

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



October 2023

The Mallet

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

No. 467



October 2023

On this the 47th anniversary of **The Mallet**, it is perhaps fitting that we look back over what has been achieved in nearly five decades, and perhaps look to the future.

Much has happened over the years since Bro Bud Gauld came up with the idea for a simple one page newsletter which was intended to keep Brethren, and their families informed. Assisted by the late Bro Len Matthews, and his wife Bessie, the humble newsletter grew into an institution which became known throughout the four corners of the globe.

Much has changed over the years, hopefully for the better, as content, format and many of the different aspects of **The Mallet** etc. evolved. We sincerely hope that we can still manage to strive for the high standards set originally back in 1976. Our Lodge may have altered in so many ways over the years, but perhaps one of the stalwarts such as our journal, remains to uphold all that is right and proper about the Craft, in what are undoubtedly difficult and challenging times.

We are now in our 28th year as Editor, albeit with a break of a few years as the demands of outside life proved too much to be able to keep all the plates spinning, and in an effort to ensure that we survive in the years ahead, and that the solid lessons learned under Bud, Lenny and Bessie are not lost to future generations, we have decided to seek some assistance in the production of **The Mallet**. As it stands at the moment, the Editor is solely responsible for researching, writing, typing and printing-off our publication each month for some 10 editions each year. There's no doubt that this can at times prove to be an onerous and time-consuming task, but the determination to meet every deadline, and the real joys gained in doing so, make it all worthwhile. Time, or indeed the lack of it, is now proving to be a real burden, and if the truth be told, we have made more than a few final deadlines by the skin of our teeth !

Business gurus, and consultants will have you believe that "succession planning" is the key to consistency and survivability. With this in mind, we have decided that it would be prudent to seek not only an assistant to perhaps ease the current burden, but also provide an opportunity to groom a successor. For the future.

If you fancy becoming involved, or perhaps want to know more about what the job entails, I would encourage you to come forward. Perhaps you are the right person to take us towards the 60th anniversary of our journal, and beyond.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Friday 3rd November 2023

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

'Open Night' : 'Table of Scottish Freemasonry'

by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony



Tuesday 21st November 2023

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Mark Ceremonial

Conferred by Bro Ronnie MacIsaac FPM &

Harmony



Saturday 25th November 2023

Installation of Office-bearers

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 3rd October, the following Candidates :

Gregor Mullin

Callum Heirs

were raised to the high & sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class, in what was an excellent MM Degree.

Bro Graham Manson PM and the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class are to be congratulated on the fine work produced.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.31pm

Attendance : 58



On Tuesday 17th September, the Lodge held its annual business meeting, where all Office-bearers and committees were nominated and elected. Both our worthy Secretary and Treasurer are to be congratulated upon the manner in which the business was carried out.

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

Opened : 7.33pm

Lodge Closed : 8.20pm

Attendance : 36

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

3rd October £20 : **Bro Edward Mullin JD**

£10 : **Bro James Cherry**

17th October £20 : **Mrs Sheila McArthur**

£10 : **Bro Robert Scott**

Bro George McGrandles PM, our worthy Treasurer, is taking names for next year, which will commence immediately after our Annual Installation in November.

The annual fee is still very good value at £10, & anyone interested should see Bro George as soon as possible.

The Masonic Oak

In 1835 a group of Masons met under a large oak tree in Brazoria, Texas (just south of what is now Houston) and took the first step to form Holland Lodge No. 1. The tree, known as the Masonic Oak, has continued to grow and is still in existence.

On May 15, 1966, the Masons of Texas made a pilgrimage to the Oak. There was singing, dinner, preaching and much fun. The Grand Master, H. W. Fullingim, dedicated the location by placing a Texas State Historical Marker near the Oak tree to commemorate the start of the lodge.

(Union & Crown visited Holland Lodge, No,1 in 2001 during our visit to Texas)

Dates for your Diary



Friday 3rd November Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the dramatised '**Table of Scottish Freemasonry**' will be performed. This is an Open Night where non-freemasons can be invited to attend.

