

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



Summer 2021

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No. 445



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Thankfully the 'light at the end of the tunnel' has now become reality, and we finally have a long-awaited return to regular Masonic meetings across Scotland after almost exactly 18 months of inactivity due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Hopefully, if we are all careful and observe the few remaining restrictions, we will be able to continue operating 'normally', although a recent rise in infections since lockdown ended may be a warning to us all as we return.

Lodges across the country are awaking from their enforced slumber, and hopefully getting themselves prepared for the months ahead. We mustn't delude ourselves that it will be easy, and that Brethren will flock back in large numbers after having been denied any attendance at their Lodges. It has been 549 days since Lodge Union & Crown last met, and the long time away, where Brethren may well have found alternatives, or indeed some will still have lingering doubts over health issues and stick on the side of caution by staying away from crowds. It will take a campaign of persuasion by the Lodges, and assurances that all is well, before some Brethren take the leap of faith and return.

Accordingly, Lodge Union & Crown, No.307 has wisely decided to adopt a 'softly-softly' approach with caution in over the next few months. We start back with a welcoming dinner on Friday 3rd September, courtesy of the Lodge, and all our Brethren receiving a written invitation beforehand. Thus far, the reaction has been encouraging and as we go to press almost 60 Brethren have indicated that they will be in attendance.

The Lodge is holding a short business meeting at 7.30pm before the Brethren adjourn downstairs for the 3-course repast, followed by some complimentary entertainment. Throughout the evening, it is expected that all Brethren will fully observe the Government guidelines on face coverings whilst on their feet at all times.

Welcome Back Brethren.



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 :

Friday 3rd September 2021

Short Business Meeting

Followed by

3-Course Meal

Harmony

Tuesday 21st September 2021

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

Conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M.,

Secretary

What's going on in the town

- Mill's Shoe Shop on Main Street is closing after 70 years of trading. The present owner's father was a member of 307.
- Barrhead's 'Business Improvement District' (BID) has voted to keep on operating for another five years. There is a member of 307 on the committee.
- We can tell you that the retail company B & M have signed up to build a unit on the site of the old Spillers factory at Crossmill.
- 473 houses are to be built on the old Shanks factory site. Whilst it is still to be finalised, we hear that building company Crudens Limited have been given the job.
- We gather that a firm of builders are looking at purchasing the land at the old 'Chapelfield Works' in order to build housing.
- It's sad that a window in the newly-erected extension to St Andrew's Church has been broken by vandals !

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.



The Perils of Freemasonry !!

A ragged tramp stopped a Mason on his way home from the lodge and asked him for money for food. "I'll do better than that!" said the Mason. "Come into the pub, and I'll buy you a drink!" "Thank you!" said the beggar. "But I've never drunk and I never will!" "Well, let me buy you some cigarettes then!" said the Mason. "No, thanks!" said the tramp, "I've never smoked and I never will!" "Okay", said the Mason. "Come back to the lodge with me and I'll see you get a meal!" "No, thanks", said the man. "I've never entered a masonic lodge and I never will!"

"Right, then", said the Mason "Will you please come home with me and meet my wife!" "Why?" asked the tramp. "Well", said the Mason. "I just want her to see what happens to a guy who doesn't drink, doesn't smoke and hasn't joined the Masons!"

Lodge Test Fees

Brethren, with our return to Masonic meetings once again, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind 'Test Fee Paying Brethren' that payment of our annual membership dues (probably better known as Test Fees) of £40 are now due.

Each year, every lodge must pay certain fees to Grand Lodge - usually announced in open lodge as 'Capitation Fees', the total amount of which is determined by the number of active brethren attending each lodge. Every member signature in the sederunt book is counted as an active member of the lodge, and a fee is paid to Grand Lodge for every active member, including those who hold Life Membership. The lodge pays 82.5% of every test fee (amounting to £33 per person) to Grand Lodge as capitation.

As you can see brethren, our lodge does not get to keep very much of the test fee paid, and indeed from the remaining £7 of the test fee, some of that is also paid to Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.

This is why, over the last few of years, we have asked brethren to consider setting up a monthly direct debit donation to the lodge to cover paying their Test Fees, and hopefully leaving a little extra to assist with covering the necessary running costs and repairs to keep our lovely building in good condition. This task does not come cheaply brethren.

A donation of £5 per month amounts to £60 over the year, which covers the annual Test Fee, with a little leftover to go towards essential running costs and maintenance. We have a number of brethren within the lodge, including Life Members, already contributing towards the lodge in this way, for which we are very thankful.

