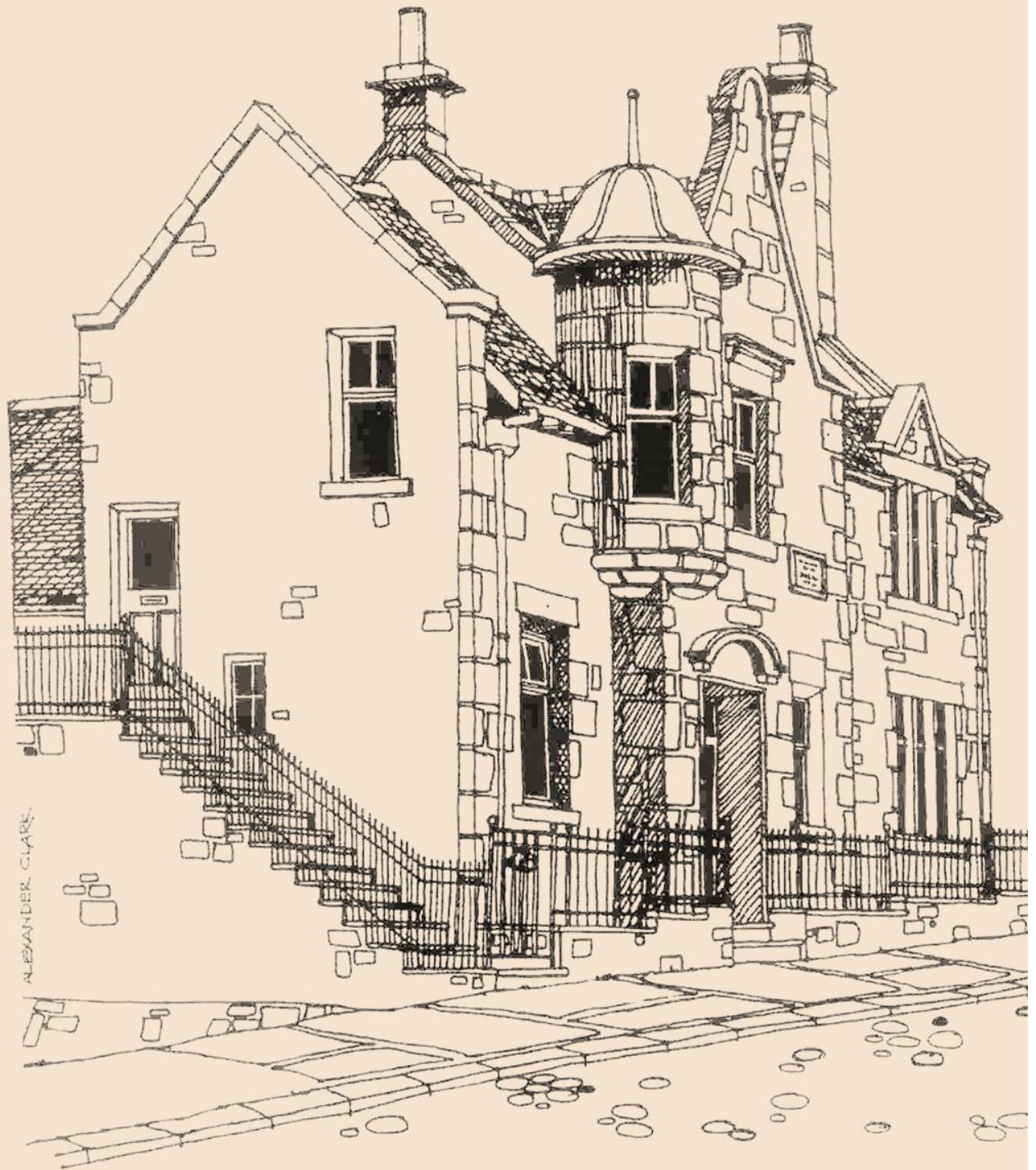


# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



October 2024

# The Mallet

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

No. 477

*Editorial*



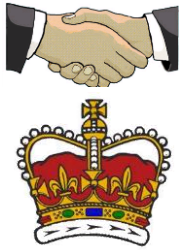
October 2024

By the time most of you will have read this, the annual installation season within Renfrewshire East will be well underway. A busy time for most Lodges in the our province, it has over the years gained the fitting nickname “*The Steak Pie Marathon*” and can prove without doubt to be extremely hectic and time-consuming period for all involved, lasting from the first weekend in October right through to the last week in December.