Tuesday 7th November **NO MEETING**

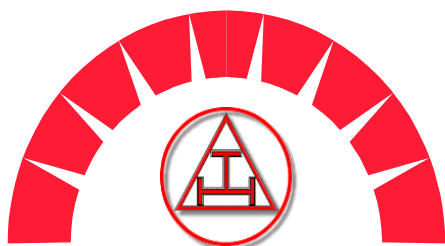
Monday 20th November Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 21st November Mark Ceremonial by Bro Ronnie Maclsaac IPM

Saturday 25th November Annual Installation of Office-bearers at 4pm

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and his Wardens are constantly involved in unofficial visits to sister Lodges. Details of which can be easily obtained by contacting Bobby Clark RWM or any senior Office-bearer,

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



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Installation Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 10th October 2023, all Office-bearers were installed for the forthcoming year, with the evening in the hands of two experienced Companions - MEC James Miller PZ and MEC James Renfrew PZ.

MEC Graham Manson MEZ and his Office-bearers were well and truly installed in what was a fine ceremony, as you would expect from those involved.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter along with their visitors retired downstairs where an enjoyable harmony was enjoyed by all.



The Big Breakfast



The ever-popular '**Big Breakfast**' was held on **Saturday 28th October** in the Lodge Function Suite. Organised by Bro Ronnie Maclsaac PM it was both enjoyable and profitable, with a fine turnout of Brethren and the families and friends.

Bro Ronnie would like to thank all who contributed in so many ways, and he was delighted that the magnificent sum of £830 was raised.

BITS & PIECES

- Tickets for our Christmas Dance on Saturday 16th December are moving fast and you should contact our Social Convenor – Bro Lawrence Webb ☎ 07736 780 132 as soon as possible
- Best Wishes to Bro Willie Renfrew PM who will celebrate his 70th Birthday this month.
- It is remarkable that we have been advised by the Lodge's insurer's that the cost of rebuilding the Lodge and replacing all our paraphernalia has risen to £3.2 million !!
- We wish Bro David Watson and his lovely wife Lynn all the best as they pack-up and move down to Prestwick. They've sold their house, and plan to move just before Christmas. I'm sure that we'll still see a lot of this popular couple.
- We it was encouraging to see a total of 27 Brethren supporting the Lodge on our recent visit to Lodge Troon Navigation, No.86 who were playing hosts on behalf of the PGL of Ayrshire. Our 'Table of Scottish Freemasonry' went down well with those in attendance, with a few women in the audience.
- Good to see Bro Alan Izatt WJW up and about again after the problem he had with one of his toes. It prevented his driving the long round trip of almost 90 miles he has to make from his home in Kilcreggan. He rarely misses a Lodge Meeting, Committee Meeting or Instruction Class normally.
- Great to see Bro Steff Lawniczak back on his feet again after a health scare.
- Our Worthy Treasurer has informed us that Test Fees are still due, and should be paid as soon as possible.
- Isn't it fantastic that a total of 67 Brethren have opted to participate in the '200 for 200' initiative which, after costs, has raised over £10,000 towards the cost of our forthcoming Bi-Centenary celebrations
- We gather Bro Gordon Neil is in the process of moving across to live in Northern Ireland. We wish him well.
- We are reliably informed that Bro Johnny Gauld PM and Bro Evans Reid PM did very well in their role as Installing Masters in their adopted Lodge – Dunlop Caledonia at the recent Installation. WE wish Bro David Alexander and his Office-bearers every success in the months ahead
- It is good to see a couple of Brethren who haven't donned the 'Dinner Suit' for a long number of years taking office in 307 this year.
- Congratulations to Bro Grant Maybury and his lovely wife Rebecca on the birth of Baby Caitlin, a young sister for Robyn.
- It was pleasing to see an extensive article in the 'Press & Journal' following the death of Bro Brian Morton PM. The well-written piece gave an extensive account of his life here in Barrhead, before he moved to Aberdeenshire, including extensive details and photographs of his Masonic career.

