

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



May 2023

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No. 464



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

It may only be a respite of a few short months but it comes as a lovely restful break from the pressures of ensuring that the necessary information is collated, written, typed and printed to meet the unforgiving master of a deadline

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

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

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

To all our readers at home and abroad have a nice Summer.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 5th September 2023

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

by the Brethren of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No 1167

Harmony



Tuesday 19th September 2023

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

by the Brethren of Lodge Nitsbill, No 1478

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 2nd May The Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class carried out a Dramatised Master Mason Degree.

All in attendance, were entertained by what was another rendition of our first, and still popular, dramatised degrees.

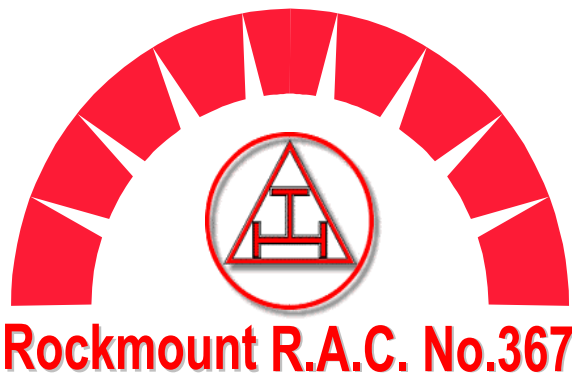
Also on that evening, Bro Robert Campbell Ritchie, was affiliated in to the Lodge.

Thereafter the Brethren adjourned downstairs to the Function Suite, where all enjoyed a fine Lodge Harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.53pm

Attendance : 65



At the Regular Meeting of Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter held on Tuesday 9th May, the Companions were entertained by Bro Sandy Graham PZ, No.109, who gave a fine 'Banner Lecture'

Bro Sandy is to be congratulated, for the interesting manner in which he presented his subject, thoroughly appreciated by all in attendance.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 12th September** at 7-30pm where the Chapter will be holding its annual business Meeting, and election of Office-bearers for session 2023-2024.

MEC Graham Manson MEZ and his Office-bearers extend a cordial invitation to all Companions, especially any visitors, to attend on that evening.

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes over the last month, were :

2nd May

£20 : Bro Stewart Gray PM

£10 : Bro Alan Izatt WJW

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, is still taking names for this year, with the annual fee still very good value at £10. Anyone interested should see Bro George as soon as possible.

Famous Freemasons

(This month we tell of a seafarer who became a swimmer of note, and became the first to successfully swim the English Channel solo)

Brother Captain Matthew Webb (1848 – 1883)

Matthew Webb was born in High Street, Dawley (now part of Telford), in Shropshire on the 19th of January 1848. He was one of fourteen children of a surgeon. Matthew Webb, and his wife Sarah Cartwright Webb, and learned how to swim in open water in the River Severn in Coalbrookdale just a few miles from his home.

In 1860, at the age of twelve, he was apprenticed for two years, aboard the training vessel "Conway", with Rathbone Brothers, Shipping, in Liverpool, and later with the same company, he enlisted for a further three years apprenticeship aboard their Eastern cargo ships where he passed the examination as Second Mate.

In the summer of 1863, while at home, Webb rescued his 12-year-old brother Thomas from drowning in the Severn near Ironbridge.[]

Between 1866 and 1875, Matthew served on seven ships. During his service aboard the Cunard liner "Russia" in April 1873 on a voyage between New York and Liverpool, he dived into the mid-Atlantic in an attempt to save a man who had fallen overboard. The man was never found but Webb's bravery made him a hero.

For this effort, he was awarded, by the Royal Humane Society, the "Stanhope Gold Medal" for bravery and a reward of £100. He was the first to receive this award.