We in Union & Crown have a long-standing tradition each year where we try to ensure that we are represented at as many of the various installations as possible, a daunting task when you consider that we have a total of 35 to cover. They can be as far apart as Rutherglen in the East of the province and Lochwinnoch in the extreme South West corner of the county.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the scheduling of the meetings owes far more to long lasting tradition than commonsense and on one or two occasions brings together three or four on the same day. A mammoth undertaking which can involve over a dozen of our Senior Office-bearers and Past Masters and calls for more intricate planning than that which brought the D-Day landings to a successful conclusion.

We therefore appeal to the junior office-bearers and Brethren of the Lodge to assist in this sometimes onerous task. The Senior Brethren have a heavy schedule throughout the year and any assistance that they receive during this period is most welcome. Your attendance at a couple of meetings would go a long way to alleviate the situation and perhaps allow Bro Robert Scott, the R.W.M., and his Wardens to perhaps spend some time with their family between now and the end of the year.



# Lodge Union & Crown

## No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

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

*Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*'Open Night' : 'Table of Scottish Freemasonry'  
by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class*

*Harmony*



*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Mark Ceremonial*

*Conferred by Bro Robert Clark FPM &*

*Harmony*



*Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023*

*Installation of Office-bearers*

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class conferred the Master Mason Degree upon the following Candidate :

**Marc McKenzie Jones**

All in attendance were impressed by the excellent floor work of our hard-working Brethren. Thereafter, the Brethren retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed a fine harmony.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.26pm**

**Attendance : 57**

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, the Lodge held its annual business meeting, where all Office-bearers and committees were nominated and elected. Both our worthy Secretary and Treasurer are to be congratulated upon the manner in which the business was carried out.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 8.22pm**

**Attendance : 36**

## 100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

**1<sup>st</sup> October**                      £20 : **Bro Gordon Wright**                      £10 : **Bro Evans Reid PM**

**15<sup>th</sup> October**                      £20 : **Bro David McArthur PM**                      £10 : **Bro Iain Nicol**

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, is taking names for next year, which commenced immediately after our Annual Installation.

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

## Did You Know ?

That Brother Joel R. Poinsett (1779-1851) had a successful diplomatic career as US Secretary of War, US Congressman and Minister to Mexico. Additionally, he was instrumental in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Mexico, served as Deputy General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Master of two of his Lodges, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina and Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.

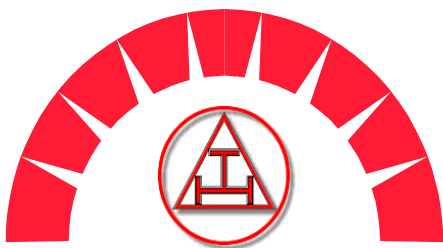
Even with impressive credentials like that, however, he is best remembered for a plant he brought back from Mexico, the Mexican Fire Plant. After cultivating it and introducing it in the US, the plant was named in his honor. Today, the Poinsettia is the traditional Christmas flower.

# Dates for your Diary



- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where 'The Table of Scottish Freemasons' will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the Mark Ceremonial will be conferred by Bro Robert Clark IPM
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** Annual Installation of Office-bearers at 4pm

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and his Wardens are constantly involved in unofficial visits to sister Lodges. Details of which can be easily obtained by contacting Robert Scott RWM or any senior Office-bearer,



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

At the Installation Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, all Office-bearers were installed for the forthcoming year, with a new team of installing Principals taking to the floor for the very first time - MEC Graham Manson PZ and MEC Andrew Neilson PZ.

Our newly-install ME First Principal - MEC James Renfrew MEZ and his Office-bearers were well and truly installed in what was a fine ceremony, as you would expect from those involved.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter along with their visitors retired downstairs where an enjoyable harmony was enjoyed by all.