(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This month we remain in the 'New Town' of East Kilbride)

Lodge McLaren, No.1688



At the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, held on 7th November 1974, charters were granted to form four new Lodges. The petition sent to Grand Lodge on our behalf being given the Lodge No 1688. This petition was supported by the Brethren of Lodge St. Andrew No 524 and Lodge Douglas No 1557 as our Sponsor Lodges, and was the result of a lot of hard work by Bro Joe Morris and Bro Ernest Kneale both Past Masters of Lodge Larchgrove No. 1518 along with Bro Andrew McLaren.

It was originally intended that the Lodge would meet within the premises of the canteen of Clyde Fasteners which was owned by Bro McLaren and where the founder members held the initial meetings. However on further inspection by members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, it was deemed that the premises were not suitable. An approach was then made to Lodge St. Andrew No 524 for the use of their hall on two Mondays from September to May but as these were already booked, the brethren agreed to meet on Wednesdays which were available.

The Consecration took place on Thursday 14th November 1974 in the Ballerup Hall, East Kilbride, this being the first time that a Masonic meeting had been held in the building. Our Charter Master was Bro George Marshall, a Past Master of Biggar Free Operative Lodge No 167. The Consecration and Installation being carried out by the Office Bearers of the PGL of Renfrewshire East, under the leadership of Bro Ralph Denholm PGM. Bro Alex G Murray, who at that time was the Provincial Grand Secretary, was a tower of strength to the founding members with a lot of sound advice without which we may not be here today. Bro Ralph Denholm and Bro Alex Murray were the first two Brethren to receive Honorary Membership of the Lodge, as were the RWM's of Lodge St. Andrew and Lodge Douglas, at the conclusion of the Consecration and Installation of the Office Bearers of Lodge McLaren.



Unfortunately, all records of the first four years of the life of the Lodge were lost, when the then Secretary's car was broken into and the entire Lodge books stolen. With the help of the Provincial Grand Secretary, and Grand Secretary the names of all Founder Members, Petitioners and Affiliates with the relevant dates were entered into new Record and Petition Books in time for the Annual Visitation of PGL and we were given a 'Clear minute'

Our ritual is a mixture of the rituals used by our Founder Members. The Instruction Classes being held in various places. The Scout Hall in Kirktonholme Road, the old AEU Hall (now known as The Douglas Hall), and then for many years the old

police station in the village, and latterly the Allison Lea Community Hall. We have always taken our ritual work seriously, especially the Master Mason Degree.

The Installations were held in the Old Parish Church Hall then the West Kirk Hall for a number of years until such time as the then Minister let it be known that he was not happy that the church hall was being used for this purpose. We then approached the local Council for the use of the Calderwood Hall, and again were the first to use this hall for Masonic Meetings.

Three of our Past Masters have gone on to occupy the Chair in other Lodges - Bro Leslie Falconer becoming Master of his Mother Lodge, Garrowhill No 1413 in 1984. Bro Harry Kane and Bro James Carlin having affiliated to Lodge The Kings Park No.1386 both became Master of that Lodge. The fourth Saturday of October 1982 was a red letter day in the history of the Lodge, when Bro Fraser McLennan, became first initiate of 1688 to be installed as RWM of his Mother Lodge.

We celebrated our Silver Jubilee on November 1999 with a Dinner which was well-supported, and we also purchased new regalia for the Office-bearers. This included a new Chain for the RWM and as had been made possible by a legacy left to the Lodge by the late Bro James McIlwaine PM, it was agreed that the original apron worn by our Charter Master be used at all Installations when the RWM is invested with his Regalia, it is then put away safely until the next Installation.

Bro Ronald Fraser PM who occupied the chair in 1688 on four occasions, has served both the Lodge and the PGLRE well over the years was installed as Provincial Grand Master, by the Grand Master Mason, in March 2022 in a glittering ceremony in Lodge Prince of Wales. No.426 in Renfrew. This was an honour of which Lodge McLaren are very proud.



Like a lot of Lodges we have had our problems with dwindling attendances over recent years. But I am pleased to state that our finances are not a problem and this year has seen the return of a number of Brethren who have been missing for some time, one in particular for 16 years. Our forward plans look good and we go into the future with keen anticipation as we approach of Golden Jubilee.



