

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union & Crown No.307



March 2017

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No. 402



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To many Lodge Union & Crown, No.307 is an extraordinary institution, not only within the town of Barrhead, but much further afield both Masonically and otherwise. We have achieved many remarkable things over the years, and have undoubtedly been trend-setters. This isn't only our own members who say such compliments about 307, but it is repeated far and wide by the many visitors who take the trouble to attend our meetings, and the hope that they will witness something a little different to the norm.

This doesn't just happen, it is the end product of much thought and careful planning, and the sheer hard work of a number of Brethren. Over 20 years ago, we set off on a journey, determined to alter the face of Freemasonry, and bring both entertainment and enlightenment to our meetings. The Dramatised MM Degree was introduced, and such was the success, we have taken this aspect much further and created several others, which are much in demand up and down the length of the country, and even further afield.

We have conducted degrees in both the Provincial Grand of Lodges of Renfrewshire East and Glasgow, and were delighted in October 2012 when we were invited to confer our Dramatised FC Degree within the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh. This further cemented the relationship with Grand Lodge following the magnificent deputation of 29 GL Brethren who took the trouble to attend the Centenary of our Temple in November 2010. Both The Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the Grand Secretary have attended our Lodge, and both have gratefully accepted Honorary Membership of Union & Crown, an honour that is not bestowed lightly.

It is therefore with great delight and anticipation that we welcome a deputation of almost 20 Brethren, headed by the R.W. Depute Grand Master, Bro William Ramsay McGhee, to 307 on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April where they will confer the M.M. Degree upon four of our candidates. We believe that this is another 'first' for the Scottish Craft, and we are justifiably proud of the recognition we will receive for this remarkable occasion.

Already in excess of 120 Brethren and guests have accepted invitations to this glittering occasion, which will be followed by a three course meal and the customary speeches.

**Bro Jim Renfrew PM, Editor**



# Lodge Union & Crown No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

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

*Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017*

*Business :*

*Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Master Mason Degree  
by The Grand Lodge of Scotland*

*Harmony*



*Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017*

*Business :*

*Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Dramatisation : 'Burns vs Kipling'*

*conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class*

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*James Miller P.M., Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

At the regular meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East made its annual visit to the Lodge. The deputation of 11 Brethren was led by our new R.W. Provincial Grand Master – Bro Neil Fraser. We are happy to say that the year under scrutiny received a ‘clear minute’ and Bro Ian Blair our IPM made suitable reply, thanking all those who had contributed to the success.

**Lodge Opened - 7:30pm    Lodge Closed – 8:28 pm    Attendance – 53**

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, the following :

**ROSS FLOCKHART    CHRISTOPHER GILBERT    PAUL SMITH**

received a fine Fellowcraft Degree from the members of the Lodge Instruction Class, headed on this occasion by Bro Willie Renfrew PM.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.02pm**

**Attendance : 81**



## 100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes for the month of February, were :

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

£10 : **Bro Lawrence Webb**

£5 : **Bro Nicol Hynd WSW**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

£10 : **Bro Nicol Hynd WSW**

£5 : **Bro David McArthur PM**



All those who are participating in this year's 100 Club, should ensure that they have paid their £10 entry fee to Bro Jim Kerr PM as soon as possible, as it appears that quite a few are still outstanding.

## Did you Know ?

- That 8 of the people who signed the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons. The first person to sign was John Hancock, a member of St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Polar explorers Bro Richard E. Byrd and Bro Bernt Balchen, both dropped Masonic flags on the North and South poles.



# Dates for you Diary

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

MM Degree by the Grand Lodge of Scotland

*(All Office-bearers are expected to be in attendance at 6pm to allow the Lodge to be opened and adjourned. All Brethren are asked to be at the Lodge for 7pm)*

*Only those Brethren with tickets will be guaranteed a seat in the Temple for the Degree, and at the dinner afterwards*

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the 'Burns vs Kipling' dramatisation will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.

*(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and Wardens are 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. Full details of all visitations, be they official or otherwise, are available from our RWM and his Wardens.*



## Anti-Masonry

Ever since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Freemasonry has been a favourite whipping boy of conspiracy theorists. However, in recent years a new breed of conspiracy writer has joined the traditional sources of this 'Black Legend' and a growing number of websites vent a new hatred of the Craft.

One such site even offers two free downloadable tapes, alleging that Freemasonry is responsible for most of the world's ills. It claims that the Gulf War against Iraq in 1991 was 'engineered, controlled and manipulated by an elite group' formed during the Crusades of the Middle Ages.

