

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



April 2020

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No. 433



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Now several weeks in to 'Lockdown' things have been quiet locally, especially in the Lodge. Bro David McArthur PM, Secretary has been making regular visits to the Temple to check for mail and keep our water supplies flowing freely to prevent disease, and tells us all is well. No doubt it will be haunting and particularly quiet within our premises, especially at what was scheduled to be a busy period for Union & Crown with the keenly anticipated 'Reigning Masters Degree' and celebratory dinner afterwards due to be attended by a high attendance of Brethren and visitors.

Sadly we lost two well-known and respected Brethren recently, when Bro Wilson Davidson PM, and Bro Donald Ferguson, passed the Grand Lodge Above. Both were popular members of our Lodge and no doubt this would have been reflected in the expected attendances at their funeral services, but sadly 'Social Distancing' meant that only a handful of close family were allowed to attend. However, the respective families arranged for the services at Woodside to be streamed online, and many Brethren and their families took advantage of this to pay their last respects. As the corteges drove along Main Street, Cross Arthurlie Street and Paisley Road quite a number of people lined the route to pay their respects.

With only a week or two remaining until we officially enter into our annual Summer Recess, it is going to be a long period of inactivity within the Lodge, something that not even World Wars could enforce upon the Brethren of 307. However, it is not all gloom and doom as there appears to be a chink of light ahead and perhaps the improving situation will allow a gradual slackening of restrictions in the coming weeks.

The Brethren have not been idle, with weekly video conferencing sessions being held to polish up on the ritual in advance of our hoped for return in September, and numerous 'Chat Sessions' have also been staged to allow the Brethren to keep abreast of what's happening in and around the town.

If you require support during Lockdown, don't forget that Bro Ronnie MacIsaac and his Office-bearers are on hand to assist wherever possible.

Remember to stay safe and observe the current rules, and before you know it we will perhaps be moving back towards something resembling a normal existence.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

*The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac
regretfully intimates that the forthcoming Meeting of the Lodge,
scheduled to be held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street,
Barrhead are postponed until further notice :*

Tuesday 5th May 2020

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

*Dramatised Degree
'Prisoner of War'*

*** Postponed ***

Yours faithfully

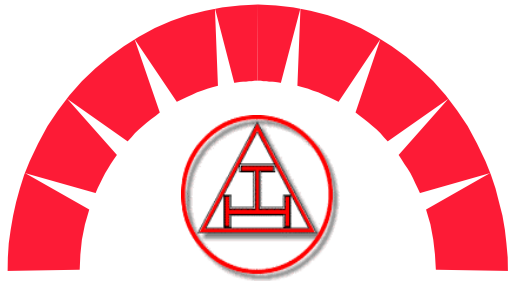
& fraternally

David McArthur P.M.

