

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



March 2022

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

No. 452



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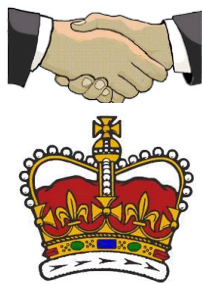
Writing and editing a monthly journal such as ours has certainly had its moments over the years, with some incredibly rewarding high points when you realise that a simple idea when committed onto a page, translates into a satisfying article that one can be justifiably proud of. Correspondingly, there will always be the occasional low that results from inaccurate information, poor research, a tight deadline or simply too little attention to detail. There have even been a few isolated cases when articles, which probably were below our own standards, have been used simply to fill pages.

Our Journal has set, over the four decades that it has been in existence, high standards which in our modest opinion and the opinion of most independents, haven't been consistently matched by any of our many contemporaries, a record of which Lodge Union & Crown can be justifiably proud. When you realise that **The Mallet** has been printed and reprinted over and over again, throughout the English speaking Masonic world almost since its conception in October 1976, we must be doing something consistently right !

Having been at the helm for almost 30 years , over two spells, we have always attempted to maintain the distinctive style originally set. It has not always been easy, and we can honestly admit that we have probably settled for a more comfortable and conservative stance at times, publishing a wide variety of pieces which have come through a tried and tested process and over the years proved successful. Perhaps we should have taken the crusading approach, often adopted by our pioneering predecessors on a more regular basis. That isn't to say that we didn't provoke the odd bit of controversy with certain articles, and we would like to hope that we can continue to provoke comment from the wide spectrum of people who populate Freemasonry, both at home and abroad.

One thing we have never done, and will certainly never do, is write simply to upset anyone just for the sake of it. We may feel passionately about certain topics, and this passion may be reflected honestly and sincerely on the pages of our journal and if this attracts unfavourable criticism or comment so be it. One thing we will always be grateful for, is material for publication in **The Mallet** - no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, all is most welcome. From time to time we are accused of many things, one month it is that we're too serious and another we are too flippant ! So at times we simply cannot win and we'll just have to continue to accept the brickbats and the praise, in the hope that your comments & contributions continue to maintain our newsletter's position right at the top.

But remember we are only as good as the information we receive, and if things prove to be unpopular, or we are becoming too bland let us know, and don't say we didn't give you the opportunity.



# 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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree*

*By the 'Guid Brethren' o' the Lodge*

*Harmony*



*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Master Mason Degree*

*By the 'Installing Masters' aided by the PMs of the Lodge*

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*David McArthur P.M. Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East made its annual visitation to 307. The deputation, in a late change, was headed by the Provincial Grand Master – Bro Ronald Fraser and he was supported by 10 Brethren of PGL.

The Brethren of the Lodge were delighted to receive a 'clear minute' clearly demonstrating that during a difficult period for all, the Lodge continued to uphold the highest principles for yet another year.

Thereafter the Brethren retired to the Function Suite, where they enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere at the Lodge Harmony.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 8.23pm**

**Attendance : 42**

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, a fine Master Mason's Degree was conferred upon the following Candidates :

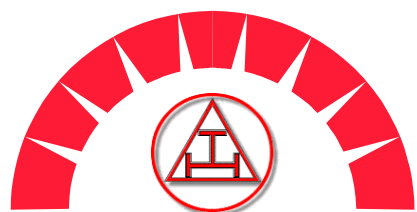
**Christopher McCaig & James McShane**

By the Worthy Wardens, aided and supported by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class. All in attendance appreciated the standard of the degree, before adjourning downstairs for a spot of Lodge harmony.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 8.54pm**

**Attendance : 41**



**Rockmount R.A.C. No.367**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, the Chapter continued its return to normal working, and conferred an excellent Royal Arch degree on :

**Companion Robert Clark  
& Companion Alan Izatt**

in what was a particularly competent and enjoyable performance by those who took part, considering the late changes to the team due to covid and other unfortunate reasons

The meeting was poorly attended due to attractions elsewhere, and the cold and wet weather on that evening

The next regular meeting of the Chapter will be on Tuesday on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm. where it is anticipated that a Mark Affiliate and Excellent Master's Degree will be conferred.