They say that this powerful and mysterious group who supposedly learned the dark arts from the pagan priests of Ancient Egypt, were indeed the Knights Templar, who following their suppression during the 14<sup>th</sup> Century allegedly found sanctuary in Scotland, before resurfacing 300 years later as the Freemasons.

Under this new guise they have 'engineered all the world's wars and revolutions' and control everything you read, hear and see. The conspiracy writer goes on to assert how subliminal messages are hidden in popular entertainment works such as the records of Michael Jackson, the blockbuster film 'Independence Day' and even the seemingly harmless cartoon series 'The Simpsons'

*(To be continued)*

# Bits & Pieces

- Bro Lawrence Webb, our Social Convener, is taking names for the 'Recess Dance', which is to be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. The tickets will cost £10 per couple and will be available shortly.
- The annual Lodge Golf Outing is now going to Haddington GC on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Anyone interested should see Bro Paul Stewart PM as soon as possible to book a place.
- Many thanks to those Brethren (and their families) who generously donated Paper for The Mallet.
- Great to see Brother Jim Heron back on his feet again , and in attendance at each of the recent Regular Meetings.
- Pleasing to see Bro Dougie Rankin managing to attend a recent Lodge Meeting. Bro Dougie works offshore and finds it difficult to catch our meetings.
- On the subject of Bro Dougie, it was humorous to see him standing alongside Bro Sam Berry at the meeting. Bro Dougie is 6'-4", whilst Bro Sam just scrapes over 5 ft !!
- Bro Paul Stewart our Golf Convenor is encouraging as many of our golfers as possible to enter for the Provincial Golf tournaments such as the Major Allan, and the McMenemy. Please contact him for further details,.
- It was a pleasure to see Bro Brian Morton PM travelling down from his home in Aberdeenshire for our last meeting. He kindly donated a special bottle of malt whisky to be used to raise funds for our forthcoming Bi-centenary in 2024.
- Congratulations to Bro Alick Aitken and his wife Jean, who celebrated their Golden Wedding with a party for over 50 family and friends in the Lodge Function Suite.
- On a similar note, best wishes to Bro Ian McPhie and his wife Nancy who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding.
- It was good to see a total of 6 RWMs attending our last meeting.
- One of our recent candidates – Bro Jason Dinning, was back in the lodge recently after his extensive trip to the Far East etc.
- There is a small party of around 10 (including a couple of wives) visiting the Lodge from our friends in Spring Lodge No.1174 in Houston Texas during early October. Bro Jim Renfrew is again co-ordinating the visit, and a draft itinery has been prepared for their week long visit.
- Thanks to everyone who has donated some much-needed paper. Please keep it coming !!
- Does anyone else think that our own Bro David McArthur PM bears an uncanny resemblance to the TV Physicist Dr Brian Cox ???



# COUNT CAGLIOSTRO



Giuseppe Balsamo Cagliostro, who later adopted the name 'Count Cagliostro', has the doubtful distinction of being the world's outstanding Masonic charlatan.

He became a Mason in London in 1776, and later conceived the idea of his 'Egyptian Rite', which he formulated and promoted with his wife, as a money making scheme and they founded lodges throughout Europe.

His colourful career came to an end when he established one of his lodges in Rome, where he was arrested on December 27, 1789, and charged with the 'crime' of being a Freemason. He was imprisoned by the papal police, and after his arrest he was questioned, tortured, before being tried and found guilty.

He died some years later while still in prison.



## Freemasonry in the White House

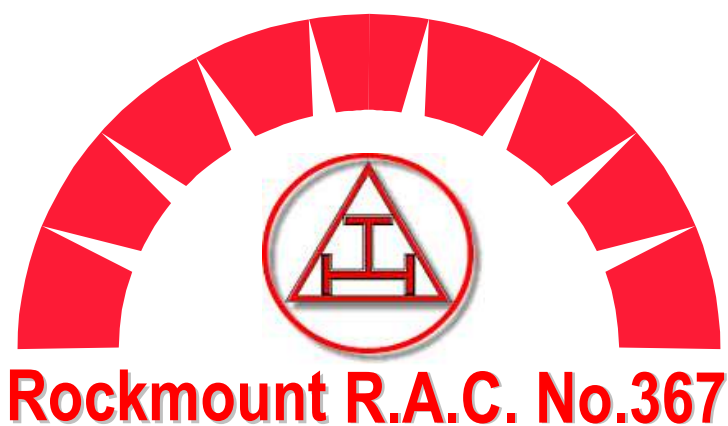
James Hoban was the architect who designed and supervised the construction of the White House. When British Forces destroyed this building during the War of 1812, he designed the one replacing it.