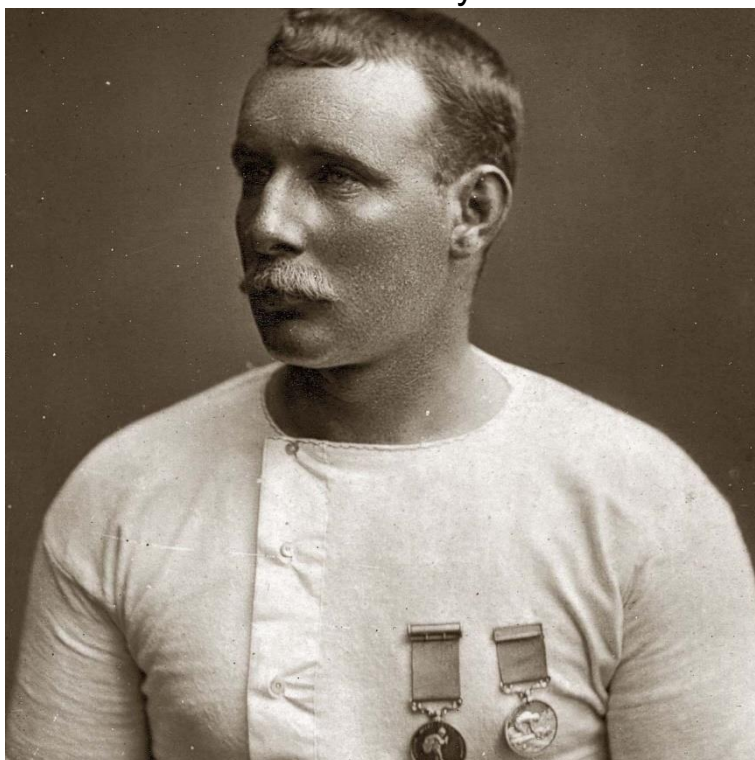
In 1873, Webb was captain of the Emerald steamship when he read about a man who had attempted to swim the English Channel and failed. The account inspired Webb and he resigned as captain to train for the challenge.

He became inspired to try, and began training, first at Lambeth Baths, then in the cold waters of the Thames, the English Channel and Hollingworth Lake.

His early training was backed by Fred Beckwith who was the "Professor" at Lambeth Baths. Beckwith organised a spectacle by showing Webb swimming miles in the River Thames.

Webb completed 'nearly six miles', but the poor public interest meant that Beckwith lost money. As a result, Webb took another manager.

He now concentrated on swimming, and in preparation for the Channel swim, in July 1875, he swam 20 miles in five hours, from Blackwall to Gravesend on the



River Thames. He made an attempted on the Channel on August 12th 1875, but due to adverse weather conditions, it was abandoned after seven hours.

Twelve days later, he set off again at 12.56pm on August 24th 1875, diving into the Channel from Admiralty pier in Dover, and, accompanied by the Lugger "Ann", and two small rowing boats, in one of which was his brother in law, George Ward. He began to swim breast stroke towards Calais. At 10.41 on the 25th he finally reached land near Calais, the first man to swim the English Channel. He had been in the water for a total of 21 hours and 45 minutes, and due to the changing tides, had covered a distance of 39 miles.



Following his success, Webb wrote his own book, titled 'The Art of Swimming' and took part in exhibition swimming matches and stunts.

He was initiated into Neptune Lodge, No.22 at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street, London on 25 November 1875, being passed and raised in the same lodge the following year.

On 27 April 1880, Webb and Madeline Kate Chaddock were married at St Andrew's Church, West Kensington, and they had two children, Matthew and Helen.

Webb's final stunt was to be a dangerous swim through the Whirlpool Rapids on the Niagara River below Niagara Falls, a feat many observers considered suicidal. Although Webb failed in an attempt at raising interest in funding the event, on 24 July 1883, he jumped into the river from a small boat located near the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge and began his swim. Accounts of the time indicate that in all likelihood Webb successfully survived the first part of the swim, but died in the section of the river located near the entrance to the whirlpool.

Webb was interred in Oakwood Cemetery, Niagara Falls, New York. A memorial in his home town of Dawley, Shropshire, reads: "Nothing great is easy."