I would ask that, if you are not already committed to this donation programme, would you please give it serious consideration, and if you wish to join the Direct Debit programme, please arrange a bank mandate with details for the Lodge Account available from either myself, or from Bro George McGrandles PM, Treasurer.

Brethren can of course pay Test Fees to Bro. Treasurer at regular meetings if that is they prefer.

Bro David McArthur PM (Secretary)

Masonic Snippets

- Bro Hiram Abiff Boaz, born December 18 1866 in Murray, Kentucky, received his degrees in 1922, and went on to serve as Grand Chaplain in Texas in 1953. He served as President of Southern Methodist University in Dallas and became a Bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church
- Every US President from the state of Tennessee was a Freemason (Bro Andrew Jackson, Bro Andrew Johnson & Bro James K Polk)
- Sacramento Royal Arch Chapter No.3, since it was founded in 1853, has supplied 4 governors of California (Bro Neeley Johnson, Bro Milton Latham, Bro José Antonio Pacheo, and Bro Hiram Johnson)

BITS & PIECES

- We hear that Bro Stef Lawniczak's daughter has applied for a job in the Ambulance Service.
- Bro Robert Miller PM is the latest to install a 'Man Cave', complete with bar, in his garden.
- Bro Jim Renfrew PM was badly bitten by a dog whilst down in Dumfries & Galloway on holiday.
- It is 40 years ago this November since Bro Brian Morton PM was installed as Right Worshipful Master of Union & Crown.
- We gather that Bro Jimmy Laing, Union & Crown's Tyler for many years, is remaining as R.W.M. of Lodge Dunlop Caledonia No.1408 for another year.
- Brother David Watson PM has taken up Photography in a big way.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Hugh Cattigan PM recently had a short spell in hospital.
- Bro Alan Izatt has just moved in to a newly-built house in Kilgreggan.
- Congratulations to Brother Lawrence Webb following the birth of a Grandson.
- On a similar note, best wishes to Brother Ian Blair PM and his family on the birth of another Grandson.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Dixon Drye PPGMRE, and an Honorary Member of Union & Crown has passed away after a short illness.
- The late Bro Jimmy Kerr PM's daughter Nicola is in the throes of starting an Aerobics class.
- Bro Billy Dickie has been attending hospital this while – If you read this Billy, stay strong.
- Great to see Bro Jim Cherry back cutting the Brethren's hair after going through Open Heart Surgery.
- Bro George Buist has been in hospital for some months now. We wish him well.
- We are told that Bro Bobby Clark has started up his own business, and is doing extremely well.
- We can tell you that our Master Bro Ronnie MacIsaac has made a Past Master's Board for Lodge Dunlop Caledonian, No.1408.
- Congratulations to Bro Billy Petrie, who's son Christopher has been promoted to Chief Engineer in the RAF.
- Brother Colin McLardy PM, who for the last couple of years has been working in Houston, Texas has now moved to Chilliwick in British Columbia, Canada through his job with First Bus Group.

Lodge Union & Crown, No.307

The hard-working Brethren of Union and Crown took full advantage of the shutdown caused by the pandemic, to fully refurbish their Temple. Below is just some of what was carried out

The Temple, Function Suite etc were thoroughly redecorated, as was the outside of the building.

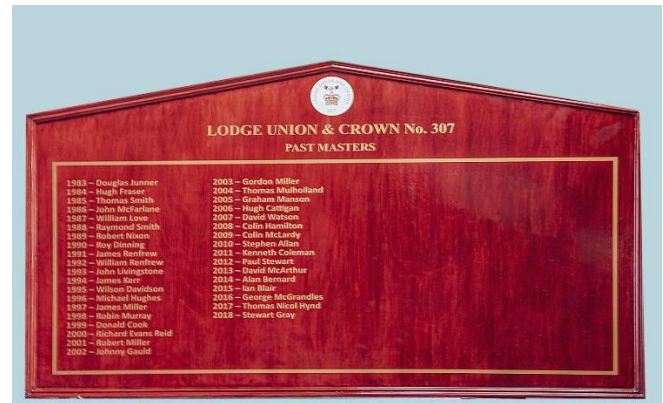
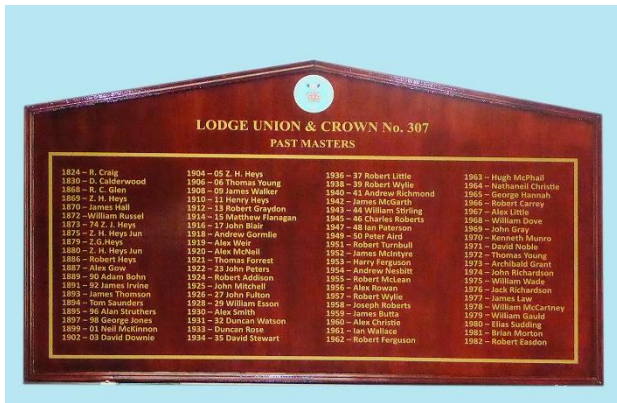


The Committee Room was totally redecorated, with 'New' furniture, courtesy of a local church installed.