Following on from our article last month about 'The Anti-Masonic Apron' we are continuing our series about the Anti-Masonic Movement

The 'Origins of Anti-Masonry'

Part 1 : Hanoverians, Jacobites, Protestants, and Catholics

The Morgan Affair proved to be the great catalyst for the anti-Masonic movement in the United States. It was a tipping point which sparked years of animosity that could have brought the fraternity down, but it was not, as some think, the first shot across Masonry's bow. Even before the inception of the first Grand Lodge, anti-Masonic seeds began to sprout in Europe. These had their origins mainly within organized religious bodies which saw Freemasonry as a negative influence, if not a threat. The church was intensely opposed to Freemasonry's support of secular ideals, raising concerns of potential subversion. It was also suspicious of the fraternity's secretive practices and oaths which it viewed as heresy. Finally, the church saw the growing presence of Freemasonry within influential circles as a challenge to its power.

The first known criticism was launched at Freemasonry as – for lack of a better term – a labour union. In 1383, John Wycliffe, known for translating the Bible into English, said of the Masons, "that they conspire together that no man of their craft shall take less on a day than they fix, that none of them shall do steady work which might interfere with the earning of other men of the craft, that none of them shall do anything but cut stone, though he might profit his master twenty pounds by one day's work laying a wall without harm to himself."i

That is to say, Freemasons would not work for less than their stated wage rate, nor would they do work which infringed on the skills and ability of other craftsmen to earn their wages.

As the Freemasons transitioned from operative to speculative, things became more heated. The craft shook the foundations of religion which, at the time, is to say it shook the Catholic church. Freemasonry, through its Charges, espoused tenets that were foreign to the teachings of the church. Chief among these was its acceptance of all religions. The very first section of Reverend James Anderson's Constitutions of 1723 makes it clear:

"if [a Mason] rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist nor an irreligious Libertine. But though in ancient Times Masons were charg'd in every Country to be of the Religion of that Country or Nation, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that Religion in which all Men agree, leaving their particular Opinions to themselves; that is, to be good Men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the Centre of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain'd at a perpetual Distance."

It did not help that the Masons were known to discuss radical Enlightenment-based concepts in their meetings such as the blasphemous ideas of Copernicus and Galileo that the earth orbited the sun – a notion that was a complete anathema to all that was good and holy.

In 1685, prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, King James III, a Catholic, assumed the throne. At the time, considerable friction was brewing between Catholics and protestants in the country. Adding to the tension, James was a cousin of Louis XIV, King of France, and many in England were becoming increasingly wary of that relationship.

On top of the animosities building up over religion and his ties to France, James picked a fight with Parliament, eventually dissolving it in an attempt to form a new body that would support him unconditionally. James' 26-year-old daughter Mary was a protestant, which was a mitigating factor until 1688 when he had a son, James Francis Edward Stuart (James III), whom he announced would be raised as a Catholic. The birth of this son changed the line of succession, with many now outraged over the prospect of a Catholic dynasty in England. Just as many were certain the queen's pregnancy had been a hoax (a mystery that was never settled).iv

Talk of revolution was in the air. In 1688, a group of James' former supporters led by John Churchill (1st Duke of Marlborough) wrote to the Dutch Prince William of Orange, pledging their support if he would invade England. William, who also happened to be the husband of James II's daughter Mary, did just that. After a few skirmishes, James ran off to his cousin in France with baby James III in his arms.

With that, William and Mary became rulers of England. A political movement, the Jacobites, arose supporting the restoration of James to the throne.

A quarter century later, George I became King. He was a member of the House of Hanover which had ruled in Germany beginning in the early part of the 17th century. So Hanoverians were now in charge in England and strongly opposed to the Jacobites.

The Jacobites saw Freemasonry as an important means to achieving their singular goal... restoring James or his Catholic Stuart successors to the throne. Their lodges were primarily Catholic. Hanoverian Lodges in England were mainly protestant but also admitted Catholics and atheists, as long as they adhered to the Hanoverian point of view.