## The Operative Lodge of Aberdeen

Chartered on May 7, 1781, but currently inactive, The Operative Lodge No.150 of Aberdeen, consisted only of Brothers who were or had been operative stonemasons. For years, many of its members travelled to build stone structures worldwide, especially in the USA. Although today the Lodge no longer consists exclusively of operative Masons, it honours its heritage. Each year it installs its incoming Master with an apron given to a traveling Brother coming back from the US in the early 20th century. The apron bears the insignia of a US Master and is used to honour the Operative Lodge's role in the "American trade." The Brothers of the Lodge have left its legacy throughout the world. According to its documentation, Lodge Brothers have played a significant role in erecting the following stone edifices: The Paris Opera House, the London Bridge, the Sydney Harbor Bridge, the State Capital Building in Texas, the foundations and lower level of Freemasons Hall in Edinburgh, the Marischal College (the second largest granite building in the world) and many others.

# BITS & PIECES

- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are still available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken WJW (☎ 07590 207 365) In addition, a lovely new Lodge Tie is also for sale at a bargain £15 !!
- Congratulations to Bro Robert Miller PM and his lovely wife Christine, who recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary.
- Congratulations to Bro Jim Renfrew PM on being installed as the ME First Principal of Rockmount RAC, some 27 years after his original stint as MEZ.
- In a similar vein, best wishes to Bro Graham Manson PM who was installed into the chair of the Royal Ark Mariners in Paisley last month.
- Congratulations to Bro Stephen Amabile of 307 on his election as WJW in his adopted Lodge – Paisley St Mirrins, No.129
- Well done to Bro Billy Petrie and Bro Ronnie MacIsaac on the completion of their sponsored walk. A report on their efforts is contained later in this edition.
- Bro Graham Manson PM, our hard-working Instruction Master would be delighted to see some new blood at the Lodge Instruction Class on Monday evenings, but if you're too shy and would rather learn something quietly at home, he'll be only too happy to help you out and let you go forward when you're confident enough.
- Congratulation to Bro Alan Bernard PM's brother Steven who was recently installed as MEH in Paisley Abbey RAC.
- Haven't Bros Gregor Mullin and Callum Heirs been great additions to Union & Crown since they joined a year ago.
- Doesn't Bro Jim Cherry do a wonderful job looking after the Lodge gardens. Not bad for someone who is well into his 80s.
- It was great to see Bro Kenneth Junner in attendance at a recent Lodge Meeting. Bro Kenneth was lucky not to receive more serious injuries as he was struck by a car out of control. His Father-in-Law, who was standing alongside him is still in hospital with multiple injuries some three months later.
- Bro Ross McLardy is currently out in Las Vegas visiting his father – Bro Colin McLardy PM who now lives and works there.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Donald Murdoch was readmitted to hospital again with heart problems. We gather that he has undergone a Quadruple Bypass and is recovering well in the Golden Jubilee Hospital.
- Did anyone notice Bro Jim Scott from Ayr on an edition of ITV's The Chase ? Sadly he didn't win the jackpot, but acquitted himself well.

# Brother Will Rogers

A poll in the 1960s recognized the two most beloved Americans as Abraham Lincoln and humorist Will Rogers. That's pretty high praise for Rogers, whom a Hollywood executive once described as "The hickiest fellow you ever saw." Brother Rogers was a member of Claremore Lodge 53, McAlester Consistory and the Tulsa Shrine, all located in Oklahoma. Here are a few things you might not know about the iconic American humourist :

...did not do well in school and once joked, "I spent ten years in the fourth grade and knew more about McGuffey's Fourth Reader than McGuffey did."

...dated all seven of the Blake sisters before asking the youngest, Betty, to marry him in 1906. Betty, apprehensive about a life in show business, turned him down. A year and a half later the persistent Rogers changed her mind and they married.

...later in life, remarked about his marriage, "I'm different from other movie stars. I still have the wife I started out with."

...worked as a cowboy in Texas, Argentina and South Africa and rode broncos in a wild west show under the name "The Cherokee Kid."

...was regarded as the world's best lasso thrower, "Spinning a rope is fun, as long as your neck ain't in it." Working in rodeos, he started slipping jokes into his act. Soon the jokes became more popular than his lassoing skills.

...gave what was described as a hilarious speech at the opening of the Coolidge Dam in 1930. Former president Calvin Coolidge attended. Those in attendance reported the taciturn ex-president did not so much as crack a smile.

