

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



April 2026

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

No. 493

Editorial



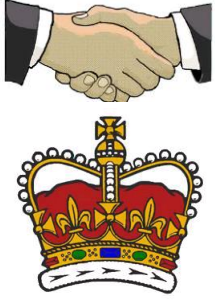
April 2026

Recent meetings have featured Instruction Master Bro. Graham Manson PM consistently inviting members interested in participating in degree work to attend instruction classes held on Monday evenings. These invitations have yielded positive results, with several younger brethren beginning to engage in degree work both within the Lodge and during visitations. This development is likely gratifying for many Past Masters, as it provides them an opportunity to observe the ongoing stewardship of the Lodge's future.

While most Past Masters still appreciate the fulfilment of contributing to floor work, they now derive substantial satisfaction from witnessing junior office-bearers develop their confidence and support one another as they master their respective roles. During a recent visitation, an office-bearer commented on the benefits of presenting at meetings with lower attendance, as it reduced performance pressure compared to busier lodges. His exemplary performance that evening substantiated his remarks. Individuals involved in degree work frequently experience pre-performance nerves, which are widely regarded as natural and beneficial for skill refinement.

It is important for less experienced brethren to remember that everyone begins somewhere, and perfection is rarely achieved immediately—nor is it always maintained. Not all members choose to participate in floor work, but those who do receive unwavering support from their peers, who recognize the dedication required to perform well. Past Masters play a crucial role by providing guidance and encouragement, remaining available to address questions. The Instruction Master ensures participants are adequately prepared through Monday evening sessions before undertaking responsibilities before an audience. The discipline and confidence fostered by degree work should not be underestimated, and even seasoned Masters benefit from reminders to enhance their presence.

Observing the accumulation of degree work skills is highly rewarding, as it guarantees office-bearers acquire comprehensive knowledge of ritual during their progression toward the chair. This process undoubtedly contributes to a more enjoyable year as RWM. Rest assured, opportunities for participation remain plentiful, allowing members to maintain proficiency. By combining experience with enthusiasm, the Lodge can continue upholding its high standards.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 5th May 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised

Master Mason Degree

By the Brethren of the Instruction Class

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid PM, Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 7th April, the '**Guid Brethren o' the Ludge**' conferred a fine Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree, before an excellent attendance of Brethren and visitors.

All of those taking part rose to the occasion, and gave a good performance, creating just the right atmosphere for all in attendance

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.26pm

Attendance : 76

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 21st April, the following Candidate:

Mathew Mannion

had an excellent Master Mason Degree conferred upon him by the Installing Masters, assisted by some of the Past Masters of the Lodge in what was truly an excellent almost flawless degree. All in attendance cannot fail to have been impressed by the particularly high standard of ceremonial on that evening.

The Brethren then retired to the Function Suite where all in attendance enjoyed a calm and relaxing harmony, after the exertions of the evening.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.37pm

Attendance : 52

3

100 CLUB

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

21st April

£20 : Bro Johnny Gauld PM

£10 : Bro Bro Marc Jones

Visitation



On Monday 13th April a deputation of 28 brethren travelled to nearby Nitshill, where we had been invited to confer the EA Degree.

The brethren of 307 who took part are to be congratulated on delivering a fine degree which was very well received by all the brethren in attendance.

The Grandfather and Uncle of the Candidate, both members of The Renfrewshire Lodge of Shieldhall, were in attendance and his Grandfather (who is the RWM) spoke well of the Brethren's efforts.

Dates for your Diary



Friday 1st May

Visitation to Lodge Caledonia, No.1408 where we have been invited to confer the Prisoner of War Degree. The meeting will be held in Lodge Thistle, No.127 in Stewarton at 7.30pm

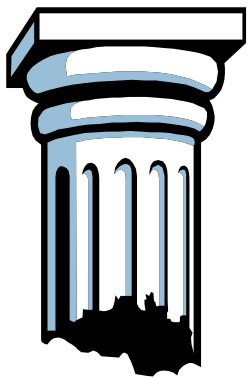
Tuesday 5th May

Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Dramatised MM Degree will be conferred.