Lodge Secretary

BITS & PIECES

- Heartiest congratulations to Bro Bryce McCaig and his wife Ena on becoming grandparents following the birth of their Granddaughter Layla Angelina McCaig. The lucky parents are Bryce's son Matthew and his partner Vikki.
- Sadly the Sportsman's Dinner scheduled for **Friday 15th May** has had to be cancelled. As soon as another date later in the year is in place we will let you know . Watch this space !
- Such is the hair cut difficulties during the Lockdown, that we gather Bro Jim Cherry will have to work 4 nights and a Sunday to have all the Brethren neat and tidy before we all start back again !!
- Our Instruction Master, Bro. Tom Mulholland P.M. would like to remind any brother 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 in the Autumn. They can of, course, tune in to the 'Virtual Instruction Class' being held each Monday at 7.30pm. If you want to participate, contact Bro Robert Scott WSW.
- It's good to see that Bro Willie Renfrew PM has recently affiliated to Lodge Prince of Wales No.426. Already an honorary member of 426, we gather that he will be going into senior office in December, and taking the chair.
- It's great that Bro Paul Smith has been giving up his time during the Lockdown to go down to the Lodge and tend the gardens, which are looking absolutely fantastic. Well done PJ
- That you can still participate in the '200 for 200' scheme being offered by the Lodge's Bi-centenary Committee? A single payment of £200 (which can be paid up over the next 5 years if necessary) will secure a range of 200th Anniversary benefits including Tickets, Jewels, Books etc. Almost 40 Brethren have already enrolled, and anyone interested should be Bro Robert Scott WJW as soon as possible.
- It is sad that we won't be able to pay tribute to those Brethren who passed away during the Lockdown. However, it was pleasing to be able to watch Bro Wilson Davidson's funeral service online, as it was 'streamed' for anyone who wished to see it. A great idea, and well used by many of our Brethren.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Jimmy Laing had a spell in Hospital after a fall. We are glad to say that he is now recovering at home and hopefully be back to full fitness very soon.
- Some of the Brethren are making full use of Zoom Video Conferencing, with regular chats being held on most Monday and Friday evenings. If you want to participate, keep your eye on the 307 WhatsApp and you'll get full details of each chat.
- Whilst on the subject of Zoom, it was good of the PGLRE to arrange an online lecture, delivered by Bro Grant McLeod PM 242. The subject was early operative and speculative masons before Grand Lodge. It was well attended with over 50 brethren tuning in. At least 6 of these were from the US.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

It is hard to believe that it is only last month, on the 10th March that we held our last meeting together, so much has happened in that short time and I am sure I do not need to reiterate the cause and the subsequent 'isolation' protocols introduced by the UK and Scottish Parliaments. The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland in conjunction with the Grand Lodge of Scotland has declared that Masonic meetings cease until September 2020 at the earliest.

The ME First Principal Harry Lloyd and his executive office bearers will continue, to the best of their abilities, to keep the records acts and transactions of the Chapter in order during this time.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST PRINCIPAL

Just a few lines I hope finds you and your families well, however I am aware that some Companions and their families are affected by the Coronavirus and I would ask you all to remember them in your prayers. These are strange and difficult times for us and the country and it's important we do all we can to try and stay safe. As with everyone attached to Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter, its with great sadness I was unable to attend the funeral of my Depute and friend Companion Wilson Davidson PZ which took place on Friday 10th April, I have been inform by Companions who were able to view the service via video link that it went well. Wilson was a true gentleman and will be sadly missed by many.

Finally, Companions, as we continue through this uncertain period can I take this opportunity to thank Scribe Ezra Companion Hugh Cattigan PZ, and our Treasurer Companion Jim Renfrew PZ who continue to work on behalf of the Chapter they are putting everything they can in place to ensure that the Companions/Chapter interest are protected while allowing us to abide by Government guidelines and can return to normality when the time comes as smoothly as possible.

Companions, I thank each and every one of you for the support I have received during the past year and hope it won't be too long before we are all back together again.

MEC Harry Lloyd MEZ

OBITUARY

Sadly, the Chapter has been notified of one obituary. Most Excellent Companion WILSON DAVIDSON PZ (Aged 80) who passed beyond the veil on Friday 3rd April 2020. MEC Wilson was a Past Master of our host Lodge, Lodge Union & Crown No. 307 and was exalted into Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter No. 367 on the 14th March 1989 serving as First Principal in 1998/99.

MEC Wilson will be sorely missed by all who knew him. His funeral ceremony took place at Woodside Crematorium on Friday 10th April at noon for family and close friends only,

CORRESPONDENCE

From Provincial Grand Scribe E, conveying the sad news that on the 25th March MEC James Gregory, Past Grand Superintendent of the PGRAC of Renfrewshire passed away. MEC Jim Gregory was a supporter and regular attender at both Rockmount Chapter and Cryptic Council meetings here in Barrhead, he will be sorely missed.

