His reliance on costly frontal assaults, long after other Allied armies, through experience, had abandoned such tactics, has been blamed for causing unnecessarily high American casualties.

Heavy casualties (290, more than half civilians) in first great aeroplane raid over England, as German aircraft bomb Folkestone and parts of Kent

Kerenski succeeds Guchkov as Russian Minister of War. Russia provisional government repudiates a separate peace agreement with Germany.

British hospital ship "Dover Castle" sunk by submarine in the Mediterranean

Anglo-French conference in London discusses attitude of King Constantine of Greece and considers occuptaion of Athens and Thessaly.

General van Deventer succeeds General Hoskins in command of British forces in East Africa.

Almoner's Report

With sorrow I intimate the passing (peacefully) of Mrs Mary Gray at Westlea Care Home, Neilston on Monday 15th May, where she had been a resident for the past 2 years. Mary. 91 years, formerly a resident of Kirkton Avenue, Barrhead, was the widow of Past Master John Gray DFM who passed away some five years ago. Her son John, a brother of 307, lives in Neilston with his wife Susan and I contacted them to express condolences on behalf of the Lodge, and was kindly thanked.

The funeral service took place at Woodside Crematorium in Paisley on Monday 22nd May, and I gave the grieving family my support on that day by being present.

May the remembrance of Mrs Mary Gray be everlasting - a god-fearing woman in every respect.

Hospital Report :

On Thursday 4th May I paid a visit to **Bro William Laird** at Dykebar Hospital in Paisley. Once again my visit coincided, as arranged, with Bro William's dear wife Karen and his Mother Flo. Both ladies expressed a thank you to our Lodge and myself for support tendered by my presence at each visit to Dykebar Hospital, where Bro William has been a patient for over a year.

I am glad to report that **Bro Ewan Martin PM** 1167, and an affiliate to Union & Crown, was discharged from the RAH after a short stay there recently. Bro Ewan has informed me that he is recovering at home.

Home Visits (Brethren)	Bro Jim Laird	Bro Donald Ferguson
Robert Nixon PM	Bro Ian McPhie	Bro Donald Cook PM
Bro John W Smith	Bro Robert Kennedy	

Bro Donald Cook PM celebrated his 60th Birthday on May 8th, with Bro Bobby Nixon PM celebrating his 80th Birthday on May 14th. I gave a most fitting response to both birthday celebrations.

Home Visits (Ladies)	Mrs Irene Milne	Mrs Anne Houston
Mrs Margaret McLellan	Mrs Grace Rodger	Mrs Janette McCreddie
Mrs Ella Mason	Mrs May Moffat	Mrs Isobel Paton
Mrs Jean Welsh	Mrs Margaret Ratcliffe	

All of the above visits were carried out with reference to the forthcoming annual 'Widows' Lunch' on Friday 9th June within the Lodge Function Suite. All other ladies received a postal invitation and phone call from myself.

In conclusion, I wish to give thanks to Bro David Watson PM for his warm-hearted visit to myself at home, which was a most pleasant surprise for both Grace and I, and you will always be welcome. May God bless you

Bro Alex White,
Lodge Almoner ☎ 0141-571 6411

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from The Mallet of 32 Years Ago

No. 85

May 1985

With this issue we take a long hardearned rest until September. May we take the opportunity to wish all our members of 307 a happy and restful holiday. We look forward to meeting them, refreshed, when our meetings resume in September.

To our readers who have supported us so faithfully throughout the year, to our suppliers, who have contributed financially or materially, to those who offer us so much encouragement - indeed to all who help in any way at all - the staff of The Mallet extends its very sincere thanks.

REGULAR MEETINGS :

At the Regular Meeting on 7th May, the following candidates :

Colin Buist Roy Young and Andrew Palmer

were raised to the M.M. degree by the Lodge instruction class. An excellent degree was conferred, with the assembled brethren giving the utmost attention to the degree workers.

Lodge opened : 7-30pm

Lodge closed : 9-50pm

Attendance : 156

At the Regular Meeting on 21st May, admitted to the mysteries and privileges of the E.A. degree by the lodge instruction class were :

John Ferguson Raymond Holmes William Lanigan & John Fullerton

While we would not normally single out any particular degree worker, in this occasion we feel we must draw attention to Bro Richard Miller, whose performance suggests that he could become a classic degree worker of 307.

It was a great pleasure to welcome at this meeting Bro William Fleming I.P.P.G.M. of Glasgow. Bill is a very popular visitor to 307. His humour, and friendly nature make him the type of `High Heid Yin` that the ordinary Mason can approach, knowing that there is a ready and sympathetic ear to listen to their problems, no matter how small. On behalf of our members, Bill "Haste ye back".

