

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



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Every so often a Lodge will be blessed with the talents and hard work of a Brother, who will dedicate much of his time to work within, and behalf of his Lodge, without seeking any praise or reward for their efforts. On such occasions it should be a matter of much rejoicing, and celebration.



On this occasion, Union & Crown were doubly blessed with the sheer hard work, often unseen, undertaken by both Bro Tom Wilson and Bro Jimmy Laing over many years. The range of what they have willingly done on behalf of the Lodge is absolutely staggering, and without doubt they were most worthy of the great honour bestowed upon them both at our recent Regular Meeting.

Of course, we can possibly say that there are many deserving Brethren within 307 over the years who would also deserve praise and recognition for their efforts, and to be honest you would not be far off the mark. However, it is the level of sheer hard work, week in – week out, that these two faithful Brethren expend that makes they stand out from their peers.

To put this in perspective, 'Distinguished Service Certificates' are not often awarded to members of Lodge Union & Crown, and I believe that only two other Brethren have also been recipients in our entire history !!

Not that these awards, so eloquently presented by Bro Jim Bell, Grand Almoner and Bro Rob McPhee DPGM, will make a single bit of difference to the two worthy recipients. They are already back in harness working as hard as ever. With almost 100 years of service to 307, and a combined age of over 150 years, we wish them best wishes and continued success in the years ahead.





Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 1st May 2018

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

By the 'Visiting Masters'

Harmony



Tuesday 15th May 2018

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised Degree : 'Prisoner of War'

Harmony



Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M.,

Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 3rd April the following Candidate :

STEPHEN SCOTT

received a fine Master Mason's Degree from the members of the Lodge Instruction Class. A retired Firefighter, those taking part were largely drawn from his former colleagues, with a couple of additions in what was a particularly fine degree, greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Thereafter the Brethren retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed a spot of harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.32pm

Attendance : 65



At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 17th April, the members of the Lodge Instruction Class carried out another of our popular dramatized degrees. On this occasion, it was the 'Burns vs Kipling' debate and all the Brethren present thoroughly enjoyed the various items of poetry and song presented to show the eloquence and range of each of these famous and distinguished Freemasons.

On that evening, the Lodge also received a deputation from The Grand Lodge of Scotland, led by Past Depute Grand Master Bro Kenneth Kennedy and seven of his Brethren. Also present on that evening was a fine deputation from The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, led by Bro Neil Fraser PGM.

Last and by no means least, Bro Russell Logan PGM of Perthshire East was admitted with a sizeable deputation of his Brethren who had travelled down to attend our dramatized degree, and to thank the Lodge for taking the trouble to travel up to Perth on 24th February to confer our Dramatised 'Table of Scottish Freemasonry'.

The Brethren of Union & Crown were grateful, yet mystified, why such distinguished Brethren should take the trouble to attend our Lodge on the same evening, but all was soon revealed when Bros James Laing and Thomas Wilson were called forward, and presented with 'Distinguished Service Certificates' for all their hard work and dedication over many years.

The presentations were made by Bro Jim Bell, Grand Almoner, and Bro Robert McPhee Depute PGM of Renfrewshire East respectively and at the close a thunderous applause showed exactly what our own Brethren and the Visitors thought of presentations.

Opened : 6.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.22pm

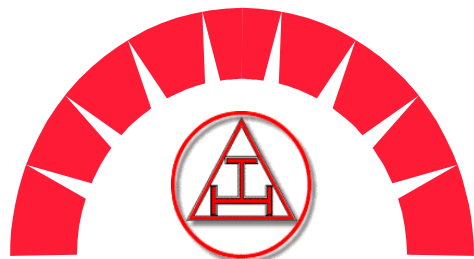
Attendance : 99



Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 1st May** Regular Meeting of the Lodge where an EA Degree will be conferred by the 'Visiting Masters'
- Saturday 12th May** 'Coffee Morning & Plant Sale' 10am till 12 Noon. Tickets are currently available from Bro Ronnie Maclsaac WSW
- Tuesday 15th May** Regular Meeting of the Lodge where the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class will be presenting our dramatised 'Prisoner of War' degree
- Monday 21st May** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

(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 as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 10th April Companion **George Aitkenhead Smith** accepted affiliation to Rockmount RAC No. 367. C. George was obligated by MEC James Miller PZ and welcomed into the Chapter by MEZ Hugh Cattigan.