James Hoban was a Mason and was present when the cornerstone was laid by Maryland Lodge No. 9 of Georgetown on October 13, 1792, with Masonic ceremony. He was also a devout Roman Catholic.



During President Truman's term of office it was necessary to rebuild the White House. In 1952, while the work was in progress, Brother Truman discovered that some of the original stones contained traditional "Mason's marks". He directed that these stones be preserved and delegated the duty to Major General Harry H. Vaughan, Brother Renah F. Camalier, and the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

These stones were distributed to the Grand Lodges of the United States and to certain territories and foreign governments. On February 22, 1966, the last stone was presented to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial Association for display in the Temple on Shooter's Hill



At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, the following Candidate :

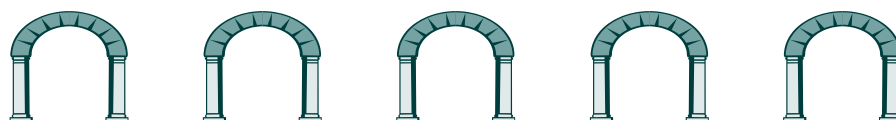
**Bro. Allan MacGregor**

a MM of Lodge Eaglesham No. 1265 received a fine Royal Arch Degree from the Companions of Rockmount RAC. The Companions taking part in the degree are to be congratulated on their work.

There then followed a harmony downstairs in the function suite.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April** where a Mark Affiliation and Excellent Masters Degree will be conferred by the office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC, No.367.

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



## *Rockmount Cryptic Council*

The Companions of Rockmount CC met on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, where a business meeting was held, due to no Candidate being available.

TIM Robert McCulloch was grateful to all who attended the meeting, and shared in the harmony afterwards.



## **Lodge Coffee Morning**

The Worthy Deacons are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to raise some funds for the Lodge. Donations of home baking, and other raffle prizes etc. would be most welcome.

Please contact Bro Bobby Clark WSD or Bro Grant Maybury WJD for further Details.



# Visitation



On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 26 Brethren travelled down to Ardrossan on the Ayrshire Coast, where we have been invited to confer the Mark Ceremonial within Lodge Ardrossan St John, No.320.

This was a special occasion for our genial Senior Deacon, Bro Bobby Clark, as his son Dale was one of the candidates on that evening. Often a difficult degree to confer, all who took part are to be congratulated on their efforts, with especial mention to our 'Mark Master' Bro Paul Stewart PM.



# Summer Fayre

Another change of date to your diary, with the Annual Summer Fayre being moved back a week until **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** between 10am and 4pm. This has been done to try and attract some of the many visitors to the town on that day for the civic 'Colour Run' which is being organised by the local business community.

As well as a fun day out, this is a much-needed fundraiser for the Lodge and if you have any fresh ideas, or can assist with any fund-raising schemes on that day, contact Bro Ian Blair IPM who is co-ordinating this year's event.



## Grand Lodge Jewel

Some of our readers may have noticed that a few of our 'more mature' Brethren have been wearing shiny new commemorative jewels. These have been created by Grand Lodge for those Brethren who have completed 50 years active membership within their Lodges.

We believe that there is also another anniversary jewel to be made available for those who reach the sixty year milestone.





## **WORLD AT WAR**

**1914 – 1918**

**(March 1917)**



March 1917 saw major changes in Russia which would affect the world for the remainder of the Century and beyond. Rasputin was dead and Lenin was out of the country. By the start of 1917, the people of Russia were very angry. The First World War was costing Russia millions of lives. Those not actually fighting had to face serious food shortages. The winter of 1916-17 was very cold and fuel was in very short supply. Cold and lack of food create an environment that lead to trouble for those blamed for these problems.

By March 1917, discontent came to a head in Petrograd (St. Petersburg). Workers in the city's largest factory demanded a 50% wage increase so that they could buy food. The management refused so the workers went on strike. 30,000 workers were locked out of work. They were not paid and could not afford any food now. The strikers persuaded other workers to come out on strike. Demonstrations occurred throughout the city.