Thinking the Hanoverians were infringing on Jacobite Freemasonry, the now grown up James Francis Edward Stuart, a good Catholic still living in France, approached Pope Clement, asking him to ban Hanoverian Freemasonry. James III thought since the Jacobian lodges were mainly Catholic, the Pope would go along with his request without also condemning the Jacobian brand of Freemasonry. The Pope didn't see it that way.

The Chief Minister of Louis XV of France, Cardinal André-Hercule de Fleury, who had been investigating Freemasonry as a part of the Inquisition, wanted all of Freemasonry banned. Clement, suspecting the King felt the same way and not wanting to cross the monarch, listened to de Fleury and in 1738, issued the first Papal Bull condemning the fraternity, *In eminenti apostolatus specula*:

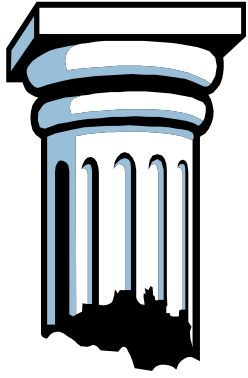
"Now it has come to Our ears, and common gossip has made clear, that certain Societies... called in the popular tongue Liberi Muratori or Francs Massons... are spreading far and wide and daily growing in strength; and men of any Religion or sect, satisfied with the appearance of natural probity, are joined together, according to their laws and the statutes laid down for them, by a strict and unbreakable bond which obliges them, both by an oath upon the Holy Bible and by a host of grievous punishment, to an inviolable silence about all that they do in secret together... Thus these aforesaid Societies or Conventicles have caused in the minds of the faithful the greatest suspicion, and all prudent and upright men have passed the same judgment on them as being depraved and perverted. For if they were not doing evil they would not have so great a hatred of the light... We therefore... do hereby determine and have decreed that these same Societies... of Liberi Muratori or Francs Massons... are to be condemned and prohibited, and by Our present Constitution, valid forever, We do condemn and prohibit them.

Moreover, We desire and command that both Bishops and prelates, and other local ordinaries, as well as inquisitors for heresy, shall investigate and proceed against transgressors... and they are to pursue and punish them with condign penalties as being most suspect of heresy."

The Pope also notes in his encyclical, the first of many having since been issued against Freemasons, that "several countries" had already outlawed and eliminated Freemasonry.

In a way, one could argue it was not the Catholic church that struck this seminal blow to Freemasonry, rather it was differences between two factions of the Craft that got them condemned. At any rate, officially formed as a Grand Lodge in 1717, just two decades later the Catholic church, along with several countries, had banned the fraternity, leaving anti-Masonry as a stowaway on board as the Craft sailed for the new world.

(Next Month we continue with Part 2)



From the East

My Year in the East

Brethren, when I stood in the East for the first time after being newly installed as RWM of lodge Union & Crown 307, I clearly remember thinking “Oooh Boy, what have I done?” Let me now give you an insight of my year as RWM.

In my past career as a Fire Officer, I often had to make many decisions and choices, regardless of how serious or funny the situation was and take sole responsibility for the outcomes of my decisions.

The big difference to the above statement, is that in this lodge 307, I am not alone. I have been guided in most, if not all issues that have arose during my year, by brethren, office bearers and management committee allowing us as a lodge, to be further successful in the period of coming out of the Covid pandemic. The wealth of knowledge from all that I have tapped into is impressive.

To witness the amount of work that is carried out in the background by quiet Brethren who seek no reward, the general maintenance of the building, the forward planning of events, coffee mornings, big breakfast, dinners and to the simple looking out for each other is humbling.

The support I have received visiting other lodges within and out with the province, of which there have been many, from Aberdeen to Rutherglen is amazing. An example of this, on a recent visit to Ayrshire to carry out the “Scottish Table of Free Masonry” There were 27 Brethren in that deputation, an impressive image of Barrhead Blue indeed. To visit another lodge, to carry out a degree or dramatized degree has been an absolute pleasure. The feedback has been brilliant for the work that 307 have carried out at other lodges, quite rightly so. Brethren have given up their time on many a Monday evening instruction class to practice and the effort put into making these ceremonies successful is certainly impressive.