Within the Function Suite, in addition to the redecoration, five new mirrors were installed.

Our Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronnie MacIsaac, made and supplied two superb new Past Master's Boards.



The lettering on the Commemorative Stone on the front of the building was regilded and paid for by Bro Robert Paton. The first time this has been done in 111 years.



A new display cabinet was installed in the Downstairs Lounge to show the range of 'Masonic' spirits etc.



A very special thanks should be given to the small group of Brethren who carried out the work which keeps Lodge Union & Crown's Temple one of the finest in Scotland.



Famous Freemasons

(This month we read of the 'straight' half of one of entertainment's funniest pairings)

Bro "Bud" Abbott (1895-1974)

Born William Alexander Bud Abbott, on October 2, 1895 he was an American actor, producer, and comedian, being best known as the straight man of the duo Abbott and Costello.

He was born in Asbury Park, New Jersey and spent his early years at the Ringling Brothers Circus, where his parents worked. From this experience came his vocation to act and he began to work.

He moved to Detroit in 1918 where he found who would be his wife of 55 years, Jenny Mae Pratt (her stage name was Betty Smith). During his time in Detroit, he was initiated into Daylight Lodge No. 525.

In the 1920s, along with his brother Harry, he tried to organize a chain of theatres that turned out to be a failure, which is why he dedicated himself to the music hall, in which he played the serious character in comic duos.

Lou Costello came into Abbott's life in the 1930s when Costello, a rising star trying to make a big break, was in need of a partner due to his regular being ill. By 1936, the duo agreed to become a permanent pair with Abbott being the straight man and Costello playing the dim-witted funny man. Over the next twenty years, Abbott and Costello became one of the biggest acts in America. They starred in movies like *One Night in the Tropics* before receiving their own radio and television shows.

In June of 1939 they also triumphed on Broadway, in the magazine *Streets of Paris*, and the following year they went to the cinema. His great success led Universal Studios to shoot a few movies about the couple's comic abilities. They stood out from the rest of the duos of film and television because of the peculiarities that differentiated them. The role of Bud Abbott, within the duo was a serious character but obviously took advantage of the naive Costello whom he used for all causing a healthy hilarity, since this acting clumsily always spoiled the intentions of the first.

During World War II, using their national wide fame as actors and comedians, the duo sold over 78 million dollars of US war bonds on a single 31 day tour, and also entertained in over 300 Army and Navy camps.

The success they had motivated or inspired the birth of other duos that undoubtedly took much of the characteristics of these, such as the one formed by Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin. After Costello's death in 1959, Abbott gave up comedy. In 1960, he was honoured with three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; for radio, television, and motion pictures.

In 1967 he was hired by Hanna-Barbera as a voice actor for his character in a series of cartoons inspired by Abbott and Costello, but after working on 156 chapters was again forgotten.

Bud Abbott died of cancer at age 76 on April 24, 1974, at his home in Woodland Hills, Los Angeles. He was cremated at Grandview Crematory in Glendale, California and his ashes scattered in the Pacific Ocean three miles out from Santa Monica.

When Groucho Marx was asked about Abbott shortly after his death, his response was that Abbott was "the greatest straight man ever



(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This month we look at the only Lodge within the small town of Linwood)

Lodge Craigends, No.1042

The Lodge is situated in Linwood, which lies on the Black Cart Water two miles south west of Paisley. Linwood was formerly a small hamlet, which developed with cotton milling in the 1790s when a planned village was laid out. Soap and paper were manufactured in the 19th century, but it was not until 1960s that Linwood expanded significantly with the opening of the car factory, which employed almost 5,000 people at its peak. Unfortunately, the factory closed in 1981 and Linwood is now mainly a residential village.

The lodge takes its name from the Cunninghame Family estate of *Craigends*, which had been in the possession of the family since 1477. *John Charles Cuninghame, 17th Laird* was the last to hold that esteemed title when he died in 1917 without leaving an heir.

The Lodge Beginnings

In August 1907 a meeting of gentlemen, all Freemasons', was held in the Parish Church Hall, Linwood. The Chairman was Brother John Gilmartin, a Past Master of Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone No. 242. He informed those present that there was a desire amongst the Masons to establish a Masonic Lodge within the village of Linwood.