Monday 18th May

Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

(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 our RWM or any senior Office-bearer, and they will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province)



From the East

Brethren, we had our first M.M. Degree of the 2025/26 session last Tuesday, and what an excellent evening it was. The Past Masters carried out one of the best Degrees I have seen, and, quite rightly, the praise from the Brethren for work carried out was long and loud.

The reply from the Visitors, from P.M. David McLaren, from Lodge The Princes 607 reflected on how good the Degree had been carried out and the way it had been received.

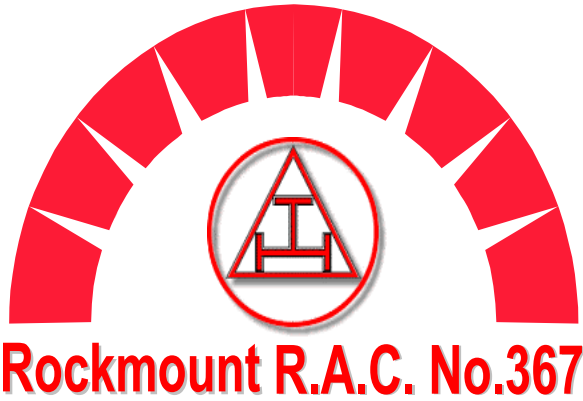
Brother Matthew Manion, our newest made Brother, was also amazed at the Degree, and is a fine addition to the Brethren of Lodge Union and Crown 307.

We had our annual visit to Lodge Nitshill 1478 on Monday 13th April, where the deputation of 28 members of Lodge Union and Crown 307 were very well received by the RMW Brother Martin Stobo, his Office Bearers and Brethren. We then carried out a F.C Degree on their Candidate Jack Kempton which was carried out by our Past Masters and Brethren, who performed the Degree with great precision and accuracy, and was received with a standing ovation from the body of the Lodge.

We have a couple of Degrees to carry out before we go into the summer recess. After that, I wish all the Brethren my best until we meet again on the 1st September.

I will be carrying out visitations to various Lodges throughout the summer months and will post the details on the WhatsApp pages should anyone wish to join me.

Brother Alan Izatt RWM



At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday, 14th April, the Companions of Rockmount welcomed a combined deputation from the Companions of Paisley Abbey, No.76 and Sir William Wallace, No.109. The large deputation was jointly led by MEC William Provan MEZ and MEC James Taylor MEZ. Our MEZ, MEC Jim Renfrew PZ welcomed in the visitors who soon got down to business.

Thereafter, **Brother Derek Smillie** of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 received a fine Mark Affiliate and Excellent Master's Degree from the visiting Companions.

At the close of the meeting, all retired downstairs where they enjoyed a quiet yet pleasant harmony in each others company..

MEC James Renfrew MEZ cordially invites all to the next Regular meeting of the Chapter to be held on Tuesday 12th May at 7.30pm, where the Companions of Rockmount will be conferring the Royal Arch Degree upon the same Candidate.

Any Brethren who perhaps may be interested in joining the Royal Arch should have a word with any of the Chapter Office-bearers.

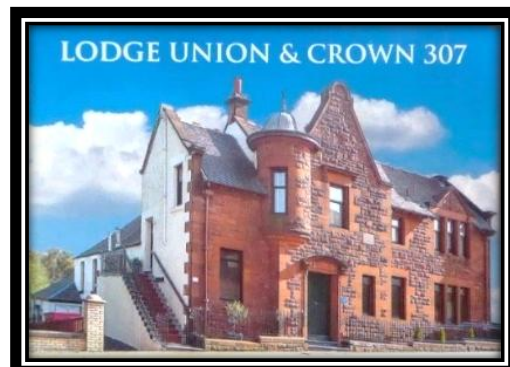


Lodge Postcards

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

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 stands, a magnificent total of almost £750 has been raised so far.



BITS & PIECES

- We are glad to report that the newly revamped Lodge Website has gone live, albeit with a slightly different web address. The URL is now :

<http://unionandcrown307.co.uk>

Bro Stephen Scott IPM has put a tremendous amount of work into it and you cannot fail to be impressed !