...performed with the Ziegfeld Follies and said of the girls he worked with, "Isn't it sad to think that in 20 years all of these lovely creatures will be 5 years older?"

...interviewed Al Capone. He said of that experience, "There was absolutely no way I could write it and not make a hero out of him. What's the matter with our age when a gangster is our biggest national interest?"

...just to keep in touch with his roots, had a log cabin built on his Santa Monica estate. He had a theatre built in that same house explaining, "Acting is like getting drunk. If ya gotta do it, it's better to do it at home."

...wrote a daily newspaper column which became a national institution.

...travelled the world looking for new subjects to write about. In the process he became known as America's self-made ambassador.

...was a passionate flier at a time when it was considered risky. He wanted to be known as a "flying reporter."

...was one of the few private citizens permitted to fly in government mail planes and used airplanes to assist in disasters. It was said of him, "He usually got there before the Red Cross."

...after visiting the Soviet Union wrote a book entitled, "There's Not A Bathing Suit In Russia, And Other Bare Facts."

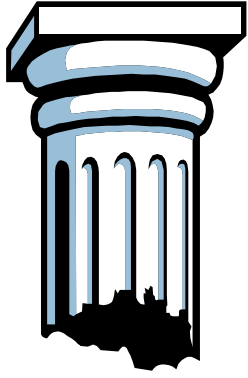
...was proposed for President at two national conventions.

...was the first mayor of Beverly Hills, a position which some say was honorary. His inauguration, nonetheless filled the streets and the top movie stars of the day and other dignitaries attended. Rogers claimed, "My primary duty as mayor was to point out the location of Pickfair to tourists."

...is the only humourist whose statue is in Statuary Hall in the Capitol.

In August 1935, Bro Rogers, aged 55 flew to Alaska with his friend Wiley Post to gather material for his newspaper column. Nearing Point Barrow, the pair landed to confirm their position. Unfortunately, they both perished when their plane crashed on take-off. The US Congress suspended activity during his funeral due to the national outpouring of grief.





# From the East

Well Brethren, as I write this article my year as RWM of Lodge Union and Crown No 307 is drawing to a close. It seems like yesterday that I was being installed and people were telling me how quickly the year would pass. Well brethren I can assure you they were right; it has literally flown past. My year is all but over, but what a year it has been.

As you are aware Brethren, 2024 marked the 200th anniversary of the Lodge being granted a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. To make sure we marked this occasion in true 307 style we decided that we would plan a full year of celebration, with a special event taking place every month.

These proceedings kicked off in November with the installation of Office Bearers. The brethren were treated to a truly magnificent ceremony thanks to a very capable installing team. I can honestly say that being installed as RWM is a day that I will never forget.

In December we enjoyed the annual Christmas dance which was once again a fantastic success. In January Bro Johnny Gauld PM, accompanied by the talented brethren of the Lodge, put on a magnificent Burns evening. Warmth, camaraderie and brotherly love prevailed for sure.

February was the big event itself, the bi centenary celebration and the rededication ceremony, led by the Grand Master Mason and the Office Bearers of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The day kicked off with a parade through the streets of Barrhead to the Bourock Church led by a very talented pipe band. A short church service and back to the Lodge for a magnificent ceremony and investiture of regalia.

To say that this was a day to remember does not come close to doing it justice, it was a day that anyone who attended will quite simply, never forget.

The March event was a Civic dinner, in recognition of the key community groups within the town. Over sixty representatives of Bowling Clubs, Angling Clubs, Boys Brigade Companies and Pensioners Groups joined together with the brethren of the Lodge. Again, the hospitality of the 307 was second to none and our commitment to the community was evident to all who attended.

April was Sportsman's dinner time. Another huge success that raised £1700 for the Lodge and local charities. May was a night for the Ladies with a cabaret act and a few free drinks for our better halves, courtesy of the Brethren of the Lodge.

June was the annual widow's lunch, once again presided over by PM Jimmy Miller and his band of merry men. Another roaring success. In July we took a bus run to Rosslyn Chapel and enjoyed the hospitality of our new friends from Lodge Rosslyn St Clair.

August was the pensioners lunch and once again our senior members and their guests were looked after in true 307 style with a fine 3 course meal and entertainment courtesy of the magnificent George McNeil.