The outcome of the meeting was that a working group was set up to look at the implications and requirements of establishing a Lodge. During the autumn and winter of 1907/1908, the group held various meetings carrying out the work entrusted to them. Subsequently at progress meetings concern was expressed that no suitable place for meetings in the village was available. Therefore it was agreed that funds should be raised by means of donations and subscriptions to build a hall to meet the needs of the Masons, and at the same time meet the requirements or wants of the village.



On 25 March 1908 a meeting was held in the Co-operative Society Board Room. Brother John Gilmartin again presided, supported by other members of the working group, and he reported that subscriptions and donations were coming in very generously. The principal donations were £100 from R & W Watson Paper Manufacturers, £50 from Sir Thomas Coats of Glencoates, £50 from J.C.Cunninghame Esq. of Craigends and Provincial Grand Master of Galloway, 10/- from each of the 29 brethren on the Secretary's list of known Freemasons in the village and many others too numerous to be detailed in the minute.

Brother Gilmartin also reported on a letter from R.T.W. Spiers, Laird of Culdees, offering a site for the proposed hall on very generous terms and the architect's plan submitted. Both were discussed at great length, before being approved and accepted.

Thereafter, Brother John Malcolm, Master Mason of Lodge 242 proposed, seconded by Brother Thomas Murray, Master Mason of Lodge 521, that "we the Brethren assembled informally constitute ourselves with a Masonic Lodge and that an appeal be made to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for the granting of a charter." It was also unanimously agreed the name of the proposed Lodge be "Craigends", subject to approval by Brother J.C.Cunninghame of the estate bearing that name.

The application went before Grand Lodge and on the 7 May 1908 the Charter for Lodge Craigends No. 1042 was issued.

On 21 November 1908 the consecration of the Masonic Hall was carried out by Brother Colonel Zacharia H. Heys, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, and his office bearers.

100 Years of Freemasonry in Linwood

Since the consecration the Lodge has built a strong reputation for its involvement in the community and is well known for its hospitality, charitable works and high standard of degree work. However, we never forget the debt owed to our founding members and they are commemorated with a plaque within the Lodge Room. The Brethren of Lodge Craigends still maintain a very close relationship with our sponsor Lodges, Houstoun St Johnstone No. 242 and St. Barchan No. 156, as well as developing many links to other Lodges within and outwith the Province.

The relationship with Linwood Parish Church, established when our founding members held their first meeting in August 1907 in their church hall, continues today with the Reverend Eddy Marshall kindly officiating at the Lodge's Annual Divine Service held within the Lodge Room.

Over the years the Lodge has contributed to many charities and good causes, including Linwood Parish Church, Linwood Chapel Fuel Fund, St. Vincent De Paul's, Accord, Scouts and Boys Brigade. The Lodge was also instrumental in establishing Provincial Grand Lodge's Common Good Fund and donated the Craigends Quaich to Provincial Grand Lodge, which is now presented to the winners of the triples bowling competition.

The Lodge also provides an extensive social calendar for its members. The premises have been improved and extended over the years and the Lodge now has an active social club, which allows the members to enjoy regular dances and other social activities, including Burns Supper, Kids Xmas Party, Pantomime and the Senior Members' Dinner.

Many Brethren have given selfless service to the Lodge and the Craft and there are far too many to recount them all in this short history. However, from more recent times, it is worth noting the service of Past Master George R Dickson, who served the Lodge as secretary for 33 years. He received recognition from both Grand



Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge, being awarded the rank of Honorary Grand Architect and Honorary PGL Secretary.

The Lodge was also honoured in 2002 when Bro Kevin Pollock PM was commissioned as Substitute Provincial Grand Master, and again in 2004 when Bro Gavin Weir PM was installed as Provincial Grand Senior Warden. In 2012 the lodge was further honoured when Bro William J Fleming PM was also commissioned as Substitute Provincial Grand Master by Bro John S Miller PGM.

Lodge Craigends held their Centenary celebrations on the 10th of May 2008, when a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, headed by Brother Alexander Whitehead, Past Depute Grand Master, was received and welcomed. Brother David A Reid PGM also led a large deputation from PGLRE.

The ceremony took place in our temple in Bridge Street Linwood and afterwards the Lodge adjourned to the Masonic Temple in Collier Street in Johnstone, the home of our sponsor Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone for a celebration dinner and harmony.