Nicholas II was in Petrograd at this time but he left to inspect troops at the war front thinking that the demonstrations were the work of hooligans and that they would end shortly. He was very wrong. The riots got worse and were getting out of hand. Nicholas was informed about the situation and the Russian Parliament (the Duma) pleaded with him to order the release of emergency food supplies. He refused and ordered that the riots should be put down by March 10th!!

the police tried to carry out the orders of Nicholas. Unfortunately, people got killed and the rioters became even more angry. The rioters opened up prisons and released those in them. For the first time, there were calls for the tsar to quit. The head of the Duma informed Nicholas that law and order had broken down as soldiers brought in to put down the rioters had, in fact, joined them!

Nicholas then did something very foolish. He ordered that the Duma was no longer to meet, the Duma disobeyed Nicholas – this is usually considered the first act of the Russian Revolution. It was suggested that 25,000 soldiers had mutinied and were marching to where the Duma was meeting to support them.

With this support, the Duma decided to form a temporary government to take the place of the tsar. The leader of the Duma persuaded Nicholas that things had got very bad for the royal family. Nicholas then decided to return to Petrograd to restore law and order. The Provisional Government by this time had got some degree of control and they stopped the royal train outside of Petrograd. The government wanted to talk terms with Nicholas but it was clear that the Government did not want Nicholas II as Tsar and he was forced to give up the throne.

Thus, with the *Russian Revolution*, royalty came to an end in Russia. There had been a Tsar since 1480. Now in March 1917 the title came to an end.

# Almoner's Report

May I express a heartfelt thanks to Bro William Renfrew PM for kindly giving his support to the Lodge, and indeed myself, by attending the funeral service of Mrs Heather Moffat of Paisley Road, Barrhead on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Heather, a retired teacher, was the widow of the late Bro Euan Moffat of 307 who passed away several years ago. Bro Willie also attended the after gathering of family and friends on that day, and extended condolences on behalf of the Lodge to sorrowing family members.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the funeral service due to a personal circumstance which couldn't be avoided.

Sadly, I intimate the passing of Mrs Marjory Coleman of Bellfield Court on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March whilst in hospital. Mrs Coleman was the mother of Bro Ken Coleman PM, who is now resident in Bristol. I made contact by telephone with Bro Ken and expressed condolences. The funeral service took place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, and I gave support to Bro Ken and his family on behalf of the Lodge.

## Home Visits :

Bro Donald Ferguson

Bro Jim Hughes

Bro Robert Kennedy

Bro Jim Heron

Bro Jim Waterston

Bro Robert Nixon PM

Bro Phillip Reilly

Bro Campbell Stewart

Bro Jim Paton

**Hospital Visit :** Bro William Laird at Dykebar Hospital in Paisley

All visits continue to be meaningful and welcoming in every respect.

## Birthday Celebrations :

Mrs Norah Hutton in Lancefield Care Home, Johnstone

Mrs Patricia Renfrew in Darnley Court Care Home in Glasgow

I as your Lodge Almoner responded to these two birthday celebrations in an appropriate manner, and my journey as Lodge Almoner of my Mother Lodge continues most cheerfully, as ever.

As poet Bro Robert Burns said on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1785 :

*'But ye whom social pleasure charms,  
Whose hearts the tide of kindness warms,  
Who hold your being on the terms,  
Come to my bowl, come to my arms,  
My Friends, my Brothers.'*

**Bro Alex White,**

Lodge Almoner ☎ 0141-571 6411

# FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from The Mallet of 40 Years Ago

No. 6

March 1977

**REGULAR MEETINGS** : Five Candidates, H Graham, W Morris, D McLelland, A Gibb and N Murray were presented for the E.A. Degree on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. This was conferred by the younger members of the Instruction Class in an excellent rendering. Attendance : 94

**VISITATION** : On 17<sup>th</sup> March 55 Brethren from Lodge 307 headed by R.W.M. Jack Richardson journeyed to Lodge Thistle & Crown No.1167 to confer the M.M. Degree

**100 CLUB** : Winners for March £10 each John Gray PM & William Easdon. £3 each David Gebbie & John McFarlane  
£1 each Marion Smith & Jim Easdon

**RESTORATION** The long awaited sandblasting and pointing of the Temple has at last been completed. Members and the general public alike have commented very favourably on the enhanced façade of our building whose true beauty can now be seen and admired.

The next big job in this direction is the painting of the sides and guttering of the hall. In an effort to raise funds for this work a Daffodil Fair is being held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 10am. Donations of baking, soft goods, groceries, flowers, plants and help of all kind will be gratefully received. Tickets are now on sale price 15p.