October saw us travel to Arbroath to share our Prisoner of War Dramatised Degree with our brothers from the East. Once again, the Lodge put its best foot forward and flew the flag for Renfrewshire East.

As we go to press, we will wound up our year of celebration with a celebratory dinner to thank the brethren of the Lodge for their magnificent support during this very special year.

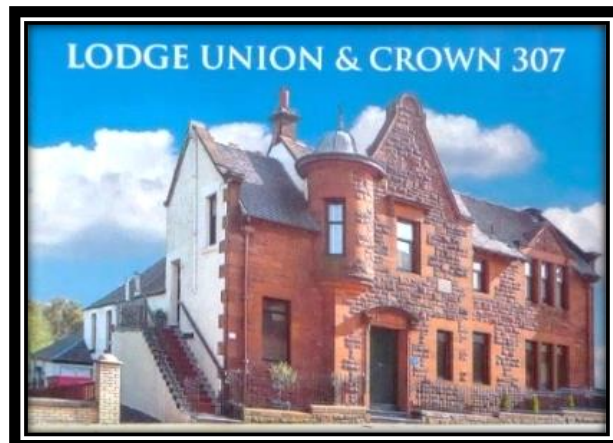
Brethren I hope that you have enjoyed this bicentenary year. As Right Worshipful Master, I thank you for all that you have done for me and for the Lodge. I have no doubt that the next Master will enjoy the same level of commitment and support.

**Robert Dickson Scott. Right Worshipful Master**

# 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.



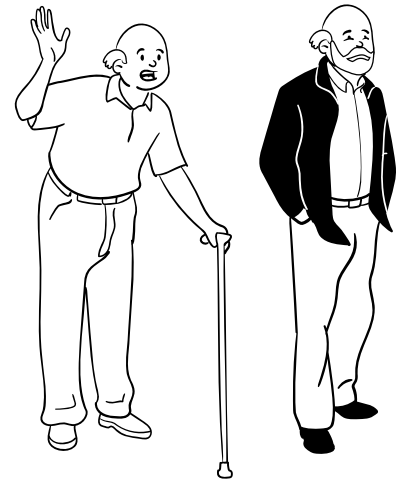
## Masonic Trivia

- Charles Lindbergh, Keystone Lodge 243, St. Louis, once appeared on the cover of Time Magazine, not for any of his accomplishments in aviation, but for his role in inventing what was called an artificial heart!
- Tom Mix, early cowboy movie superstar, was raised a Master Mason at Utopia Lodge 537 of Los Angeles on February 21, 1925. He was so excited about becoming a Freemason that, in a day prior to life endowments, he immediately paid the dues for his first ten years of membership.
- King C. Gillette (1855-1932), Columbian Lodge, Boston, was the inventor of the iconic razor bearing his name. Founder of the Gillette corporation, he built one of the great companies of the 20th century and is considered a pioneer titan of industry in the American capitalistic system. In spite of that, Brother Gillette was a committed Socialist!
- In 1874, archaeologists discovered a room in Pompeii preserved from 79 A.D. in the ash of Mt. Vesuvius. Inside was a trestle-board, showing a large square above a skull and a plumb line. In the same room were an urn representing a pot of manna, a setting maul, trowel, spade, a small staff and a chest representing the Ark of the Covenant. Over the door of the house was an inscription, "Diogenes the Mason."
- Bro Sir Winston Churchill, Rosemary Lodge No.2581, Prime Minister and one of the great leaders of the 20th century, on April 9, 1963 became the first person ever to receive the designation "Honorary Citizen of the United States."
- Bro Bartholomew Ruspini, a member of Burning Bush Lodge in Bristol, and founding member of the Lodge of the Nine Muses, was a progressive 18th century dental surgeon who developed one of the earliest forms of toothpaste. He founded the Royal Masonic School for Girls, which still exists today. He used most of his resources for charity and when he died, left a modest annuity which could support only his wife — two of his granddaughters therefore becoming wards of the Royal Masonic School he had founded.

# Lodge Union & Crown No 307

## Sponsored Walk

### by 2 Auld Masons



The walk took place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 by Brothers Ronnie MacIsaac and Billy Petrie one of whom is well over 65 years old, and I will let make your mind up as to which one that is.