BITS & PIECES

- Congratulations to Bro Jim Urie's son Callum, who very recently passed his driving test. Callum is of course the grandson of Bro Iain Nicol.
- Great to see that Bro Jimmy Laing is up and about again after a spell of ill health. He even made it down to the Wednesday Sausage Club last week.
- Thanks to our newest Affiliate Bro Campbell Ritchie, who stepped in at short notice and took part in our recent Dramatised MM. Already an Honorary Member of 307, he certainly '*went down well*' during the degree.
- You don't realise that our worthy Treasurer – Bro George McGrandles PM, who now lives in Pitlochry, has to make a return journey of almost 185 miles just to attend the Lodge for meetings etc.
- Congratulations to Bro Brian Nicol and his lovely wife Joanne who were married this month in picturesque Luss on Loch Lomondside.
- It was good to see Bro Colin McLardy PM home from Houston in Texas for a few days last month. He took part in his elder son Ross's MM Degree in the Lodge.
- Congratulations to Bro Stewart Gray PM who recently turned 60.
- Congratulations to our Right Worshipful Master's younger son Ryan, a serving policeman and member of Lodge Ardrossan RA, No.320 who recently got married.
- It was good to see 5 Right Worshipful Masters attending our recent meeting. Amongst them was our own Past Master Bro Willie Renfrew, who as RWM of Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426 headed a small, but distinguished deputation.
- Great to see Bros Bob and Tom Smillie attending the Lodge recently. Although Bro Tom doesn't stay too far away, it was a fair trek for his elder brother Bob to travel down from Callendar.
- We gather that our annual Golf Outing on Friday 9th June has been rearranged to the local Fereneze Golf Club, due to the extortionate cost of a bus. Any Lodge members wishing to attend should contact Bro Ronnie MacIsaac IPM as soon as possible (☎ 07718 828 061)
- Congratulations to Bro Douglas Junner PM, who amazingly recently turned 85. He looks and acts at least 20 years younger than he actually is !!
- More news on Bro Colin McLardy PM who is currently living and working in Houston in Texas as an Engineering Manager for First Bus. We gather he's on the move again, this time to Las Vegas in Nevada.
- Bumped into Bro Brian Morton PM recently, who was on a visit down to Glasgow from his home in Aberdeenshire. He told me that he is offering his extensive collection of Masonic Ties to anyone who may be interested. If this takes your fancy, please let us know and we'll pass it on to Bro Brian.

Fair Chuffed

I have to say, I was “fair chuffed” when PM Jim Renfrew asked me to write an article for the Mallet, our own Masonic newsletter. The Mallet is something I look forward to reading every time a new edition is published and so like I said, I was very honoured to be asked to contribute... and then reality set in.

PM Jim, it's fair to say, has consistently researched, edited and indeed written interesting stories and educational articles for decades. He has kept the brethren of Lodge Union & Crown 307 and beyond, informed and entertained, he has provided a lifeline for brethren who can no longer physically attend meetings and who now eagerly await every new edition of the Mallet to be published so they read it from cover to cover.

So, what the heck can a wee boy from Castlemilk write about, how do I make any meaningful contribution and hopefully inspire or educate brethren who have attending meetings long before I came on the scene? These are the thoughts that are swirling about my head as I sit here writing this article. Now, I'm a quiet and inquisitive chappie by nature. Seemingly I used to drive my poor mum to despair as a wee boy, always asking “How does this work mum?” Or “Why do we do that, mum?”

So rather than me trying to teach my granny to suck eggs and educating you in Freemasonry, in this my debut article, my hope is, that you might educate me!

I've been involved in most of the degree work, in one guise or another, that Union & Crown have undertaken in the past 5 or 6 years. Starting as JD and ending up this year as SW. I come along faithfully on a Monday evening to participate in the instruction classes and to learn the relevant degree work associated to my office. I do this to the best of my ability. However, I'm still a bit puzzled by a few things. For instance, as JW I was constantly being asked to “prove the lodge to be closed tyled” even when no-one had left, or indeed entered the lodge since the last time it was close tyled?