Meetings are held in the Masonic Temple, Bridge Street, Linwood, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA3 3DL, at 7.30pm on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month, from September through to May.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 37 Years Ago

No. 76

Summer 1984

As always we produce a Summer edition of The Mallet, to keep our Brethren informed of what has happened in the Lodge during the Recess. We hope our readers have enjoyed their break and are looking forward to being "*back in harness*" at the Lodge Meetings. During the Summer, the business of the Lodge was ably attended to, by Bros Bud Gauld PM, Secretary, and Brian Morton PM, Treasurer and George Hannah PM Acting Almoner, not forgetting of course, our Bar Conveners PM's John Gray and Robert Easdon and all the Bar Staff.

BITS & PIECES :

It is hard not to be impressed by the quiet generosity of Bro Ken Tweedie and the staunch dedication to 307 of Bro Tom Young PM.

We would like to thank all who helped Bro Bud Gauld run the very successful "Party Night" in aid of the Siobhan Craig Wheelchair Fund. Special thanks must go to Bros John Smith & Hugh Graham who donated the raffle prizes, Bro Norman Murray for the Disco Unit and Bro Bobby Easdon and George Earley for general help and services. As a result of the effort, £203 was raised.

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Bro **Donald Kennovin** and his wife who celebrate 55 years of marriage.

Bro **David Noble Snr** and his wife who celebrate their Golden Wedding and

Bro **Tom Rankin Snr** and his wife who also celebrate their Golden Wedding

We offer these 3 couples our sincere good wishes that they may enjoy still more years of happiness together.

SUMMER GOSSIP :

We wish Bro **Ian McMahon** the best of luck as he takes over the "Buddies Bar" in Paisley.

Bro **George Paterson** has taken over a pub in Kilmarnock called "The Fifty Waiscoats"

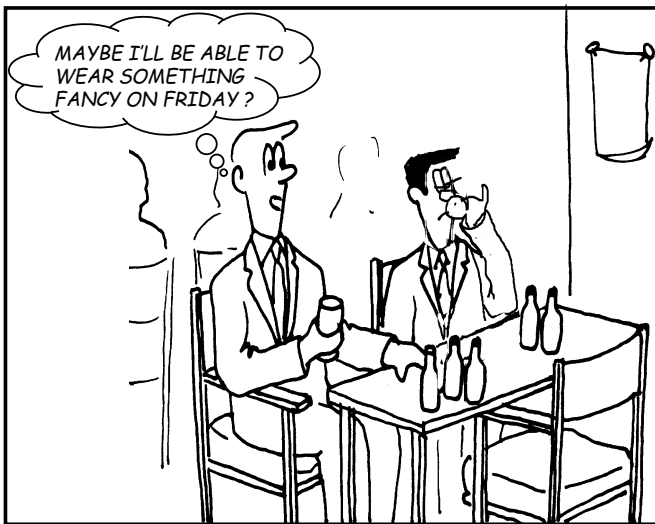
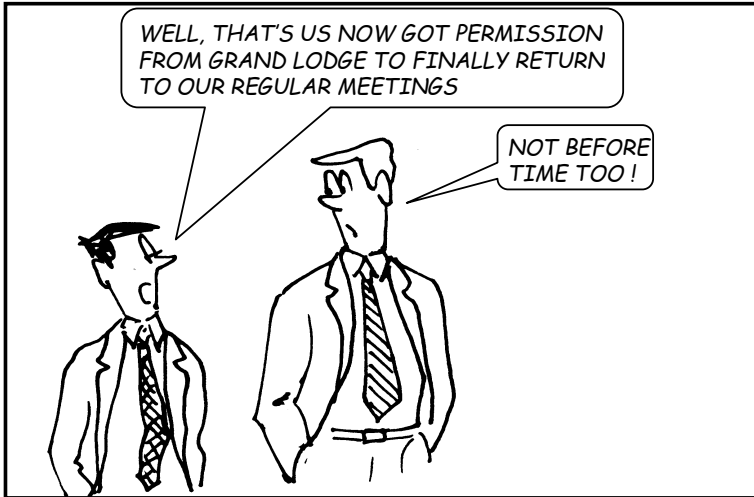
We are pleased to hear that Bro **Brian Henry** is making good progress with his pub and restaurant in Dumfries.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER TRIP :

Saturday 16th June saw the annual children's trip travelling to Butlin's Holiday Camp at Ayr, where 40 Kids thoroughly enjoyed a tremendous days fun in excellent weather. As usual many people are to be thanked for their efforts in making the trip so successful, but a special word of gratitude must go to Bro Ken Tweedie for his kindness.

When one of the camp workers asked a group of our children why they were all wearing British Airways badges (our means of identifying them) back came the reply - "**that means we're all Masons, mister**" Surely this must go down as THE quote of the month !

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW SUMMER 21

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

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