

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



Summer 2020

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After an unusually long and extended Summer recess due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we should have been starting back this week. Unfortunately, we are still in the grip of the virus and it looks as if it may yet be some considerable time before we are allowed to come together and enjoy some fraternal fellowship.

Whilst there has been a partial shift towards something approaching normal life, with a gradual reopening of shops, pubs and restaurants etc. Even our own Social Club has now reopened, albeit in a reduced and restricted manner, we don't seem to be much closer to our hoped for return to regular meetings.

Indeed, the recent spike in infections across the West of Scotland, with Glasgow and East Renfrewshire in particular affected has done nothing to give confidence that there is any light at the end of the tunnel. The resultant partial lockdown imposed by the government looks as if our optimistic plans for a possible return to Freemasonry before the end of 2020 have been dashed.

Even with the most careful of social distancing, and all the precautions this entails, would in truth make it extremely difficult for a business meeting, much less an actual degree. Indeed a recent request to Provincial Grand Lodge for permission to hold a Management Committee meeting was rebuffed on the grounds that it was too soon, even though we gave firm assurances that the most careful of safety measures would be in place.

We are grateful to both our Worthy Secretary and Treasurer for their continued efforts on behalf of the Lodge during difficult times. As we approach the milestone of 200 days since our last Lodge meeting, with nothing as yet on the horizon, it is challenging for each and every one of us, regardless of our own individual circumstances. So let's stay safe, and prepare ourselves for a fresh beginning in our Lodge in the not too far distant future.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac intimates that, until further notice, there will be no Regular Meetings held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead.

When formal clearance is received from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, it is hoped there will be a resumption of meetings.

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M. Lodge Secretary



BITS & PIECES

- Our Instruction Master, Bro. Tom Mulholland P.M. would like to remind anyone wishing to try their hand at degree work that they should be making full use of all the spare time during the 'Lockdown' to perhaps learn some ritual parts, ready to start back.
- Best wishes to Bro Lawrence Webb and his popular wife Elaine, on their 40th Wedding anniversary.
- Brethren can tune in to the 'Virtual Instruction Class' being held on most Mondays at 7.30pm. If you want to participate, contact Bro Robert Scott WSW.
- We were appalled to discover that the grounds at the Marcus Humphrey Home in Bridge of Weir were vandalised recently.
- Congratulations to Bro Kenneth Robertson and his lovely fiancée Jackie following their recent engagement.
- It's pleasing to observe that several of the Brethren are still working away keeping the Lodge Buildings up to scratch, despite the restrictions caused by Covid-19.
- Our Worthy Treasurer has informed us that Lodge Test Fees are now due, and should be paid as soon as possible.
- Congratulations to Bro George Smith of Lodge Pollokshaws, No.153 on reaching his 90th Birthday recently. A local farmer, Bro George is a frequent visitor to 307.

Did You Know ?

- That it was rumoured Napoleon was a freemason but never proven, although he did adopt the title of “Protector of Freemasonry”. However, his four brothers were masons, many of his Officers, members of his Grand Council for the Empire and 22 of the 30 Marshals of France were also Freemasons. Even his wife, was admitted into a French female lodge in 1804.
- The Wilding family in Cheshire have tyled Lodge of Sincerity, No. 428, continuously since 1836, a total of 168 years. The current Tyler, Bro. Tony Wilding, is the 7th generation of the family to serve the Lodge.
- That Masonic symbols are usually regarded as existing because of the secrecy of the fraternity. However, in reality, Freemasonry started being illustrated by symbols because at the very beginning most Freemasons could not read, so the symbols served to remind the members of the teachings of the Fraternity. This same philosophy applies to signs and tokens as up until the modern era, most could not read or write and these were the credentials, resumes and diplomas of the day.
- In 1916, during his year as Worshipful Master of Aldershot Camp Lodge, No. 1331, Bro. Major Henry Sadler presided over 136 Degree ceremonies: 48 initiations, 42 Passings and 46 Raisings. The candidates were mostly NCOs awaiting transfer to the Western Front. During his masonic career Worshipful Bro. Sadler performed a total of 174 Degree ceremonies
- In the continental rites of Masonry, as practised in France, in Germany, and in other countries of Europe, it is an invariable custom to present the newly-initiated candidate not only, as we do, with a white leather apron, but also with two pairs of white kid gloves, one a man’s pair for himself, and the other a woman’s, to be presented by him in turn to his wife or his betrothed, according to the custom of the German masons, or, according to the French, to the female whom he most esteems, which, indeed, amounts, or should amount, to the same thing.
- That the town of Joppa was seaport town that supplied Jerusalem during the construction of King Solomon's Temple. By 1870 it was called Joffa, and today is a suburb of the modern Israeli town of Tel Aviv.