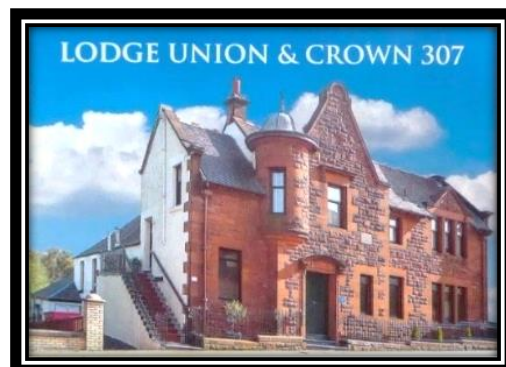
# BITS & PIECES

- You cannot help but admire Bro Bud Gauld's elder daughter Amanda for all the work she does with, and behalf of the less fortunate and deprived of her community in North Ayrshire. With a very responsible job within Strathclyde University and two young sons at University, she still devotes countless hours each week to helping those who need it more than most.
- 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, where the Lodge will be rehearsing for the new Masonic year
- We are all thankful that Bro Hugh Cattigan is finally beginning to get back to something approach his normal self after a serious heart scare last year.
- Test Fees are now overdue at £40 per head (for the moment!) & any brother wishing to contribute towards the capitation fee should see him as soon as possible.
- When you look at Bro Davie Noble P.M. and see the sheer enthusiasm for life he clearly has, it's really hard to remember that his is now over 80 years of age !!
- Good to see Bro Jim Bradshaw up and about again after a short bout of ill health
- Isn't Brother Bobby Clark SM one of the brightest and cheerful people you could meet. It doesn't seem to bother his in the slightest that he has to travel up from Ardrossan for every meeting.
- We gather that Bro Billy Dickie was well enough recently to travel over to the Canaries with his wife Bette for an extended holiday. Enjoy it Billy, you deserve it !!
- Sorry to hear that Bro Jimmy Laing slipped out in his garden ad had to be admitted to the RAH with what was broken ribs. We wish him a speedy recovery.

## 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](mailto: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.



# Dates for your Diary



- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April** Regular Meeting of the Lodge where a Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree will be conferred by the 'Guid Brethren o' the Ludge'
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April** Regular Meeting of the Lodge where a MM degree will be conferred by the Installing Masters, assisted by the Past Masters of the Lodge.

*In addition to the above (COVID Restrictions allowing) the R.W.M. may be 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)*



## 100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

- 1<sup>st</sup> March**      £20 : **Bro Robert Miller PM**      £10 : **Bro George Buist**
- 15<sup>th</sup> March**    £20 : **Bro David Watson PM**      £10 : **Bro David McArthur PM**

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer is still taking names for this year.

The annual fee is still very good value at £10, & anyone interested should see Bro George as soon as possible.

## Did you know ???

That in Freemasonry, written history began by reducing tradition to historical narrative, and for many years legends were accepted without evidence.

But with the critical school of historians the purely traditional was separated from the evident historical.

Traditions are never invented, although often exaggerated, and much elaborated through successive generations.

Tradition, however, has a foundation in fact, and is valuable for the preservation of knowledge which might otherwise be lost.

# Famous Freemasons

*(This month we read of a controversial figure of religious life in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century)*

## Bro Joseph Smith Sr (1771-1840)

Joseph Smith was born on July 12, 1771 in Topsfield, Massachusetts. At the age of 25 he married Lucy Mack in Tunbridge, Vermont where the couple lived and had 11 children. Smith was never a spiritual man and left the religious education of the children to his wife. While still in Vermont Smith claimed to start having a series of dreams which continued after the family moved. The dreams totalled seven in all and his wife Lucy documented five of the dreams she remembered.

Smith tried his hand at a variety of careers and none of them were successful. In 1816 he moved his family to Palmyra, New York. There he purchased a farm and began building a house.

During this time Smith was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Ontario Lodge No. 23 in Canandaigua, Palmyra–Manchester area of New York State in May 1818

In 1823, his eldest son Alvin passed away and Smith, whether it was related or not is unclear, stopped paying on the farm. The property was eventually purchased by a friend of the family who rented them the farm. It was also during this time Smith and his sons were actively involved in treasure digging excavations.