Or, why when the wardens accompany the RWM after the obligation to assist him in the signs and secrets of the EA degree do they put their columns on the floor exactly half way down the carpet and exactly half way off the carpet?

Perhaps, you've never noticed these things? Perhaps you've been coming along for years and never asked these questions, perhaps you're not too bothered (in the nicest way of course) but that in itself used to bother me! I simply didn't understand why these questions hadn't been asked and answered (perhaps they have and if so can you please enlighten me).

And that brings this article, right back to me.

Another teaching of our beloved Craft is that as Freemasons we should strive to move from rough ashlar to smooth ashlar, to improve ourselves, to endeavour to be better, act differently and think differently, to apply our Masonic principles of brotherly love relief and truth to our everyday life. I'm sure you are already familiar with the phrase “Freemasonry, making good men better”?

You see, it took me a while to realise that perhaps my journey from rough Ashlar to smoother Ashlar (I don't believe we ever become fully smooth) starts introspectively, by realising that not everyone is like me, by trying to be more tolerant of the differences we all have and actually learning to celebrate these differences.

So, if you don't have an inquisitive nature, or you aren't particularly bothered about the things I have asked in this article, then that's ok by me! All I would ask in return is to look at the things that bother you about Freemasonry and perhaps see them from a different perspective.

(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This time it is another 'New Town Lodge', however this one is in the West of our province)

The Lodge of Erskine, No.1566



The idea that a Masonic Lodge be founded at Erskine was first formulated in the minds of a group of Master Masons in Erskine Hospital in May 1959. The proposal received so much support that the foundation meeting took place on the 20th May 1959 when Bro. Daniel Harper was elected chairman with Bro. J R Martin as acting Secretary.

The brethren then began the hard work, raising funds, obtaining premises, jewels, regalia etc., it was agreed the Lodge colours would be Thistle Green and the Erskine Tartan, with premises in the Old Erskine Parish Church Hall, Bishopton. Many of the items were donated or made by the brethren themselves, along with many gifts from sister lodges.

With Lodge Captain Spiers No. 791 and Lodge Inchinnan No. 1405 as sponsors, and with the support of the PGL of Renfrewshire East a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to "The Lodge of Erskine" No 1566 on the 4th of February 1960. The

Consecration Ceremony took place on Saturday 23rd April 1960 in The Old Erskine Parish Church Hall when the RWPGM Bro. Robert MacMenemy installed Bro. Daniel Harper as RWM.

The lodge crest has three distinct parts :

The **Cannon** – alludes to the nearby Royal Ordnance Factory

The **Wheat sheaf** – the farming traditions of Bishopton and Erskine

and the **Staff and Serpent** (single caduceus) – alludes to the connection between our lodge and Erskine hospital for ex-servicemen and women.

On the 27th May 1960 at our first meeting, Lodge Georgetown No. 1170 conferred the E.A. Degree on five candidates. For the next few years founder members took the chair until October 1967 when Bro. William Shackleton became the first initiate to become RWM, his installing Masters being all the previous masters, six in all. Those early years in Bishopton were happy with all the brethren striving to build up the lodge. Then in 1971 a body blow, the Church Hall was to be sold.



After much searching Lodge Inchinnan came to our rescue by allowing us the use of their very fine Temple, so on October 1972 our first meeting in Inchinnan was held when Bro. Mervyn Spencer was installed as RWM,. Our meetings then changed to the second Thursday of each month.

In 1985 we celebrated our 25th Anniversary. The Re-dedication Ceremony was carried out by Bro. Alexander G. Hutton PGM of RE with Bro. D. Stark as our RWM.

In 1997 Bro. Victor Petre became our first P.M. to become RWM again. In January 2002 Bro. G.A. Birkett P.M. became Honorary PGJW of PGLRE.