### The Route



We had arranged to Start at Lodge Thistle & Crown No 1167 up the hill in Neilston at 09.00 hrs. Next stop down the hill to Barrhead and our very own Union & Crown No 307. Must say the building is looking great.

Quick stop and photo taken then onward to the next stop our very good friends Lodge Nitshill No 1478, we were making good time (I think)

Out of Dove Street and onto the Nitshill Rd heading towards Darnley and a stop in at Starbucks for coffee and cake (don't tell the wives) a carry out I may add no sit in for us.

Onward to the Speirsbrigde round about then Eastwood toll and onward and upwards to Clarkston roundabout and down to Lodge St Conval No1359.

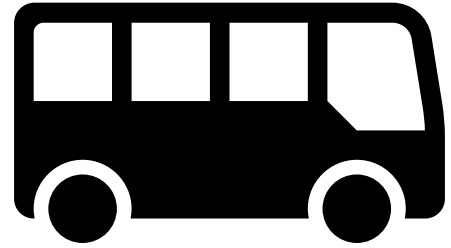
At last the end was in sight a short walk round the corner to Lodge St John Busby No 458 and lodge No 5 of the day, 10 miles and 3hrs from the start (no bad for 2 auld guys even if I do say so myself) many thanks to all who donated, we have raised £500 plus (final figure still to be counted)



Our grateful thanks, to both our wives for dropping us of at the start and picking us up at the end, and to all who supported us with their donations)

# Visitation to Arbroath

On Saturday the 5th October, a delegation of 26 brethren from Lodge Union & Crown, led by our own RWM Bro Robert Dickson Scott, embarked on a much-anticipated sojourn to Lodge St.Vigean, Numbering 101, in Arbroath, where we would perform our much requested POW Degree.



Departing from the lodge at approximately 11am, the brethren were all in good spirits and looking forward to the day ahead.

Upon arrival in Arbroath, we were greeted with a warm and cordial welcome from the lodge members and indeed, their very own Right Worshipful Master Bro Tomas Adam.

The RWM Bro Tomas proudly informed us that over 90 brethren had signed the book that day, representing more than 24 different lodges from within and without their own province.

He also mentioned that they had been trying to book Lodge Union and Crown for the past two years, such was our reputation regarding our dramatised degrees and in particular our POW Degree.

To say that the Prisoner of War degree was met with an enthusiastic response from the audience would be a bit of an understatement.

The brethren in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the lighter moments of that degree, but also commented on PM Bud's or Auld Gauld as he affectionately known in the degree, commented on his closing charge, saying that it was the most poignant moment of the day, bringing home the stark reality of the situation that these prisoners found themselves in and causing much reflect on.

The evening continued with a delightful harmony, during which the RWM Bro Tomas toasted our contribution and several PM's and brethren of the lodge thanked us for our performance.

A magnificent quach was presented to our own RWM to mark our participation in the day.

At the end of the harmony, each of the brethren of Lodge Union and Crown left with a small token of appreciation in the form of a pair of Arbroath smokies, a fitting reminder of a memorable visit.

As a wee aside, thankfully the smokies were all individually vacuum sealed or the journey home on the bus may have been memorable for a whole different reason!

Our very own instruction Master Bro. Graham Manson was telling me just last night at our instruction class that he had cause to visit the lodge in Arbroath last week and that they were still buzzing from our trip.

So to everyone involved in that day, well done and on behalf of our own RWM Bro Robert Dickson Scott, thank you.

# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 30 Years Ago

No. 177

October 1994

At the Regular meeting held on Tuesday 4th October, the following three Candidates :

**JAMES FLOCKHART      WILLIAM LAIRD      JOHN SHAW**

were passed to the F.C. Degree by the Office-bearers and Brethren of our good friends from Lodge Nitshill, No 1478 in what was a fine Second degree from our near neighbours.

**Lodge Opened : 7-30pm      Lodge Closed : 9-32pm      Attendance : 117**

On Tuesday 18th October, the Lodge held its Annual Business Meeting. Those in attendance cannot fail to have been impressed by the excellent manner in which business of the evening was conducted by the Executive Office-bearers. The Worthy Secretary and Treasurer submitted their respective reports to the Lodge and whilst both stated that the past year had been a busy and difficult one for the Lodge, the impressive achievements attained by Union & Crown were there for all to see and the onus was now on everyone concerned to strive to maintain the fine progress made and ensure a better and brighter future for the Lodge.