In the late 1820's his son Joseph Smith Jr. began telling the family about seven golden plates which he said contained a record of the ancient inhabitants of the Americas. Smith Jr. eventually said he obtained the plates and was able to translate them. In 1829, Smith Sr. and seven other men signed a joint testimony, they stated they saw and handled the plates. This became known as the "Testimony of the Eight Witnesses." A copy of this was included in the first Book of Mormon and in nearly all subsequent versions of the book.

In 1830, Smith Sr. was baptized into the Church of Christ. It is said Smith Jr. proclaimed "Oh My God I have lived to see my own father baptized into the true church of Jesus Christ!" when he saw his father come up out of the water.

In 1831, Smith Sr. moved with his son to Ohio to the new church headquarters, where in 1833, Smith Sr. was declared the Presiding Patriarch. Smith Jr. likened his father to Adam stating *"So shall it be with my father; he shall be called a prince over his posterity, holding the keys of the patriarchal priesthood over the kingdom of God on earth, even the Church of the Latter Day Saints."*

Smith Sr. moved with the family through Missouri and then to Nauvoo, Illinois. By then it was 1839, old age and poor health was catching up to Smith Sr. He called his family together in the summer of 1840 to deliver a final patriarchal blessing and appoint his son Hyrum as his successor as Presiding Patriarch. On September 14th, 1840, Joseph Smith Sr passed away, and he was buried in The Smith Family Cemetery, in Nauvoo, Illinois.

# LODGE GOSSIP

- In last month's issue we told you Bro John McIntyre was grandfather to new baby boy, we can now tell you that his first name is MASON.
- We hear that Bro John S Miller (honorary member of 307) is the latest to come down with Covid.
- We can tell you that the former little ironing shop next door to the Lodge is opening up as a furniture shop.
- We hear that Past Masters Jim Renfrew and Johnny Gauld are to be the Installing Masters for Lodge Randolph when Bro Jim Kennedy is installed as Master in July.
- We hear that Bro Stephen Amabile is affiliating to Lodge Paisley St Mirrins, No.129
- Bro Jim Miller P.M. tells us he is hopeful of running the 'Widows' Lunch' sometime in June.
- Great to hear that our Master, Bro Ronnie MacIsaac, is presenting a beautiful gift to Union & Crown's sponsor lodge – Paisley St Mirrins, No.129 at their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
- Great to see the next 6 years in 307 are 'covered' for Masters. Union & Crown has not had a Past Master of the Lodge go back on the Chair for over 100 years.
- We can tell you that Past Masters Evans Reid and Nicky Hynd, who affiliated to Lodge Dunlop Caledonia, No.1408, are both going into office at their next Installation.
- Great to see Bro Jim Cherry, with all his recent health issues, supplying and planting the flowers in the Lodge gardens for the Summer Season.
- How nice to see Bro Allan McIntyre back each Monday cleaning the toilets etc. after a two year gap off. Bro Allan tends to his wife Margaret, who's health is not so good.
- It's important that the Brethren know that our annual Test Fee is going up from £40 to £50. Only £1 per week to say you are a Mason – What a bargain !!
- The Lodge has decided to remove two meetings from our Masonic Calendar. The second meeting in December, and the first meeting in January.
- Bro Graham Manson P.M. is not only our Instruction Master, but also Instruction Principal for Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter, No.367.

- The Right Worshipful Master is taking a deputation to Lodge Darvel, No.971 on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May to carry out the popular 'Prisoner of War' degree. If you've not put your name down yet, do so now.

*(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This month we move across South East of the county to the conservation village of Eaglesham)*

## Lodge Eaglesham, No.1265

Freemasonry's evolution is buried in time. But the Craft was certainly active in Scotland before 1600 – and before the Reformation. Some written records exist as evidence.

Certainly the small village of Eaglesham had a Masonic lodge as early as 1737. That was when the first Lodge Eaglesham was granted its charter.

Looking further back in masonic "history", the following Lodges seem to have been in existence in Eaglesham well before 1921, viz.:

- 1737 – No 305 (Grand Lodge)
- 1800 – No 78 (Mother Kilwinning)
- 1816 – No 128 (Grand Lodge)
- 1822 – No 233 (Grand Lodge)
- 1826 – No 130 (Grand Lodge)

Unfortunately the records for these Lodges are now lost in the mists of time, however the last Charter is recorded in Grand Lodge as dormant in 1852.