- Bro Ian Blair, our worthy Treasurer, is still looking for some of our test fee paying Brethren to pay their annual dues.
- Bro Graham Manson PM, our faithful Instruction Master would be delighted to see some new recruits at the Instruction Class on a Monday evening. He'll be only too glad to help you out and let you go forward when you're ready to take the floor.
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are still available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken SM (☎ 07590 207 365) In addition, a lovely new Lodge Tie is also for sale at a bargain £15 !!
- We gather that our Right Worshipful Master – Bro Alan D Izatt is taking part in a 'Reigning Masters' Degree' at Lodge Nitshill on Monday 27th May and we would call upon as many Brethren as possible to support him on that evening.
- The Lodge has accepted an invitation to confer the PoW Degree within Lodge Scone & Perth, No.3 on Saturday 27th June. If you're interested in travelling up to Perth for that weekend you should give your name to Bro Campbell Ritchie WSW.
- Bro Ian Blair and his wife Mary are enjoying a well-deserved holiday in Japan
- Did anyone notice Bro Johnny Gauld PM making an appearance on Channel 4's 'TASKMASTER' recently, playing his pipes for one of the celebrity games.
- Well done to Bro John McCuish who took part in the recent Kilt Walk to Balloch, accompanied by his Sister Yvonne who had travelled up from Kent. Bro John was taking part to raise much-needed funds for MS.
- Bro Ross Aitken, our popular Substitute Master, has just returned from a road trip around California with his wife Maria.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Billy Little has had a spell in hospital recently. We wish him well in his recovery.
- Thanks to Bro Jim Urie and Bro Lawrence Webb for their kind donations of much-needed paper.
- Thanks to Bro Douglas Fulton PM 1359, who has been a great supporter of our journal for many years and never misses an edition online.

Famous Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Brethren, this month we turn to one of the undoubted stars of the silent screen)

Harold Clayton Lloyd Sr (1893-1971)

Bro Harold Lloyd was an American actor, comedian, and stunt performer who appeared in many silent comedy films and was one of the most influential film comedians of the silent era, Lloyd made nearly 200 comedy films, both silent, and latterly with sound.

Lloyd was born in Burchard, Nebraska to James Darsie Lloyd and Elizabeth Fraser Harold's paternal great-grandparents were both from Wales. Young Harold was named for his paternal grandfather. Harold had an older brother, Gaylord (1888-1943), five years his senior. Like his younger brother, Gaylord acted in motion pictures, but his career was nowhere near as renowned as Harold's.

When Harold was a child, his parents divorced and Lloyd chose to stay with his father. Despite this, he and his brother always remained close to their mother. Harold's father was always dreaming up grand get-rich-quick schemes that ended in disasters. They eventually ended up in Omaha where Lloyd had his first acting experience in a local stock company. He attended East High School and San Diego High School and received his stage training at the School of Dramatic Art in San Diego. In 1912, his father J. Darsie "Foxy" Lloyd was awarded the then-massive sum of \$6,000 in a personal injury judgment after being run over by an Omaha beer truck.



He arrived in Los Angeles in 1912, shedding his grotesque comedy clothes and characterizations for a pair of horn-rimmed glasses in 1917. In doing so, Lloyd created an American archetype in a motion picture career, which spanned 34 years and over 200 comedies. Among his most famous films are *Grandma's Boy* (1922), *Safety Last!* (1923), *The Freshman* (1925), *The Kid Brother* (1927), *Speedy* (1928), and *Movie Crazy* (1932).

Lloyd was also a prize-winning stereo photographer. He later produced two compilation films of his earlier work, *Harold Lloyd's World of Comedy* (1962) and *Harold Lloyd's Funny Side of Life* (1963).

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Lloyd survived the transition to sound and made several talking comedies, including *Feet First*, with a similar scenario to *Safety Last*, which found him clinging to a skyscraper at the climax.

The Cat's-Paw, which was a dark political comedy and a big departure for Lloyd; and The Milky Way, which was Lloyd's only attempt at the fashionable genre of the screwball comedy film.

Lloyd was raised a Master Mason in Alexander Hamilton Lodge No. 535 in Hollywood, California. In 1949, Lloyd was selected to be the Imperial Potentate of the Shriners of North America. At the installation ceremony held at Soldier Field, there were more than 90,000 people present. Among the guests was sitting President Harry S Truman. Lloyd was also a member of Scottish Rite and York Rite. He was coronated a 33° mason in 1965.