The Chapter stood in silence to commemorate the passing of MEC James Harvey PZ who was exalted on 11th September 1967 and served the Chapter as 1st Principle in 1975/76. MEC Jim Renfrew PZ spoke in memory of MEC James indicating that he was a faithful and loyal companion and a frequent attender at Rockmount RAC whilst in good health.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers, visitors and Companions went downstairs to enjoy a short harmony.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for: - Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 7-30pm, when a RA Degree will be conferred by the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC.

MEC Hugh Cattigan MEZ extends a cordial invitation to all Companions to support the Chapter by attending on that evening. As you may be aware, the Chapter is experiencing a shortage in Candidates at the moment, and would welcome any Brother (who's been through his MMM degree) and would like to join to contact MEC Hugh Cattigan ☎ 07981 566 901



"Freemasonry Around the World"

Finland

For almost 700 years, Finland was part of the Swedish empire, and Freemasonry was originally introduced during the Swedish rule in the middle of the 18th Century. Lodge St Augustin was established in Stockholm June 1756, and had its first meeting on Finnish soil in April 1758 in Turku when Captain Anders Boije was initiated into the first degree. Their meetings were held in a variety of places; sometimes in Stockholm, sometimes in Turku, and also in Helsinki, where the regular meetings were arranged on a more regular basis in 1763

In 1777 Lodge Phoenix was established in Helsinki and during the early years of Swedish rule 150 Brethren were initiated. Freemasonry continued to blossom in Finland, and by the time that control of the country was handed over to Russian rule in 1809, following the 'Finnish War' of 1808-09, the membership had increased to over 450 Brethren

Unfortunately, because many lodge members were soldiers, the work in the lodges ceased totally after the Finnish War started in 1808, and as a consequence of the war the relations with the former mother Grand Lodge in Sweden ceased. Many lodge members had moved to Sweden or to different parts of Finland, with the last masonic meeting held in Tornio in 1809. In December 1813 the Worshipful Masters of St Augustin and Phoenix lodges, appealed to the Swedish Grand Master for permission to donate their funds to the city of Helsinki for charity purposes, and permission was granted in June 1813.

In 1822 the Russian Emperor Alexander I issued an edict banning all secret societies, and some Finnish Brethren, usually merchants and seamen, joined or visited lodges abroad. This was their only outlet during Russian rule, which lasted until independence in 1917. After Finland became independent in December 1917 the idea of reviving the freemasonry came to the fore, and with the support of the Grand Lodge of New York, the first Craft Masonry Lodge Suomi Lodge No 1 was established in Helsinki on 18th of August 1922.

During the Russian rule many Finns have emigrated to USA and joined the lodges there. At the beginning of the 20th century they thought about re-introducing freemasonry back to their former homeland. The most active of these brethren was J.E. Tuokkola who in 1917 inquired about the possibility of reintroducing Craft Freemasonry in Finland. The most important Finnish-American freemason that Tuokkola brought on-board was lawyer Toivo Nekton who was a PM of a lodge in New York. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York Arthur S. Tompkins granted a temporary charter for the Suomi Lodge No 1, with which the lodge granted all three degrees to 27 men in the first craft lodge in the independent Finnish Republic on 18th August 1922. Among these brethren were many influential men - captains of industry and high-ranking government officials.

In August 1923 two other lodges were established with the charter from the GL of New York, one in Tampere (Tammer-lodge No. 2) and the other in Turku (Phoenix –lodge No. 3).