The parish was part of the lands of the Earl of Eglinton, whose ancestors came to these islands with the 11th century Norman Conquest. Various Earls of Eglinton have occupied the chair as Grand Master of the Scottish Order.

In the 18th century Eaglesham was little more than an isolated hamlet, 600 feet up on the north facing slopes of Fenwick Moor. It was then that the 10th Earl, wearing his hat as the great land reformer, embarked on a scheme to modernise the village.

He opted to demolish the crumbling cottages and construct a complete new village in the shape of the letter "A". This work commenced in 1769 and was completed in 1797. Two streets, linked by the Mid Road, formed the letter "A", bordering both sides of the "Orry" or village green. This is the shape that exists to this day.

But towards the end of the 18th century, times were hard – and harvests poor. Which explains why at some point, the lodge went into decline. No evidence actually exists of its charter being surrendered. But a second charter was issued in 1800 in respect of its successor Lodge Montgomery Kilwinning No 78. The charter was issued under Lodge Mother Kilwinning which at that time still exercised its ancient right to charter new lodges.

Unfortunately again it foundered, however in 1826 the lodge was revived. The village population had more than doubled in the space of 50 years and a massive cotton mill, powered by waterwheels, provided 600 local jobs. But disaster struck when the mill was gutted by fire and the workers drifted off in search of jobs. Lodge Eaglesham, like the village, fell into decline and eventually went dormant yet again.

After the First World War there was a new spirit abroad in Scotland. New lodges sprang up throughout the country. Some masons with Eaglesham connections came together to examine whether a lodge could be re-established.

There were 31 founding members and they sent deputations to St John Busby No 458 and to St Andrew East Kilbride No 524 for sponsorship. The charter was granted by



Grand Lodge in 1921 and the present Lodge Eaglesham No 1265 came into being. This time it survived – and progressed.

The first Right Worshipful Master was Bro. James Patterson. One of the first candidates for initiation was local minister, Rev. David Langlands Seath who, in turn, quickly rose to become one of the early Masters.

The building which was to become Lodge Eaglesham`s premises was originally built by public subscription for use as a girls` school. That was back in the early 1800s. The building, a century later, eventually became redundant. Finally it was bought by the lodge and refurbished. An extension was completed to make the 50th anniversary in 1971.

Since then further modernisation has been carried out and a second major extension built. It now provides a temple, social club bar and lounge, and a large games hall. The premises are made available for a number of community uses.

The Lodge meets on the last Wednesday in January, February, March, April, September, October, and November at 19:30



# The Brother who banned Freemasonry, Twice !!



A man of many titles, Aleksándr Pávlovich, better known as Alexander I, served as Emperor of Russia beginning in 1801. During his term, he also became Grand Duke of Finland, King of Poland, and Grand Duke of Lithuania, positions which he held concurrently until his death. He was a busy guy. Although details of his initiation are sketchy, he was said to be a member of Canongate Kilwinning Lodge of Edinburgh, Scotland. There is no doubt, however, he was a member of the Craft in Poland. Alexander was a generous donor to Grand Orient of Poland and, in 1815, he attended a banquet which Polish Masons gave in his honour.

Born in Saint Petersburg, he was the grandson of Catherine the Great, who had reigned as Empress for 34 years until her death in 1796. Alexander's father, Paul I, succeeded her. Paul's attempts to reel in the aristocracy and, at the same time, establish reforms, and grant rights to the peasant class, alienated many of his trusted advisors. Members of the nobility became increasingly wary of Paul's attempts to govern and developed a plot to overthrow him. On March 11, 1801, a group of soldiers whom Paul had dismissed cornered him in his bedroom at St. Michael's Castle and attempted to force him to abdicate. When Paul refused, they brutally murdered him.

Twenty-three year old Alexander was in the Castle at the time and as the assassins left, instead of murdering him as well, confronted the new Emperor with the warning, "It's time for you to grow up."

Paul I had distrusted Freemasonry and within a few years of becoming Emperor, he banned the fraternity and all other secret societies. With Paul's death, the Craft flourished under Alexander's reign.