At the close of the meeting, Bro Alexander G Murray P.G.M. accompanied by a distinguished deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, and at the invitation of the Lodge officially dedicated and opened the new Function Suite in an impressive and entertaining manner, with all in attendance grateful to the PGM for his fine efforts.

Thereafter the evening`s entertainment was in the more than capable hands of that fine Comedian "EDDIE DEVINE", who kept all the Brethren in a continual state of laughter in what was a worthy harmony for the occasion.

**Lodge Opened : 7-30pm      Lodge Closed : 9-09pm      Attendance : 83**

### Bits & Pieces

Well done to Bro Alexander Irvine`s lovely wife Alison who was successful in the prestigious "Silver Jack" competition at Shanks Bowling Club.

We were pleased to discover that Lodge Dunlop Caledonia, No.1408 has managed to attract a Candidate, the first one in over two years.

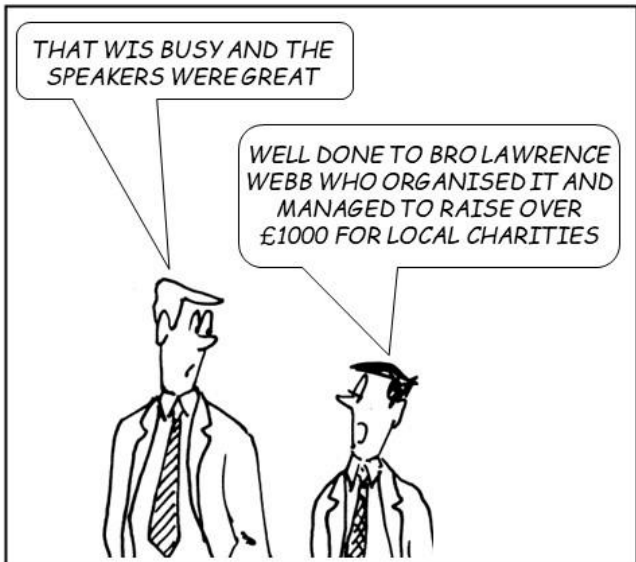
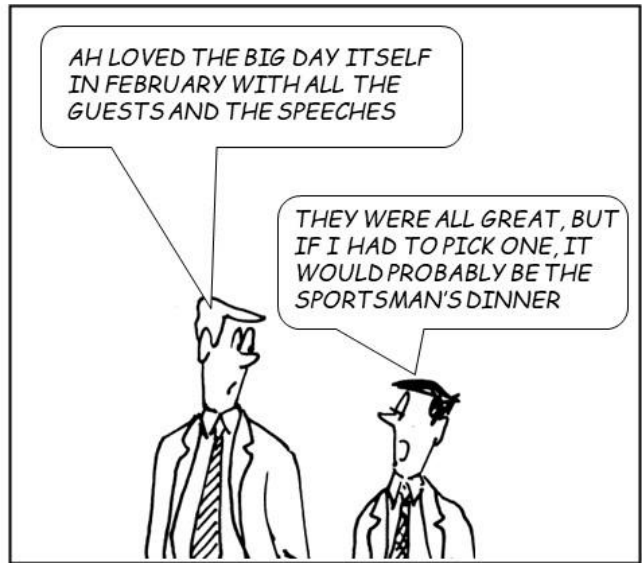
We are indebted to Bro Robert McDonald PM of Lodge St Conval No.1359, for his generous donation to our funds.

Bro Elias Sudding PM, who is installing the RWM at our forthcoming Installation, has informed us that two of his colleagues at work within the Volvo plant in Irvine, are also installing their respective RWM`s this year. As they are located in a fairly small area, within a couple of yards of each other, we can imagine that the mumbling generated by them at times could be quite deafening !

We congratulate one of our Brethren, Bro Alan Forrest, on the recent birth of a lovely daughter. Bro Alan now resides down in Ochiltree in Ayrshire.

We bumped into PM Ian Wallace at a meeting in Lochwinnoch recently, where he is a publican, and he inquired after a fair number of the Brethren and passed on his regards to the Brethren of the Lodge.

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW OCT 2024

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

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown307.com>