On reflection, it has been a very busy year for myself, with lodge meetings, management meetings, committee meetings, instruction classes, attending centenary planning meetings, attending other lodges Centenary ceremonies, Reigning masters degrees, many visits to other lodges, other masonic events and not outstanding this, my own personal commitments outside of the lodge. Both my sons were married within a short period of each other, meaning two stag doo`s and a fair few wedding planning nights in-between. All this and the work for the lodge, certainly would not have been possible without my very very understanding wife, Sharon. Divorce was on the cards on a few occasions.....but so far so good. Also, we are both looking forward to the birth of our first grandchild in December, can`t wait.

To answer the question at the top of this page, “Oooh Boy, what have I done?”well it was one of the best things personally I have done, it has been a remarkable year indeed.

I am forever grateful to the brethren of Union & Crown, 307 for allowing me to be RWM of this fine lodge.

Bobby Clark RWM, 307

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 19 Years Ago

No. 277

October 2004

On Tuesday 5th October, the following Candidates :

DAVID SLOAN ELLIS MCKINNON

were passed to the second, square or fellowcraft degree, by the Office-bearers and Brethren of Lodge Nitshill, No.1478. It was a fine FC Degree, and Bro David Jack R.W.M. (who took a prominent part) must have been delighted by the standard of his Brethren.

Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-34pm

Attendance : 91

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 19th October, the Lodge held its Annual Business Meeting. The various Office-bearers and committee members for the forthcoming year were nominated and elected by the Brethren, with the worthy Secretary and Treasurer submitting their respective reports. Both gave clear and precise details of the complex workings of the Lodge and were well received by the Lodge, who were grateful to both of the executive office-bearers for their efforts over the preceding twelve months in what was an extremely busy year for the Lodge,