In October 1999 Bro. Robert Bell of Lodge Neptune No 419 became the first affiliate to take the chair of King Solomon in The Lodge of Erskine.

Throughout our short and brief history we have received much support from PGLRE where in the past Bro. J. Kinninmonth PM and Bro. K Ross PM served with distinction. The late Bro. G.A. Birkett PM served as a member of PGLRE as did the late Bro. John Kerr PM. Bro Andrew Greig continue with this tradition.

We celebrated our 50th anniversary, with the rededication ceremony ably conducted by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East Brother David Alexander Reid and Bro. Robert M. McPhee (BSc. MBCS) was the RWM of that year.

The Lodge now meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from September through to May.





Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 5th September Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

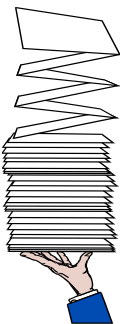
Monday 18th September Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 5th September Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a FC Degree will be conferred by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478

(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 Bobby Clark RWM or via the Lodge Website at <http://unionandcrown307.com>) or any senior Office-bearer,

They will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province)

Paper Appeal



As ever, we are always on the lookout for that most essential of commodities – PAPER, for our journal.

As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² paper, preferably white but any colour will do. Without sufficient stocks, we simply cannot print enough copies of our journal to satisfy our wide-ranging readership. So if you have the odd ream lying about just let us know and we'll even arrange to have it picked-up if necessary.

In addition, we also need 160g/m² card for various tasks within the Lodge.



Did you Know ?

- That when the Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717, it had no jurisdiction, no ritual, nor any constitution or laws, with the practice of issuing Warrants to Daughter Lodges beginning some 40 years later in 1757.
- That in addition to being the world's oldest fraternal organization, Freemasonry is also the world's largest such organization, boasting an estimated worldwide membership of some 6 million people, according to a report by the BBC. As the name implies, a fraternal organization is one that's composed almost solely of men who gather together for mutual benefit, frequently for professional or business reasons.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 27 Years Ago

No. 194

May 1996

Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 7th May the following two Candidates :

THOMAS KANE JOHN GIBSON

were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order by a deputation of the Office-bearers and brethren from our visitors of the evening, Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167, in what was a fine rendition of the E.A. Degree.

Lodge opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-53pm Attendance : 143

At the Regular meeting held on Tuesday 21st May the following Candidates :