In July 1949, he appeared on the cover of Time Magazine with its accompanying cover story entitled The World of Hiram Abif. He was later elected President of the Shriners Hospital Corporation in 1963 as well as Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Lloyd was preparing further revivals of his best films before succumbing prostate cancer on March 8, 1971, at the age of 77 in his Greenacres home in Beverly Hills. He was interred in a crypt in the Great Mausoleum at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Glendale, California.



Almoner's Report

Bro Billy Little was admitted to hospital following a heart attack. Thankfully, he is recovering well. I visited Bro Evans Reid PM, Secretary, who had pneumonia and was in isolation for a couple of weeks,

I visited the following Brethren at their Care Homes – Bro Ian Ross and Jim Boulton and both are doing well.

Bro Donald Cook PM tells me that his wife Pauline is doing well after her heart surgery and getting out for short spells. Hopefully the recent good weather will do her the world of good.

I was in touch with Bro Alex white and Bro Jimmy Laing by telephone and both are having problems with their eyes. It was great to see Bro Jimmy at our last Lodge Meeting.

Brother Lawrence Webb

☎ 07514 772 560

The Greatest of These ...

By Bro Rob Morris

The Word of God, the rule of faith to Masons true and free
Sublimely says, The greatest grace in man is Charity,

To feel the sympathetic glow for souls in sorrow driven
And lend relief -tis this that brings the Mason nearest Heaven.

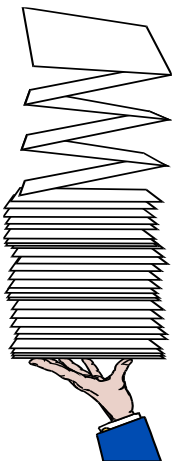
This broad-spread land, the Empire far, foremost in every art,
Hath lately shown in Charity the largest Mason heart

A Brother from a distant land came empty to their door,
And lo, the generous Brotherhood threw open wide their store.

All honour, praise, respect to them, the noblest in the land,
And honour their Grand Master, right worthy of command

And honour over all, to Him, the Sovereign King of Heaven,
Forever blest, who hearts to feel and hands to give, hath given.

Paper Appeal



Due to a rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock, we are in grave danger of running out of that most essential of commodities – PAPER.

As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier or duplicator 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.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 16 Years Ago

No. 323

April 2009

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 7th April, the following Candidates :

David Noble Jnr & Kenneth Glasper

were passed to the Second Square or Fellowcraft Degree, by the Office-bearers and Brethren of our very good friends, Lodge The St John's Operative, No.347. A fine FC degree was conferred, and Bro Brian Keenan RWM, must have been delighted by the standard of his degree team.

A total of five reigning masters attended including Lodge Ruchill 1436 and Craighends 1042, and it was most encouraging to see so many 307 Brethren in attendance.

Opened : 7-30 pm

Lodge Closed : 9.44 pm

Attendance : 100

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 21st April, the same two candidates were raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason, by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class, in what was a very good 3rd Degree, with Bro. Kenny Beatts making a confident debut.

There were many new faces among the visitors. Lodges included Airdrie St.John's 166, Thistle 270 from West Calder, Houstoun St. Johnstone 242 and of course Thistle and Crown 1167. Bro. Gus Sparks PM of Lodge Glasgow at Glasgow No.441 was back at the lodge for the first time in a while and the after meeting harmony was first class with many acquaintances being renewed and a number of new ones being forged.