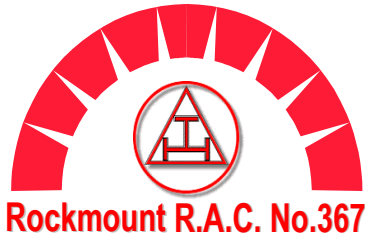


Masonic Thought

*As we continue to improve ourselves in Masonry,
we are indeed improving life.*

*We know from history that without ideals to guide us,
the garden of a man's life will not grow into a place of beauty.*

Bro Stanley F. Maxwell



Companions, I hope you and your families are all keeping well. We are now well into August, and there is still nothing positive to report on a return to normal working. As soon as we learn anything different, you can rest assured that we'll inform the Companions accordingly.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST PRINCIPAL

Hi Companions,

Fraternal greetings to you all and your families and I hope you are all safe and well. First can I thank all the Companions who took part in the latest Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 29th July.

Whilst we welcome the further easing of the restrictions by the Government, we remain unsure what the future holds with regards to chapters reopening and with our annual Installation date on the horizon it still appears at this moment very unlikely we will be commencing activities in the foreseeable future.

With the above in mind a discussion took place for the year ahead and I'm delighted to say that the office-bearers present have all agreed to continue in their respective offices. The experience and enthusiasm of the office-bearers should give the chapter a solid foundation, but it is also important to look to the future and ways to communicate, recruit and retain companions.

As I stated previously, the Trustees continue to work on behalf of the Companions/Chapter, and I am extremely grateful for the support I have personally received from them. Both Jim (Treasurer) and Hugh (Scribe E), gave excellent verbal reports for the year 2019/20 and on behalf of the Chapter and the Companions I thank you.

Can I again ask if any Companion has any information regarding the Chapter, or members, could they please inform our Scribe – Hugh and if relevant, he will include it in future communications.

MEC Harry Lloyd MEZ

Questions & Answers

Q When will our first meeting be ?

A Sadly we cannot say. Rest assured that we are monitoring the pandemic situation. As soon as the various bodies give us a 'Go' we will be ready to advise you.

Q Will there be an A.G.M. ?

A When we do resume, the first meeting will, by necessity, take the form of a business meeting and AGM, so that the Chapter can receive reports, comment, and hopefully agree on actions and recommendations taken during lockdown.

Q Will there be an Installation ?

A Following a Zoom meeting of Supreme and the Provincial Grand Superintendents on 28th July, it was intimated that Chapters can have their nominations, elections and installation on the same evening.

Alternatively, the current office-bearers may remain in post for a further year.

Hugh Cattigan PZ, Scribe E.

Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Scottish Brethren, this month we turn to a prominent professional footballer who was part of Rangers '9-in-a-Row' team)

Bro Ian Ferguson (Born 1967)

Ian was born on the 15th March 1967, the second youngest of six children. He was brought up in Janefield Street, Glasgow, a stone's throw from Celtic Park.