Now Finland had three independent lodges and soon after established its own Grand Lodge. Grand Officers were elected in August 1924, with the first Grand Master Bro. Axel Solitander. The Swedes also restarted their masonic activities in Finland, with Lodge St Augustin resuscitated using the Swedish Rite in May 1923.

The number of Brethren in lodges increased during the 1920s and early 1930s, and by 1932, membership had reached over 300, with five craft lodges. After the initial enthusiasm, the appeal of Freemasonry began to wane, and numbers dropped as War approached, with the Finnish Government attempting to ban all Craft Lodges and other secret societies, under pressure from Germany.

The Finnish president died in December 1940 and Brother Risto Ryti was elected as his successor. In subsequent meetings with the Grand Lodge of Finland, he stated that his government had no reason to interfere with the masonic activities in the country. But asked if the masons could suspend their activities to allow him to inform the Germans that there are no masonic meetings or activities going on in Finland, at least publicly. The library of the Grand Lodge was placed in the Helsinki University Library and the furniture etc. was placed in the homes of brethren. The money that the lodges had were donated to a fund mainly for war orphans.



After the war Freemasons contacted the Finnish state and inquired about the possibility of restarting masonic activities again, and this was granted in May 1945. Suomi Lodge No 1 restarted working almost immediately, with Tammer Lodge No 2, meeting in the WM's home, because the lodge premises have been lost during the war. In 1948 a sixth lodge was founded in Pori, with the name Satakunta No 7 and in 2th of May 1950 the seventh Lodge in Lahti called Pyhän Yrjänän Loosi.

The 1940s was mainly an era of re-establishing the lodges, with the real era of growth in Finnish freemasonry during the 1950s and 60s. In the 1950s 12 new lodges were established, and by the end of the 1960s 59 Lodges existed, and membership had grown to almost 3000 Brethren. The growth of membership slowed down in the 1980s but the number of members is still growing annually even today.

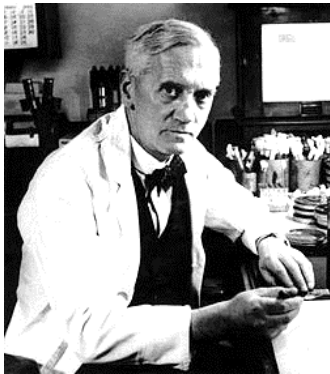
Today a total of 175 Lodges exist, with 3 of them in Sweden, and total membership reaching 7432, with a total of 330 initiates during 2015. The average age is 61, and attendance levels stand at a healthy 55%. The average annual membership fee of the lodges is 192€ per member, with the annual 'Capitation Fee' paid to GL currently at 64€.

The relationship with the established Lutheran church is good, and there are about 40 Lutheran clergymen who are members of Finnish Lodges. The Masonic magazine Koilliskulma is published five times a year, and is delivered to every member of the Finnish Craft..

Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series of the Brethren portrayed in the Mural in our Function Suite, we turn this month to the Scot who gave the humanity the World's first 'Miracle Drug')

Sir Alexander Fleming (1881-1955)



Fleming's father leased a smallholding called Lochfield, near Darvel, and living in such a remote area gave the children a keen sense of nature and they learned to become experts at fishing for trout, snaring hares and rabbits. All these activities kept them fit and healthy and sharpened their sense and observation skills. These childhood lessons in life led young Alec always to act in accordance with his instincts and observations. A characteristic, which was to prove useful not only to himself, but to the entire world. He started school at five and had to walk the mile regardless of the weather. He recalled in the summer days he would often walk barefoot only to put on his boots when he arrived at the school.

His two brothers, went to London to seek their fortune, and Alec was sent to join them, aged 13 where he was encouraged to enrol in the Polytechnic School in Regent Street, London. His broad Ayrshire accent caused him a little embarrassment, but regardless of this, he never did altered his Scottish tongue. Although content with his employment with his brothers, he decided at the age of twenty to enter the Medical Profession.

His chosen field was Inoculation -- a decision made not from any medical preference but pure and simply because that faculty had a Shooting Team and Alec wanted to be part of it. He remained loyal to St Mary's for the rest of his working life.