From the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland: - 6th April 2020

In consultation with the First Grand Principal M.E. Companion Joseph J. Morrow, CBE, F.R.S.E., QC, LL.D., it has been decided to cancel the following meetings:

22nd May - Supreme Committee ; 23rd May - 5 Provinces Degree in Perth

6th June - Installation of Grand Superintendent of the Argyll and The Isles

12th June - Half Yearly Convocation ; 13th June - Clay Pigeon Shoot

OTHER NEWS

Companion James Laing recently had a bad fall at home and was taken to the RAH. C. Jimmy got back home albeit with a couple of, no doubt painful, broken ribs sadly we hear that he has since been readmitted to the RAH. I am sure we all wish him a speedy recovery.

INTIMATIONS

None, but please give some consideration to the future of the Chapter. As mentioned in the 'correspondence' our financial year ends on 30th June and the Principals would normally, at this time, already be looking at the management and Office Bearers for the subsequent year 20/21. We are also, relatively, a small order with regard to membership and the delivery of our Ritual work is, as always, vitally important to our continuation. Please at this time of isolation consider learning ritual and step forward to take an active part in the future of the Chapter. I am sure MEC Graham Manson PZ, our Instruction Master would be delighted to hear from you and offer suggestions.

Companions, may you and your families stay healthy and safe.

Hugh Cattigan PZ, Scribe E.

50 Years a Mason

At the end of last year, our Treasurer Bro George McGrandles PM was tasked with sending Grand Lodge a list of the paying members of Lodge Union & Crown to allow them to update their records. He subsequently received a reply from Grand Lodge about January this year indicating that some of the names on his list did not exist on Grand Lodge records. My name was one of them. This came as a great surprise to me since I have been paying my dues for, as I thought, 47 years and am a Past Master of Lodge Union & Crown, Lodge Randolph, Proxy RWM of Lodge Blue Diamond 1687, Past Provincial Grand Secretary and Honorary Grand Librarian. Not too bad for someone who is not on record! This required me to check with my Mother Lodge, Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning to establish my Initiation, Passing and Raising dates which I duly did. When I received the reply from Bro Andy Thomson the dates came as a great surprise to me. As I said at the start of this article, I thought I had been in the Craft for 47 years because my life membership card was dated 1972. In fact, my Initiation was on 12 February 1970, Passed 26 February 1970, Raised 12 March 1970 and Advanced on 15 October 1970. I have been a member of the Craft for two years longer than I realised!

On the 13 February 2020 I had the great pleasure of being the candidate in an Emulation EA Degree in Lodge Dunlop No 1406 - 50 years and one day after my Initiation. This Degree was led by their own Right Worshipful Master, Bro James Laing, a well-known brother of Lodge Union & Crown. Arrangements have been made to carry out my FC and MM but this has obviously been put on hold for the time being.

For someone who was not included in Grand Lodge Records, I have had an amazing and wonderful time as a Mason over the past 50 years. From being initiated into Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning in 1970 to returning from living down south and Affiliating to Lodge Union & Crown in 1984, I was elected as Right Worshipful Master in November 2000, being the first RWM to take a Lodge and carry out a Degree in PGL Of Renfrewshire East, visiting Colchester and Houston as RWM, becoming Provincial Grand Secretary and Honorary Grand Librarian. All that said, I will continue to work for Lodge Union & Crown for as long as I am fit and able to do so. Bro Jimmy Heron a well-loved member of the Lodge was also a 50 year Mason. When he passed to the Grand Lodge above his wife returned his 50 year jewel and I had the opportunity to make a donation to the lodge and acquire it. As soon as the Lodge returns to work I will have the greatest of pleasure in wearing this jewel.

Bro Evans Reid PM

Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Scottish Brethren, this month we turn to another celebrated politician, who was one of the longest serving members of the House of Commons)

Bro Emanuel Shinwell, Baron Shinwell CH, PC (1884 -1986)

Better known as Manny Shinwell, he was a British trade union official, Labour politician and one of the leading figures of Red Clydeside.