Ian Ferguson started his professional footballing career with Clyde Football Club in 1984, making 26 appearances in a two year spell, scoring six goals. He then signed for St.Mirren in 1986 making 57 appearances and scoring 10 goals. One of these came in the 1987 Scottish Cup Final when there was 10 minutes left in extra time. Up popped a 20 year old youngster to smash the ball past Billy Thomson and send the whole of Paisley into a frenzy. They had won the Scottish cup for only the third time in the club's history. This truly was Roy of the Rovers stuff and Ian Ferguson's name will forever be mentioned by the Buddie faithful.



February 15th 1988 was a day that will live with Ian for years to come. St.Mirren had agreed a transfer fee of £800,000 from Manchester United, it was an open secret that Rangers wanted him and he became more annoyed that the board would rather see him go to England than sell him to Rangers. While travelling down to Manchester in the car, he told the driver to about turn. He went back to Paisley and forced the club to sell him to his boyhood heroes, Glasgow Rangers.

Ranger's manager Graeme Souness eventually got his man and Ferguson signed for his boyhood idols nine months after lifting the Scottish Cup and went on to become a Rangers Legend, spending 12 years at the club.

Bro Ian was Initiated in Lodge Scotia, No.178, Glasgow on 13th September 1988

Ian was a very hard working midfielder who wouldn't shirk from a tackle. He was a very hard player but certainly not a dirty player.

He went on to win the League Championship in his first season with Rangers, which was the start of the 9 in a row years. Ferguson is one of only three players to have all 9 winners medals from that time, Richard Gough and Bro Ally McCoist being the others.

Ferguson's total of ten Scottish League titles is a record second only to Bobby Lennox of Celtic (who won eleven).

In the 12 years that Ian was at Rangers he certainly mingled with some recognised international players, gracing the field with the likes of Graeme Souness, Terry Butcher, Ray Wilkins, Trevor Francis, Paul Gascoigne and Brian Laudrup to name but a few but mostly his pals Ian Durrant, Ally McCoist and the Late Davie Cooper.

He also featured in the first title win with manager Dick Advocaat in 1998–99 (a campaign in which the club won a treble, Ferguson appearing as a substitute in the finals of the League Cup and Scottish Cup). The following season he found his playing time increasingly limited under Advocaat, and moved on to Dunfermline Athletic in 2000.

Ian spent two years at East End Park, during which he helped newly-promoted Dunfermline to keep their place in the top division (9th in 2000–01) and then improve it (6th in 2001–02). He then moved to Australia to see out the final years as a player and begin his managerial career.

Moving Down Under, Ferguson has had successful spells as manager and coach at Northern Queensland Fury F.C and Perth Glory where he was Assistant Manager to another former Ranger, Davie Mitchell, before becoming Manager in 2010.

Ferguson won nine international caps for Scotland, achieved at irregular intervals over a period of nine years. He played on the night Scotland beat France in the Parc des Princes. His last appearance was in a goalless draw against Estonia in February 1997.

Masonic Snippets

- ★ The letters of the English word GOD are the first three letters of Hebrew words for beauty, strength, and wisdom. G in Gomez, O in Oz, D in Dabar.
- ★ In July 1863, Confederate raiders rode into Versailles, Indiana, capturing the local militia and stealing the county treasury. The next day, Confederate General John Morgan learned that his men had also made off with the jewels of the local Masonic Lodge. They were returned the following day, and 8 of his men were disciplined. Morgan was from Davies Lodge No.22 in Lexington, Kentucky.
- ★ Winnedumah Lodge Bishop No.287 in California holds its meetings at 270 feet below sea level, the lowest Lodge in North America.
- ★ In 1954 Martin's Station Lodge No. 188 of Virginia was opened 952 feet below the surface of Cumberland Mountain in Cudjo's Cave, which lies between Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. and Middleburo, Kentucky. 345 Masons were present and a Master Mason degree was conferred.
- ★ All four Presidents of the Republic of Texas, David Burnett, Sam Houston, Mirabeau Lamar, and Anson Jones, were members of the Craft.
- ★ Between 1737 and 1779 two sailing ships of interest operated off the U.S. eastern seaboard, The Freemason and The Master Mason. The Freemason caught fire and sank in Marblehead Harbor, Massachusetts in 1779.
- ★ In 1799, Barton Lodge in Upper Canada accepted "good merchantable wheat" in payment of Lodge dues.
- ★ Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Jimenez was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Venezuela in 1947. In 1957 he became the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Japan.
- ★ William Hesketh Lever Lodge #2916 in Great Britain was the only lodge named for a nonMason, the first Viscount of Leverhulm (the soap manufacturer).
- ★ Lux in Tenebris Lodge # 3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness."
- ★ The oldest known Masonic writing, the Regius Manuscript or "Poem of Moral Duties," was discovered to be a Masonic document by a non-Mason, J. O. Halliwell, in 1839. It was written about 1390 and was given the name "Regius" because it was found in the Royal Library of England. It now resides in the British Museum.