It is clear that Fleming was a committed Freemason, being a member of three Lodges. He was initiated in 1909 in Sancta Maria Lodge No.2682, but later joined London Scottish Rifles Lodge, No.2310, and Misericordia Lodge No.3286, where he became WM in 1935. He was later reached the position of PJGW of the UGLE in 1948.

Throughout the Great War, Alec was disturbed at not being able to assist the wounded. He attended to their wounds with the best of equipment and all the expert knowledge available but many would die from gangrene which could not be treated successfully. Antiseptics were applied to wounds causing more pain than cure. Antiseptics can prevent infection but are powerless to suppress it once it is established.

One day in 1928, his attention was drawn to a mould in one of his experimental vessels. His field of research was Bacteria and here was "something" which had killed off the bacteria in the vessel without destroying the parent body. The initial discovery made that day was just the beginning of almost 15 years of research. During WW2 it was difficult to produce penicillin in sufficient quantities, and it was going to require some "miraculous" recoveries for penicillin to become a "must have" drug. It was only when America became involved that the production on a large scale started. It proved to be a substance that would save lives where before the illness would have been fatal.

Fleming had taken the precautionary step of making "penicillin" a scientific term in 1929, which made it public property. This shrewd move caused penicillin to remain unpatented and therefore free of royalties. He had passed over the opportunity to become the richest man on earth. It was probably his Scottish roots that made him happy and content simply to do his job to the best of his ability for satisfaction. By 1944 "penicillin" was recognised for its great healing properties and honours were soon heaped upon the man who discovered it, most notably The Nobel Prize for Medicine, and a Knighthood from HM King George VI. Sir Alexander Fleming suffered a heart attack in March 1955, and died soon afterwards, aged 74. The world mourned his passing but was extremely grateful for the legacy that he had left behind. He was buried in St Paul's Cathedral, London, an honour conferred on only a few Scotsmen.



WORLD AT WAR 1914 – 1918 (April 1918)



The Battle of the Lys (7–29 April 1918), also known as the, the Fourth Battle of Flanders was part of the 1918 German offensive in Flanders, also known as the Spring Offensive. The German plan was to break through the First Army, push the Second Army aside to the north, and drive west to the English Channel, cutting off British forces in France from their supply line which ran through the Channel ports of Calais, Dunkirk and Boulogne.

Military tactics to this point had generally involved whole armies either trying to hold a line or attacking en-masse, pushing forward on the instruction of military leaders based elsewhere. At the Battle of the Lys, the German army included substantial numbers of the new *stosstruppen* (*Stormtrooper*)... trained to lead attacks with infiltration tactics involving small independent light infantry forces advancing into enemy rear areas, bypassing enemy front-line strongpoints, possibly isolating them for attack by follow-up troops with heavier weapons. Soldiers take the initiative to identify enemy weak points and choose their own routes, targets, moments and methods of attack.

As more French reinforcements arrived in the latter part of April, the Germans had suffered many casualties, especially among the *stosstruppen* and attacks toward Hazebrouck failed. It was clear that the battle could not achieve its objectives; on 29 April the German high command called off the offensive.

Formation of the RAF

While the British were not the first to make use of heavier-than-air military aircraft, the RAF is the world's oldest independent air force: that is, the first air force to become independent of army or navy control.

It was founded on 1 April 1918 by the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps (the air arm of the British Army before and during the First World War) and the Royal Naval Air Service (the air arm of the Royal Navy, under the direction of the Admiralty's Air Department)

At that time, it was the largest air force in the world.



RAF Motto: **Per Ardua ad Astra**
(meaning "Through Adversity to the Stars")

Hugh Cattigan PM

Almoner's Report

Brethren, may I earnestly intimate to you that my commitment to the office of Lodge Almoner is as keen, sure and steadfast, as it was when I first took up this most honourable charge.