Alexander pulled back on his father's reforms, but at the same time began to take measures to monitor the activities of the upper-class, which had killed his father. Eventually, like his father, his distrust of the Masons grew and he also banned Freemasonry. A Brother named Johann Boeber, who later became Grand Master of Russia, spoke up for the Craft and convinced Alexander to reverse the ban.

For years after that Freemasonry grew in Russia with Brother Alexander as an enthusiastic participant.

Once the crisis that brought him into office subsided, Alexander became more liberal in his views, again raising concerns among aristocrats. A series of events over the years, including an attempt at kidnapping him, the murder of one of his agents and rumblings of a revolutionary conspiracy, rekindled his concern. At the same time, his mental health began to deteriorate. He was reported to have become withdrawn and passive, showing signs of paranoia. With all those factors in play, on August 1, 1822, he again banned Freemasonry.

While on a sea voyage, Alexander died of typhus on December 1, 1825. There are other reports of Brothers in positions of power who have banned Freemasonry, but Brother Alexander Pávlovich may hold the distinction of being the only Freemason who banned the fraternity twice.

# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 31 Years Ago

No. 142

March 1991

### Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March the Lodge was honoured to play host to a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. Who were paying their annual visitation. It was a fine testimony to the dedication of the Provincial Office-bearers that on an evening when there was another visitation elsewhere, the deputation numbered 16 Brethren.

It was headed on this occasion by the Substitute Provincial Grand Master, Bro Alexander R McPherson and we are pleased to report that the Lodge received a clear minute and was indeed praised for its workings over the previous twelve months which were under the leadership of Bro Robert Nixon IPM. At the after-meeting harmony the Brethren were treated to an excellent meal prepared by Bro Gordon Wright (obviously the new cooker recently installed in the kitchen is paying dividends !) and the evening's entertainment was provided by top comedian "Eddie Devine" who soon had the Brethren rolling in the aisles.

**Lodge Opened : 7-30pm      Lodge Closed : 8-45pm      Attendance : 110**

The Regular Meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March saw the following three candidates :-

**JAMES PHILLIPS      FRANK BROWN Jnr      ALAN FORREST**

raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason by a degree team drawn from the Lodge Instruction Class, in what was a fine rendering of the Third Degree.

**Lodge Opened : 7-30pm      Lodge Closed : 9-52pm      Attendance : 139**

### 100 Club

The fortunate winners for the month of March were as follows :-

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March      £10 : Bro Alistair Carse      £5 : Mrs Cathy Livingstone

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March      £10 : Bro Peter Cameron      £5 : Bro David Kerr