JAMES McAUSLAND LEN OLPHERT THOMAS KANE JOHN GIBSON

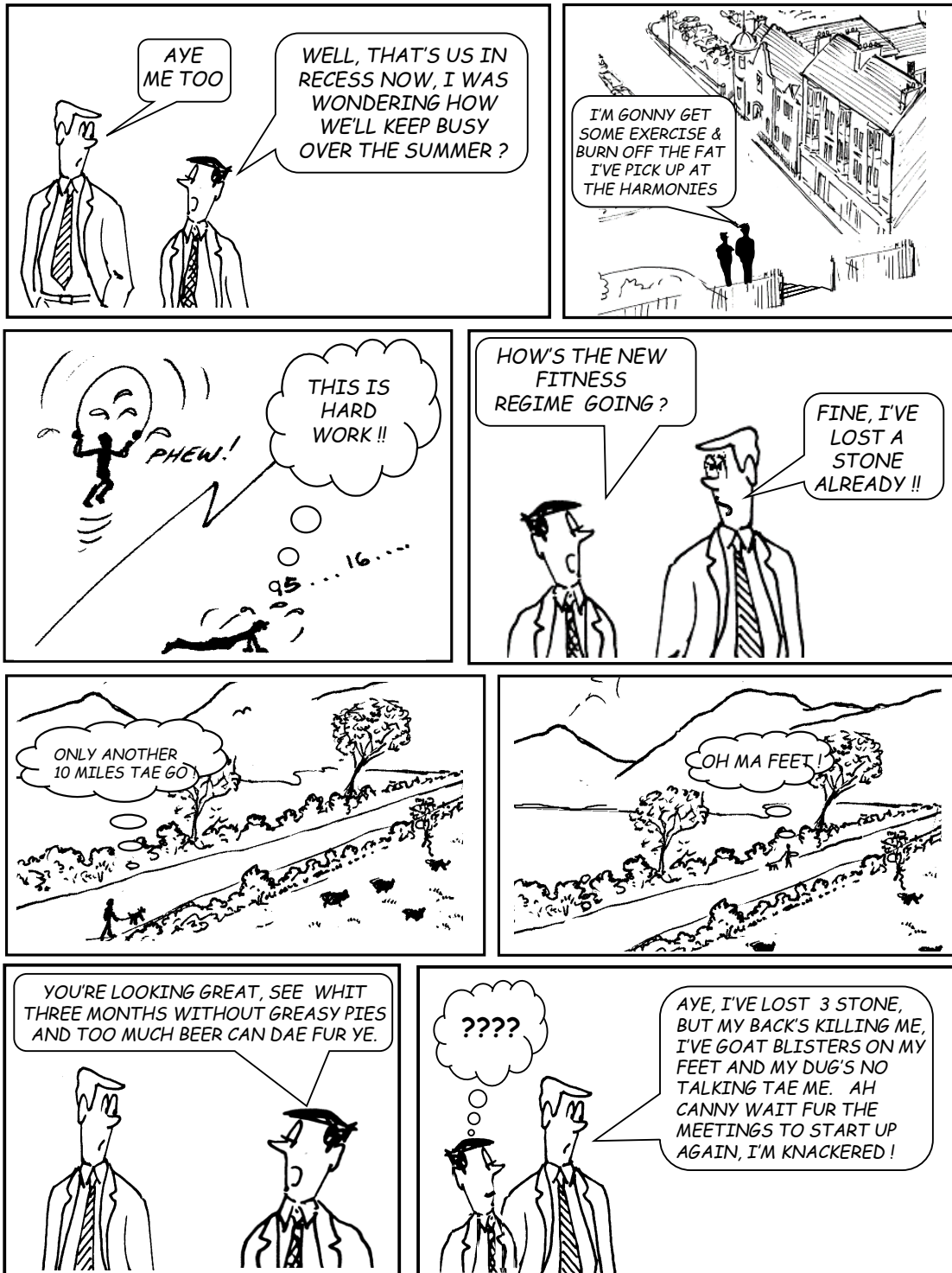
were passed to the F.C. Degree by our good friends from Paisley, Lodge Craigielea, No. 1218. The deputation of Brethren was ably led by Bro Donnie Connell R.W.M. and all present cannot fail to have been impressed by the extremely high standards set by the Brethren from Maxwellton Road in what was undoubtedly a good F.C. Degree.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-39pm Attendance : 104

BITS AND PIECES

- ◆ We gather that Bro Colin Maclean and his lovely wife Joyce are moving back into the town after a 10 year sojourn in Neilston. They've bought one of the bungalows in Eildon Drive.
- ◆ Congratulations to Bro John Livingstone's younger daughter, Kim, who recently passed her Driving Test at the first attempt.
- ◆ It was great to see that the recent Music Quiz organised by Bro Robert Miller WJD was a success, thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance, and that he even managed to contribute £85 to Lodge funds.
- ◆ On the subject of fund raising, We believe that somewhere in the region of £1000 has been raised for the Building Fund by Bro Willie Renfrew's Tote Double over the last 9 months and he is to be congratulated for his hard work.
- ◆ Commiserations to Bro Michael Hughes our Substitute Master on his recent misfortune with his taxi-cab. Less than 12 hours after he'd put it back on the road after extensive repairs costing almost £2000, another taxi smashed into it causing a sufficient damage for it to be considered a "write-off" !
- ◆ Congratulations to our own Bro Gordon Durie for his fine performance and headline catching hat-trick in the Scottish Cup Final. We hope that he enjoys further success as a member of Scotland's Pool at the forthcoming European Championships.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MAY 2023

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

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