Opened : 7-30 pm

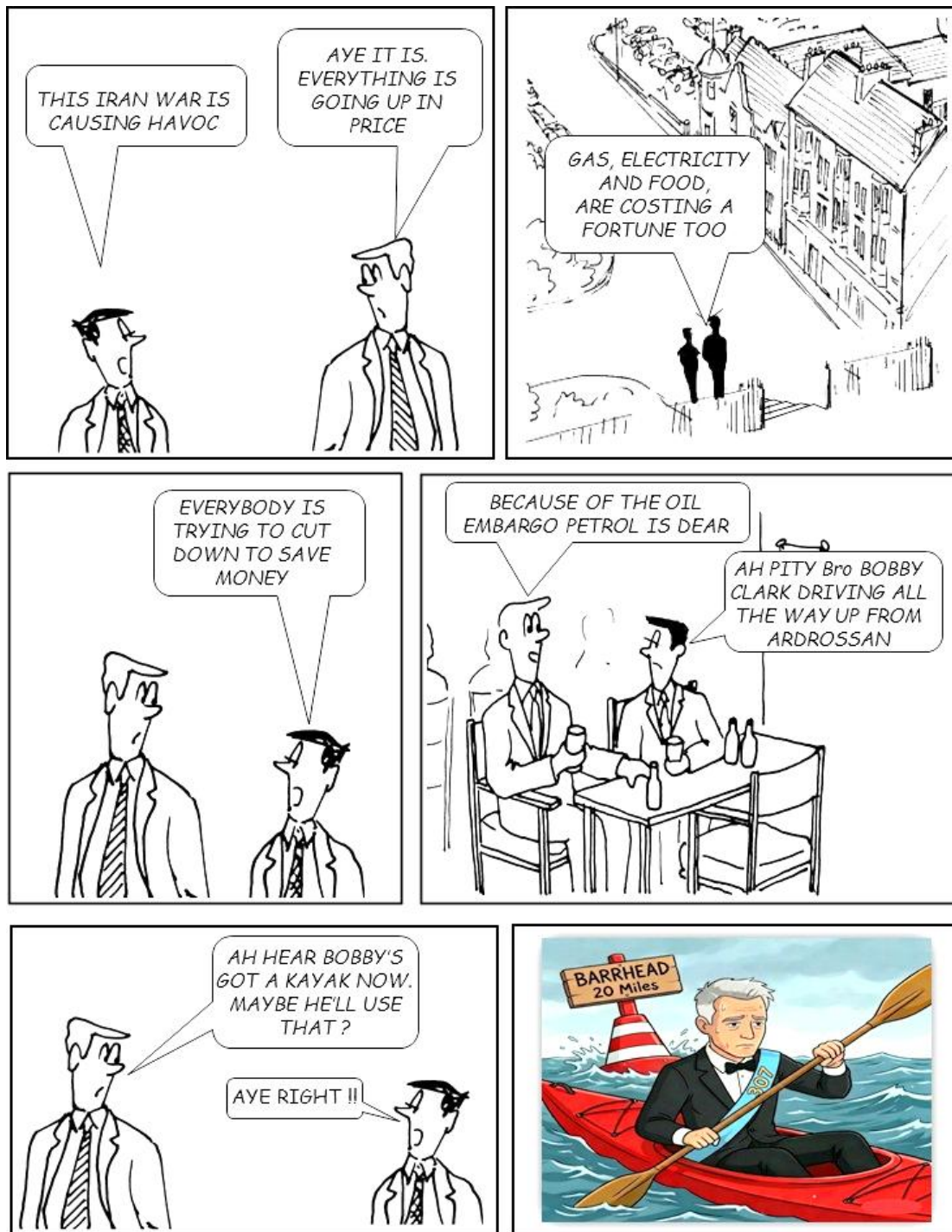
Lodge Closed : 9.33 pm

Attendance : 82

BITS & PIECES

- If you have any unwanted gifts lying about the house, Bro Colin McLardy WSW is more than willing to take them off your hands, and sell them on E Bay with the proceeds going towards Lodge Funds.
- It was good to see the RWM and several Brethren of Lodge Airdrie St Johns, No.166 making another visit to 307. One of their office-bearers is a cousin of Bro Jim Renfrew's wife Anne.
- It was great that PMs Hugh Cattigan and Graham Manson's "All Day Breakfast" was again a success with £175 being donated to Lodge funds. Rumour has it that there are plans for next year's event to be sponsored by "Healthier Scotland"
- It never fails to amaze us at regular meetings of the Lodge, the donations that "Brother Anonymous" has made over the years. It must be thousands of pounds.
- Recently whilst perusing the various showcases in the Downstairs Lounge, and elsewhere about the Temple, It was amazing to realise just how much of the late Bro Jack Gauld's handiwork is there for all to see.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW - APRIL 2026

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown307.co.uk>