### Bits & Pieces

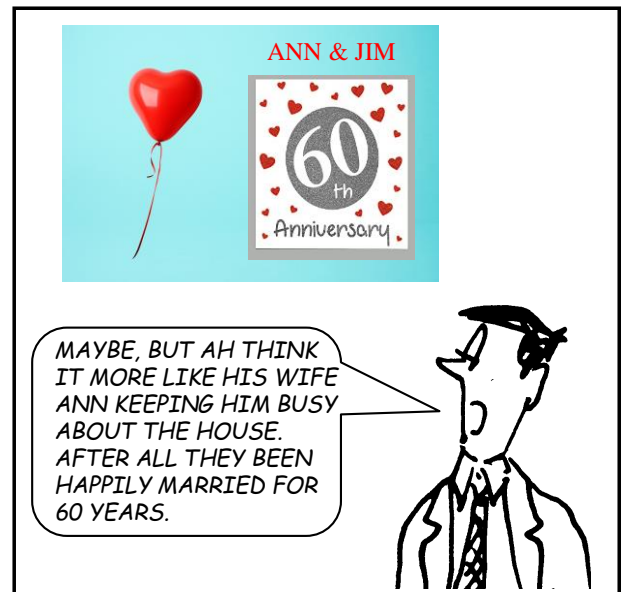
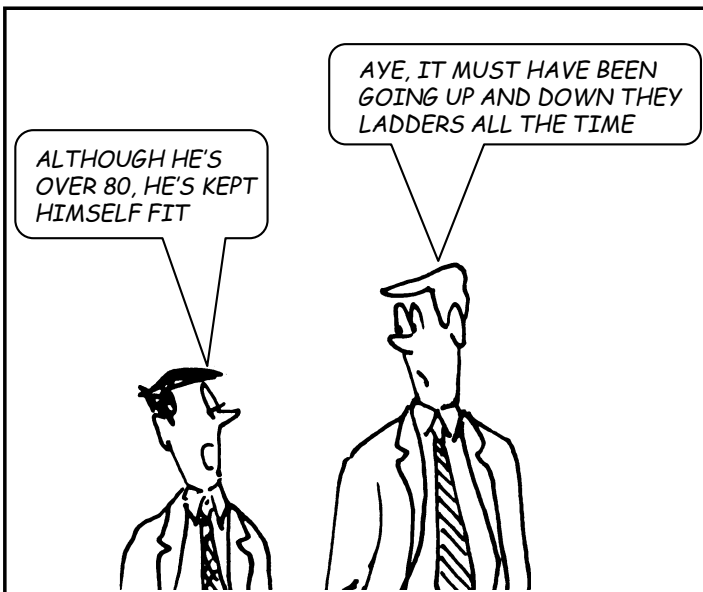
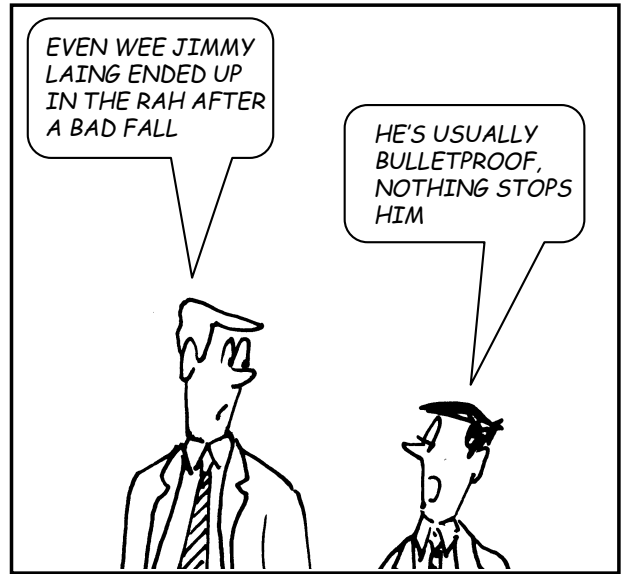
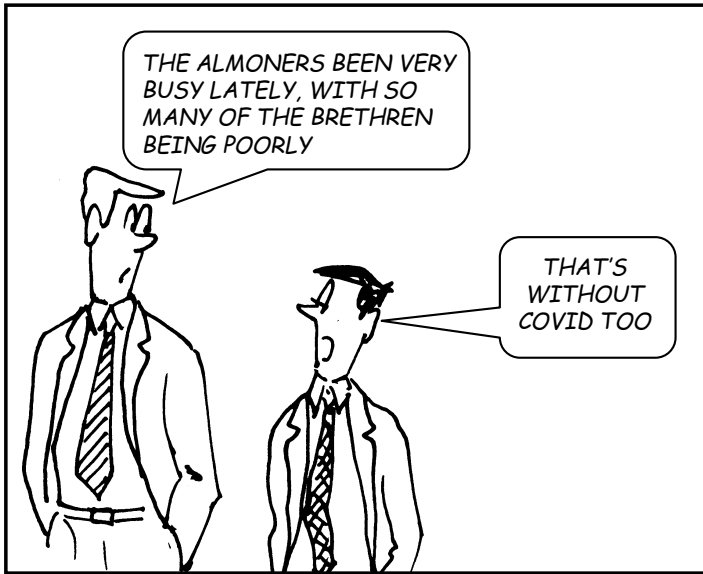
On a recent visit to The Lodge of Erskine we bumped into one of our affiliates – Bro Jim McCulloch. Bro Jim was until a few years ago, the Janitor at Cross Arthurlie Primary School and he asked to be remembered to all his friends in Lodge Union & Crown.

The grateful thanks of the Lodge goes to our angling section, whose recent magnificent donation to our funds was greatly appreciated by the Brethren.

It is good to see that all 120 tickets for our Annual Dinner Dance sold out within a couple of weeks, and that there is in fact a waiting list.

Our Thanks go to Bro Len Appleby and Bro Tom Munley for collating and stapling last month's edition of our journal.

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MARCH 2022

*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*

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

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