Although born in Spitalfields, London, his family moved to Glasgow when he was very young. His father was a Polish Jew who had a small clothing shop and his mother—a Dutch Jew—was a cook. He educated himself in boxing, and he was the trainer of a local football team. He began his working life as a machinist in a clothing workshop. In 1903 he became active in the Amalgamated Union of Clothing Operatives, and joined the Glasgow Trades Council in 1906 as a delegate of that union.

In May 1911, he was seconded to help organise the seamen of Glasgow at the request of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union (NSFU). He played a prominent role in the six-week Glasgow seamen's strike which began on 14 June and which was part of a nationwide strike. He subsequently became the secretary of the Glasgow branch of the NSFU.

Manny Shinwell was initiated into Lodge Rutherglen Royal Arch, No.116 on the 3rd May 1912, receiving his FC and MM degrees later that same month. It was perhaps ironic that a fellow Candidate at that time was Sir Isaac Woolfson, the businessman and philanthropist, who founded Great Universal Stores.



In August 1912, he participated in a revolt against the union, which resulted in the Glasgow branch becoming part of the Southampton-based British Seafarers' Union (BSU). He was the local secretary of the BSU until it became part of the Amalgamated Marine Workers' Union (AMWU) in 1922, after which he served as National Organiser of the new organisation. In 1919, he gained national notoriety through his involvement in the Glasgow 40 Hours' Movement. This movement culminated in clashes between police and protesters in Glasgow's George Square. He was afterwards tried for incitement to riot and was sentenced to five months' imprisonment.

Independent Labour Party (ILP) member, he was elected as Member of Parliament (MP) for Linlithgowshire at the 1922 general election. He lost his seat in 1924, but was re-elected for Linlithgowshire at a by-election in 1928. In 1929 Ramsay MacDonald appointed him Financial Secretary to the War Office. From 1930 he served as Secretary for Mines, an office he had previously held in 1924. He became a critic of Ramsay MacDonald's National Government, and in 1931 he

again lost his seat. He returned to the Commons in 1935 for Seaham, County Durham, where he campaigned vigorously for Britain to support the Popular Front government during the Spanish Civil War. In 1938, during a heated Commons debate, he slapped the face of the Conservative MP Robert Tatton Bower after Bower told him to "go back to Poland". In May 1940 he refused a position in Winston Churchill's Coalition Government in the Ministry of Food. He became chairman of the Labour Party in 1942. He served in Clement Attlee's government after the Labour victory in 1945 as Minister of Fuel & Power, and he presided over the nationalisation of the mining industry.

In 1947, Britain experienced, in an exceptionally severe winter, a serious coal shortage. He was widely criticised for his failure to avert this crisis. Shortly afterwards he took up the position of Secretary of State for War which he held until 1950. In November 1947 an MI5 report alleged that Shinwell had passed secret information to a man named "Stanley" who had passed it on to Zionist paramilitary group Irgun. Shinwell knew self-styled "contact man" Sidney Stanley whom he had approached for help in finding employment for his son Ernie, and Stanley had obtained information on the disbandment of the Transjordan Frontier Force from some government source. His seat became Easington in 1950, at which point he became Minister of Defence. Towards the end of his Commons career, he served as Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, Shinwell was appointed to the Order of the Companions of Honour in the 1965 Birthday Honours and was created a life peer as Baron Shinwell, of Easington in the County of Durham, on 19 June 1970. He continued to be active in the House of Lords until shortly before his death. Manny Shinwell died in May 1986, aged 101, holding the record for the second longest-lived British MP (after Theodore Cooke Taylor) until overtaken by Bert Hazell in November 2008. He became the longest lived peer on 26 March 1986, dying little over a month later on 8 May.

Planned Visitations

Unfortunately, our visitations to Darvel on Friday 1st May, and Aberdeenshire on Saturday 27th June to confer Dramatised PoW degrees have been cancelled due to the increasing health risks.

Hopefully, we will be able to reschedule these, and other visits planned for later in the year. If there are any developments we'll keep you posted.