Opened : 7-30pm

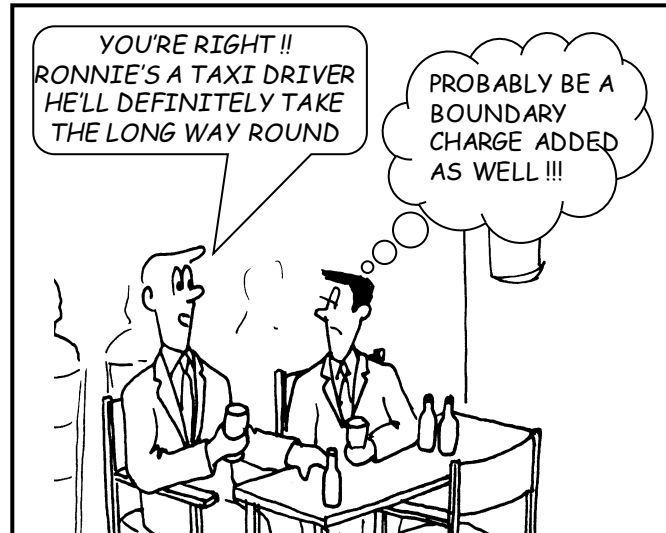
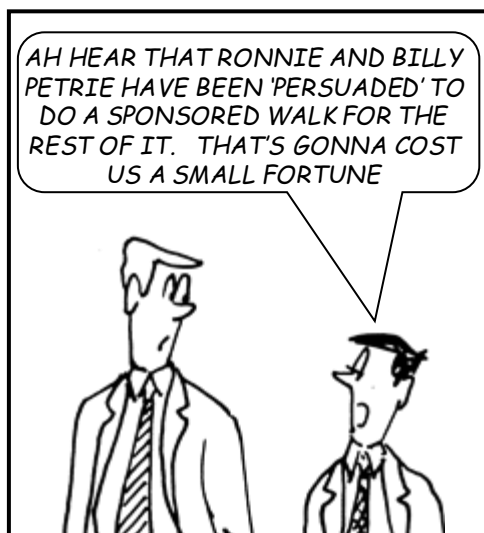
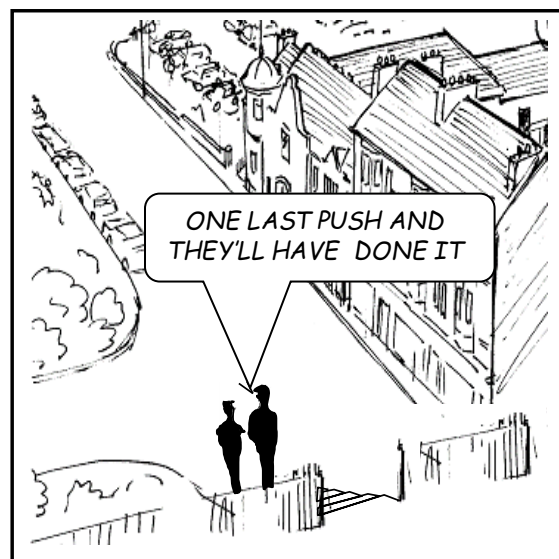
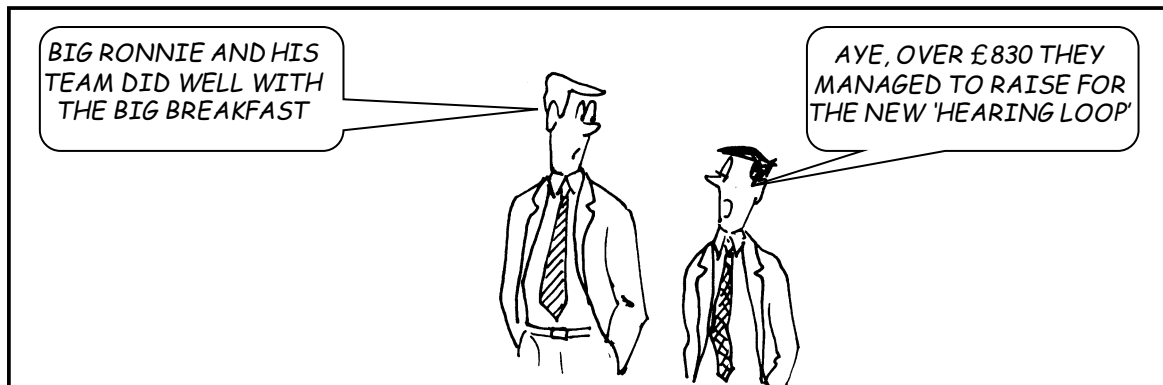
Lodge Closed : 8-33pm

Attendance : 49

BITS & PIECES

- ◆ Congratulations to Bro Wilson Davidson PM, and Bro Alex White IG who were recently installed in the Chair of Rockmount RA and CC respectively.
- Christmas isn't too far away, and we will soon be distributing a whole host of Benevolent Parcels to the Widows of the Lodge. This is quite a considerable expense for the Lodge, and donations towards this very worthy cause would be much appreciated. Why not "Sponsor a Parcel" for less than you think? The date to uplift the parcels is Sunday 12th December and Bro Adam Watson would appreciate some assistance.
- Well done to Bro Hugh Cattigan who raised a further £30 for Lodge funds from the "junk" that was left over from the Summer Fayre.
- It was disturbing to note that we suffered some 14 obituaries in the recent Secretary's report. A big increase over previous years.
- Many thanks to Bro Jim Flockhart for his kind donation of a "Karaoke Sound System" to the Lodge. This will be put to good use at Lodge Harmonies and perhaps even by the 307 Concert Party.
- Bro Jim Renfrew PM and Bro Jim Miller PM are off to Texas in mid-November for a week. They will be attending Spring Lodge No1174 in Houston, where Bro Jim Renfrew is an Honorary Member
- Congratulations to Bro Duncan McLellan, who was recently made a Life Member of the Lodge.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J Renfrew - October 2023

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :
Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

'Rapallo' 5 Stobs Drive, Barrhead, G78 1NY

☎ 0141-571-5979

e-mail : renfrew2022@gmail.com

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

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