We continue our series of articles which trace the history of some of the local Lodges. This month we trace the history of another of the earliest Lodges in the Province.)

Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, No.242

Records for Freemasonry in Johnstone date back to 1753 when Lodge Johnstone Kilwinning amalgamated with Glasgow Kilwinning (now No. 4). The lodge must have existed before 1753, but there are no written records and everything must be pure speculation. Briefly, Glasgow Kilwinning had a large number of merchants as members, some from the Houstoun family in the early 1700's – it is possible that these brethren were also members in Johnstone. The link with No. 4 is not too surprising since the 'Brig O'Johnstone' was the only route to the ports of Greenock and Port Glasgow. The highest masonic honour to the Houstoun family who founded both Johnstone and the lodge was that given to Sir George in 1790 - he was made Grand Master of Georgia.



The present lodge was chartered on 5th August, 1811 with the first RWM, William Houstoun, never attending a meeting – even when his father and brother were affiliated. Like most lodges, they met in pubs and houses with most of the town's innkeepers being admitted members (the first being the Cross Keys Public House – hence the name of the lodge's newsletter). The lodge flourished until 1855 when it nearly became dormant, but for one brother who continued to pay Grand Lodge dues. I believe the reason for the lack of interest was due to many of the members being on the council - in 1857 Johnstone became a burgh

which was a great deal of work to get this through. However, from 1863 the lodge went through a dramatic period with sometimes 8, 9 or more candidates receiving all three degrees – quite a thought now to have three on one night!

In 1912, the lodge moved into the present building with 500 members. The Grand Master had sent a circular for inclusion in the Government of Ireland Bill to allow "Meetings of the Society of Freemasons" in Ireland to continue – this was backed by the lodge when the Secretary, Alex Caldwell, wrote to the Prime Minister supporting the clause. In 1920, a total of 78 master masons were advanced to the Mark Degree on one night – possibly a masonic record.

The lodge continued from strength to strength admitting many eminent brethren from the town and eventually celebrated its 175th Anniversary in

1986. Since then, the lodge has entertained lodges from the England, Ireland, the US and France.



On Thursday 30th July, Bro Jim Renfrew PM, Bro Jack Orr PM 1478, Bro George Paul PM 1167 and Bro David Dempster of Lodge Newton Mearns 1706 visited The Hub at the James McGuire Building on Main Street Barrhead to present a cheque for £735.00 on behalf of PGLRE and the five local Lodges.



The recipient was 'IncludeMe2Club' who are a small voluntary led charity working with children, young people and adults with an additional support need or disability including physical, learning or mental health, across East Renfrewshire, Glasgow and Renfrewshire.

Established in 2010, they provide a range of activities, programmes and events weekly that are accessible, affordable and achievable for Young People and Adults with Additional Support Needs, including Physical, Learning and Mental Health Disabilities.

They took possession of the James McGuire Building (formerly the Burgh Chambers) in January 2019 and have performed a miraculous refurbishment of a much-loved old building to include a Gallery, Gift Shop, Coffee Shop, Kitchen, Meeting Room and Offices for this busy charity.