On December 20, 1874, a special meeting of New York Lodge No. 330 was held to exemplify the Master Masons degree for the edification of a visiting Brother. His Royal Highness David Kalakaua, King of the Hawaiian Islands, and a member of Le Progress Lodge No. 124 in Honolulu.

After the degree was exemplified, the Bible on which George Washington had taken his oath of office was displayed. The royal visitor asked that the book be opened at the page where Washington's oath was administered. He took the book in both hands and kissed the page saying "I thank God for this privilege." On January 15, 1865, the same royal visitor attended Chicago's Oriental Lodge No. 33 which had called a special meeting. Over four hundred distinguished visitors attended.

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 St Barchan, No.156

29th November 1784,

We, the members of of St Barchan Lodge, No.208 upon receiving our Charter of Constitution and Erection from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Having met in the house of John Laing, the innkeeper, to deliberate upon further measures to be taken concerning said Lodge. We hereby agree unanimously to postpone this meeting, until 30th November when we shall meet again and have our bye-laws made out and signed by the first promoters of the same Lodge.

Having met agreeable to our past adjournment we proceed accordingly to making out of our Bye-Laws and signed them immediately.

The above extract has been taken from the first minute of Lodge St Barchan, and marks the very beginning of the Lodge.

The first Master was James Houston, and on the Lodge's 100 Anniversary his son Mathew Houston, who'd been in the Chair in 1840, was brought back to occupy the Chair during the centenary year. By this time, Matt was a very old man, well into his 90s, and indeed had to be carried from his home to the Lodge.

This became a tradition in the Lodge, that the Master would be carried by the Brethren in the Lodge Postillion from his home to the Lodge for his installation. The Master was also distinguished by wearing a "Top hat" while sitting in the chair and Matt Houston being old and frail acknowledged latecomer's signs by doffing his hat. This was also became a tradition, and lasted until the Lodge moved to their present premises in 1921.

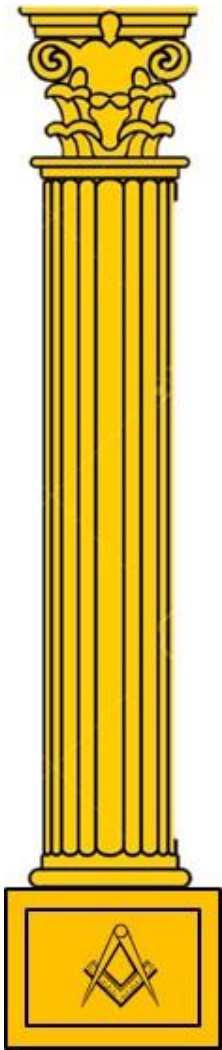
On the 1st of December 1784, James Aitken was the first Entered Apprentice to be admitted, and on that same evening, it was also agreed that their quarterly communications should be held on the first Friday in March, June, September and on St Andrew's Day (30th November) when the Master and Office-bearers would be elected. In March 1800 the Lodge purchased their first premises at the South Side of Kilbarchan Cross. For the sum of £125.



Notable Dates :