Lodge Opened : 7-26pm

Lodge closed : 9-15pm

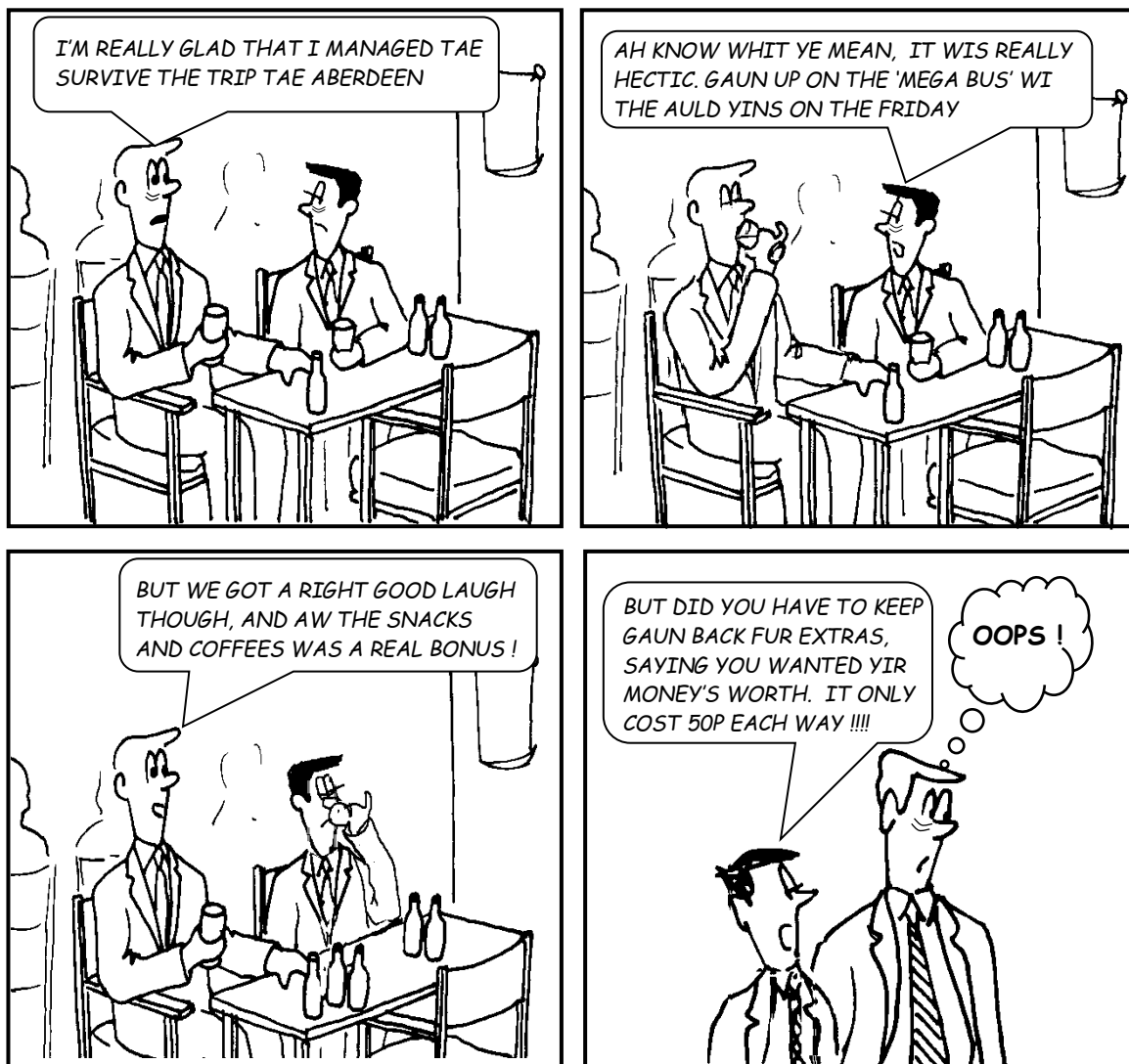
Attendance : 136

LODGE GOSSIP :

Bro John Gray PM tells us that his Brother BASIL has been installed as Substitute District Grand Master of Zimbabwe

Bro Bob McPhail tells us that his son ROBERT Jnr is very busy in his electrical business. His premises are adjacent to "Betty`s Bar" in Anderson.

MARK "N" ARCHIE



J RENFREW MAY 2017

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :

Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

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

☎ 0141-571-5979 e-mail : jim.renfrew@ntlworld.com

Assisted by Bro. Graham Manson P.M. 31 Cruachan Way, Barrhead, G78 2LG

☎: 0141-580 0871 ☑: graham.manson@ntlworld.com

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

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

Lodge Syllabus 2016-2017

** Denotes an Official visitation*

September 2017

Tuesday 5th @ 7.30pm FC Degree by Lodge Houston St Johnstone, No.242

*Saturday 9th @ 3pm DFC Degree at Lodge Maudslie Castle, No.1630 **

Tuesday 19th @ 7.30pm MM Degree by the Lodge Instruction Class

October 2017

Friday 7th @ 7.30pm..... Dramatisation “The Table of Scottish Freemasons”

Tuesday 17th @ 7.30pm Annual General Meeting

*Friday 20th @ 7.30pm..... FC Degree at Lodge St Conval 1359 **

*Tuesday 31st @ 7.30pm EA Degree at Lodge Pollokshaws RA 153 **

November 2017

Saturday 4th @ 3pm Dramatisation Lodge Old Inverness St Johns, No.6

Tuesday 7th @ 7.30pm Dramatised MM Degree

Tuesday 21st @ 7.30pm Mark Ceremonial by Bro. Ian Blair IPM

Saturday 25th @ 4.00pm ... Lodge Installation