The initiative was launched in March 2020, just before Lockdown, and despite this obstacle they have managed to provide 150 meals a day, five days a week for the last five months to many deserving cases from Eaglesham to Uplawmoor, and all points in between. In doing so they have clocked over 3300 volunteer manhours, and covered 4300 miles. A tremendous achievement.

The visiting Masons were met by Mr Paul McIlveny, who took time from his extremely busy schedule, to take the visitors on a tour of the building explaining about IncludeMe2Club and its extensive charitable works within the local community.

This was the second such donation made by the Local Lodges with £385 donated to the East Renfrewshire Foodbank at the end of June.



FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 10 Years Ago

No.336

September 2010

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 7th September, the following Candidate :

GEORGE McGRANDLES

was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order by an experienced degree team from our good friends from Lodge Nitshill, No.1478

It was a good, though EA Degree, ably conferred in the manner we have come to expect from the Brethren from 1478, and Bro David Bannerman RWM, can be assured that his degree team did a fine job.

Opened : **7.30pm**

Lodge Closed : **9.44pm**

Attendance : **87**

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 21st September, the same Candidate, was passed in to the second, square or FC degree by an experienced degree team from our close neighbours, Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167. Bro Ian Brenchley RWM, must have been pleased with both the numbers supporting him, and the performance of all who participated.

Opened : **7.30pm**

Lodge Closed : **9.31pm**

Attendance : **93**

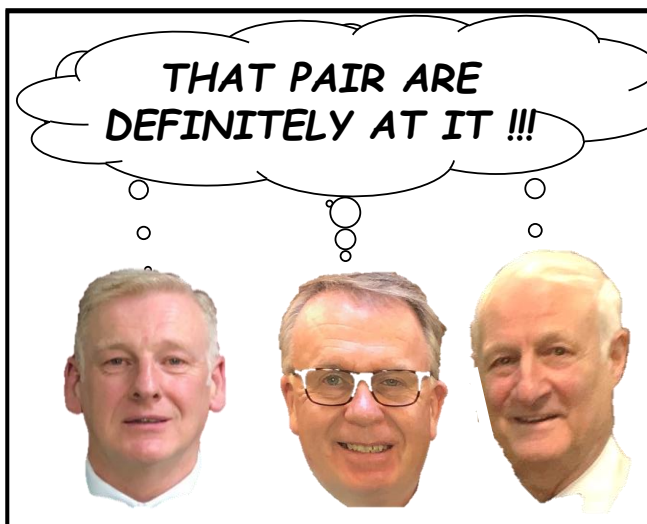
Bits & Pieces

- With the Installation Season almost upon us, a list of all Installations in the Province of Renfrewshire East has been posted in the Downstairs Lounge. If you can assist our Senior Office-bearers by attending the odd Installation, it would be greatly appreciated.
- Good to see that PM Jim Renfrew's daughter Leanne has returned safe and well after her Summer working in the US. She was based in Philadelphia, well known to masons through the 2004 movie "National Treasure"
- We gather that Bro Hugh Cattigan PM, is recovering well from his recent Bypass operation, and could be back in harness soon.
- On a similar subject, wasn't it great to see Bro George Munn PM 1478 at the recent visitation. Bro George had serious health problems over the summer months, resulting in several lengthy stays in hospital.
- We had a visitor from Australia at our first meeting in September, in the person of Bro. Jim Hunter of Lodge Avalon in Perth who came along and enjoyed being back at a meeting in his native Scotland.
- Bro. Gordon Simpson was also back at the lodge after a few years absence. Bro. Gordon has been heavily involved with the Kirk Session at Bourock Parish Church but found time to come along and enjoy his meeting.

MARK N' ARCHIE



SADLY, DUE TO THE LOCAL SPIKE IN COVID-19 INFECTIONS, BOTH MARK AND ARCHIE HAVE BEEN QUARANTINED FOR AT LEAST 14 DAYS



J RENFREW SUMMER 2020

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

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