Home Visits :

Bro Donald Ferguson

Bro Campbell Stewart

Bro Robert Nixon PM

Bro Jim Bradshaw (*personal bereavement*)

Bro James Laird

Mrs Catherine Fennell

Home Phone Calls :

Bro Jim Laing

Mrs Janette Shaw

Bro Robert McCulloch

Mrs Margaret McLellan

Bro Robert Kennedy

Bro Kenneth Beatts

Mrs Anna Roberts

Mrs Catherine Fennell

It is with profound sadness and much regret I intimate the passing of Bro James Mayberry Laird, 92 years of age, at his home in Barrhead on Friday 20th April. Bro Jim had suffered ill health for a considerable period of time, but more so during the past 12 months, with a lengthy hospital stay. Over the last 3 months he was at home with his dear wife Florence, with family members calling in daily.

Bro James Laird, a much-loved husband and father, was initiated in to 307 on 19th January 1982. During my years as Lodge Almoner, I had the opportunity to meet him in consequence of his poor health and on visits I found him to be a most pleasant and agreeable man, and although feeling quite unwell, he always welcomed my visit and encouraged me to return. He most eagerly enjoyed reading our Monthly Newsletter and would comment most accordingly to particular masonic reviews, although during recent visits there was little dialogue due to his deteriorating health. I will feel the loss of visiting Bro James Mayberry Laird.

I visited the family home and expressed condolences to 'Flo' and all the family, and I received a warm heartfelt response. I will certainly be offering grieving support at the funeral as your Almoner.

On Friday 20th April, I attended the funeral Service of Mrs Martha Young Gemmell (aged 81), dear sister of Bro James Bradshaw at Woodside Crematorium. I extended sincere condolences to Bro Jim and his wife Rita on behalf of the Lodge when I visited at their family home. Both reciprocated most warmly their gratitude.

As Jesus said "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5, Verse 4)

Brother Alexander D. White

Lodge Almoner ☎ 0141-571 6411

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 41 Years Ago

No. 7

April 1977

Regular Meeting 5th April : A large deputation from Lodge St Andrew, East Kilbride No.524 conferred an excellent F.C. Degree on the following E.A.'s :

W Morris H Graham A Gibb N Murray

There was an attendance of 143 Brethren with one outstanding point to note - a Benevolent collection totalling over £29-00

Regular Meeting 19th April : The same four Candidates received the M.M. degree at the hands of a most competent team from the visitors for the evening, our good friends from Lodge Garthland St Winnoch, No. 205 Lochwinnoch. The attendance on this occasion was 127.

100 CLUB : This month's winners were:

£10-D McCreddie, J McFarlane £3-J Richardson PM, T Kelly £1-A McCartney, A Gray

Points of Interest : Bro Bill Dove PM has been honoured with an invitation to a Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. Although HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, is an initiated Mason he has steadfastly refused to hold office.

A display cabinet has now been installed in the Downstairs Lounge and a special appeal is issued to all Members for donations of all kinds of Masonic emblems (books, trinkets, coins etc) to be put on show. Articles of special interest, on loan, would also be welcomed.

Fund Raising : The Daffodil Fair which was staged in the Temple on Saturday 23rd April was a resounding success and realised the handsome sum of £157-05p. The object was to raise funds to complete the renovation of the outside of the building and this takes us partly towards our target, but a lot more is still required. All donations to this cause will be gratefully received. To all who helped at the Fair our sincere thanks are given, especially to the Ladies without whose assistance this event would never have got off the ground.

Items from Old Minute Books :

1872 Lodge participated in the laying of the foundation stone of Renfrew Town Hall.

1917 179 Candidates initiated in one year (a record !)