**SOCIAL EVENING** : The annual Dinner Dance was held in Dalearn House on 25<sup>th</sup> March, full details will be in our next edition.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> May our golfing brethren are off to Stranraer for the annual golf outing. Price - £10.25p All interested are invited.

**POINTS of INTEREST** : Bro Ian McPhail has bought a Public House in Kilmarnock and we wish him every success.

Out of the many businesses in Barrhead, 42 are owned by Freemasons, 23 of which being members of Lodge 307.

From the old minute books –

1927 Initiation Fee £1-12s-6d

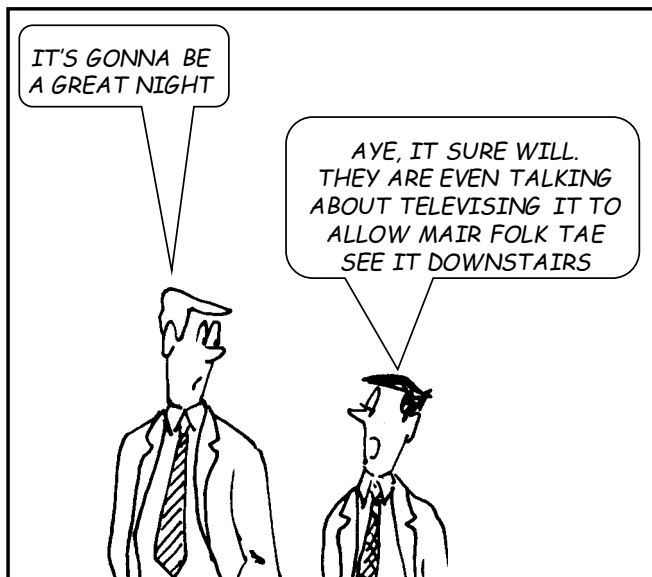
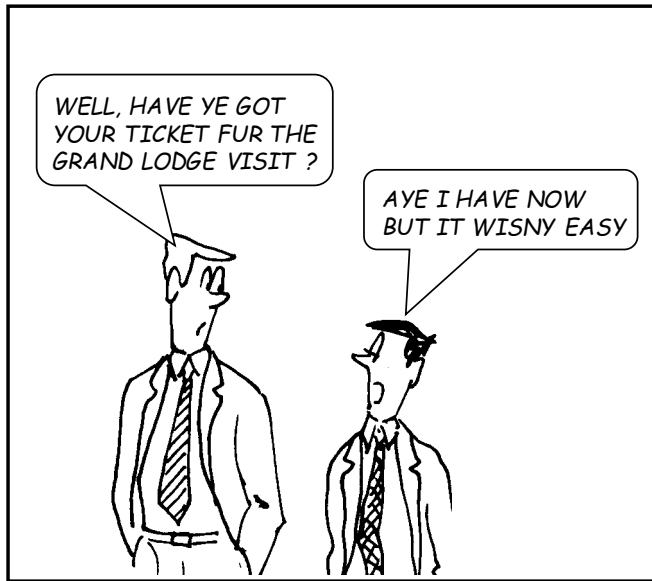
1840 Union & Crown removed from Grand Lodge Roll

1879 307 Shooting Team won Renfrewshire Gold Badges

1946 All social activities of the Lodge cancelled due to the death of Bro Thomas Hart DL JP CA FRSE

1960 Mark Tokens 2/- each

# MARK 'N' ARCHIE



*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://unionandcrown.org>

# Lodge Syllabus 2016-2017

*\* Denotes an Official visitation*

## April 2017

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm..... MM Degree by The Grand Lodge of Scotland

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm .... Dramatisation - 'Burns v Kipling'

## May 2017

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7.30pm ..... EA Degree by Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167

*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> ..... PoW Dramatisation in Aberdeen \**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm .... PoW Dramatisation

## September 2017

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm..... FC Degree by Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426

*Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm ..... DFC Degree at Lodge Maudslie Castle, No.1630 \**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm .... MM Degree by the Lodge Instruction Class

## October 2017

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm..... Dramatisation "The Table of Scottish Freemasons"

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm .... Annual General Meeting

*Friday 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm..... FC Degree at Lodge St Conval 1359 \**

*Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> @ 7.30pm .... EA Degree at Lodge Pollokshaws RA 153 \**

## November 2017

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm ..... Dramatisation Lodge Old Inverness St Johns, No.6*

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm..... Dramatised MM Degree

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7.30pm .... Mark Ceremonial by Bro. Ian Blair IPM

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> @ 4.00pm ... Lodge Installation