- 1791 Bro Robert Kerr became Lodge Secretary, a position he held for 50 years
- 1794 Bro James Grant absconded from the Lodge with £8. It was later discovered that he had left the country.
- 1799 The Lodge marches to Johnstone to hear a very fine sermon by the Rev Wm Weir, then dine at the home of Alex Kirklane Merchiston.
- 1807 Brethren who refuse to take up their office are fined.
- 1816 Letter from Grand Lodge read out, then the Lodge goes into Harmony. (The minutes do not record this, but this may have been the change of number to 156)
- 1830 The first official visit of Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone.
- 1845 The Lodge joins the other societies in the Lilius Day celebrations.
- 1859 156 join with Houstoun St Johnstone to go to Linwood to lay the foundation stone of the new church, after which 242 invite 156 to join them for refreshments.
- 1863 Lodge travel to Stirling for the laying of the foundation stone of the Wallace Monument, on their return they lost the Lodge Banner.
- 1872 Bro William Guy RWM of Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone carries out the first MMM Ceremonial in 156.
- 1879 Bro Thomas McCrorie, Headmaster of Kilbarchan School, affiliated to 156 from Mother Kilwinning. It is said that Bro McCrorie was of great assistance in the publication of the Goudielock Ritual
- 1885 Matt Houston's death is intimated in the Paisley Express, a copy of which then found its way to New York, where it was brought to the attention of Bro Wm Brodie, The Grand Master of New York State. Bro Brodie, a "Habbe" who laid the foundation stone of the Statue of Liberty, subsequently visited Kilbarchan, where he was made an Honorary Member of 156.
- 1902 The Festival of St John parade through the streets is cut short because it was a wet and stormy night. The Lodges represented were 22, 114, 129, 205, 252, 275, 370, 399, 426, 609 and 791. The cost of Refreshments was £5-5s. No collection was taken as there were so many visitors.
- 1921 The Lodge purchases present premises, the Conservative Hall (formerly the Utilitarian Church) for £1500.
- 1923 First recorded use of Installed Master Ceremonial.





From the West

Brethren, as with all good stories let's start at the beginning, on how I became an "Office Bearer" in Union & Crown. Simply, I was asked to help and being the inquisitive person, I agreed (after obviously asking, "What do I have to do?"). I began as the IG, I made a few mistakes and was very concerned, have I done the right thing? However, I soon learned there was always a Bro nearby giving direction, reassurance, a gentle nod or a vigorous shaking of the head...which at one point I thought was part of the degrees.

I still make the mistakes, but so is the constant reassurance I have kindly received as I progressed through the ranks of office to where I am now the WSW. A meeting has never went by without learning something new about the role of the WSW or about the lodge in general. My main responsibilities at this time is to assist the RWM in his duties whilst at the same time prepare myself for the chair.

I was the WSW when IPM Bro Stewart Gray was in the chair and I now have the pleasure of being the WSW alongside the current RWM, Bro Ronald MacIsaac. I have taken a lot of learning from both, on how to represent our fine lodge as well as sharing with other Brethren, the enjoyable experiences of visits to numerous lodges within and outside the Province, such as York, Aberdeen, Perth and Edinburgh to name a few. Please note, though I name the IPM and the current RWM I can assure you I have gained huge learning from all members of the lodge since becoming a Mason.

I find myself assisting more in the day-to-day running of the lodge within the management team, working with Brethren on floor work in various degrees, to the assistant chef at the big breakfast. Between all this, I progressed to a new post within the Fire Service, which is more challenging and demanding of my time. Others have stepped in whenever I am unable to attend meetings for which I am thankful.

Unfortunately, the dreadful appearance of Covid19 has caused major disruption and heartache for our families and ourselves. It is testing the resilience of our lodge, to which I believe we are responding in a very positive manner. Through the group chats, video conferencing and the telephone calls we are all making. The lodge is working hard and pulling together, which I think reflects the strength of 307 in which, I am playing a small part in the big picture of the lodge.

The above is a short reflection of my term as WSW, I can assure you, without the assistance, guidance and the quiet words of encouragement from of all the brethren, it has been and still is an enjoyable journey for myself.

"Simply, I was asked to help" to which I am glad I did.

Bro Bobby Clark WSW

Almoner's Report

In February Bro Eric Gray had double pneumonia, I've come up with a new practice I'm calling door stepping, I've visited Eric twice I stand on the grass at the door or chap his window and talk to him there he hasn't been out the house since November last year, His sone and daughter-in-law are fantastic visiting every day and getting his shopping. Brother Willie Reid started self-isolating 2 two weeks before everyone else so when I door stepped him last Saturday it was 6 weeks in isolating for him and Marilyn, Willie doesn't seem to have been left with any after effects from his recent heart attack and they are getting by with the help of their son who cycles from paisley with provisions for them. Bro Willie Renfrew informed me of the passing of Bro Dougald McColl of Boylstone Road at the tender age of 40 apparently Dougald had testicular cancer which metastasised. Unfortunately, Dougald's funeral had already taken place.