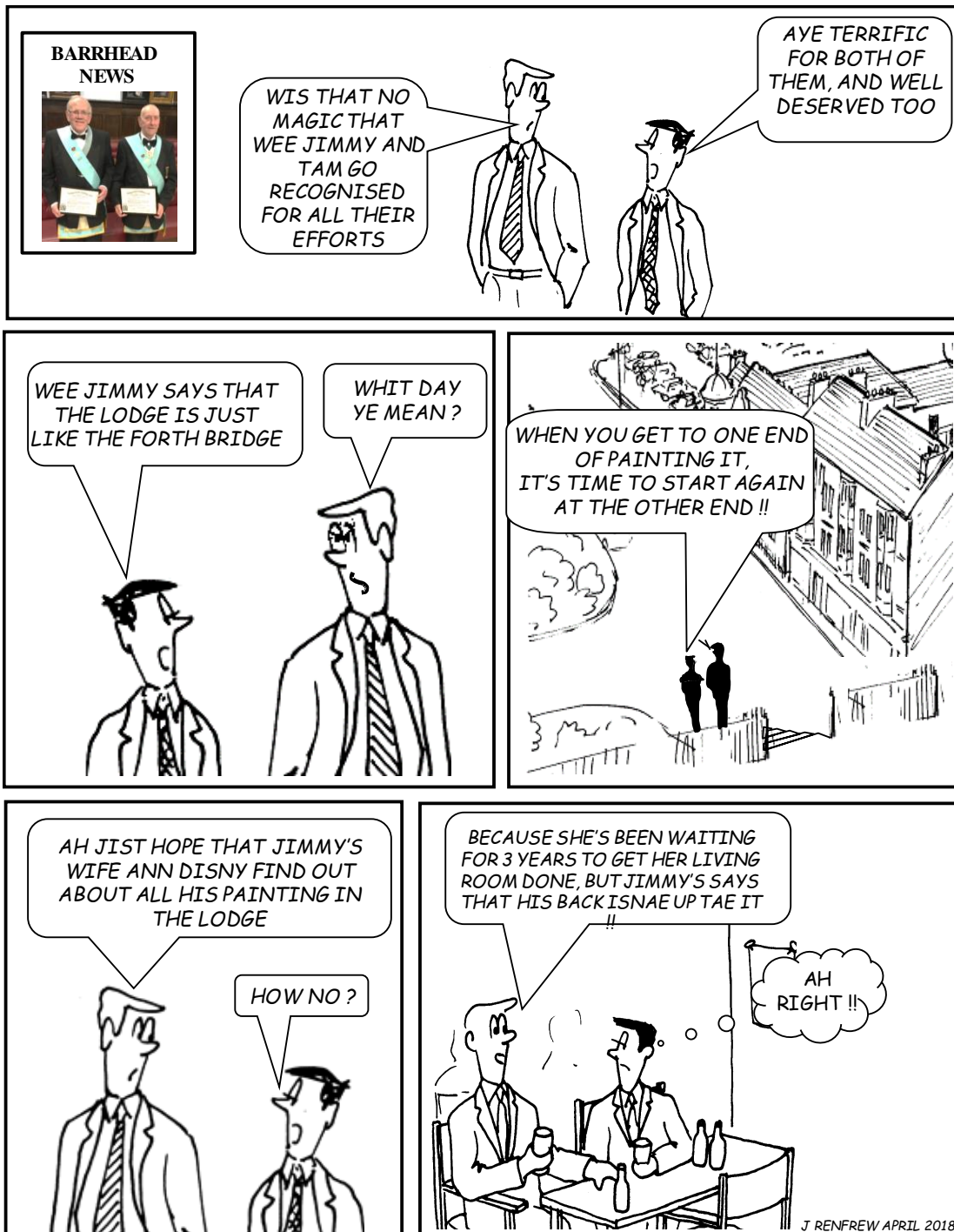
1923 Memorial Plaque to the fallen Brethren of the First World War unveiled.

1926 Bro Henry Meechan 307 knighted by HRH King George V.

1930 Decision taken to discontinue meetings during the Summer months.

1972 Deputation from 307 went to see one of our own Brethren, Bro the Rev Dr William Baxter PM Trades House, No.1241 presented with a 50 years Diploma. (*Dr Baxter was minister of the South Church prior to the 1914-18 war*)

MARK N' ARCHIE



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

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