Since PM Bro Wilson Davidson got home from hospital I had been visiting him at least once a week up until the week before he died and the lockdown started, he was terribly tired and could only stand company for up to around 30 mins he had, had a long and courageous battle with that terrible disease, his personality never changed he was never angry or depressed always good humoured and faced his final trial the same way I always found him an utter gentleman.

I door-stepped Bros Eric Gray, Willie Reid, Donald Ferguson, Jim Hughes, our RWM and Mrs Betty Campbell. No change with Eric, Willie still good humoured Donald was having a lie down and I spoke to Mary at the window, had a great chat with the RWM, Jim Hughes has spent some more time in hospital and was also having a lie down but I had a good chat with his wife Rae, and Betty was in great spirits she as her sister is next door and her niece and great nieces visit regularly. Sadly Bro Donald Ferguson passed to the grand lodge above the following week and his funeral will take place on the 1st May at 1.30pm going along Main street then down Cross Arthurlie Street.

I visited PMs Jimmy Miller & Roy Dinning. I had quite a long chat with Jimmy and Nancy, with my dog and I standing on the driveway and Jimmy and Nancy standing in the doorway it was nice to hear about their time in Portugal and to reminisce about Bro Wilson. I was so happy Jimmy managed to spend some time with him before he passed. Bro Roy looks as fit as a fiddle, I chapped the door and was speaking to his wife while once again a brother was having a lie down she let me know he can be quite confused some times and sleeps a lot, but she insisted on waking him up as he loved seeing Barca my dog. He came straight towards me, I was protesting that we should be practising social distancing, when he starting pulling biscuits from his pocket for the dog, He's being looked after well, with his family are all doing their bit.

The neighbour of the late Bro Billy Amabile was telling me he heard that Billy's wife Julie had been unwell, and I phoned their son Bro Stephen's, Stephen has converted his garage into an apartment for his mum, following her recent spell in hospital, which set her back a bit, I will keep in touch with Bro Stephen to keep the lodge up to date.

Over the last couple of weeks we have all been concerned over Bro Jimmy Laing. I've been keeping in touch with Anne, as I think everyone knows Jimmy had a fall in the house and broke some ribs, he was sent home quite soon after being admitted. He was taken back in a couple of days later, suffering from an infection which was making him quite confused and had to be put on oxygen and a drip. Within a few days he improved well, but as he was in pain he was x-rayed and the found a break in his arm, which delayed his discharge for a couple of days. He's home now and recuperating at home.

As always I like to thank my friend and mentor Bro Alex White for his help and encouragement.

Bro Alan Bernard PM, Lodge Almoner

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 20 Years Ago

No.233

April 2000

On Tuesday 4th April the following Candidate :

STEVEN McGILL

was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order in what was a fine E.A. Degree ably conferred by the Office-bearers and Brethren of Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, No.242. Bro Brian Robertson R.W.M. of 242 must have delighted at the performance of those taking part in what was a fine degree.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-39pm Attendance : 91

Following the regular business meeting on Tuesday 18th April "The Guid Brethren o' the Ludge" gave a another rendition of the Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree, specially prepared by Bro Bud Gauld PM, which had proved so popular when first presented last year.

Designed to complement the now familiar Dramatised M.M. Degree, it was refreshing to see the members of the Instruction Class dressed up for the occasion in period costume as they reinacted the Fellowcraft Degree of 1824. The thanks of the Lodge goes to each and everyone of those who took part in this splendid spectacle, and also to those behind the scenes who contribution went unnoticed. A tremendous number of visitors helped swell the attendance to almost 200, although quite a few number failed to sign the Sederunt due to the crush at the door.

Lodge Opened : 7-34pm Lodge Closed : 9-44pm Attendance : 180

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes for the month of January, were as follows :

Tuesday 4th April	£10 : Bro Jim Renfrew PM	£5 : Bro Jim Paton
Tuesday 18th April	£10 : Bro Ken Hill	£5 : Miss Karine Livingstone

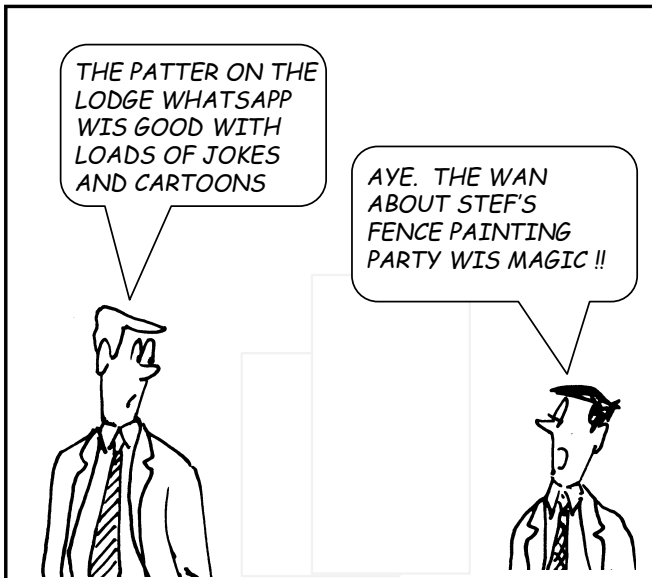
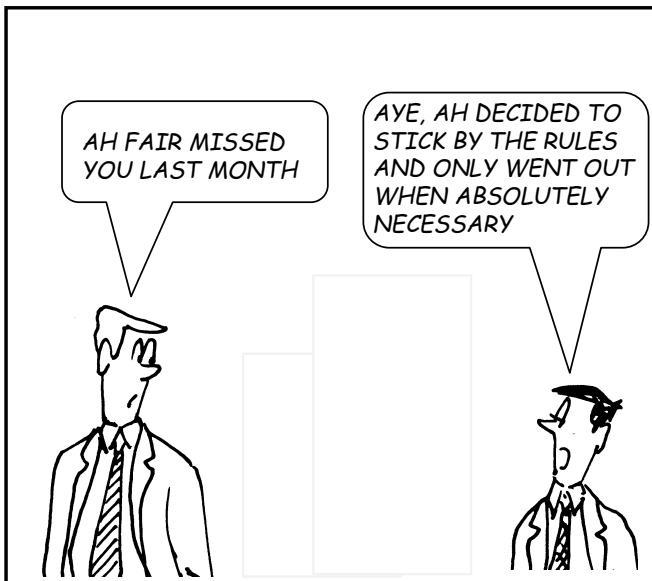
Bits & Pieces

- Our grateful thanks to Bro Archie Chalmers PM of Lodge Thistle, Stewarton, No.127 for his continued support and generous donation to our funds.
- Bro Jim Renfrew's son Clark has been chosen to be part of a drama group who are to appear at the Millennium Dome in London.
- Thanks go to Bro Brian Morton PM for his kind donation of a commemorative jewel from Lodge Randolph Clarkston.
- Good to see Bro Jerry Muir formerly of Barrhead, but now resident in Clearwater in Florida, at one of our recent meetings.
- Congratulations to Bro Tom Forde on his election as Vice-President at Arthurlie B.C.
- We offer our best wishes to Bro Gordon Lawson who has recently been ordained as an Elder in Bourock Church.

STOP PRESS

One quiet Friday evening in the Social Club, the telephone rang. It was Bro Jim Flockhart phoning from Houston in Texas to see how things were going. Bro Jim is out in the USA for a couple of months working with Exxon and asked that his regards be passed on to all the Brethren

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW APRIL '20

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown.org>